

GENERAL ELECTION 2024 VOTER GUIDE

Compiled by the God & Country Christian Alliance and Coastal Carolina Taxpayers Association

In compiling this Voter Guide, we emailed/mailed questionnaires to all local & state office and judicial candidates to appear on the General election ballots in Carteret, Craven, and Onslow counties to give the voters in our organizations and the community some information on which to base their voting decisions.

The candidates that provided responses are included in this Voter Guide grouped by the office that they're running for.

We hope that you find this helpful in selecting a candidate.

Carteret County, information about where, when, and how to vote can be found at:
<https://www.carteretcountync.gov/475/Current-Election>

Craven County, information about where, when, and how to vote can be found at:
<https://www.cravencountync.gov/1497/Voter-Information>

Onslow County, information about where, when, and how to vote can be found at:
<https://www.onslowcountync.gov/1655/Voter-Resources>

North Carolina State Board of Elections Judicial Voter Guide can be found at:
<https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/upcoming-election/judicial-voter-guide-2024-general-election>

May God bless you, your family, and our nation!

Bob Griswold (CCTA Treasurer) - rgriswol@hotmail.com &
Ray Waldbusser (GCCA Vice Chair) - raywisaway@gmail.com

As of 9/7/2024

Contents

NC AUDITOR	LIB	Bob Drach	3
NC AUDITOR	REP	Dave Boliek.....	4
NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE	DEM	Natasha Marcus	5
NC SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SEAT 06	REP	Jefferson G. Griffin	6
NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 02	DEM	Tare (T) Davis.....	7
NC SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 03	REP	Augustus (Gus) Willis	8
NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 01	REP	Paul J. Delamar	9
NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 03	REP	W. David McFadyen.....	10
NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 04	REP	L. Walter Mills.....	11
NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 05	REP	Alex Pully	12
CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 02		Katie Statler	13
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01	REP	Patti Mason	14
CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 07	REP	Darlene Gibbs.....	15
CRAVEN COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS	REP	Josh Kohr	16
ONslow COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	REP	Susanne Long	17
CITY OF HAVELOCK COMMISSIONER		Karen Lewis.....	18
TOWN OF RIVER BEND COUNCIL MEMBER		Steve L. Bokor	19
TOWN OF TRENT WOODS MAYOR		Chuck Tyson.....	20
TOWN OF TRENT WOODS COMMISSIONER		Dan Murphy	21
Sequence of Offices on the ballot.....			22

NC AUDITOR LIB Bob Drach

9008 SAINT STEPHENS PL

WILMINGTON, NC 28412

Email - ELECTDRACH@GMAIL.COM phone - 8032501075

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I am a Certified Management Accountant and have worked as a President, Treasurer, CFO, and CIO. I worked over 4 years for Deloitte, a major consulting, tax, and audit firm. I have multiple other professional certifications and served on the New Hanover County Board of Equalization and Review. I served as a teacher in the US Peace Corps
I earned my MBA from Stanford University.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

The body of knowledge of the accounting profession, especially the standards supported by the American Institute of CPAs. Libertarian texts like the Declaration of Independence and writings by Adam Smith, John Locke, Rene Descartes, and more recently Milton Friedman and Thomas Sowell

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

-Credibility of the State Auditor. I am the only accountant running for NC State Auditor. I am a Certified Management Accountant. The other candidates are lawyers and politicians.

-Restore independence to the Office of State Auditor. Democrats and Republicans have a conflict of interest when auditing agencies run by partisans of their same party. The American Institute of CPAs says that when doing attestation services, an auditor must be independent in both fact and appearance. I am the independent auditor in this election

-Rebuild the Office of State Auditor (OSA). It is marred by the disgrace and resignation of the prior Auditor. The current auditor is a political appointee. The other challenger has targeted specific issues and agencies -- wholly inappropriate for an auditor. The number of audits issued by the OSA has gone down over the past 6 month, likely indicating low morale and low productivity. The office needs an unbiased, competent, professional manager like me.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

The state is currently running a surplus, which I think should be returned to taxpayers as a rebate. Whatever revenues are collected, my job would be to assure good financial controls

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

I expect to be a recognized leader in good governance, sound financial management, and taxpayer protections.

6. Why should I vote for you?

I am the only accountant - which should be a requirement for the job. I am the most independent - which should be a requirement for the job. I have an outstanding biography of public service, academic achievement, and business success. I am the best candidate and should be the choice of any voter who selects the most qualified and best available candidate, but especially among voters who register as unaffiliated specifically to reason.

Specific Questions for NC AUDITOR candidates -

1s. As a Council of State member how would you handle any attempt to close this state due to health concerns?

Looking back on Covid, I favor the approach taken by Sweden among most nations. Looking ahead, I would use a similar rubric for decision making.

2sa. What more can be done to help reduce Fraud in North Carolina state-funded programs?

More audits, especially of the performance and AUP (Agreed upon procedures) variety. This requires improving the capacity and effectiveness of the office - steady and sustainable improvements if not flashy. Good management. Whistleblower protections and access to legal support for whistleblowers is needed. I am aware of employees throughout the state government who see issues but do not speak out for fear of their livelihoods and social pressures.

NC AUDITOR REP Dave Boliek

PO BOX 548

FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28302

Email - DAVE@AUDITORDAVE.COM phone - 9108503525

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I am 56-years-old, born in Lincolnton, N.C. I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; have been married to same woman for 29 years and we have four fantastic children (2 grown). I've lived in 12 towns across NC; graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill; earned a Law Degree and an MBA from Campbell University. I am a former Prosecutor (prosecuting seatbelt tickets to murders); I am a practicing attorney; a consultant on health care issues; and I own and run small businesses. I am an elder at my church. I've chaired the board of directors for the Southeast Regional AHEC (training doctors for southeastern NC), and I serve on and chaired the Board of Trustees at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill where I lead the charge against the woke left agendas in higher education. At Chapel Hill, I led a budget reform effort that consolidated a \$4 billion budget, turned a \$100 million shortfall into a surplus, I introduced the School of Civic Life and Leadership to attract conservative professors and students to UNC (was on FOX news), and I stood up and voted NO on the 1619 Project coming to the University.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

My position(s) on issues are influenced (other than the Bible and Constitution) by my personal experience as a prosecutor, a practicing attorney, a business person who has signed both the front of a paycheck as well as the back of a paycheck, and from trusted friends and advisors who are both mentors and role models. I also read history. Biographies of change makers can give great insight. And finally, relying on personal observation is important. Leaders must "show up."

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

1. Hold Government ACCOUNTABLE to Taxpayers.
2. Audit the DMV for efficiency and economy.
3. Creating a rapid response audit team to tackle hot button issues.
4. Define auditing role in the State Auditor's office to address issues surrounding Election Integrity.
5. Audit Non-governmental organizations... with a specific eye toward making sure people here illegally are not benefiting from state taxpayer dollars.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

Thankfully, we have had a conservative legislature that has managed our state's funds so that there is a budgetary surplus and a healthy rainy-day fund. Quite frankly, the State Auditor can further assist the legislature with performance and efficiency audits that identify places to cut our growing government bureaucracy even further. We should always look to cut spending so that we can cut taxes and make NC a destination for people to live and own businesses.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

If I am blessed to be elected Auditor, I would be running for re-election. In any event, I see myself continuing to serve my community, my state and my nation through hard work, raising my family and participating in community service opportunities (such as my current board service, church service and within the Republican Party)

6. Why should I vote for you?

Council of State positions require experience leading large organizations. I have experience leading and making change in large organizations. I have a solid conservative record by currently holding a position in N.C. where we've been able to make a difference (copy and paste these links to see examples on Fox News -- <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6319418361112>; and in the newspaper -- <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion/article272173008.html>). I have the experience and background to be a successful leader as State Auditor. I also have courage to speak up and make hard choices and morally correct and conservative choices in the face of pressure to stand down.

Specific Questions for NC Auditor – Council of State

s1. As a Council of State member how would you handle any attempt to close down this state due to health concerns?

We should never completely shut down the State of North Carolina. (as I said earlier... our state constitution guarantees every citizen the right to the "fruits of his labor") I would oppose the shutting down of our state due to health concerns. We can address and develop solutions short of shutting down our economy, our schools, our churches and our way of life.

s2. Auditor: What more can be done to help reduce Fraud in North Carolina state-funded programs?

My approach as State Auditor will be to approach the auditing function from a perspective broader than merely financial. We must take a deep dive into how agencies are run day-to-day. This will reveal a bigger picture and view than audits limited to financial only.

NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE DEM Natasha Marcus

806 ASHBY DR

DAVIDSON, NC 28036

Email - NATASHA@NATASHAMARCUS.COM phone - 9802540473

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

Natasha Marcus is a three-term North Carolina State Senator and a candidate for North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance.

During her tenure in the North Carolina Senate, Natasha Marcus has stood for people over ideology, individual freedoms, and smart investments in the state's future. She is running to be the next Commissioner of Insurance to serve the people of North Carolina who need and deserve affordable, quality insurance by restoring transparency, advocacy, and accountability to the office.

Natasha Marcus will be the people's advocate, ensuring that we have a vibrant, competitive marketplace of insurance options with fair rates, honest coverage, and smart regulation.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

The Insurance Commissioner's job is to regulate the insurance market dictated by math, not politics or opinion. I will be an Insurance Commissioner who a) holds public hearings to require insurance companies to justify their rate hike requests, b) prioritizes the data and math, to keep insurance rates at the right balance between fairness to North Carolina consumers and reasonable (not excessive) profits to insurance companies, and c) advocates for the rate relief that North Carolina working families deserve.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

As Commissioner of Insurance, I will restore transparency in the rate-setting process by holding the first public hearings on insurance rate hikes in more than eight years, requiring insurers to present evidence in a public forum, under oath, subject to cross examination, to justify their rate hike requests. I will also restore advocacy for North Carolina policyholders to get the benefits they pay for -- to have their claims paid fairly. The incumbent Commissioner has starved the Consumer Services Division at the Department of Insurance of staff and resources, choosing to divert resources elsewhere, and closed critical regional offices that should be available for consumers who need assistance from the Dept of Insurance. As a result, North Carolinians are not receiving the advocacy and assistance they need and deserve from this office. I also will work to strengthen our communities against natural disasters by ensuring the solvency of the Beach Plan and the FAIR Plan, expand the FORTIFIED roof program to reduce storm damage and provide insurance rebates for coastal residents, and advocate for modernizing our building codes to enhance storm resistance. There is a lot more detail about my priorities at NatashaMarcus.com.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

The Commissioner of Insurance does not have the power to set tax rates.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Starting my second term as Commissioner of Insurance, after successfully ending the eight-year trend of rapidly increasing insurance rates under incumbent Commissioner Mike Causey.

6. Why should I vote for you?

Put simply, the current Commissioner of Insurance isn't working for you. He's raised insurance rates 16 times without ever holding a public hearing, has used taxpayer dollars to give his friends and political allies high-paying jobs in the Dept of Insurance when they are not qualified or expected to actually perform important work for the Dept of Insurance, and has pocketed over a quarter million dollars in campaign contributions from insurance industry sources, which creates a conflict interest. I'm running to bring the Department of Insurance back to the side of the people, by restoring transparency, accountability, and advocacy to the Department. I'm not accepting campaign money from insurance company PACS because I don't want them to expect favors from me. I want to work for the best interests of the people, not the insurance companies' profits. If you want to learn more about my plans, visit NatashaMarcus.com

Specific Questions for NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE candidates -

1s. As a Council of State member how would you handle any attempt to close this state due to health concerns?

I don't think the state should ever be closed.

2sg. Is the Council of State more of an emergency response role or continued day to day advisory role?

The Council of State is comprised of ten people, all independently elected, to head up separate departments within the Executive Branch of the state government. Each member of the Council of State is elected to lead his or her department on a daily basis, to serve the people of North Carolina.

NC SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SEAT 06 REP Jefferson G. Griffin

PO BOX 99780

RALEIGH, NC 27624

Email - JEFFERSON@JEFFERSONGRIFFIN.COM phone - 9196166733

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I was elected statewide to the NC Court of Appeals in 2020. I was a District Court Judge and prosecutor prior to the that election. I also serve as a Captain in the North Carolian Army National Guard. I was mobilized with the 30th Armored Brigade Combat team to the Middle East. I am married and I have two children. We are members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church. I grew up on a farm in Nash County. We make our home in Carteret County.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

My constitutional conservative judicial philosophy. I believe that judges should act with judicial restraint. Our job as jurists is the interpret the law, not make the law.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

Judicial independence, fidelity to the Constitution, civility, and bring clarity to the law.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

N/A

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Serving on the NC Supreme Court.

6. Why should I vote for you?

We need judges who respect the position and the separation of powers. I bring those traits to this race. Additionally, there are no former trial court judges on the bench. I will add that to the Supreme Court.

Specific Questions for NC SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SEAT 06 candidates -

1j. Do you believe that the Constitution is a living document that changes with the times?

No. I am an originalist. I believe the words mean what they say.

2j. What is the authority on which you base your rulings?

I look at the original meaning of the document to guide me in my legal analysis

NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 02 DEM Tare (T) Davis

146 NORTHSIDE DR
LITTLETON, NC 27850

Email - wcctdavis@gmail.com phone - 2525321918

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

Born and raised in Halifax County to working class parents, lifelong public servant, 12 years Army National Guard, retired State Trooper, 28 years in law enforcement including as a narcotics officer, campus police officer & fitness instructor, degrees in Criminal Justice, International and Comparative Criminal Justice, & Business Organization, earned NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission/Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate, 10 years as Warren County commissioner (4 years as chairman), current president of NC Association of County Commissioners, member Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Prince Hall Mason, former small business owner, member of Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church, married to a middle school teacher, father to four children.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

I am influenced by a common sense approach.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

- Economic stability for working- & middle-class families
- Prioritizing teachers & schools
- Defending individual rights, including the right to choose
- Support for farmers, small businesses & public servants
- Natural resources

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

Both are required; there needs to be a balanced approach.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

NC State Senator

6. Why should I vote for you?

The most famous three words of the US Constitution and North Carolina is "We the People". The government was established by the people to work on behalf of the people. In today's society we are a combination of many backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures. Any effective leader should have the ability to bring people together despite their differences. I am that leader that has an open common sense approach to move things forward. My upbringing, professional career, and governmental experience has aided me to represent people from all walks of life. Whether we agree or disagree I will uphold the right that we can.

Specific Questions for NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 02 candidates -

11. Do you think North Carolina should legalize medical marijuana and/or gambling casinos?

Yes, in the context of prescribing medical marijuana, it should be legalized. Physicians know what is best for their patients and all medications that will help or cure a medical condition should be afforded to them. Casinos are a game of chance and with proper regulation and education they can enhance a community's economy.

21. Do you think the Parents' Bill of Rights (Session Law 2023-106) should be revised to mandate parental consent for ALL medical care of minors and create meaningful civil penalties for violation of this law?

I believe that parental involvement should be supported, however I do not feel that there should be a civil penalty imposed for violation of the law.

424 CRAVEN ST

NEW BERN, NC 28560

Email - AUGUSTUSWILLIS@GMAIL.COM

phone – 2526701937

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I was born and raised in New Bern, NC as a member of Garber Global Methodist Church. After graduating from New Bern High School I attended East Carolina University and received a degree in Finance, summa cum laude, before attending the University of North Carolina School of Law where I received my Juris Doctor. As an attorney, I have served as counsel to the North Carolina General Assembly, an Assistant Public Defender, and for approximately 10 years representing either the State of North Carolina or the United States government as a prosecutor in Eastern North Carolina in criminal cases ranging from complex drug trafficking conspiracies to murder and other homicides. I am currently a Resident Superior Court Judge in Judicial District 4, comprised of Carteret, Craven, and Pamlico Counties and serve on the Board of Trustees for Craven Community College. In the past, I have volunteered for a number of other organizations in my community including as a board member of United Way of Coastal Carolina.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

Other than the Bible and the Constitution, I consult the applicable statutes and case law to make decisions in cases before me. I would say that I am also influenced by a sense of fairness and desire to uphold the rule of law and protect the community within the bounds of the law as it is written.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

If elected I will follow and uphold the law as it is written and treat all parties who appear in my courtroom fairly.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

As a judge, I do not have a role in setting any budgets or control over taxes; however, I am mindful of the cost of operating our court system and administering justice. I always do my best to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars in managing dockets and I enforce the imposition and collection of court costs, fines, and fees whenever appropriate.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

God-willing, I hope to be continuing my service as a Resident Superior Court Judge for Carteret, Craven, and Pamlico Counties.

6. Why should I vote for you?

I have extensive experience in the law as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, and courtroom experience in both state and federal courts which provides valuable perspective as a judge. Further, my years as legal counsel to our state legislature give me a unique perspective on interpreting and applying statutes and an appreciation for the legislative process and deliberation that goes into the crafting of laws by the representatives in our legislature. I respect the principles of individual rights and separation of powers set forth in our Constitution and am mindful of governmental overreach. I understand that it is the legislature's job to make the laws and will not legislate from the bench. I have a proven track record of dedication to this community throughout my career in public service and volunteer work. I respectfully ask for your vote to continue my service as a Superior Court Judge for Carteret, Craven, and Pamlico Counties.

Specific Questions for NC SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 03 candidates -

1j. Do you believe that the Constitution is a living document that changes with the times?

No.

2j. What is the authority on which you base your rulings?

I base my rulings on the authority of the United States and North Carolina Constitutions, the statutes duly enacted by our legislature, and the binding case law of higher courts interpreting those documents.

604 MAIN ST

ORIENTAL, NC 28571

Email - PJDELAMAR@YAHOO.COM phone - 2522491731

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I was born and raised in Pamlico County. My undergraduate and law degrees are from UNC-Chapel Hill. I was in private practice for 19 years before becoming a district court judge. I am married with two children (11 and 13 years old). I enjoy running and reading in my spare time, and I have served as a cross country and track coach since 2009 at Pamlico County High School.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

As a judge, in addition to the Bible and the Constitution, I take an oath to follow the properly enacted statutes of North Carolina applying common sense.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

There are not three things. My oath is to follow the law as it is written, and that is what I pledge to do.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

As a judge, we do not set our own budgets for the court system.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

It is my goal to continue as a judge.

6. Why should I vote for you?

As a judge, I've followed the law as it is written, without regard to my personal preferences. If you approve of that approach, then I believe you should vote for me.

Specific Questions for NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 01 candidates -

1j. Do you believe that the Constitution is a living document that changes with the times?

The Constitution is not a living document. It contains a means by which it can be amended. Beyond that, it should be read as it was written.

2j. What is the authority on which you base your rulings?

Our government is established by the authority of the God of the Bible. Our Constitution is based on that God-given authority. Those are the authorities upon which base my decisions.

2602 OLD CHERRY POINT RD

NEW BERN, NC 28560

Email - DMCFADYEN3@GMAIL.COM phone - 2526707152

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

Born in New Bern in 1970. Graduated from New Bern High School in 1989. Attended East Carolina University and later graduated from North Carolina State University. Worked in the public sector for the State of North Carolina and the NC State Bureau of Investigation before attending law school at the Appalachian School of Law. After passing the Bar exam, worked for the Kellum Law Firm in New Bern and Goldsboro. Joined my Father and another partner in 2006 to form Valentine and McFadyen, P.A. Practice focused in all criminal and civil courts. Filed for election in 2012 to fill the seat opened by the retirement of Chief District Court Judge Jerry Waddell. Won primary with 60% of vote and General election with 71% of vote. Sworn in on January 1, 2013. I knew I wanted to be a lawyer when I was 7 years old. I decided I wanted to be a judge when I was 12. I feel like I have the greatest job in the world, and I am so blessed to have been able to fulfill a lifelong dream of being a judge. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of our District to the best of my ability.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

The laws of the State of North Carolina.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

N/A

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

N/A

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

District Court Bench, God willing.

6. Why should I vote for you?

I have been on the Bench for almost 12 years now. I feel like I have a judicial temperament which provides the public with a fair but firm experience in my courtroom. I will continue to do my best to serve our District and to help ensure our judicial system runs smoothly and efficiently.

Specific Questions for NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 03 candidates -

1j. Do you believe that the Constitution is a living document that changes with the times?

No. I believe in strict interpretation of the Constitution.

2j. What is the authority on which you base your rulings?

The United States and North Carolina Constitutions and the Laws of the State of North Carolina.

4516 WEST FAIRWAY DR

NEW BERN, NC 28562

Email - LWM123@HOTMAIL.COM phone - 2526332797

General Questions -

1. Short biography –

Greetings. My name is Walter Mills, and I live in New Bern, N.C. My wife and I have been married for 26 years. I have two children. And, two grandchildren. My family attends First Presbyterian Church, in New Bern. I grew up in New Bern. I graduated from New Bern High School. I attended East Carolina University, and graduated from law school at Michigan State University. I am a former United States Marine. I served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve for six years. I am the oldest of six children. Both sides of my family are from Eastern North Carolina, and many still remain in our area. I began practicing law in New Bern, in 1999. I became a District Court Judge in 2007, and Chief District Court Judge in 2012. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our communities in this capacity. I am grateful for the dedicated people I get to work with, throughout our court system, on a daily basis. I am grateful for the support and trust you give me to perform this job. Thank you.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

If we include the North Carolina General Statutes, and binding legal precedent, that about sums it up.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

To continue to serve the people, and communities that all our families live in, to the best of my ability, as one of your District Court Judges.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

Cutting spending. If you can't control what you spend, the amount you take in is completely irrelevant. It will just get spent.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Hopefully, still living in our beautiful area of the country, where I grew up, And, still serving our citizens, and communities, as a District Court Judge.

6. Why should I vote for you?

I hope many of those reasons can be found in the answers above. I enjoy the opportunity to make a difference in some of the lives of our citizens, and welfare of our communities. And, I thank you for letting me do that in the capacity of a District Court Judge.

Specific Questions for NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 04 candidates -

1j. Do you believe that the Constitution is a living document that changes with the times?

No. I believe in traditional legal interpretation. As expressed by Supreme Court Justice Scalia, language has meaning, and that meaning is fixed, and does not evolve.

2j. What is the authority on which you base your rulings?

At the District Court Level, the law. Whether it stems from the Constitution, statutory law, or binding legal precedent.

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 05 REP Alex Pully

2646 LENNOXVILLE RD

BEAUFORT, NC 28516

Email - ALEXPULLY@GMAIL.COM phone - 9194173401

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I live in Beaufort, NC and currently serve as District Court Judge for Carteret, Craven and Pamlico counties. Prior to becoming a Judge, I worked as an Assistant District Attorney for DA Scott Thomas handling serious felony cases and probation violations. I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and then Campbell University School of Law. I am a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Beaufort, NC. I am married and my wife and I are expecting a girl in November.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

The law as written and the specific facts of each case.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

N/A

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

N/A

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

I have dedicated my career to public service, and I hope to continue to serve the great people of Carteret, Craven and Pamlico County.

6. Why should I vote for you?

Specific Questions for NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 04 SEAT 05 candidates -

1j. Do you believe that the Constitution is a living document that changes with the times?

No

2j. What is the authority on which you base your rulings?

US Constitution, State Constitution, and State law.

233 LEGACY LN

NEWPORT, NC 28570

Email - kathryn.statler@carteretk12.org phone - 2527253944

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I was raised in Carteret County, attending White Oak, Broad Creek Middle and Croatan High School. I then attended East Carolina University, and hold a bachelor's degree in Family and Community Service. I am married to my husband, Brian, and we have three kids that are all currently attending public schools in Carteret County. We enjoy beach days (Ocracoke especially!), traveling and exploring new cities. I have enjoyed my first four years on the Board of Education, and look forward to serving a second term.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

When making any decision, I think about the implementation (what will it take, and by who, to implement decisions/policies) as well as the short and long outcomes of any decisions. I always try to speak with the individuals whom the decisions will affect most. If this is principals, school nurses, teachers - I go to them and get their professional opinion. Every decision being made, I strive to vote in confidence that I feel I am truly doing what is best for students, staff and parents.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

-Maintaining local control of curriculum

-More focus on mental health

-School Calendar Flexibility (Aligning with Community College, not earlier)

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

I feel our budget is transparent and not frivolous. We do not have unnecessary spending, and have spent a lot of time going through the budget - by line item - to ensure we are being respectful of the taxpayer dollar while serving our students as best as possible. This was a very large focus of the Board of Education, Superintendent, and financial department this year. I would support a (small) increase in local taxes to best be able to meet the needs of our system. I would not support any large increases.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years I plan to still be living in Newport, with my family. I will have a son entering his senior year of high school, and two girls right behind him. I hope to still be working in our school system in some capacity. I am unsure if it would be on the Board of Education, or potentially with the Carteret County Public School Foundation.

6. Why should I vote for you?

I think we have many wonderful citizens who could add a lot of valuable input to our school system, and am honored to have been elected four years ago to represent district two. I am a mom of 3, with a large personal investment on what happens in our system day to day. I will continue to do my best to make choices each day that follow my value system, and that I feel best serve the Carteret County School System.

Specific Questions for CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 02 candidates -

1e. What changes to policies would you recommend to comply with the Parent's Bill of Rights, gender equality and Fairness in Women's Sports Act?

Policy changes are one of the most difficult topics that we encounter. Often policies are required from the state level, and we must comply even if we do not fully agree. I would hope we continue to protect students safety, both physically and mentally. Parent's Bill of Rights brought about many changes that we have worked hard, and will continue to work hard to ensure are being implemented in our policies and across the system.

2e. What role should parents play in their children's education?

Parents should be playing a large role in their child's education. I feel parents have the right to be fully educated on what's going on in the school building each day- including what their child is being taught, and policies in place. I do not feel there is anything more important than active parents (or other guardians) in the lives of our students.

CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01 REP Patti Mason

120 QUAIL WOODS DR

NEW BERN, NC 28560

Email - tjmason2@earthlink.net phone - 2526491071

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I trained in college as a Secondary Math Educator. I was hired into private industry to start a programming school after graduation. I then transferred to the National Security Agency where I served as a programmer, engineer, technical director, manager, and 3 years as the IT Budget process owner (e.g., I ran the process for the decision makers). I served in the Pentagon as well representing NSA. My expertise was starting new programs and creating programs/processes/organizations successfully. I retired from government in 2014. I taught GED Math 2 at the Community College for one semester. I serve at my church as the Finance Chair and communication person. I was in Rotary in NC for three years. I have actively assisted the GOP with elections and for the Craven County Board of Elections for 8 years. I believe there is no retirement, just new callings to be answered. (Additionally I have a MS in Computer Science from The John's Hopkins University and a MS in Telecommunications Engineering from the George Washington University)

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

I will supplement with American leaders such as Lincoln, the Founding Fathers, Reagan. For government work I use the Constitution because I swear an oath to the Constitution when taking a government position. I supplement the Constitution by using the Declaration of Independence. I believe Lincoln was right, the Constitution is the frame around the golden apple, the Declaration of Independence and the two documents must be used that way. I love reading Ann Graham Lotz. I am participating in a women's bible study for women, by women that is very important to me in maintaining my core beliefs. I will look at case law, but only to form arguments as to why the Constitution was written correctly.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

-1 Obtaining a standard curriculum for each grade and a process to maintain that curriculum along with the county appreciating the need for state standards, county curriculum, teacher's expertise in execution via lesson plans. This will help eliminate learning gaps because expectations from grade to grade would be established and expected. Focus on the basics first expanding after mastery of those.

-2 Budget - tie each budget item to an expected outcome along with metrics to measure it is being achieved – especially in the School Improvement Plans and to improved student performance.

-3 A workload study for the teachers. We have the teachers doing way more than teaching and we need to get their job back in the box meaning we need to have them teaching as the primary duty – that is their expertise. There is too much for a teacher to do in a day – way too much.

-4 Expand one of the jewels of the district, the Career Technical Education Program – where the jobs are – actively advertising and recruiting in middle school

-5 Gaining trust back into the school system to include the board. Discuss items BEFORE decisions are made in open forum, get public input and be thankful for it and use it, and give feedback.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

Rarely is money the cause of failure. With that said, the county has \$143M district budget (county, state, federal) which is significant – money is not the issue. The dollars need to be maximized and tied to a prioritized list of expected outcomes. I look at other counties to see what they are doing because we are not unique as much as we would love to believe that. Iredell County has one of the lowest county compensations for teachers in the state, yet they are in the top 10 performing districts in the state. How did they do that? To strive for excellence, you look at excellence and learn from that. Historically, only throwing money at a problem rarely leads to success. Actually sometimes too much money can make an organization lazy and not strive for the best because of the luxury to rest.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Hopefully back in retirement still giving back to the community by tutoring, being active in my church, and other areas like these two – pending on how well my first term goes. I have the tools, experience, and commitment to enhance the system which will change our current unacceptable student results. But there will NOT be a third term, if I can't succeed before a third term, I deserve to be voted out.

6. Why should I vote for you?

Because I have a career of proven success record of getting diverse groups of people to agree on a goal and putting together successful programs to achieve those goals. My qualifications and experiences will make the board stronger. I am not afraid to be creative – frequently I am unaware there is a box for how to think. I am dedicated and will give my best all the time. I am not afraid of hard problems – I welcome the challenge and look forward to putting in the time and effort to make Craven County schools part of the top 10 in the state initially. I want to raise the bar in expecting better performance of students in both academics and behavior – if we expect more they will rise to the occasion and will feel good about themselves at having success. They know they are not doing the best they can – let's have them rise to the challenge.

Specific Questions for CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01 candidates -

1e. What changes to policies would you recommend to comply with the Parent's Bill of Rights, gender equality and Fairness in Women's Sports Act?

I want to work with the legislators to make one major change to the Bill and that is to add that these rights are endowed by the Creator. This will make it hard to take the rights away if there is a legislation turn over. I would also like to work to change the law to the parents are in charge of their children's health – period. I would like to remove the clause except where otherwise designated by law.

I want to work with the county to get more parental involvement. The parents need to be the central figure in all decisions concerning their children. The school system should not be taking the role of the parents. If there is difficulty, then use county services to get the desired outcome – the board must start working with other county organizations. I would want a policy to say a biological male participates in male sports and a biological female participates in female sports – period.

2e. What role should parents play in their children's education?

Parents are the primary decision maker for children. Yes, there are SOME parents that do not participate – take this as a challenge to get them to participate. One idea is to institute the parent/teacher conference the first week of school and the beginning of the third quarter so that expectations can be set and explained. Yes, it will be hard to get parents to participate – but we need to do this and need to be creative to make this happen.

Craven County Board of Education District 07 REP Darlene Gibbs

175 GODFREY BLVD
HAVELOCK, NC 28532

Email - vdarlenegibbs@yahoo.com phone - 2526705869

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I have been a resident of Havelock/Harlowe for over 40 years. I have been involved with Craven County schools as a parent, grandparent and an educator. Both of my daughters attended and graduated from Havelock. Now, as a grandparent, I have five grandchildren currently attending school in Craven County. Previously, as an educator, I worked in the school system for over 11 years. First as a substitute teacher at Graham A. Barden Elementary and Roger Bell Elementary, (now, Roger Bell New Tech Academy). Next, as an assistant Teacher at Roger Bell Elementary. Finally, as the Technology Specialist at Tucker Creek Middle School for the first six years that it was open. Through these experiences, I understand firsthand the struggles of students, staff and parents in this district. I have recently retired from FRC EAST, Cherry Point. There I was tasked with supporting the fleet by managing and publishing technical manuals for various aircraft platforms. I would like to apply my experience and abilities to help bring positive changes for Craven County Schools.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

-

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

School Safety, Transparency, Accountability, Student First Driven Policy, Equal Education for All

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

Craven County School budget could be increased with higher taxes, however, With the current economy, taxpayers must survive. I don't understand why the funds for the education lottery are not more abundant. While I worked for the school system, I was very frustrated with the pay. After 11 years, I was managing Tucker Creeks technology needs. I was paid the same as a teacher assistant walking in the door on their first day. That was what drove me to seek a higher paying career. It hasn't changed much as far as I can tell. Schools are having to manage with fewer staff members. Why is that? I understand that the tax base determines the amount of subsidy the county can rely on for their budget. Surrounding counties manage to pay their staff a significantly higher wage. Why would the brightest candidates choose Craven County to teach in? Why don't we see more of the education lottery revenue? We all need to ask that question?

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Much older and wiser. I expect that after 4 years on the board of education that I will have a greater understanding of all stakeholders needs.

6. Why should I vote for you?

After working with Craven County Schools for 11 years, I understand the needs and struggles that students, parents and staff deal with on a daily basis. My hope, if I am elected to serve on the board, is to improve the experience for everyone involved.

Specific Questions for CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 07 candidates -

1e. What changes to policies would you recommend to comply with the Parent's Bill of Rights, gender equality and Fairness in Women's Sports Act?

Parents Bill of Rights – It is a shame that we need legislation to empower parents in this society. I am thankful that North Carolina adheres to the concepts of this Bill.

Gender Equality - There are 2 genders, male and female. Students that wish to be identified as anything else, should be referred for mental health assessments. School systems should not be required to comply with issues involving students with mental health concerns without a medical diagnosis.

Fairness in Women's Sports Act – This is a much-needed Bill, unfortunately. This goes back to "Common Sense for Students and Staff" in our education system. Thank goodness for the legislature that had to override Roy Cooper.

2e. What role should parents play in their children's education?

Children/Students belong to their parents. School systems should not be involved with making decisions regarding the medical needs of students without parental notification and discussion. If abuse is in question, a student advocate should be involved.

CRAVEN COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS REP Josh Kohr

201 SHIPMAN RD D13

HAVELOCK, NC 28532

Email - friendsforjoshkohr@gmail.com phone - 2526655699

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I was born on Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point and have been a lifelong Havelock resident. Having worked my way through college, I graduated from Pensacola Christian College with a degree in Criminal Justice. The year I graduated, I was elected to the Havelock Board of Commissioners in 2019, as the youngest elected official in the state of North Carolina at that time. In the spring of 2022, I met the love of my life, Dr. Hannah Mayfield Kohr and we were married on July 4, 2023. We are expecting our first child in November. I have been a manager at several companies on and off base, and I am also a published orchestral composer. I have job experience in government, records management, personnel management, website design, and technology.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

I own several bookshelves of reference material on government, economics, history, Supreme Court precedent, ect. The most important books and documents to me are the Bible, the US and NC Constitutions, and The Federalist Papers. I tend to read a lot of Supreme Court majority, concurring, and dissenting opinions. I have learned that by looking at all the sides of legal arguments, I can more firmly understand and defend my own position as well as change my opinion as necessary. Other books in my library are works of various founding fathers, including letters and writings, which give insight into the debates that formulated the basis of the Constitution and some of the first laws put in place in the US.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

No more Covid lockdowns. It is time to get the Register of Deeds office back to normal function. Right now if you want to get a marriage license you have to call, then fill out an online form, then call again to schedule an appointment, and then go in person to get the license. It should not be a requirement to fill out a form to get a marriage license, but rather an option to save time. Efficiency for the government without ultimately serving the people in some way is not worth it.

The Register of Deeds website should be easy to navigate. I want to build a better website that is accessible and easy to navigate.

I want to streamline the software used in the Register of Deeds office to ensure that records are more accessible.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

I will always support cutting spending. In my time as City Commissioner of Havelock, I've always voted not to raise taxes and rather cut public spending.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Wherever the Lord would have me. In the same way that I did not know that I would be married with a son on the way at this point in my life, I don't know where God will lead; however, I see myself having a few more kids and still serving my community in whatever capacity God has for me.

6. Why should I vote for you?

I have dedicated my entire life to bringing down unnecessary government bureaucracy, which is why my proven record of voting for limited government and my experience in records management, personnel management, website design, technology, and elected office makes me the best qualified candidate.

Specific Questions for CRAVEN COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS candidates -

1d. As a local board member what federal, state, community and legislative bodies would you see yourself involved with?

The Register of Deeds is not part of a board, rather the executive of that department. The Register must interact with the Craven County Board of Commissioners in order to put forth the budget for their department. Furthermore, having experience working with state legislators I will advocate to the NC General Assembly appropriate changes to real estate law to protect property rights.

2d. What uniquely qualifies you to serve your local government?

In my 5 years of experience as a Havelock City Commissioner, I have learned the nuts and bolts of how local governments operate. Between the private sector and government, I have experience in budgeting everything from a few hundred dollars to a twenty five million dollar budget. While earning my degree in Criminal Justice I learned the basics of civil, criminal, and constitutional law and more importantly how to research law. I was also trained in indexing and records management, and I've implemented this experience in multiple jobs. In the private sector I have managed anywhere from 3 to 15 employees where I learned how to deal with scheduling, staff turnover, setting goals, leadership, performance management, conflict resolution, communication, and training.

206 BUNKER CT

JACKSONVILLE, NC 28540

Email - SUSANNECLONG@OUTLOOK.COM phone - 9103305073

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I retired from the Onslow County School System in July of 2021. During my 30-year tenure, I served the district in the following capacities: Elementary and Middle School Teacher, Elementary and Middle School Assistant Principal, Elementary and Middle School Principal, District-Level Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and District-Level Executive Director of Exceptional Children's Programming. Both my father and husband retired from the United States Marine Corps. We have made our home in Onslow County for over 30 years. We have one son who graduated from Jacksonville High School in 2017 and NCSU in 2021. My husband works at New Bridge Middle School as a teacher assistant. I graduated from White Oak High School and East Carolina University, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree, a Master's Degree in School Administration and Instruction, and a Dual Language Immersion Administration Certificate. I am a registered Republican and have attended River of Life Church in Jacksonville for over 30 years.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

Primarily, The National Review is my go-to. Sometimes, I read Paradigm Press as it provides insights on the economy, and periodically, I view articles on Blaze Media.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

- Strengthen safety measures including student and staff well-being
- Strengthen instruction and student-enriching opportunities including career preparation and pathways
- Strengthen parent, community, and business involvement

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

I would not be an advocate for increasing taxes. School Boards do not have taxation authority so quality collaboration is needed with Onslow County Government/County Commissioners. A Board of Education must help develop a sound budget and provide fiscal oversight.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Serving the community in some capacity

6. Why should I vote for you?

I have experienced Onslow County Schools from the perspectives of a teacher, administrator, parent, and student. In these roles, I have engaged with parents, school personnel, and students, hearing their concerns and working to address each one in a manner that provides the best outcome for all involved. Schools are the heart of their communities; I believe in the goals of public education and the hope it brings, which includes strengthening communities.

Specific Questions for ONSLOW COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION candidates -

1e. What changes to policies would you recommend to comply with the Parent's Bill of Rights, gender equality and Fairness in Women's Sports Act?

The Fairness in Women's Sports Act aims to prevent transgender males from competing in women-designated sports. Current local policy states athletics may participate only on the team consistent with the gender on the student's birth certificate unless otherwise permitted under North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules and regulations. In some states including North Carolina, it is possible for a student to change the gender marker on his/her birth certificate therefore policy would need to be created that ensures athletes compete in categories that align with their biological sex and gender at birth to ensure fair competition in sports.

Closely related to the above, policy will also need to be considered to address sharing/storing of a student's biometric scan, creation, sharing, storing of a child's blood/DNA and creation of a video/voice recording without a parent's written request.

2e. What role should parents play in their children's education?

Parents are the single most influential component of a child's life. Parents should play a vital active ongoing role in their child's education. Parents should be heard and valued.

CITY OF HAVELOCK COMMISSIONER

Karen Lewis

204 N NUNN ST

HAVELOCK, NC 28532

Email - KLEWIS52361@GMAIL.COM phone - 0

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please).

I have been married for 47 years. The Marine Corps brought us to Cherry Point Jan. 1981. We raised 4 children who graduated from Havelock High School. I have 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. My early work experience was in the food industry and fulfilled a dream of owning a restaurant. This experience provided much insight into operating a local business and obstacles faced. Since 1983 I have been a faithful member of Community Baptist Church, Newport, NC. I surrendered my life to serving my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I serve as a Sunday School Teacher, secretary for our Awana Club program, and head up the Hospitality and Events Teams. In the past I have served on:

Havelock Sports Leagues Administration Past Affiliation

Pop Warner Football - Youth Soccer Association - Little League

City Boards Served

Appearance Commission - Planning Board - Recreation Advisory Board - Senior Advisory Board - Volunteer Fire/Rescue Committee - Christmas Parade Committee - Eastern Carolina Council of Government - Cultural Arts Committee

I make/serve free Cotton Candy and Popcorn at National Night Out, Movies/Music in the Park, and the Trunk or Treat event. My Vision is for the completion of our sewer lines to better support our future growth, the welfare of our local businesses, and our citizens and youth of our great city.

Sincerely,

Karen Lewis

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

I allow my moral compass to be my guide. I listen to all sides of issues and after seeking God in prayer I then make my decision to what I think is in the best interest of the city and its people.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

-A.) Sewer- although we have made many upgrades to our water and sewer systems. We will continue to seek grants as well as other cost saving ways to make necessary repairs and upgrades to our system. There are still many issues to address.

-B.) Economic growth and development- With the by-pass nearing its completion. This has and will continue to bring new and exciting opportunities for Havelock to expand and grow in and around our great city. With the remaining number of F-35 coming to Cherry Point this means there will be more families needing homes to live in, recreation and activities for families to partake in. We must be prepared for this.

-C.) Parks and Recreation- We have a very well-run department with a knowledgeable staff, that do a great job and running and maintain our recreation. Many of you may know that over a year ago we started doing movies and music events in the parks. They have become very successful, and our citizens love them. But there are so many more things we can do and should do. I am currently serving on our newly formed Cultural Arts Committee. They are exploring many options for new events for Havelock. As I have stated before that with the by-pass growth is coming, and we must be planning and acting now.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

I am currently sitting in a seat as a City Commissioner. So being faced with budget shortfalls I am no stranger to. So yes, I would support both cutting spending and the increase of taxes. Until you have sat in this position you don't understand how important both can be. You must have a healthy and well-balanced mix of both. You tried for many budget cycles to keep taxes down and either never raised the tax rate or it was so low that it did nothing to help solve the problems we face. You can only prevent the inevitable of tax increases for so long, before you have outsourced the city's financial resources and then you're forced to do a large increase in your tax rate to correct the issue. This is exactly where we found ourselves two budget cycles ago. There are many dangers to allowing a city's general fund balance to fall below certain levels. LGC's can come in and take over the city. This is never a good thing. So, I ask for your patience as well as your thoughts. We need to hear from you, we need to know what your wants and needs are, so keep reminding us. But I would also like to caution you that before you go clearing a board of 3 seats all at once out of anger and frustration that you take head to the experience you discard. This is a very dangerous and irresponsible thing to do.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

I will still be serving our citizens in one capacity or another by being on as many boards as possible. I will still be making popcorn and cotton candy for city events. Most of all I will still be praying for the health and well being of all Havelock Citizens and its surrounding neighbors.

6. Why should I vote for you?

Because I have 13 years' experience as a commissioner. I love the City of Havelock and its people and will do whatever is necessary to see it grow and thrive. As I have stated before, I always listen to all sides of issues, seek guidance through prayer. Whenever making decisions on behalf of our citizens, I am always mindful that I am also a citizen first and that all decisions affect me as well as they do them.

Specific Questions for CITY OF HAVELOCK COMMISSIONER candidates -

1t. As a board member how do you balance responsibilities between local administration and the public you serve?

First and foremost, I remember that the citizens are who elected me not the local administration. So, as they have trusted me to serve them, I in turn must always keep their interests first. Having said that, this does not mean that I don't listen to and value my fellow commissioners or the staff that serve us. Our department heads are very well trained and knowledgeable in their fields. So, it would be reckless of me not to listen to the information they provide us with.

2t. What uniquely qualifies you to serve your local government?

13 years of experience serving the people of Havelock who have put their trust in me and elected me to look out for them and their needs. Has that always been easy, absolutely not. But have I always made the choices that I believed were the right ones, yes. I will never make everyone happy, but I will continue to try. Can I look myself in the mirror and not be ashamed of any decision I've made. Yes, without question.

TOWN OF RIVER BEND COUNCIL MEMBER Steve L. Bokor

110 ANCHOR WAY
NEW BERN, NC 28562

Email - BOKOR71114@GMAIL.COM phone - 2524221941

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I'm a man of many hats - a Conservative Christian, husband, father, grandfather, USMC veteran, and civil servant with 37 years of combined federal service. As a skilled leader and problem solver, I have managed multi-million dollar budgets for military aircraft projects and attended various leadership and Six Sigma courses. I am committed to my community, having attended numerous council meetings and workshops. I am financially responsible, maintaining a high credit score, and I am dedicated to serving the town with my extensive experience and expertise.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

When making decisions on issues, I consider several factors in addition to the Bible and the United States Constitution, such as family values, the will of the people I serve, the need, cost, urgency, and allotted cost versus the budget. Prioritization is also crucial when faced with multiple issues.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

If elected, my priorities would include improving water quality, addressing storm drainage, and ensuring EPA-compliant wastewater discharge. Rezoning the River Stone area for light industrial use would also be considered to attract small businesses, reduce taxes, and to preserve more green spaces while minimizing stormwater runoff. Maintaining a sufficient emergency reserve fund and preserving the town's zero-debt status would also be top of mind.

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

If confronted with budgetary constraints, I would engage in consultations with the town manager, finance manager, and other council members to explore potential avenues to address the shortfall, such as pursuing grants, reallocating funds between budget line items, or utilizing the general fund. Imposing a tax increase would be considered a last resort.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Within the next five years, I envision myself devoting more time to loved ones, pursuing leisure activities such as golfing and camping, and thoroughly relishing life's experiences.

6. Why should I vote for you?

As a qualified candidate for the position of council member in River Bend, I possess a unique combination of skills and experience that make me the ideal choice for the job. My top priority would be to ensure that the town's budget is managed efficiently and allocated effectively. With a background in problem-solving and teamwork, as well as extensive experience in leadership and management, I am confident in my ability to serve the community and make decisions that benefit all residents.

What sets me apart as a candidate for local government service is my multifaceted problem-solving expertise, honed through extensive education and experience. As a highly effective communicator, I can navigate challenging situations by fostering team collaboration and leveraging each member's unique strengths and skills to facilitate productive discussions that lead to structured and strategic resolutions.

Specific Questions for TOWN OF RIVER BEND COUNCIL MEMBER candidates -

1t. As a board member how do you balance responsibilities between local administration and the public you serve?

Transparency is essential for striking a balance between the administrative duties of council members and the public they serve.

2t. What uniquely qualifies you to serve your local government?

As an elected official serving on a board the public and the administration has put their trust and confidence in you to ensure you will serve the public interest above your own. In addition the council must comply with applicable rules and laws to include federal, state, local and the organizational bylaws and policies.

The town employs an attorney to ensure the council doesn't violate any laws or engage in any unauthorized activities.

TOWN OF TRENT WOODS MAYOR

Chuck Tyson

4507 WEST FAIRWAY DR

NEW BERN, NC 28562

Email - CHUCKTYSON@TYSONANDHOOKSREALTY.COM phone - 2526705230

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I was born and raised in New Bern and have been involved in public service for around 40 years. Town commissioner, County Commissioner, Mayor and numerous state and local boards and commissions. Married to Jeannie Moore Tyson since 1977 and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Have been active in the real estate business since 1972

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

Common sense and experience

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

Drainage issues and sidewalks

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

Cut spending

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Retired

6. Why should I vote for you?

Only candidate on ballot for office of mayor

Specific Questions for TOWN OF TRENT WOODS MAYOR candidates -

1t. As a board member how do you balance responsibilities between local administration and the public you serve?

2t. What uniquely qualifies you to serve your local government?

TOWN OF TRENT WOODS COMMISSIONER Dan Murphy

2005 GRENVILLE CT
NEW BERN, NC 28562

Email - 5NCMURPHYS@GMAIL.COM phone - 2523491212

General Questions

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I am married to Ashley Murphy, and we have three children: two in college and one a senior at Epiphany. We have lived in New Bern since 1999 and in Trent Woods since 2005. Self employed as a Financial Advisor (Murphy Matza Wealth Management) with our office in Trent Woods and Raleigh NC. I am a member of Garber Methodist Church, Commissioner of Trent Woods, Chairman of the Board for Epiphany School of Global Studies, Committee Member of NC Transportation Advisory Committee and West of New Bern Volunteer Fire Department Board Member.

2. Other than the Bible and the Constitution what influences your position on issues?

As Ronald Reagan famously quoted "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help". I believe in a small government, we run Trent Woods "lean and mean" and don't plan on changing that stance.

3. Name the top 3 to 5 items that you want to address if elected.

-1. We recently completed a drainage master plan for the town. We are about to start on a project on Coquina and Carteret which will help those homeowners with some of the flooding in that area. We have identified other areas that we will be focusing on as well.

-2. We have some streets in town that we'd like to install sidewalks on. We are currently working on funding through a state grant that would connect the sidewalk in front of Bangert Elementary to Country Club Road. If that grant falls through we have already been saving funds to be able to complete the project with no debt.

-3. Continuing to find ways that maintain the attractiveness of our town and further reduce our taxes

4. Faced with budget shortfalls, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes?

While I have been on the board we have been able to complete a lot of projects while maintaining or lowering taxes. Have kept the town out of debt so we are in a fantastic position to handle any federal or state shortfalls that could impact us.

5. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Continuing to live in Trent Woods, manage my business and hope my kids are coming to visit! I also want to continue to be involved in the community in any way possible.

6. Why should I vote for you?

I try to have a common sense view on the issues that come up before the board. I know I can't please everyone, but at least they know I listened and provided feedback on my stance for the town. I am a local business owner with a vested stake in not only Trent Woods but New Bern as well. I am prompt with responses and don't want to waste any taxpayer funds. Trent Woods is one of the finest places to live and I want to make sure it remains that way for generations to come. I have been involved with a number of projects during my 11 years on the board (new town hall, development of Cottle Park, upgrades to Meadows Family Park and over 6 miles of sidewalks installed with no debt and even a reduction of the tax rate.

Specific Questions for TOWN OF TRENT WOODS COMMISSIONER candidates -

1t. As a board member how do you balance responsibilities between local administration and the public you serve?

We have fantastic employees that care about our town and want to help in any way they can. Over the 11 years I have served on the board we have had the usual turnover of employees and I am excited to say that we have continued to find even better candidates to fill those positions. That happens as a result of the culture myself and the other elected officials have helped to maintain.

2t. What uniquely qualifies you to serve your local government?

I have been commissioner of Trent Woods for over 11 years. Over that time we have built a new town hall, developed Cottle Park, upgraded Meadows Family Park and installed over 6 miles of sidewalks while maintaining or lowering our taxes and incurring no debt. I am the owner of Murphy Matza Wealth Management. My financial planning background provides me unique insight on decisions that come before the board. Lastly, because I love Trent Woods!

Sequence of Offices on the ballot

President (no candidates solicited)

US Representative

NC Governor

NC Lt Governor

NC Attorney General

NC Auditor

NC Commissioner of Agriculture

NC Commissioner of Insurance

NC Commissioner of Labor

NC Secretary of State

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction

NC Treasurer

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice

NC Court of Appeals Judge

NC State Senate

NC House of Representatives

NC Superior Court

NC District Court

Carteret County Board of Commissioners

Carteret County Board of Education

Carteret County Register of Deeds

Carteret County Soil and Water

Craven County Board of Education

Craven County Register of Deeds

Craven County Soil and Water

Onslow County Board of Commissioners

Onslow County Board of Education

Onslow County Register of Deeds

Onslow Soil and Water Conservation

Various Town/City Mayor

Various Town/City Alderman/Commissioner

Referendum