GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

J. Carlvena Foster (D)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: carlvenaf@yahoo.com; ElectJ.CarlvenaFoster@gmail.com

Age: 64

Profession: Vice president of district operations, Carl Chavis YMCA

Highest degree earned: Master of science, public administration, High Point University

Leadership experience: President, High Point Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; vice chairwoman of Guilford County Social Services Board, 2007; Nonprofit Leadership Advisory Team, High Point University; child care director of state-licensed 5-star center; Guilford County Board of Education member, District 1.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful commissioner? The value of elected experience from District 1 for six years has put me up close and personal with my constituents, making me more aware of issues surrounding them. Experience gained serving on the legislative and governance committees as well as the budget process is invaluable to this commissioner seat.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal. Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? Working with someone from another political party requires respect for the individual and their views; having accurate information; being objective, responsible, willing to compromise to come to the best decisions for the good of the people. The budgeting process of Guilford County Schools with Guilford County commissioners is one example.

What is the most pressing issue the Guilford County Board of Commissioners will face in 2015? The most pressing issue in 2015 is balancing the budget — bringing in additional revenue without raising property taxes.

Should Guilford County implement a set of rules outlining minimum housing standards like those already in place in Greensboro and other area cities? I believe that Guilford County should implement a set rules outlining minimum standards to ensure all housing is safe and create uniformity throughout the county with area cities that have sets of rules in place and will reach houses outside city jurisdictions.

What role, if any, should economic incentives play in Guilford County's economic development? Economic incentives should play a role in Guilford County's economic development when there is a guaranteed positive return of additional revenue for the county and opportunities for employment of residents, particularly those labeled classified.

DISTRICT 1

Eugene Lester (R)



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: Lester@EugeneLester.com; www.EugeneLester.com

Age: 43

Profession: Attorney

Highest degree earned: Juris Doctor, Wake Forest University

Leadership experience: Elder, Sedgefield Presbyterian Church; partner and Management Committee, Sharpless & Stavola; Millis Road Elementary, Capital Project Improvement Committee.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful commissioner? I have a strong desire for public service and a clear vision to move Guilford County forward. In the past, career politicians have catered to their special interests at the expense of serving the people. I have a plan called a "Better Way Forward" at www.eugenelester.com.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal. Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? As a litigation attorney, I evaluate both sides of every case. I seek to resolve issues in good faith with open communication and courtesy. I will use these same skills for the residents of Guilford County.

What is the most pressing issue the Guilford County Board of Commissioners will face in 2015? Guilford County must invest in public education, deliver quality social services and be equitable in the area of public safety. Taxes need to be fair and debt levels reduced.

Should Guilford County implement a set of rules outlining minimum housing standards like those already in place in Greensboro and other area cities? Guilford County is moving in the direction of adopting community housing standards. Buildings must be safe for their intended use, particularly for vulnerable members of our community, like children and the disabled.

What role, if any, should economic incentives play in Guilford County's economic development? Guilford County needs jobs. Poverty, homelessness and food insecurity are symptoms of a local economy that cannot adequately support its residents. Local government must do what is necessary to create a highly educated, safe and healthy community.

Kay Cashion (D) (i)



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: kcashio@co.guilford.nc.us; www.kaycashion.com

Age: 79

Profession: Owner, Cashion's Furniture & Decorating, Interior Design

Highest degree earned: UNCG

Leadership experience: Past vice chairwoman, Guilford County Board of Commissioners; chairwoman, Guilford County audit committee; vice chairwoman, Sandhills Mental Health Board; board of directors, National Association of County Commissioners; chairwoman, National Association of Counties Justice and Public Safety Committee; State Capitol Foundation; and other boards and commissions.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful commissioner? Over the past 10 years, it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as an active commissioner locally, statewide and nationally. This has provided an overview of issues that affect Guilford. I am committed to services as a good steward of our resources.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal. Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? I have always found it enlightening to sit at the table where there are varying views. After working for over three years on a county Family Crisis/Justice Center (domestic violence and child abuse), a bipartisan committee that I chaired proposed and the Board of Commissioners accepted unanimously to establish the center.

What is the most pressing issue the Guilford County Board of Commissioners will face in 2015? Twofold — jobs and assuring fiscal responsibility as we face high debt service and also the increased needs in health and human services in particular. Still, education must remain our priority if we are to ensure the futures of our children and community.

Should Guilford County implement a set of rules outlining minimum housing standards like those already in place in Greensboro and other area cities? We should encourage at least minimum housing standards for residents' safety and healthy living conditions.

What role, if any, should economic incentives play in Guilford County's economic development? Our incentives policy requires adherence before final consideration is given, whether jobs or capital investment. Although I dislike the idea of incentives, we have seen major returns on investments. We also encourage local companies to expand in Guilford.

Project Haystack is a controversial public/private partnership proposal the county has already spent money exploring. As a commissioner, would you support moving forward on the plan? It sounds promising, but until and if adjoining property is available, it will be a limited venture. Also, I believe that unless substantial commitments are firm by potential companies, it is unlikely this board will make further project investments.

AT-LARGE

Larry Proctor (R)



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: larryproctor2014@gmail.com; www.larryproctor.com

Age: 67

Profession: Retired business owner

Highest degree earned: High school diploma

Leadership experience: Graduate of George S. Patton Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Germany; past chairman of various boards; co-chairman of Equalization & Review Board; and chairman of Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church Board of Trustees. Serving on multi-county Alcohol and Drug Services Board. Owned and operated three businesses for over 40 years.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful commissioner? I think the experience I have attained in working with corporate boards, both volunteer and appointed county boards, as well as my experience as owner and operator of local businesses has prepared me for service as a commissioner.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal? Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? Every person deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. I have found in the past when working with groups that listening and exchanging ideas with respect and a desire to find a solution is the first thing necessary to being able to accomplish a goal.

What is the most pressing issue the Guilford County Board of Commissioners will face in 2015? In my judgment, economic development should be our most pressing issue. We must be able to have jobs available for our residents. We have the colleges and universities to provide a well-trained workforce in this area, but we must work to make sure jobs are available.

Should Guilford County implement a set of rules outlining minimum housing standards like those already in place in Greensboro and other area cities? I think some minimum standards for housing might be helpful to ensure that we don't have people living in unsafe or unhealthy conditions.

What role, if any, should economic incentives play in Guilford County's economic development? I would prefer to have a reputation among the business community as having a welcoming and friendly attitude. We already have infrastructure and a well-trained workforce. Under certain conditions, incentives might play a part, such as being in competition with another desirable area offering incentives.

Project Haystack is a controversial public/private partnership proposal the county has already spent money exploring. As a commissioner, would you support moving forward on the plan? I am familiar with the project. At this point in time, I do not think I would support moving forward on the plan.