

# EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

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Welcome to the candidate questionnaire dashboard! Please note that in some cases, it may be that not all candidates opted to provide background information via these questionnaires. The results listed reflect those who responded, all candidates were provided an opportunity to participate.

## Q1

Full Name

Trisha Boyett

## Q5

Municipality

Rincon

## Q6

Office You Are Seeking

Rincon City Council



## Q7

Why are you seeking this office?

I'm running for Rincon City Council because our community is growing rapidly, and I want to make sure that growth is managed wisely. With my background in finance, economic development, and community service, I know how to plan not just for today but for the future. I believe we can protect our small-town charm while improving infrastructure, supporting small businesses, and creating opportunities so families and future generations can prosper here. I want to give back to the community that has given so much to my family by helping to guide Rincon forward in a way that keeps it a safe, vibrant, and welcoming place to call home.

## Q8

What personal or professional experiences best prepare you to serve in this role?

Both my professional and personal experiences have prepared me to serve on Rincon City Council. I am a Georgia Certified Economic Developer (GCED) through the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government and a Certified Travel Marketing Professional (TMP) through Southeast Tourism Society. With this background in economic development and tourism marketing, I understand what it takes to attract quality businesses, grow tourism, preserve natural and historic assets, and create opportunities that strengthen local economies. Now, as a financial advisor with Edward Jones, I work closely with families, small businesses, and nonprofits to plan for the future and build lasting financial security.

I've also had the privilege of serving our community as Rincon's appointee to the Industrial Development Authority Board, Chair the City's Planning & Zoning Committee, and am a member of United Way's Effingham County Advisory Board. This year, I am honored to serve as United Way's Effingham County Campaign Chair, raising funds to directly support housing, transportation, and food insecurity needs for local residents. I am also an active member of Effingham Rotary, the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce, and the Savannah Chamber of Commerce — where I serve on both the Governmental Affairs and Business Owners committees.

**Q9**

What do you see as the biggest opportunity for economic growth in your municipality over the next four years?

Rincon's biggest opportunity for economic growth over the next four years lies in attracting diverse businesses while supporting the small businesses that are already here. With our location, workforce, and quality of life, Rincon is well positioned to bring in industries that provide good-paying jobs and expand our tax base. At the same time, by strengthening infrastructure, revitalizing our town center, and creating spaces where people want to shop, dine, and gather, we can help local entrepreneurs succeed. My background has taught me how important it is to plan for sustainable growth, and I believe Rincon can seize this moment to grow wisely—protecting our small-town character while expanding opportunities for families and future generations.

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**Q10**

How can your municipality support small businesses, entrepreneurs, and local job creation?

Rincon is already the business hub of Effingham County, but we are missing the amenities that keep people here—like diverse restaurants, retail options including big box stores, and entertainment for young adults and families. To truly support small businesses and job creation, we need to develop Rincon into a place where people not only live but also have the ability to work, shop, and play. This will give us the option to spend our local dollars in our community and not be forced to travel to other cities for these services.

That means revitalizing our community to attract young professionals to plant roots here, most importantly our own children. We should focus on recruiting diverse restaurants, retail, and professional services and boosting quality-of-life amenities like walking trails, outdoor recreation, and cultural arts facilities.

By leveraging our position as the economic center of Effingham County and enhancing what we offer, Rincon can become the most attractive community in the region—supporting local entrepreneurs, creating jobs for our residents and giving families the vibrant hometown they deserve.

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**Q11** What role should the Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations play in advancing your city's economic development?

As a former President & CEO of a Chamber of Commerce, this topic is very important to me. The Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations are essential partners in advancing Rincon's economic development. They serve as the voice of our business community, bringing together small business owners, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to identify needs and opportunities. By working hand-in-hand with the city, the chamber can help attract new businesses, advocate for infrastructure improvements, and create programs that support local entrepreneurs.

As a member of both the Effingham Chamber and the Savannah Chamber, and serving on the Savannah Chamber's Governmental Affairs and Business Owners Committees, I've seen firsthand how these organizations can connect businesses with resources, training, and regional partnerships. If we collaborate effectively, Rincon can leverage its role as Effingham County's business hub to not only attract new industries, restaurants, and retail but also ensure our existing businesses have what they need to succeed and grow.

**Q12**

In what specific ways do you see yourself working with the Chamber of Commerce and on behalf of your city to strengthen the local economy?

I see myself working closely with the Effingham Chamber in three key ways. First, by collaborating to attract the kinds of businesses Rincon needs—restaurants, retail, and entertainment options—that will make our community more vibrant and keep dollars local.

## 2025 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire – Effingham County Chamber

Second, by supporting workforce development programs that connect our young people and college graduates with quality jobs right here in Effingham County, so they don't feel they have to leave to build their futures. We are blessed to have a strong school system that offers many options for our students. The Effingham County College & Career Academy (ECCA) is already a strong asset: it offers career pathways in high-demand fields like Information Technology, Healthcare Science, Automotive, Logistics & Distribution, STEM, and Culinary Arts. Four of our children attended the STEM Academy and we know firsthand how valuable this resource is.

And third, by partnering on initiatives that promote Rincon's strengths, from our location to our quality of life, so we position ourselves as the most attractive community in the region. As a Chamber member I know how effective these partnerships can be, and I look forward to using those resources to strengthen Rincon's economy for families and businesses alike.

**Q13** What policies or practices would you champion (or oppose) that directly affect the ease of doing business in your city (permitting, fees, ordinances, etc.)?

As a member of Rincon's Planning and Zoning Committee over the past year, I have a unique perspective on the hard work that has been accomplished by the Planning and Development staff.

I would champion policies that make Rincon's development process clear, consistent, and business-friendly, while still protecting the character of our community. Over the past year, Rincon has made great progress by updating our Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), adopting tree and development regulations, and streamlining building and home occupation ordinances.

As a councilmember, I would build on this momentum by ensuring permitting remains efficient, fees are fair and transparent, and ordinances encourage the right kind of growth—such as restaurants, retail, and family-friendly amenities we currently lack. I would also oppose unnecessary red tape or outdated policies that slow down investment and discourage entrepreneurs. My goal is to make Rincon the easiest place in Effingham County to start and grow a business while preserving the small-town charm that makes us unique.

### Q14

What is your position on balancing growth with preserving community character?

Rincon is one of the fastest-growing cities in our region, and with that growth comes both opportunity and responsibility. I believe we must welcome new businesses, families, and investment while preserving the small-town character that makes Rincon such a special place to live.

Balancing growth means careful planning: ensuring new development fits the scale and feel of our community, protecting greenspaces and natural resources, and investing in infrastructure that keeps pace with growth. A major concern of mine is traffic and congestion in all areas of our city, but especially bottleneck congestion on Highway 21. I travel this road daily to commute to work and know how frustrating this drive can be. Increased commercial traffic and population growth are both contributing factors. It also means listening to residents and making sure decisions reflect their vision for our future. There are plans in the works to widen Highway 21 and we need a continued seat at the table.

I will support policies that promote smart growth — encouraging restaurants, retail, and family-friendly entertainment, while also supporting trails, parks, and walkable spaces that keep our sense of community strong. Growth done right can expand opportunities while preserving the values and character that brought us all here in the first place.

### Q15

How would you ensure transparent communication with residents and businesses?

Transparent communication is one of the most important foundations for trust in local government. In Rincon, we've already made strong strides: the Transparency Portal provides the public with approved budgets (2023-2025), audited financial statements, and an up-to-date list of city projects. I've lived here for about fifteen years, and I believe the city has improved in making information accessible—City Council agendas and minutes, ordinances, and bid opportunities are all published online for anyone to view.

As your councilmember, I will continue that momentum by using multiple channels—city website, the transparency portal, social media, newsletters, and community forums—so every resident and business can stay informed.

### Q16

What strategies would you use to build consensus and avoid gridlock in decision-making?

Building consensus starts with listening. Too often, gridlock happens when people talk past each other instead of truly hearing different perspectives. My professional experience as a financial advisor has taught me how to bring people together, balance competing priorities, and create strategies that serve everyone's long-term interests.

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On Council, I would use that same approach — engaging residents, businesses, and fellow councilmembers with respect, listening first, and focusing on common goals rather than differences. I believe most of us want the same things: a thriving economy, safe neighborhoods, good schools, and a community that feels like home. By keeping those shared values front and center, we can work through disagreements and move forward together.

I also know the value of collaboration from my volunteer service on boards and committees across our community. I've seen that when leaders come to the table with open minds and a solutions-focused approach, we can get things done without unnecessary delays or division.

### Q17

In one or two sentences, what is your vision for your city's future economic vitality?

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My vision for Rincon's future economic vitality is to grow as the business hub of Effingham County while attracting restaurants, retail, entertainment, and outdoor amenities that keep families and young professionals here. By supporting workforce development, small businesses, and smart planning, we can create quality jobs, preserve our small-town charm, and build a community our children will want to plant roots in.

### Q18

Is there anything additional you would like Effingham voters to know about you and your platform?

Yes. I want voters to know that I'm not a career politician — I'm a mom, a wife, a small business owner, and a community volunteer who loves this city. My family has been through challenges, including my husband's two kidney transplants, and we made it through because of the support, generosity, and prayers of this community. That experience is why I feel called to give back and why I believe so strongly in serving others.

Professionally, I bring the perspective of a financial advisor and small business owner — someone who understands the importance of planning for the future, balancing budgets, and making smart investments. And through my volunteer service on boards, committees, and local organizations, I've proven that I can work across groups to get things done.

My platform is about smart growth, strengthening our economy, supporting small businesses, and ensuring Rincon remains a safe, vibrant community where families prosper — and where our children want to plant roots. With your support, I'll bring dedication, experience, and a heart for service to the Rincon City Council.

For more information please visit: [www.VoteTrishaBoyett.com](http://www.VoteTrishaBoyett.com)