



Colonial Heights Republican Committee

2026 SURVEY FOR COLONIAL HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

Candidate: John E. Piotrowski

1. Please tell us a bit about your background and involvement in the community.

John E. Piotrowski is a lifelong resident of Colonial Heights and the son of Paul and Dianne Piotrowski, both retired employees of the City of Colonial Heights. Growing up in a family dedicated to public service helped shape John's lifelong commitment to serving the community he proudly calls home. John currently serves as the Vice Mayor of Colonial Heights and has been a member of City Council since first being elected in 2014. Throughout his time on Council, he has worked to support responsible financial management, public safety, economic development, quality city services, and continued improvements that benefit residents and businesses alike. Professionally, John is a Licensed Funeral Director and Assistant Operations Manager with E. Alvin Small Funeral Homes & Crematory, where he has served families since he was a student in high school. He earned an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Funeral Service from John Tyler Community College. In 2024, John was appointed by Governor Glenn Youngkin to serve on the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. He currently serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, helping oversee the regulation of the funeral service profession and ensuring the highest standards of care for families across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Along with his wife, Margie, John is also the co-owner of Discovery World Child Care Center, a locally owned business that has proudly served families in Colonial Heights for many years. John and Margie are the proud parents of two daughters who attend Colonial Heights Public Schools. Their oldest daughter, Sara Elizabeth Piotrowski, is a junior at Colonial Heights High School, while their youngest daughter, Katherine Anne "Kate" Piotrowski, is an eighth-grade student at Colonial Heights Middle School. John and Margie are proud to be raising their family in the same community they have long served. John believes that strong communities are built through service, integrity, and a commitment to listening to the people. Whether serving families during life's most difficult moments, helping educate young children through his family's business, or working with fellow council members to move Colonial Heights forward, John remains dedicated to making a positive difference in the community he has always called home.

2. *Do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? If Republican, are you in accord with [The Republican Creed](#)?*

Yes, I am a Republican, and yes, I am in accordance with the Republican Creed.

3. *Please tell us why you are running for City Council.*

I am running for City Council because Colonial Heights is my home. I am a lifelong resident, a local business owner, and this is where my wife and I are raising our family. We have two daughters in Colonial Heights Public Schools, so the future of our city is very personal to me.

It has been an honor to serve on City Council and currently as Vice Mayor. I truly love Colonial Heights and want to continue working to see our city thrive while maintaining the small-town community we all value. I want Colonial Heights to remain a great place to live, work, raise a family, and have fun for generations to come.

4. *What are two or three things that the City of Colonial Heights is doing well?*

I believe city council has done a good job of balancing the needs of our community while keeping our tax rate steady over the past several years. As a council member, I understand that every dollar we spend comes from our citizens, and I believe we have a responsibility to use those dollars wisely. At the same time, we must continue investing in the infrastructure and services that keep Colonial Heights strong. The city has already relined much of our sewer system, and we have received approximately \$2 million in grant funding from the federal government with the help of Congresswomen Jennifer McClellan to help improve our waterlines. Seeking grants and other outside funding is an important way to complete needed projects while reducing the burden on our taxpayers. Economic development is also a major part of that balance. By attracting the right businesses to Colonial Heights and increasing our tax revenue, we can continue providing quality city services and make additional improvements without automatically turning to higher taxes. We have also continued investing in our parks and public spaces. White Bank Park received improvements last year, including the removal of several trees and other work to make the park a more welcoming and enjoyable place for our citizens. My goal is to continue being responsible with taxpayer dollars while making smart investments in our infrastructure, parks, public facilities, and essential services.

5. *What are two or three things that the City of Colonial Heights needs to improve on?*

I believe there are a few areas where Colonial Heights can continue to improve. First, we need to become more business-friendly and make it easier for quality businesses to invest and grow in our city. Attracting new businesses and supporting our existing ones will help strengthen and diversify our revenue sources. Second, we need to continue working on the overall appearance of our city, especially along the Boulevard corridor. Beautification, property maintenance, and keeping our major gateways clean and attractive are important to creating a positive impression for residents, visitors, and potential businesses.

6. How will you seek to be responsive to city residents if elected to City Council?

Transparency, citizen engagement, and communication are very important to me. I use my city council Facebook page regularly to try to keep citizens informed about what's happening in the city. I would love to see more citizens attend our city council meetings and become involved in what is happening in Colonial Heights. Since my time on council, our meetings have been attended mainly by council members and city staff, and we are lucky to have five people show up at our meetings. I believe we need to make it easier for residents to stay informed and engaged. One thing I would like to see is our city council meetings live-streamed so citizens who cannot attend in person can still watch, stay informed, and see their local government at work. This is something I plan to continue working toward. I also believe we need to be accessible to the people we represent. I will continue listening to residents, responding to their concerns, and encouraging open communication between citizens, city council, and city staff.

7. In your opinion, what is the number one issue facing the City over the next four years?

In my opinion, one of the biggest issues facing the city over the next four years will be maintaining a strong and stable revenue base while protecting the small-town feel that makes our community unique.

As Southpark Mall and our retail continue to change, we need to work together as a city council to identify new opportunities for economic development and additional sources of revenue. A strong revenue base will help us keep taxes as low as possible while continuing to provide the best city services our citizens expect.

Public safety must also remain a top priority. We need to make sure our Police, Fire, and Sheriff's departments have the staffing, equipment, and resources they need to serve our citizens and maintain a safe community.

8. Is there anything else you would like to share that was not already asked?

My top three priorities for Colonial Heights over the next four years are supporting our schools and families, keeping our taxes as low as possible, and continuing to improve the appearance and quality of life throughout our city. First, I am a strong supporter of our school system. I want Colonial Heights to continue to be a great place for families to live, raise their children, and receive a quality education. Our schools are an important part of what makes our community special, and I will continue to support them. Second, I want to continue being responsible with taxpayers' money and keep our tax rates as low as possible. If our revenues and budget allow us the opportunity to lower taxes while continuing to provide quality city services, I would certainly support looking at that option. Third, I want to focus on improving our parks, neighborhoods, and commercial areas. We need to keep our city clean, attractive, and welcoming to residents, visitors, and potential businesses. I am also excited about our new youth and senior center, at the former Colonial Christian Church which will provide a place for our young people and senior citizens to gather, participate in activities, and stay connected to the community.