

Questions and Answers: Henry Brown, Katherine Jenerette, and Paul Norris

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Question | What is the most pressing issue facing this district, and how will you address it?

Henry Brown | Transportation needs. I have earmarked money for Interstate 73, dredging in the Georgetown port channel and Intracoastal Waterway, and am working for high-speed rail to Myrtle Beach and for more mass-transit facilities.

Katherine Jenerette | Look no further than the gas pump; coastal Carolina's future is tied directly to the price of gas and the economic well being of the rest of the country who we want to come here and spend their money. Congress is to blame and Congress needs to fix it; drill more and get rid of the federal gasoline tax.

Paul Norris | Energy costs and a stumbling economy. Republican Party forgot their conservative principles and "acted like pork-barrel feasting Democrats." Must have more exploration, pay down national debt to increase value of dollar, get electricity into our transportation infrastructure, and have aggressive conservation.

Q. | What is your position on offshore oil and gas drilling?

Henry Brown | I am for gas drilling. We need to find more sources of energy supply and there is natural gas out there. It would be 100 miles out and would not harm the beaches or the view.

Katherine Jenerette | We know where the oil is, now we need to drill for it. If our regional bread and butter comes mainly from tourism and shipping, unless you have the oil to tour and to ship, the rest becomes a moot point.

Paul Norris | I don't think it will be a good idea for us to drill off the SC coast, but we must have more exploration. Our SC tourism industry is all SC has. It is why people come here and we can't risk that. It's not just the drilling, it is the shore-based facilities that can be objectionable. I would be willing to consider proposals if the technology will prevent damage.

Q. | What is your plan for funding for I-73?

Henry Brown | I have helped obtain the \$91 million in federal money that has been allocated for I-73 and will continue to try to get funds for this road. We are looking at a way to make it part of a new corridor that would be eligible for special funding when the new highway bill is considered.

Katherine Jenerette | I-73 is only one part of the greater regional infrastructure equation that needs to be fixed now so our future is not screwed up by the politics of today. We need to look seriously at a bi-state partnership regional airport (Brunswick and Columbus County) and a light rail network that runs from Wilmington to Charleston and connections to Florence.

Paul Norris | Until we get out from under our \$9.5 trillion national debt, there is not extra money for projects like that. We have to pay down the debt and strengthen the economy first, then we can afford such projects again.