



Before We Listen, We Show Up

Invest in CAJM Today!

Last Thursday, our leaders filled the room at the Charleston County Council committee meetings. That's what it looks like when ordinary people decide a problem belongs to all of us. Thank you. After a 4-4 split vote, with one Councilmember not present, the vote will be moving to a future regular County Council meeting.

One important update: we do NOT need to be at County Council tonight. The next vote is TBD!

Full Council meetings are usually held on Tuesday evenings, and we'll let you know as soon as the vote is scheduled.

What we're asking Council to fund: a professional facilitator to convene the regional Food Council. This isn't a line item — it's the difference between a good idea and a working body. The facilitator is responsible for recruiting a diverse Council membership; conducting a preliminary needs assessment; developing the Council's charter; structure, and plan; and outlining short- and long-term policy recommendations. Without that person, the Food Council stalls. With that person, it becomes permanent.

The vote will come at an upcoming full Council meeting. When we have the date, we'll need a visible CAJM presence in that room, so here's how to get ready now:

Watch your inbox. As soon as the date is set, we'll send it out with arrival time and location. Put on your CAJM shirt and come sit with us.

Let us know if you'd be willing to speak. The committee is still working out our strategy for the room, so we're building a **shortlist of leaders ready in the wings** in case we need speakers. Saying yes doesn't mean you'll speak — it means we have options if the moment calls for one. If we do need you, we'll get talking points to you ahead of time. You won't be sent up cold.

Email us at cajm.staff@gmail.com to get on that list.

Showing up like this is how we get ready for what's next. We are gearing up to start our **Listening Season**, and it runs on the same thing these Council meetings should run on: people willing to tell the truth about their lives in a room full of neighbors, and people willing to listen well enough to do something about it.

So in the meantime, sit with this question:

What is your experience with food insecurity?

Not a statistic. Your experience. Have you skipped a meal so someone else could eat? Have you driven a neighbor to a pantry? Have you watched a family in your congregation quietly stop coming to fellowship meals? Have you served in a food line and recognized someone in it?

If you've never thought about it that way, that's exactly why we ask. Your answer is the beginning of a house meeting.

THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW

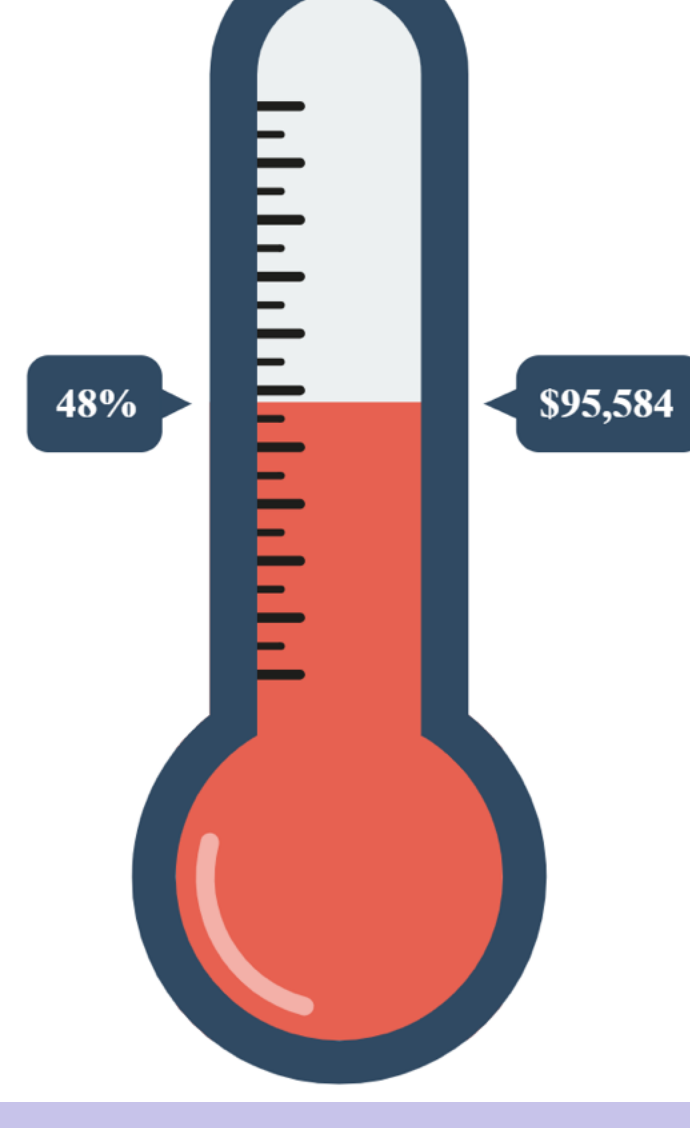
1. Talk to people in your congregation about food insecurity. Not a presentation, a conversation. Ask the question above and listen to what comes back. You'll learn more in fifteen minutes than we'll learn in a month of research.

2. If you or your congregation are already involved in food work, tell us. Food pantry, community garden, backpack program, community meal, mobile market, partnership with a food bank, we want to know. These are the relationships that make a Regional Food Council real instead of theoretical. Reach out and we'll connect you in.

3. Bring what you learn to your CAJM organizer. If a story comes up, a need surfaces, or someone in your congregation is ready to get involved — call, text, or email staff. Don't sit on it. The people you're thinking about right now are the people we need at the table.

Reach out to the team at CAJM.Staff@gmail.com

GOAL: \$200,000



We're at \$95,584 toward our \$200,000 goal, 48%. Every investment is a vote of confidence in the work you showed up for last Thursday. If you haven't made your investment yet, now's a good time. And if you've already given, thank you.

Click Here

Invest in CAJM Today!

Help build statewide affordable housing legislation

CAJM is doing something historic. Together with MORE Justice and GOAL Justice, we are working to create statewide legislation that removes barriers for congregations to build affordable housing on their own properties.

To draft this legislation and show lawmakers its potential impact, we need to know what congregations across South Carolina are already doing, what they own, what barriers they face, and what they are willing to do. That picture can only be built with your help.

CAJM clergy — please complete the survey. Even if your congregation is not currently able to provide affordable housing, your response helps tell the full story. Please also share it with other clergy in your denomination around the state and encourage them to respond. [Take the survey here →](#)

Everyone else — check in with your clergy. Have they seen this? Have they responded? That follow-up is an act of organizing.

Request for Proposals: Food Council Facilitator - Now Closed

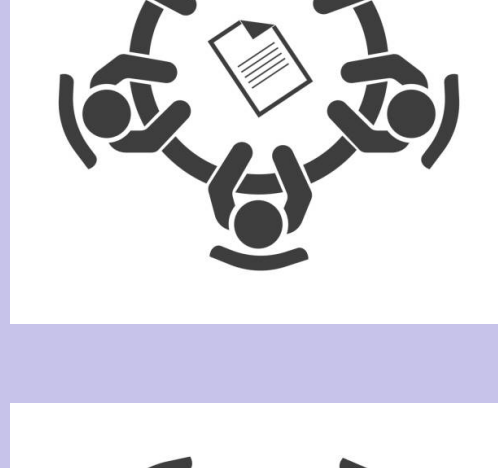
Our Request for Proposals for the Food Council facilitator has officially closed. Thank you to everyone who responded, we're grateful for the interest and for the care people put into their submissions. We'll review them and be in touch soon.

Gadsden Creek

This past July, a Dominion contractor applied powerful herbicides to large swaths of Gadsden Creek. Our environmental community mounted a robust response, and the city stepped up as well. The incident is a stark reminder of how vulnerable this irreplaceable salt marsh remains and why we cannot let up.

See [the full story on TV 5](#) by reporter [Maya Brown](#).

Upcoming Events



8/27 CAJM Board of Directors Meeting

When: Thursday, August 27, 2026
5:30PM
Where: Grace City Church
2105 Cosgrove Ave, North Charleston

Who: All CAJM BOD representatives from each congregation and organization -- please plan to attend and register below.

[Register here!](#)



9/1 Listening Process Kickoff

Team Leaders and Clergy should all plan to attend our Listening Process Kickoff! This is where you receive the House Meeting script and start planning for the listening season. Come get encouraged, inspired, and equipped for effective House Meetings this year.

Tuesday, September 1st
6:30pm to 8:00pm
Calvary Episcopal Church

[Register here!](#)

House Meetings should take place between September 27 and October 25.



Food Insecurity Full Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 10
6:00pm
Zoom

Full report on our progress and next steps!

[Click here to register.](#)

Gadsden Creek Fall Cleanup — Beach Sweep / River Sweep

Sunday, September 20
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Meet across from Johnson Hagood Stadium (Hagood Ave. & Fishburne St.) Join us to clear litter from this historic salt marsh. Bring a water bottle and wear closed-toe shoes or mud boots. CAJM is a community partner.

[Click here to register.](#)



Sunday, September 20 / 2-4 pm

PLEASE JOIN US TO CARE FOR GADSDEN CREEK



**A HISTORIC SALT MARSH ON THE CHARLESTON PENINSULA
An Essential Fish Habitat and Critical Wetland**

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



In the Community

NAN and LDF are inviting you to March!

Aug 28 — National Action Network and NAACP Legal Defense Fund are inviting you to march with them to defend the right to vote. The March on Washington 2026 will take place on Friday, August 28th. They've been standing up for the right of every American to vote for over 85 years, and want you to stand and march with them. [Sign up to march with LDF →](#)



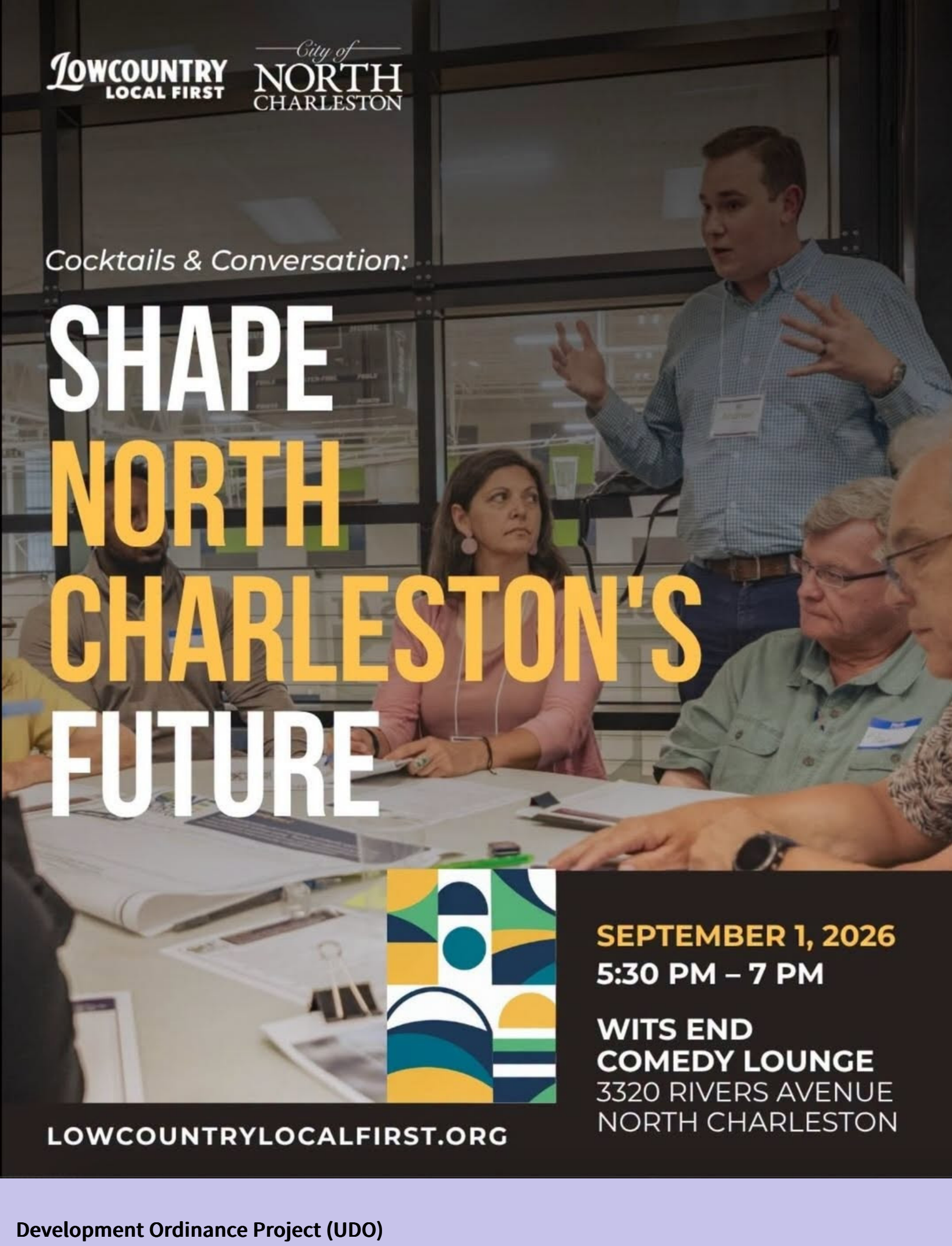
Cocktails & Conversation: Shape North Charleston's Future

Hosted by Lowcountry Local First and the City of North Charleston

Tuesday, September 1 | 5:30 – 7:00 PM | Wits End Comedy Lounge, 3320 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston

An open conversation about the future of North Charleston. **If you are not a leader or clergy scheduled to attend our Listening Process Kickoff, and you live work or do business in North Charleston**, please join the conversation that evening — this is another place where our neighbors' voices belong in the room.

More at lowcountrylocalfirst.org



Development Ordinance Project (UDO)

The City of North Charleston is preparing for growth. They are rewriting the rules that guide how the city grows, shaping not only neighborhoods, but also streets, sidewalks, and public spaces.

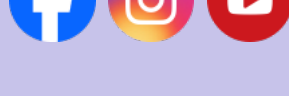
What is a UDO?

A Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is a comprehensive local law that combines zoning, subdivision, and land development regulations into a single document. It establishes how land may be used and developed by defining permitted land uses, building standards, setbacks, density, parking, landscaping, signage, environmental protections, and the procedures for obtaining development approvals. A UDO provides clear, consistent rules for property owners, developers, and local officials while helping ensure that new development aligns with the community's long-term planning goals.

Learn more about the project by visiting [here](#).

Want to receive updates from CAJM issue committees?

Let us know [here](#).



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