

attracting new businesses, expanding their tax base, and increasing their populations. As the last census figures suggest, Augusta is not even keeping pace with the rest of the State of Georgia.

There is great potential in our community. To tap it will require leadership and vision, and we believe that the adoption of a charter is a constructive way to begin. Personal and territorial agendas must be set aside. This can never occur while people in positions of power cling to their roles as "big fish in a little pond". We advise the voters to look carefully at those whom they elect; they are entrusted to shape the future of our city. In the end, the responsibility is our own. If we do not become involved, if we do not vote, if we do not offer ourselves as leaders, then we will end up with a government no better than we deserve.