

Voter Guide—Mecklenburg County, NC

GENERAL ELECTION - NOV. 8, 2011



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO !!

Before heading to the polls, please make sure your registration is up to date so your vote will count on Nov. 8. See below for Board of Elections contact information.

Using One-Stop Early Voting is also the best way to vote if your registration is not up to date.

See back cover for One-Stop Early Voting Locations & Ride to the Polls number

See Pages 2-4 for Sample Ballot

There are 3 ways to vote in NC:

#1: VOTE BY MAIL: From Oct. 7 to Nov. 1, you can request an Absentee Ballot – a ballot that is mailed to the address you specify and then mailed back after you complete it. You do not need an excuse to vote with an Absentee Ballot. To obtain an Absentee Ballot, you or a near relative must write your local Board of Elections; do **not** use a pre-filled out form. Send a simple letter with the voter's name, address of registration and date of birth, where the Absentee Ballot should be mailed to, and the signature of the voter or the person making the request for the voter. If the request is from a relative, it must also include that person's name, address and relationship to the voter. It is also a good idea to include a phone number or email address in case your Board of Elections needs to contact you for any reason. Follow the instructions sent with the Ballot very carefully.

#2: VOTE EARLY IN PERSON. From Oct. 20 to Nov.5, you can vote by going to any One-Stop Early Voting site in your county. Going to one of these sites is also the best way to vote if you have moved within your county or if you are not registered yet and want to use Same Day Registration.

3: VOTE ON ELECTION DAY. On November 8, vote at your precinct's voting place (your "polling place") between 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM. Your precinct is based on your home address and appears on the voter card mailed to you when you registered. You do **not** need the card to vote. Call your Board of Elections or check the websites on the back cover of this guide to find your polling place. **NOTE: 13 election day voting locations have been relocated. Call 704-336-2133 or visit their website at www.meckboe.org.**

Internet Links with additional voter resources for Mecklenburg County

www.CharMeckVotes.org
CLTVotes.us
www.goleaguego.org
www.Vote411.org

Sponsored by Kids Voting & League of Women Voters
WTVI/League of Women Voters debates
League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg
League of Women Voters Education Fund

Produced by the
Citizen Education Foundation of the **League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg**



Candidates shown below were asked to fill out a questionnaire for the League of Women Voters. See the following pages for answers from all candidates that responded by the deadline. Candidate answers have been copied verbatim from their questionnaires. LWVC-M has not corrected typos or any other errors. If photos were submitted by candidates, they have been used. Candidate information is printed in alphabetical order within the office. Municipalities are listed in alphabetical order. Offices are non-partisan unless otherwise noted.

Countywide: Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board At-Large—vote for three (3)

Name	Information On	Name	Information On
Larry Bumgarner	Page 6	Ken Nelson	Page 10
Elyse Dashew	Pages 6-7	Hans Peter Plotseneder	Pages 10-11
Ericka Ellis-Stewart	Pages 7-8	Aaron J. Pomis	Pages 12-13
Keith Hurley	Pages 8-9	Darrin L. Rankin	Page 13
Mary T. McCray	Pages 9-10	Lloyd Scher	Pages 13-14
DeShauna L. McLamb	Page 10	Jeff Wise	Page 15
Tim Morgan	Page 10		

City of Charlotte Mayor—vote for one (1)

Name	Party	Information On
Anthony Foxx	Democratic	Pages 16-17
Scott Stone	Republican	Pages 16-17

City of Charlotte Council At-Large—vote for four (4)

Name	Party	Information On
Patrick D. Cannon	Democratic	Page 18
Claire Fallon	Democratic	Page 19
Christopher Hailey	Republican	Pages 19-20
David Howard	Democratic	Pages 20-21
Mohamed Moustafa	Republican	Page 21
Edwin B. Peacock III	Republican	Pages 21-22
Beth Pickering	Democratic	Pages 22-23
Alexander G. Vuchnich	Libertarian	Page 23
Curtis Watkins	Republican	Page 24

City of Charlotte Council Districts—vote for one (1) in your district

District	Democrat	Republican	Information On
District 1	Patsy Kinsey	David Michael Rice	Page 25
District 2	James (Smuggie) Mitchell, Jr.		No General Election this District
District 3	LaWana Mayfield	Ed Toney	Pages 26-27
District 4	Michael D. Barnes	Larry Shannon	Pages 27-28
District 5	John Autry	Dennis Peterson	Pages 28-29
District 6		Andy Dulin	No General Election this District
District 7		Warren Cooksey	No General Election this District

Town of Cornelius		
Seat	Name	Information On
Mayor—vote for one (1)	Jeffery P. Tarte	Pages 39-31
Board of Commissioners—vote for five (5)	John R. Bradford III, Dave Gilroy, Jeff Hare, Lynette D. Rinker, Thurman Ross, Jr., Chuck Travis	Pages 39-31
Town of Davidson		
Mayor—vote for one (1)	Vince Winegardner, John M. Woods	Pages 31-32
Board of Commissioners—vote for five (5)	Kristen Coupal, Jim Fuller, Rodney Graham, Brian Jenest, Mickey Pettus, Laurie Venzon, Connie J. Wessner	Pages-35
Town of Huntersville		
Mayor—vote for one (1)	Beth (Danae) Caulfield, Jill Swain, Sandy Tilley	Pages 35-36
Board of Commissioners—vote for six (6)	Melinda Bales, Adam Boatsman, Charles S. Guignard, Charles Jeter, Ron Julian, Sarah R. McAulay, Dempsey Miller, Jeff Neely, Danny Phillips, Adam Planty, Brian Sisson	Pages 37-42
Town of Matthews		
Seat	Name	Information On
Mayor—vote for one (1)	James P. (Jim) Taylor	Page 43
Board of Commissioners—vote for six (6)	Paul Bailey, Suzanne Gulley, Jeff Miller, Nancy LaFond Moore, Joe Pata, Kress Query, John R Urban	Pages 43-45
Town of Mint Hill		
Mayor—vote for one (1)	Ted H. Biggers, Jr., Jean Bonner	Pages 45-46
Board of Commissioners—vote for four (4)	Lloyd D. Austin, Carl (Mickey) Ellington, Christopher W. McAvoy, Brenda McRae, Eric Random, Katrina (Tina) Weaver Ross, Derrick Snyder	Pages 46-49
Town of Pineville		
Mayor—vote for one (1)	George C. Fowler	Page 49
Board of Commissioners—vote for four (4)	Al Baskins, Libby Boyd Boatwright, Melissa Rogers Davis, Jim Eschert, Deborah B. Fowler, L. R. (Les) Gladden, David H. Macala, David Phillips	Pages 49-52

The Basics on Voting in North Carolina



... if you can answer "Yes" to all three of these questions:

- 1) Are you a U.S. citizen?
- 2) Will you be at least 18 on Election Day, Nov. 8?
- 3) Will you live at your address for at least 30 days before Election Day?

You have the right to vote....

These are the basic requirements and they mean that you can vote if you are a student living on campus; or an ex-felon who has finished your sentence, including probation; or a person awaiting trial or serving a misdemeanor sentence; or a person who cannot read; or someone who has only lived in NC for a month before Nov. 8. **But you must register before you vote.**

Registering to vote is easy!

To register, you fill out a form that asks for your name, address and birth date. You need to provide your NC driver's license



number or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or another form of identification (or be prepared to show ID when you first vote). Other acceptable forms of ID include a utility bill (phone, gas, etc.), bank statement, paycheck stub or any government document with your residential address on it. Homeless people can list a shelter as their address. You can ask for help filling out the form if you need it.

To obtain a form, call or visit your local Board of Elections or call 1-866-522-4723. You can also get a registration form at any public library, high school, or Department of Social Services, public health, or Division of Motor Vehicles office. Or you can print a form from this website: www.sboe.state.nc.us. If the library or other office does not promise to mail in the

form, mail it yourself to your local Board of Elections. By two weeks later, you should receive a voter card with information about your precinct and where to vote.

What if I am a student?

You may register in your old hometown and vote there – or you can declare your new address as your home, even if it's a dorm on campus, because that is where you go "home" day after day.

When to register:

There are two deadlines when it comes to registering to vote. If you choose to mail in your form or give it to another person to turn in, the form must be submitted to the Board of Elections by Oct. 14. Or you can use Same Day Registration and register in person at a One-Stop, Early Voting center in your county from Oct. 20—Nov 5. See details below:

Help! It's after Oct. 14th... can I still register to vote?!

Don't panic! You can register (and vote on the same day) using Same Day Registration & Voting (SDR) during the statewide One-Stop, Early Voting period from Oct. 20-Nov. 5..

But you cannot use Same Day Registration on Election Day. To use SDR, visit an Early Voting location in your county (See back page of this Voter Guide). You need to show election officials one of these IDs with your name and current address: a NC driver's license, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck stub, student ID with a school document showing your address or a license, permit, bill or any other government document.

What if I changed my name?

To avoid problems when you vote, whenever your personal information changes, you should fill out a new voter registration form. If you haven't done this by Oct. 8, it's best to vote at an Early Voting site where you can update your registration.



Unpacking? Be sure to update!

You must change your voter registration when you move to a new county. And even if you've moved within the same county, you should update your registration. Use the same form as a new voter but fill out an extra section asking for your old address so the state can cancel your old registration and assign you a new polling place. If you moved within the same county and forgot to change your registration, go to an Early Voting site during the Early Voting period or go to your old polling place on Election Day and ask for a "Provisional Ballot."

Can I vote if I am an ex-felon?

Yes. You temporarily lose your citizenship rights if you are convicted of a felony. But, no matter where you were convicted, your rights are automatically restored in NC after you serve your complete sentence, including probation or parole. You don't need a special document – just register and vote like any other citizen.

Do you have a loved one serving in the military?

Voters outside the U.S. or in the military can vote using an Absentee Ballot (see details at right) and have the option of faxing or scanning their Absentee Ballot request and sending it in as an attachment to an email – contact your local Board of Elections for details.



Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Larry Bumgarner



Website URL: www.Deconsolidate.com
Email: Larry@Deconsolidate.com
Phone Number: 704.919.1230
Facebook Page or URL:
Twitter name or URL: @Deconsolidate
Current Occupation: Retired Early
Education–Highest Degree: Bachelors In Business Admin.
Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Marriage, Religion, Many Volunteer Organizations.

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Original Volunteer of Gang of one. Mentor for most Challenged Schools, Volunteered in the most Challenged Neighborhoods.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): Actual knowledge of why we have gangs in Charlotte after volunteering in the neighborhoods we have ignored and allowed them to have and run for years. I now want to start working on the real problem instead of the symptoms.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): To make sure that this time we put every option to educate our Children on the table. We have tried what we have for the last fifty years and if you are happy then vote for the same old thing. But my focus is that nothing should be held back this time around.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): Making choice the first and foremost for each Child. A study which can be seen at www.WestCharlotte.com shows that choice made all the difference in many lives so far and that is the key.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Contact the nearest school and ask them what you can help them with. Why waste your time with politics when a long term help in the actual school is lasting. Better yet find a Teacher and send them some financial support for supplies each month.

Elyse Dashew



Website URL: DashewforSchoolBoard.com
Email: DashewforSchoolBoard@gmail.com
Phone Number: (704) 659-1029
Facebook Page or URL: DashewforSchoolBoard
Twitter name or URL: ElyseDashew
Current Occupation: Community Volunteer/
Education Advocate
Education–Highest Degree: Brown University,
BA
Most important organizations you belong to

(up to three): MeckFUTURE, 5 for 55 Coalition, Alliance for Language Immersion

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit):

1. Leading the School Leadership Team at my children's school (2010-2011), coordinated advocacy efforts and managed communication within school and with members of School Board and CMS Staff
2. Co-Founding and Co-Chairing MeckFUTURE (2011), a grassroots network uniting families from over 40 schools in support of adequate funding for public education.
3. Joining the 5 for 55 Coalition (2011), working on behalf of school funding together with representatives from advocacy groups including CMAE, Council for Children's Rights, Crossroads Charlotte, Jesus Ministries, League of Women Voters, MeckACTS, MeckEd, NAACP, and Save Our Schools Initiative

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): While running a small business, I gained valuable experience in working with others in a collaborative manner to solve complex problems. To ensure effective outcomes, it was essential to communicate clearly, and to find and create a shared vision with people who had different (sometimes conflicting) needs and interests.

I chaired the School Leadership Team at my children's school during a time of upheaval. This taught me to rally a community to channel our passions into productive engagement, to work together for the common good, to take a positive and fact-based approach to problem-solving, and to strive to interact respectfully and compassionately with others in the community and with government officials.

I co-founded and co-chaired MeckFUTURE, and joined the "5 for 55" coalition. Both groups were broad-based, including school supporters with very different backgrounds and worldviews. I learned the power of joining voices and building bridges.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): Our school system is the bedrock of our community. I am passionate about bringing people together to plug into solutions that will strengthen our school system and improve opportunity for all children, because our community's well being – our region's prosperity – depends upon this.

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Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Elyse Dashew (cont'd)

As an advocate for public education, I have worked collaboratively with people of many different backgrounds and worldviews. I have brought people around the table to find common ground and take action together on solutions. I believe that I can make a greater difference by bringing this approach to the school board.

I am committed to listening first, to leading thoughtfully and respectfully, and to building strong partnerships to find the best solutions for our children and CMS.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit):

To ensure that ALL children within CMS receive a good education, I would strive to accomplish the following:

- Continuing Weighted Student Staffing, which has been proven to narrow the achievement gap by allocating extra staff to schools based on the number of Economically Disadvantaged students
- Identifying successful educational partnerships within the community—tap into and support these already existing resources, help to eliminate bureaucratic roadblocks so that more students can benefit from these programs.
- Hosting "Student Summits" in which I'll connect with students in person and via social media. We'll jointly explore the challenges and opportunities in our education system, and I'll seek to learn from the perspective of our students.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit):

I welcome your collaboration, input and help! Just go to elysedashew.com/volunteer/ and fill out the volunteer form. My campaign manager, Chris Bishop, and my volunteer coordinator, Logan Smith, can also be reached through the "Contact" section of my website: elysedashew.com/contact/ or via the phone number or email address listed above. We'd love for you to join the campaign!

Ericka Ellis-Stewart



Website URL: www.ericka4cmsboard.com

Email: ericka4cmsboard@yahoo.com

Phone Number: 980-229-0338

Facebook Page or URL: Ericka Ellis-Stewart, Advocate for Education PAGE LINK: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ericka-Ellis-Stewart-Advocate-for-Education/107651582650771>

Twitter name or URL: Ericka4CMSBoard PAGE LINK: www.twitter.com/Ericka4CMSBoard

Current Occupation: External Relations, UNC Charlotte

Education—Highest Degree: Bachelor of Arts - Queens University of Charlotte

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): School Leadership Team, Piedmont IB Middle School & Harding University High School, Mecklenburg County Crime & Justice Task Force and CMS Long-Range Facilities Master Plan Task Force

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit):

- 1) Galvanizing magnet school parents to mitigate the challenges (i.e., program attrition) associated with the roll-out of the Shuttle Stop program. With another parent leader, I co-led the effort that brought over 400 parents together to discuss the challenges and formulate solutions.
- 2) Participating in the Achieve Together Advocacy training program. Achieve Together, a project of The Lee Institute, is a community partnership that connects local residents with people, training, data and support to become advocates for positive change in the CMS. The goal is to collectively push for constructive changes that will improve student achievement and graduation rates.
- 3) Being appointed to and serving on the Meck. Co. Crime & Justice Task Force, a 14-member, non-partisan Rapid Review Team tasked with identifying and recommending opportunities for immediate and substantive changes to the operations of city, county and state criminal justice agencies in the County to enhance effectiveness.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): I am a thoughtful leader who is concerned with moving this community forward. Over the last decade, I have served on a number of local boards and I have had the privilege of serving my community as the leader of two non-profit agencies with large boards. This work has taught me how to work within the board/staff leader governance structure. I would bring that understanding and expertise to the table and use it to create working agreements with my colleagues as well as the interim and incoming Superintendent. I have also developed positive working relationships with a number of the current and previous CMS board members.

Professionally, my skill sets include: Budget Mgmt. (Operating/Capital), Contracts/Negotiations/Compliance, Data Collection/Analysis, Public Speaking/Presentations, Strategic Planning/Project Mgmt., Diversity/Inclusion Trainer, Facilities Mgmt., Community Engagement, Grant Writing, Recruiting/Hiring Staff, Six Sigma Green Belt, and Clifton Strength Finder Coach.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): I am running for office because our school district is facing a number of challenges that require commitment and great leadership in the boardroom. As a non-profit executive, education advocate and CMS parent, I have spent the last 17 years working to improve the lives of children and families in Charlotte. I have served within our schools working to improve student achievement and rallying parents to get engaged in educational issues. Professionally, I bring real world experience in the areas of drop-out prevention, on-time graduation and gang intervention – three pressing issues within CMS. I come to you with knowledge, expertise and passion. As an At-Large member of the School board, I will offer innovative and viable solutions that are in the best interest of all children.

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Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Ericka Ellis-Stewart (cont'd)

I am clear about the need to close the achievement gap and my top priority is to ensure that all students have access to a quality education that prepares them to become productive citizens. My desire to run for school board is an extension of my continued desire to serve this community. I am committed to improving the quality of our public school system and realize that serving as a policy maker is one of the most direct ways to make a difference.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): Increase the level of expectation for CMS students. Ensure that each child in the district receives a quality education by:

- placing a well trained, highly effective teacher in every classroom for Day 1 to Day 180
- assigning a team of prepared and engaged administrators to each school over a continuous period of time to ensure continuity
- providing an instructional program that gives each student a strong literacy foundation, solid STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experiences and critical thinking skills starting in elementary school
- directing resources toward activities that increase academic gains and professional development opportunities for teachers
- engaging parents, businesses and the faith community in public/private partnerships

I also want to lay the groundwork to create a county-wide youth leadership program for high school and middle school students in CMS. Each school would have delegate representation. Delegates will work together with the Board and school administrators to address issues that are important to students. The program will foster civic involvement, leadership, and entrepreneurial experience that will help prepare students to become productive citizens.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Election Day and Early Voting are just around the corner and I need your help! I have a few specific needs and would love to have your assistance.

Volunteers:

If you can help in any way, please let me know by registering as a volunteer on volunteer registration page on my website (www.ericka4cmsboard.com) or via email at ericka4cmsboard@yahoo.com.

Financial Support:

Make a secure online contribution to my campaign using either Piryx or PayPal.

Piryx: <http://t.co/KsNmVXdT>

PayPal: www.ericka4cmsboard.com (Contribute Page)

Or send a personal check payable to:

Committee to Elect Ericka Ellis-Stewart to P.O. Box 481124, Charlotte, NC 28269

Yard Sign Hosts:

Let me know, if you live in a well traveled thoroughfare or neighborhood and would be willing to place a sign in your yard.

Votes:

Encourage the members of your precinct, friends, family, co-workers and church/temple/mosque members to participate in early voting which begins on Thursday 10/20 and ends on Saturday 11/5.

Keith Hurley



Website URL: keithhurley.com

Email: kwhurley7@gmail.com

Phone Number: 704-534-8344

Facebook Page or URL:

Twitter name or URL:

Current Occupation: Banking Executive

Education—Highest Degree: Bachelors

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Dowd YMCA , Rescue Mission Charlotte, NC Bankers Association

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): 1- In 2009 when CMS would not maintain the schools over the summer I organized a group of folks to do that work. I personally worked with my family and 25 other folks to make our school look new at our expense. 2- When my CMS needed funds for Classroom Central I not only contributed , but had others match offers along with many large corporations to make this a success. 3- When the Charlotte Rescue Mission needed a venue for their failing annual event I organized the event at the Wachovia Atrium at no cost. This move increased their fund raising more than 4 times what they used to budget for.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): I work for a large organization in the banking business. We do not make any decisions without a strategic plan. CMS has no strategic plan that is clear. I am also a true believer in communication and the value of listening. Clearly this is a weakness that I can help CMS with on the board. As a community leader I am able to bring groups together to benefit both sides within the CMS community system. We need partnerships to make some of the programs successful. I am very versed in budgeting and large budget management. Over all my experiences are unmatched by any other candidate that is running.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): As a parent, Community Leader and 25 year resident I feel the

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Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Keith Hurley (Cont'd)

need is present. The CMS Board has developed a reputation in the community as untrusting, poor communicators, not clear with strategic choices, poor long term planners & caring only about the "uptown" decisions. This must change and it must change now. We need to provide the children of this county the best possible quality education we can. Our decisions need to be based on the question is it good for the kids? If not then find a way to make it. It won't change overnight, but we can begin the road to rebuilding our educational system.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): I certainly think if I am elected the first order of business is to hire a superintendent. That would impact the entire educational system in my eyes. We are currently on a 2014 plan that never accounted for a recession. Well one happened and continues to happen. We must be flexible enough to be able to change on as dictated and this clearly is not happening. I strongly feel we need a superintendent that will be here for 8-10 years and lead the system back with the board's assistance/direction. I feel with the correct decisions by the board we can increase grade levels by 10-12% within 3 years.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): I am always accessible via the above contact information. I feel community involvement and group discussions are key to building bridges. Contact me kwhurley7@gmail.com, 704-534-8344, keithhurley.com to reach me.

Mary T. McCray



Website URL: marymccrayforschoolboard.webs.com

Email: ElectMaryMcCrayBOE@yahoo.com

Phone Number: (704)281-6074

Facebook Page or URL:

www.facebook.com/pages/Elect-Mary-McCray-for-CMS-School-Board/133676433377675

Twitter name or URL: N/A

Current Occupation: Retired Educator

Education—Highest Degree: Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): National Education Association; NAACP; National Association of Negro Business Woman and Professionals.

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Testifying before the North Carolina House of Education committee

on effects of House Bill 546.

Lobbying House/ Senate Congressional Education Member on Education Jobs Bill

Nominated and receiving Maya Angelou Excellence in Education Award.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): I have been a classroom teacher for 34 years- 24 of those years here in CMS. During this time, I served on many school related committees and was always a member of my PTA at work and the schools that my daughter attended. My leadership qualities as evidenced by the offices I have held, willingness to listen and work toward reaching consensus, and my research skills and contacts in the educational arena will help as the board tries to create a unified vision on the issues before it. As a classroom teacher, I have always had to work as part of a team for the greater good of my students. Collaboration and cooperation were essential for us to achieve our goals and increase student achievement.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): I want to be on the School Board because I care about children and their parents, I care about educators in this district and I care about the future of CMS to attract and retain the best and brightest. I want to help mend the fences that have been broken in our community, to restore trust and integrity where it's needed. I want to make sure that we continue the good things that happened under Dr. Gorman's leadership and I want to help the Board of Education as well as the interim and future Superintendent understand that our students, parents, teachers, staff, and our community deserve to be treated with respect and sincerity when decisions are made that affect their well-being. The future of my family and every other family is invested in what happens as CMS moves forward without Dr. Gorman. My grandchildren currently attend CMS schools and my daughter is vested in CMS as a teacher. As the former president of CMAE, I've investigated the erosion of trust and extinction of teacher/staff morale within the CMS family. I believe that if we are to go forward in providing quality public school education for every child here in CMS, we've got to repair the bridges.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): I would first revisit the excessive summative testing that the school district has implemented as part of their quest for teacher effectiveness and student achievement. The needs in the classroom will always be my first priority so we need to make sure that the Instructional Support portion of the operating budget is continually scrutinized to determine if programs and policies effectively increase student achievement. If they do not, we must get rid of them and direct any savings to expand those that work.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit):

(Continued on page 9)

Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Mary T. McCray (Cont'd)

Campaign Manager
Erlene Lyde
erlenelyde@att.net
<http://marymccrayforschollboard.webs.com>

DeShauna L. McLamb—No Response

Tim Morgan

Website URL: www.morganforschollboard.net
Email: timmorgancms@gmail.com
Phone Number: 704-577-3102
Facebook Page or URL: www.facebook.com/timmorgancms
Twitter name or URL: [timmorgancms](https://twitter.com/timmorgancms)
Current Occupation: District 6 School Board Member
Education—Highest Degree: MBA from UNC-CH
Most important organizations you belong to (up to three):
South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church, Boy Scouts of America,
Mecklenburg County Republican Party

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit):

Elected to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education District 6 seat

Scoutmaster for Troop 119 – Assisting almost 20 Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout

Mecklenburg County Park-n-Recreation Commission – Vice Chair and Chair of the Greenway Committee

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit):

I bring a thorough knowledge of the history of CMS and a clear understanding of direction we are heading as a school system. I believe increasing student performance among ALL students should be at the heart of every discussion we have and every decision we make. We need to recognize that a one-size fits all mentality does not work for every child. This includes everything from per pupil expenditures to the classes or extracurricular activities offered at each school. During our recent budget debate, I was criticized by some because I supported additional funding for programs that would not directly benefit my district, but were none the less very important to the academic success of children from other districts that are very different from mine. As Board members, either at-large or district representatives, we need to recognize the different needs of our students and be willing to have respectful, but direct, conversations with community leaders,

groups and parents regarding our

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): As an at-large Board member, I want to address the following three issues:

Hire a new superintendent who will work with the Board to build on, and continue, our forward academic progress.

Provide a safe and effective learning environment for our students at every school. This includes making sure we have an effective teacher in every classroom and a well trained principal in every school. We need to identify and reward strong teachers and we need to expand our professional development offerings so all teachers can improve their performance in the classroom.

Utilize our resources more efficiently. Our Weighted Student Staffing and Strategic Staffing programs allow us to direct extra funding to the students who need additional resources to be successful. For the first time in the history of CMS, we have appointed a Privatization Committee that will study various cost-saving measures and outsourcing opportunities.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit):

The most important decision we will make as a Board that will directly impact students and the future of CMS is who we hire as the next superintendent. This person will need to work with the Board to build on, and continue, our forward academic progress. As a sitting Board member, I will be very involved in determining the process we will use. The first step started with naming Hugh Hattabaugh our interim Superintendent and charging Mr. Hattabaugh with the responsibility of continuing our forward progress during this time of transition. The Board has hired a search firm and will begin the important work of involving all members of the community, including students, in determining what qualities we as a community are looking for in a new superintendent.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Residents can get involved by contacting me through my website or emailing my campaign manager Larry Shaheen at timmorgancms@gmail.com

Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Ken Nelson



Website URL: www.kenwnelson.com
Email: knelsud92@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 704-364-4657
Facebook Page or URL: [Nelson for Mecklenburg County School Board](#)
Twitter name or URL: [Nelson for Mecklenburg County School Board](#)
Current Occupation: Technical Business Analyst, Keane, Inc.
Education—Highest Degree: BS, Criminal Justice, University of Delaware, 1992

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Campaign For Liberty, Mecklenburg County Republican Party, NC Republican Liberty Caucus

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Due to my leadership as an activist Republican statewide, North Carolina was finally able to elect a Republican majority in the State House and State Senate. That kind of leadership is needed locally, where we need similar change to make an effective difference in Charlotte. Also, due to being an activist for liberty, the Republican Party has adopted several more "libertarian" positions, which will enable it to appeal to a wider base of voters.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): Due to my experience as a Business Analyst and Project Manager, I bring the skill set of being able to manage projects effectively, rather than throw things against the wall and see what sticks. We need to determine what is truly important, what could be looked at, and what should be scrapped from a project management perspective. I also have the experience of working with people from diverse backgrounds who have important roles to play in all projects.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): To improve the education for all students in CMS. That sounds simple. Unfortunately, when CMS is more concerned with its standing with outside groups, the Chamber of Commerce, Teach for America, and other groups who are not concerned about the INDIVIDUAL student, someone needs to stand up and make a difference. Our schools are more concerned with "data" and marketing instead of being concerned on whether or not all students can read. That is unacceptable.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): I will make every effort to remove the incessant county-wide standardized testing. Students should be taught the three R's, not be tested on 52 different subjects. I believe the testing in-

terferes with classroom time that could be better used for real teaching and real learning. Your teachers should be imparting knowledge of the subject at hand, not the answers to a test.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Please contact me directly at 704-364-4657, 919-818-9248, knelsud92@yahoo.com. I'm looking for people to work the polls during early voting and on Election Day. If you believe like I do that our schools belong to us, and not outside groups, please join my campaign. This is the most important election in Mecklenburg County in the last 25 years. We have a unique opportunity to change the direction of the board for the better. If you value our children's future, please join my campaign. Thank you.

Hans Peter Plotsener



Name: Dr Hans Peter Plotsener
Website URL: www.DrPlots.com
Email: DrPlots@DrPlots.com
Phone Number: 704-906-2900
Facebook Page or URL: [Hans P. Plotsener](#)
Twitter name or URL: [drplots](#)
Current Occupation: Teacher at CMS West Mecklenburg High School

Education—Highest Degree: PhD in Social and Economic Sciences

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): International Rotary Club, AATG, Kappa Delta Pi

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Member of Advisory Board for Solid Waste Management of the Mecklenburg County Commission, President of the Austrian Culture Society

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): I am the only candidate who has both extensive business experience (IBM Worldwide Program Manager for Human Factors, VP for Re-Engineering at Bank of America, CEO of international software company) and eleven years of teaching experience in CMS classrooms.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): I am at a point in my life where I can serve my community and not to worry about my career. My background brings together the experience, insight, and knowledge with the desire to make a difference.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important

(Continued on page 11)

Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Hans Peter Plotseneder (Cont'd)

accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): My '7 and 7 Plan' for the first 180 days will establish the basis for significantly improving teacher morale, curricula, parent involvement, and re-establish the trust in CMS. This in turn will accommodate 'purposeful learning' and drastically improve student achievement, graduation rate, and close the achievement gaps. For more information, please visit <http://drplots.com/drplots7and7plan.html>.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Residents are invited to volunteer in a variety of ways: put up yard signs, hand out flyers at voting locations, make phone calls, or contribute financially to the 'Dr. Plots Fan Club'. Please visit www.DrPlots.com, call 704-906-2900 or send e-mail to DrPlots@DrPlots.com. Your help will be much appreciated.

Aaron J. Pomis



Website URL: www.aaronpomis.com

Email: aaron.pomis@gmail.com

Phone Number: 704-576-6934

Facebook Page or URL:
www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Aaron-Pomis/117501415858

Twitter name or URL: [@aaronpomis](https://twitter.com/aaronpomis)

Current Occupation: Dean of Instruction at KIPP Charlotte

Education—Highest Degree: BS in Chemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Leadership Charlotte, Teach For America, KIPP

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): During the last five years I helped found KIPP Charlotte, a public charter school with students who are over 90% African American, 70% free and reduced lunch, but are doubling the state growth in Math, doubling the state growth in Reading, and tripling the state science scores, all while starting at KIPP on average, two to three grade levels behind their peers in more affluent communities. Only about 30% of students enter on grade level, but more than 90% leave proficient on end of grade tests.

I served four years and was chair of the board of directors at The Community Charter School for two years, where we turned our staff's instructional priorities into our board's budget priorities to raise our Math scores by 20% and have a budget surplus. Finally, as a member of Leadership Charlotte Class 32, I volunteered

at Windsor Park elementary school to raise parent involvement in Parent University.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): I have teaching experience closing the achievement gap in my classroom, administrative experience working shoulder to shoulder with teachers across CMS - from schools like West Charlotte to Garinger, and board experience engaging educators and the community to build bridges and make smart choices for students. I have dedicated my life to doing whatever it takes to ensure that students get a great education regardless of their zip code, how much money their family makes, or the color of their skin. The kids in Mecklenburg County CAN learn and WANT to learn. It's up to US, the adults, to give them the opportunity.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): I am running for school board because as an educator I believe that we can do a better job fulfilling our promises to our children. As a teacher, administrator, and board member I have learned one thing over and over. The children in our community CAN learn and WANT to learn. It is up to US, the adults, to give them the opportunity. It is one thing to make campaign promises, but I have been living these promises to our students for the last decade.

While in our most high needs schools with our most at-risk students, I've learned three clear steps we must take. First, if we want to give our students what they need to be successful, we must give our teachers and principals what THEY need to be successful. That means the right professional development, support, and training to ensure they have what they need to do the hard work of closing the achievement gap. Second, we need a focused and strategic budget to prioritize our spending on what works best for students. We need to turn our instructional priorities into our budget priorities. And last, we need build strong partnerships for our students. We know our students learn best when they have the entire city standing behind them.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): The number one accomplishment I will make next year to directly impact students will be to help reprioritize our budget to ensure that we spend our money on what works best for kids. We need to go line by line in our budget to make certain we are putting our money toward what will help us reach our mission: student learning. As the board chair of a local school board, I helped us turn our instructional priorities into our budget priorities. We raised our Math scores by 20% and had a budget surplus, all because we did the hard work of listening to people on the ground and ensured students got what they needed to succeed.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Residents can get involved in our campaign in three different ways. First, residents can give their voice. They

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Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Aaron J. Pomis (Cont'd)

can talk about our campaign with their friends, co-workers, and neighbors and encourage them all to go vote on November 8th or during Early Voting. Second, residents can give their time. They can contact Rashaunda Jackson at jacksord@gmail.com to knock on doors, make phone calls, put up yard signs, or pass out literature on behalf of our campaign. Each of those functions is critical to the overall success of our campaign. And finally, residents can give their money. Simply by going online to www.aaronpomis.com and clicking DONATE, residents can amplify the voice of our campaign, ensuring that everyone hears our clear message. The children in our community CAN learn and WANT to learn. It's up to US, the

Darrin L. Rankin



Website URL: www.rankinforcms.com
Email: info@rankinforcms.com
Phone Number: 704.661.4428
Facebook Page or URL: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/RANKIN-for-CMS/179273982134567
www.facebook.com/darrinrankin
Twitter name or URL: [darrinrankin](https://twitter.com/darrinrankin)
Current Occupation: INSURANCE AGENT/
NC Real Estate Broker
Education–Highest Degree: MBA

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): PTA, UNCC Athletic Foundation, City of Charlotte Community Relations Committee

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Flag Football Coach (not sure if technically "civic")-Emphasis on Hard work, dedication, teamwork, sportsmanship, etc. City Council At Large campaign (did not win, but first time on ballot) 2009, vote total 43,936, Member of the State Executive Committee-NC Democratic Party

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): Experience as a business owner (budgeting, decision making, proposals, human resources), leadership skills and communication skills. I am forward thinking, flexible, open minded, inclusive, honest and a person that values diversity. I am a person that has a vision for CMS, a good listener and I want what is best for children. I also have a child in the school system, so I understand how decisions made by the school board trickle down the to the classroom level.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): I am concerned about the quality of education that OUR children are receiving in CMS. We have to increase academic achievement by every student at every school and increase the graduation

rate. We have to focus on quality instruction and meaningful activities for students. I believe the school system has to focus on "educating children". I have a son in CMS (3rd grade at Mallard Creek Elementary School) and we have experienced the effects of strategic staffing, bell schedule change, testing and now overcrowding. What I bring to the board, is the perspective of a parent, business owner and community leader. I will be a thoughtful decision maker.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): That is a difficult question to answer, because you need 5 votes to accomplish things as a board member. What I will provide is thoughtful decision making with the interest of students in mind. I will travel around the county to have discussions with students, parents, and teachers in a relaxed environment to gain first hand knowledge of what students need to be successful. Children need quality teachers in the classroom, access to advanced classes, sports and the arts to be well rounded students. So my accomplishment for the first year will be establishing a relationship between students and the School Board.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Contact Jarrod Clay at 704.506.3864 We need people to display a yard sign, make phone calls to voters, donate, distribute information in their communities, tell your friends and neighbors about our campaign, and help us with social media.

Lloyd Scher

Website URL: www.LloydScher.com
Email: LScher@Windstream.net
Phone Number: 704-845-9083
Facebook Page or URL:
Twitter name or URL:
Current Occupation: Writer
Education–Highest Degree: BA University of North Carolina

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Fraternal Order of Police, Rotary International, Lion's Club

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): I went to Wisconsin and Ohio to support the Teachers, Fire Fighters and Police Officers who were being severely hurt by the new laws passed, which affected them and their right to negotiate contracts or file grievances.

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Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Lloyd Scher (Cont'd)

Memberships:

Fraternal Order of Police, Sierra Club, Equal Rights Group, The Hickory Grove Lion's Club, Engelhard Rotary Club, Hyde County Chamber of Commerce, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, American Heart Association, Writer's Guild of America West Coast

I helped write the law to require children under the age of 16 to wear helmets when riding bicycles, roller blading and using scooters.

I helped raise money for Camp Dogwood for the Lion's Club. The camp is a special experience for families and children who are sight impaired.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): 8 years as a County Commissioner I bring the experience of helping to put together billion dollar budgets. As a former teacher and counselor in the CMS I understand what is needed in the schools to help provide a safe and quality education to teachers, staff and students.

I joined every PTA in my district and helped raise money for the schools from \$10,000 Computer Lab for Windsor Park to a \$5,000 Track & Field for Idlewild. I also arranged quarterly meetings with the teachers, staff and students. I plan to have these meetings again because it allows me to have an open dialog and hear their concerns and needs.

I have been a volunteer and tutor in schools for years and realize the importance of getting involved in the school system. Knowing that government cannot do it alone I will strive to obtain 5,000 new volunteers to help in schools through tutoring, reading and lunch buddies to show support for both our teachers and students.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): It is about Education & NOT Politics. It is vital that we Re-build the Trust with our Professional Teachers and the community and most important to improve the Morale among all CMS employees.

It is about providing a safe environment for our teachers, staff and students giving them the best opportunity to learn. These are the issues we should be discussing it is Not about students being given another Test.

8 years as a Mecklenburg County Commissioner gives me an understanding and experience about the school systems budget process and the problems that exist. I would like to change the budgeting process making it easier for the School Board to prepare

the budget so that Teachers will no longer receive Pink Slips before the process is done only to be Re-hired at Less Pay.

Rather spending large amounts of Bond Money why not look at Schools being Donated or Leased by CMS. This would Save Taxpayer Money because the county would not have to pay interest on bonds to build schools.

CMS needs to do more Technology in Schools for both our Teachers and Students. It is time for the Board to look at changing the way we purchase books using I-Pads. It will Save Money & Trees.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): I want a strong working Relation with Studetnts. CMS is there for them to learn and I need to know what are their concerns and issues. We are here for them and I want them to be apart of the Solution to our School Problems.

I would want student input because they see things differently. I would look to the Student Council to give a monthly report to the School Board.

I would hold quarterly meetings with students to hear from them directly. This would be apart of my program to improve the Morale that has been deteriorating over the past several years. I want to provide every student in Middle and High School with an I-Pad (not for games) that will have all their books on it. That would mean lighter book bags. It would also be easier for students to do their homework on the I-Pad and teachers could download it for a quicker review.

For 32 years, I ran a Video Company it allowed me to work with well known Nationally and Locally Athletes. They are aware of the problem we are having in funding Middle School Sports Programs. I have obtained commitments from several athletes to help raise money so that no student would be prevented from playing sports in Middle School.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit):

Manager is Sylvester Fleming can be reached at 704-398-7057
Volunteer Coordinator Fostoria Pierson Fostoriab@aol.com
Contact me through my webpage or my personal email address
LScher@Windstream.net
Contribution can be made through PayPal on my website they will be greatly appreciated

This is your school system and it is important that you get invovled so that the people you support will get elected. If you see a candidate you like and like what they stand for then go and help them.

Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board of Education At-Large

Jeff Wise



Website URL: VoteJeffWise.com

Email: jeff@votejeffwise.com

Phone Number: 704-517-9905

Facebook Page or URL: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Vote-Jeff-Wise/242240872460522>

Twitter name or URL: VoteJeffWise

Current Occupation: Director of Information Services with FreemanWhite

Education–Highest Degree: Bachelor of Science, Journalism (completed master's coursework in Arts Administration)

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Bluecoats Drum & Bugle

Corps alumni association, The Light Factory

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): I was part of the inaugural class of the Arts & Science Council's Cultural Leadership Training program. The CLT is recognized nationally as a model program for preparing upcoming community leaders to be productive board members for arts organizations.

After completing the CLT program, I started on the board of directors with The Light Factory and was appointed the Chairman of the Education Committee 15 months ago. Our Adult Education program was already performing well, even during the recession and we are currently on track to increase enrollment and revenue by over 12% for this fiscal year.

Lastly, I chaired the committee that coordinated and sent over 200 East Lincoln High School students, instruments, uniforms and parents to Hawaii to perform and commemorate the 65th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We were accompanied by an inspirational Pearl Harbor survivor and his wife, both native Charlotteans, who married a few days before prior to December 7, 1941.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective school board member? (1000 character limit): I am a good listener, I am patient. I work to understand all sides of an issue before reaching decisions and I'm a problem solver by nature.

Over the 13 years that I've worked at FreemanWhite I've helped to open a handful of branch offices. I've also had to close some of them. I've implemented new technologies to help increase worker productivity and I've had to make aging equipment stay functional to save money. My success as the head of the IT department is due mostly to my ability to adapt, relate and listen.

My belief in public education is strong and I believe every student can be successful. By placing students and teachers as top priorities, I know we can work together as a board to create a better school system.

Why are you running for the school board? (1250 character limit): I am a parent, husband to a teacher and a taxpayer. As a taxpayer, I know that successful, well-prepared graduates will strengthen our community. As the spouse of a teacher, I know that supporting and trusting teachers will strengthen the education of our students. As a parent, I know that being involved and ensuring my child attends a school that has the necessary resources will strengthen his education. We all understand the importance of building strong bonds in our society and we know it starts with education. I want to help shepherd that belief to a fuller realization. I want our students to create new operating systems, write the great American novel, discover cures for disease, win the World Series and be great citizens. We can do this, it won't be easy, but it's worth doing so let's do it right.

Question Provided by Kids Voting: What is the most important accomplishment you will make next year that will directly impact CMS students, not their teachers or parents? (1250 character limit): We need to move away from a reliance on testing to measure achievement and growth. Instead, let's measure achievement by applying the concepts being learned in more real world terms, not by sitting at a desk bubbling in answers. What if, instead of taking a series of EOG's, students were told to create? For example, create a movie about why Alexander Hamilton wanted to set up a federal bank in the early 1790's, what problems did he face politically, economically and socially, write a script, produce it and present it. This is what 21st century learning is about.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): There are many ways to get involved. Drop us a line and we'll be happy to talk about what we're working on and what you can do to help spread our ideas.

Town of Mint Hill

Ted H. Biggers, Jr.—Mayor



Website URL: www.minthillmayor.com

Email: carolinaboss@aol.com

Phone Number: (704)545-8588

Current Occupation: Airline Pilot

Education—Highest Degree: BA UNC-Chapel Hill

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Boy Scouts of America, Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, Mint Hill Historical Society

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Start-up of Queens Grant High School, Awarded the Boy Scout Silver Beaver Award (Highest Adult Honor Offered in Scouting), VFW Man of the Year-2009

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective

mayor? (1000 character limit): I have 14 years of experience as an elected official in Mint Hill, including 12 as Mayor. I have served in many leadership positions with various organizations. This year I was re-elected as Chairman of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization. I also serve as Chairman of the Queens Grant Community School in Mint Hill.

What can the Town of Mint Hill do to address the transportation needs of the citizens of Mint Hill? (1250 character limit): We can work closely with our neighboring towns and state officials to coordinate our transportation efforts. I have a good working relationship with NC Department of Transportation officials. We recently approved a new comprehensive transportation plan that the Board should work together to implement for the benefit of all our citizens.

What more can or should the Town of Mint Hill do to support small business? (1250 character limit): We do our best to maintain a friendly fiscal environment for small businesses including one of the region's lowest property tax rates and no business license fees. We work closely with and

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Town of Mint Hill

Ted H. Biggers, Jr. (Cont'd)

strongly support the Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce and their efforts in recruiting and supporting small businesses.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): They can volunteer to help with the campaign or request a sign for their yard by contacting Ted Biggers at (704)545-8588 or Gary Brown at the Committee to Re-Elect Ted Biggers at (704)847-4832.

Jean Bonner—Mayor



Website URL: JeanBonnerFor Mayor
Email: JeanBonner@aol.com
Phone Number: 704-545-0020
Facebook Page or URL: Jean Bonner
Twitter name or URL: Jean Bonner
Current Occupation: Day Spa Owner
Education—Highest Degree: Associate Arts Degree

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Secret Angels Founder and Chairman, The Christmas Miracle

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Secrets Angels does good deeds all over Mint Hill without the receivers ever knowing who left the gifts, food or money. Built the Cross Of Hope at 7201 Matthews Mint Hill Rd, Mint Hill, NC 28227. The Cross of Hope is 60 ft by 30 ft in concrete on the ground. A gift to the Christians in Mint Hill. We hope to cover it in rock this spring. The flowers and candles on it at Easter and through the year is amazing. Working on a dog park for the town with the help of a National TV Show. (Spring 2012)

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective mayor? (1000 character limit): I am very talented at organization and promotional skills. My 'meeting skills' with groups of people are extremely important. As Mayor I will have the ability to summarize the positions of the commissioners and the citizens that speak and move the board towards making a decision or taking some action (or deciding no action is needed). I hope no action is in the past. As Mayor I will represent the town professionally outside of town, building and maintaining good relationships with neighboring towns. As Mayor I will be an ambassador for the Town of Mint Hill. I am a visionary who can focus on the future and lead Mint Hill in a better position for the citizens. There is not just one person that can lead Mint Hill. It's got to be a very dedicated team. I also want to make sure that as Mayor I exhibit a high level of collaboration.

My leadership in business, charity and creative problem solving skills will be a new fresh leadership!

What can the Town of Mint Hill do to address the transportation needs of the citizens of Mint Hill? (1250 character limit): No doubt high-

way 51 (Matthews Mint Hill Road needs widen. A clear continued talk with the DOT, the State government and anyone else that will listen to receive Mint Hills fair share of transportation monies! The transportation needs will more than likely continue to be a issue until the economy improves Due to State and Federal cuts back, there want be enough money to widen 51. Due to our present leaders spending over six million on a new Town Hall, as Mayor I would be concern with spending any large sums of money until the economy recovers. Our citizens can car pool when necessary and eave for work 15 minutes earlier until we can recover from our recession.

What more can or should the Town of Mint Hill do to support small business? (1250 character limit): We need to offer tax breaks and incentives to attract companies who will bring jobs and money to our town! We need to work toward attracting new restaurants and retail stores. Most of our citizens go to Matthews, Monroe and Charlotte for entertainment, restaurants and buying sprees. 'Mint Hill Is Open For Business'. It is time for our businesses to get the help and support that it deserves from the town leadership. I ... will open Mint Hill For Business...VOTE FOR BUSINESS

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Call Ted Flatt or Jean Bonner at 704-545-0020 or Call the Republican Party at (704) 708-4067

Lloyd D. Austin—Commissioner

No Response

Carl (Mickey) Ellington—Commissioner



Website URL: www.voteformickey.com
Email: minthillmickey@carolina.rr.com
Phone Number: (704)545-4421
Current Occupation: Funeral Director
Education—Highest Degree: 1 yr. college

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, Mint Hill Lions Club, Mint Hill Historical Society

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Instrumental in obtaining rights of way for the sidewalk along Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road; Volunteering as General Contractor for the Korean War Memorial at Mint Hill Park on Fairview

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective commissioner? (1000 character limit): I have been a commissioner for 13 years and prior to that spent 11 years on the planning board.

What can the Town of Mint Hill do to address the transportation needs of the citizens of Mint Hill? (1250 character limit): Continue

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Town of Mint Hill

Carl (Mickey) Ellington (Cont'd)

working with the NCDOT to make sure that projects in Mint Hill receive the attention they deserve. Use the recently adopted comprehensive transportation plan to make sure we make the right decisions about our road network.

What more can or should the Town of Mint Hill do to support small business? (1250 character limit): We are already very business friendly through our zoning districts, very low tax rate and lack of business license requirements.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): They can volunteer to work polling places, place a sign in their yard and ask their friends to vote for Mickey Ellington. Residents interested in helping can contact my campaign manager, Gary Downer at garydowner@carolina.rr.com.

Christopher W. McAvoy—Commissioner



Email: cwmcavoy@hotmail.com

Phone Number: 704-200-1618

Facebook Page or URL:

Twitter name or URL:

Current Occupation: Attorney

Education—Highest Degree: JD from Boston University School of Law; MS and BS degrees in Aerospace Engineering from North Carolina State University

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): St. Luke Catholic

Church; North Carolina Bar Association

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): Over the last year and a half, I led a group of Mint Hill citizens against a proposed land use plan that would have permitted high density "urban" development throughout much of Mint Hill. In doing so, I organized numerous public meetings, created flyers, spoke with the media, and traveled door to door throughout the town in attempt to increase awareness about the proposed high density land use plan. Ultimately a large group of concerned citizens was formed and together we successfully delayed a vote on the proposed plan and prompted a public survey on land use issues. Although the Board has yet to vote on the high density land use plan, all indications suggest that we will be successful in encouraging a majority of the Board to vote against the proposed high density plan.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective commissioner? (1000 character limit): I believe that my legal training will make me an effective commissioner. For years I've successfully advocated for many different clients, from individuals to large multi-national corporations (named a "rising star" by the NC Super Lawyers publication in

2010 and 2011). As commissioner, I will use these skills to be a better advocate for the town when lobbying for county, state, and federal resources for roads and other needs within the town. Furthermore, as a father of two whose only financial investment in the town is his home, I will be a voice on the Board for the typical Mint Hill resident who desires to maintain high property values, low taxes, good schools, low traffic, low density development, low crime, and a family-friendly small-town atmosphere. I have no ties to any special interests and no political aspirations beyond Mint Hill. I will proactively gauge public opinion on important issues (going door to door where necessary) and then act accordingly.

What can the Town of Mint Hill do to address the transportation needs of the citizens of Mint Hill? (1250 character limit): As a lawyer, I am used to understanding legislation, dealing with government, and advocating for clients. As commissioner, I will use these skills to fight for more county, state, and federal resources for roads and possibly sidewalks and greenways. Since many people within the town commute from Mint Hill to other areas of Mecklenburg county, I also will do whatever possible to advocate for expanding and/or improving traffic flow on Independence Boulevard and other major corridors that support Mint Hill residents. Finally, the greatest thing we can do to address traffic within the town is to maintain low density residential development throughout the town.

What more can or should the Town of Mint Hill do to support small business? (1250 character limit): I believe that the best thing we can do to support small business within Mint Hill is to maintain low taxes and improve the downtown area. If we can continue the beautification of the downtown area, improve walkability downtown, maintain low crime, and perhaps advertise the town better, people will come downtown both from within the town and from areas outside downtown. More small businesses will naturally follow as the economy recovers. Although I believe that some standards need to be kept for signage within the town, perhaps our current sign ordinance is too restrictive and should be revisited since that it appears that businesses that are not easily visible from the road are the ones failing most often. We perhaps should also put more effort into attracting a high-end office park at one of the 485 interchanges, provided it can be done without negatively impacting surrounding neighborhoods.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): If anyone would like to support or volunteer with my campaign, please feel free to contact me directly at cwmcavoy@hotmail.com or 704-200-1618.

Brenda McRae—Commissioner

Phone Number: 704-545-7901

Current Occupation: Relationship Manager

Education—Highest Degree: Associates Degree in Business Administration

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Founding Member, Mint Hill Scottish Society, Mint Hill Historical Society

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplish-

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Town of Mint Hill

Brenda McRae (Cont'd)

ments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit): I have served the Town of Mint Hill for three two-year terms. Mint Hill has moved forward in several areas; there are many accomplishments that I am particularly proud of.

During the past six years Mint Hill has begun to plan for and encourage growth of its downtown. Beautification projects and new development are breathing life into downtown Mint Hill.

Mint Hill has identified a new area on the outside of the downtown area, and recently put into place a small area plan to help guide future business growth.

Mint Hill citizens and officials have stood up to pressure on our local library and our local high school. We made our voices heard and had a part in decisions that affect our lives.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective commissioner? (1000 character limit): I bring nearly forty years of business experience to the Board. I have worked in bookkeeping, customer service, shipping, purchasing and operations. I am currently a registered financial broker working as a relationship manager for a wealth management firm. A town is run very much like a business. I believe my experience in business helps me make good decisions on the issues that come before the Board. I'm a good listener and a problem solver by nature. I also have six years experience working with the current Board and I believe that this Board truly has the best interest of all of the citizens of Mint Hill foremost in their minds.

What can the Town of Mint Hill do to address the transportation needs of the citizens of Mint Hill? (1250 character limit): Traffic congestion affects us locally, but the problem is a regional one. Mint Hill should continue to work with regional municipalities and organizations to maintain our existing roads and to plan future projects. An increase in bus services would help take some traffic off the roads. I would like to see some local routes, routes to the University area and Matthews.

What more can or should the Town of Mint Hill do to support small business? (1250 character limit): The Board of Commissioners and the Town Staff should coordinate with the local Chamber of Commerce to promote the business base we have. A "small town feel" includes a main street with locally owned businesses. The citizens of Mint Hill need to shop locally and support these businesses. Successful businesses will pull new businesses to Mint Hill.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): I run a very low key campaign. Anyone interested in helping me run can call 704-545-7901.

Eric Random—Commissioner No Response

Katrina (Tina) Weaver Ross—Commissioner



Website URL: electrossforminthill.com

Email: katrinar87@earthlink.net

Phone Number: 704-545-6231

Current Occupation: retired

Education—Highest Degree: M Ed

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three): Arts and Science Council, Levine Senior Center, Mint Hill Historical Society

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five

(5) years. (1000 character limit): I am proud to have overseen the growth of Sunday Afternoon in the Park arts festival, which I founded seven years ago and continue to direct. It has become a much-anticipated local event. I was instrumental in working with a local landowner to secure additional property for the expansion of the Mint Hill Historical Society's Carl J. McEwen Historic Village. I am involved in numerous civic organizations, leading fundraising efforts for many of them including a successful \$500,000 mortgage reduction campaign for the Levine Senior Center.

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective commissioner? (1000 character limit): My background as a teacher and counselor in the public schools provided me with many opportunities to work with people of diverse backgrounds and educational levels. I have a very strong work ethic and devote myself fully to the job of Mint Hill Commissioner. I am tenacious, conscientious, and an independent thinker. During the past eight years that I have served as a commissioner I have attended numerous conferences and workshops in order to prepare myself to better serve the citizens of Mint Hill. Probably most importantly, I have the willingness and desire to devote the time necessary to effectively serve as a commissioner.

What can the Town of Mint Hill do to address the transportation needs of the citizens of Mint Hill? (1250 character limit): The Town recently adopted a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for Mint Hill which addresses multiple modes of transportation - roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways and bus service. Citizen input was of major importance in the development of the CTP. One aim of our Downtown Overlay District was to provide a pedestrian-friendly area where residents could easily walk to shopping areas, schools, day cares, and employment. Despite working hard to create a walkable downtown, it is difficult to navigate due to the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks. Keeping pedestrians out of the street will undoubtedly make our streets safer for drivers and walkers alike. We need to concentrate on placing sidewalks in areas where they are most needed and most likely to be used. A proactive approach to traffic will help to ensure that our roads are able to support the increase in traffic that the proposed mall will bring. The current plans call for the widening of Lawyers Rd. from just inside Union County (close to Interstate 485) to the intersection at Bain School Rd. I believe that is insufficient to carry the traffic that will no doubt be coming to Mint Hill from east Charlotte via Lawyers Rd., and I believe a new traffic study is needed.

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Town of Mint Hill

Katrina (Tina) Weaver Ross (Cont'd)

What more can or should the Town of Mint Hill do to support small business? (1250 character limit): I believe the best thing we can do is to patronize local businesses. We need to encourage citizens to shop in Mint Hill and support our merchants. Many towns provide such support for their retailers. Our town government should also support business by conducting as much government business in town as is feasible. I believe a healthy business climate will be attractive to prospective retail and commercial enterprises. I believe the adage "success breeds success"; a good business climate is good for existing businesses as well as for attracting new business.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): Contact me if you would like a yard sign on your property, if you would like to distribute literature prior to Election Day or if you would like to work the polls. I am also available if you would like to host a "Meet the Candidate" event.

Derrick Snyder—Commissioner

Email: derrick4minthill@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 704-891-3027
Current Occupation: Fiscal Control
Education—Highest Degree: MBA

Most important organizations you belong to (up to three):

Derrick Snyder—Commissioner

List up to three (3) of your most important political/civic accomplishments in the last five (5) years. (1000 character limit):

What qualities or experience do you bring that will make you an effective commissioner? (1000 character limit): I have a strong financial background in government finance. This background along with my understanding of municipal, county and state government can and will be utilized to ensure that as an elected official that I will be a proper steward of the citizens investments in the community.

What can the Town of Mint Hill do to address the transportation needs of the citizens of Mint Hill? (1250 character limit): I would like to see the town work in conjunction with Charlotte Area Transit to build a local transportation hub within the corporate limits of the town.

What more can or should the Town of Mint Hill do to support small business? (1250 character limit): Work directly with the business in the town in promoting the business not only within the community but outside of its corporate boundaries.

How can residents get involved in your campaign? Please include campaign manager or volunteer coordinator's contact information (1000 character limit): My campaign is completely grassroots. Just tell your friends, neighbors and families that their support would be appreciated. If you have a question about my views on issues, I would be happy to discuss them with you. Call me anytime.

The NC Voter Bill of Rights

In North Carolina, you have the RIGHT TO VOTE . . .

1. . . . **between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm on Election Day**, or if you are in line or inside the polling place before the polls close at 7:30 pm. (NC General Statute (NCGS 163-166.01)
2. . . . **without presenting any identification or your voter registration card to poll workers.** (NCGS 163-82.8) However, if you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail without providing a NC driver's license or Social Security number or other identification, it makes sense to take with you a current and valid photo ID, or a document showing your name and current address, such as a current utility bill, bank statement, or a bill, license, permit, letter or other document from a government agency. (NCGS 163-166.12)
3. . . . **by provisional ballot** if you submitted a voter registration form in the county, but your name is not on the rolls; or if you believe you've registered but your name is not on the list; or if you question the voting district (or ballot) assigned to you and believe that you are qualified to vote a different ballot. (N.C. Administrative Code 10B.0103d.) You must also be given a way to find out whether the provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason it was not counted. (NCGS 163-166.11(3))
4. . . **at your same assigned polling place**, if you have moved within the same precinct or changed your name without telling election officials. (NCGS 163-82.15, 163-82.16)
5. . . **in your new precinct or at a central location** if you have moved and lived in your new location for 30 days or more. If you moved and have lived in your new location for less than 30 days, you must vote in your old precinct, cast a provisional ballot in your new precinct, or vote early at an Early Voting site in your county. (NCGS 163-82.15)
6. . . **by using another ballot, if you make a mistake and "spoil" your first ballot.** You can spoil up to three ballots. (NCAC 10B.0104b)
7. . . **with assistance from a person of your choice**, except your employer or agent of your union, if you cannot easily read or write or if you are blind or otherwise disabled. (NCGS 163-166.8)
8. . . **with assistance at the curb, in the vehicle you came in**, or at the door of the polling place if the polling place is inaccessible to you due to a disability. (NCGS 163-166.9)
9. . . **if you are in jail, as long as your citizenship has not been forfeited, or if you are an ex-felon** who has completed all terms of your sentence, including parole and probation -- and if you have registered or re-registered to vote. (NCGS 13-1)
10. . . . **without being intimidated** or forced to vote for anyone you don't wish to vote for. (NCGS 163-271).

You also have the right to take this bill of rights into the voting booth with you.

If anyone tries to deny you these rights when you vote, call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-866-522-4723.

For Voters with Disabilities:

Sometimes access to your regular polling place can be difficult. If so, you may want to use Early Voting instead, since all Early Voting sites must be accessible. But if you prefer to vote on Election Day, you can vote from the curb without leaving your car. Polling places have a special spot for curbside voting near the front entrance. Simply pull up and wait and a poll worker will come out to assist you. (Usually, voters entering the polls will alert the poll worker that a car is waiting.) Before you go to vote, you may also want to check the accessibility of the polling place by calling the local Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections at 1-866-522-4723. You have the right to request another permanent polling place before the election if yours is inaccessible. Remember, if you go to your polling place and find it is inaccessible, you can vote at any other polling place in the county by asking for a Provisional Ballot.

For more information on disability rights in North Carolina, call Disability Rights North Carolina at 1-877-235-4210 (voice) or 1-888-268-5535 (TTY). Or visit their website at www.disabilityrightsncc.org

Make sure every vote counts: Be a part of Election Protection!

True democracy means every voter is respected and every vote counts. To make sure the election is fair, you can be part of a national effort called Election Protection. Election Protection is a coalition of national and state organizations that train local volunteers, monitor elections and help voters who encounter problems or see suspicious activity at polling locations. Based on the information it receives, Election Protection can quickly dispatch lawyers to talk with election or court officials and insist that all election laws are followed and voter's rights are respected. You can volunteer to help in three ways:

1. Be a poll monitor who receives training to look for possible problems;
2. Help staff a hotline in North Carolina that relays problems to lawyers and others;
3. Tell others about the Election Protection Hotline and tell them to call if they have problems: 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

To volunteer or to report a problem or suspicious activity, call the toll-free Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683).

ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING—Locations, Dates, Times

Hal Marshall Annex—618 North College St, Charlotte

Weekdays

Oct 20-21 8:00AM—5:00PM
Oct 24—Nov 4 8:00AM—7:00PM

Weekends

Oct 29 (Sat) 10:00AM—1:00PM
Oct 30 (Sun) 1:00PM—4:00PM
Nov 5 (Sat) 10:00AM—1:00PM (Final Early Voting Day)

Additional Locations

Beatties Ford Rd. Library, 2412 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte
Hayes Bldg (Ballantyne), 11405 N. Community House Rd., Charlotte
Independence Regional Library, 6000 Conference Dr., Charlotte
Main Branch Library (Downtown), 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte
Matthews Branch Library, 230 Matthews Station St., Matthews
Morrison Regional Library, 7015 Morrison Blvd, Charlotte
Mountain Island Library, 4420 Hoyt Galvin Way, Charlotte
North County Regional Library, 16500 Holly Crest Ln., Huntersville
South County Regional Library, 5801 Rea Rd, Charlotte
Steele Creek Library, 13620 Steele Creek Rd, Charlotte
University City Regional Library, 301 East W.T. Harris Blvd, Charlotte
West Boulevard Library, 2157 West Blvd, Charlotte

Additional locations open these hours:

Oct 29 (Sat) 10AM—1:00pm
Oct 30 (Sun) 1:00PM—4:00PM
Oct 31—Nov 4 (weekdays)
11:00AM—7:00PM
Nov 5 (Sat) 10:00AM—1:00PM
(Final Early Voting Day)

RIDES TO THE POLLS

For free transportation to the polls on November 8 call the Mecklenburg Voter Coalition at **704-550-6118 (new number)**

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Voter Guide design and content by the **League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg**. The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our community. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 9` years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates in all 50 states, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations. For more information please visit www.goleaguego.org or call and leave us a voice mail message at 704-556-4600.

Additional support and distribution of this voter guide is being provided by:

KidsVoting, a non-partisan nonprofit 501(c)3 program educating Charlotte-area elementary, middle and high school students about

civic engagement, life skills, leadership and government through an effective combination of standards-based civics education, authentic election experiences, volunteering and service learning, and opportunities for students to learn about and get involved in government and the community. For more information, please visit www.kidsvoting.org

And member organizations of the **Mecklenburg GOTV** (Get Out the Vote) Coalition. This coalition's mission is to increase the capacity of non-profits and community organizations to do non-partisan civic engagement work that both educates potential voters and increases voter turnout in Mecklenburg County. For more information about the Mecklenburg GOTV coalition, contact Charlotte-based Democracy NC Organizer Robert Dawkins at robertdawkins@democracy-nc.org or 704-957-3105.