GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF

BJ Barnes (R) (i)



Lives in: Summerfield

Contact: www.keepbjbarnes.com; bbarnes@co.guilford.nc.us.

Age: 63

Profession: Sheriff

Highest degree earned: Associate degrees in criminal justice and juvenile justice

Leadership Experience: 20 years, sheriff; 10 years, deputy sheriff; five years, NCNB Bank officer, senior investigator; 4.5 years, assistant to the director of the Department of Motor Vehicles; wrote the law enforcement segment of the N.C. Drug Plan; served on numerous boards and commissions; received numerous awards and commendations.

What is the greatest public safety threat now faced by the county, and how would you address it? In Guilford County under my watch, we have realized a 56 percent drop in crime (SBI statistics). The biggest issue for Guilford County is larceny from person or property. We instituted the district system, which helps us keep crime down because it keeps the officers in the community.

The sheriff's office and commissioners have occasionally clashed over the scope, cost and purpose of the county's jail facilities. As sheriff, what do you want to accomplish with the county's jails? Jails are to protect the community from those who would do it harm, not for punishment. In our jail, we try to change the mindset of the inmates to make them more accountable for their actions. We do that through education, counseling and dealing with their addictions.

What role should local sheriff's departments play in deciding who is issued a pistol permit? The sheriff is responsible by law. I look at each person who applies to assure they are legally eligible and do not have a history of mental illness or a felony criminal background. If they meet the law, then we should issue the permit because that is their right.

What role should the Guilford County Sheriff's Office play in addressing illegal immigration? By law, the sheriff's office has no part in enforcing the immigration laws other than reporting any illegal identified during the course of a sheriff's office investigation. The federal government has failed the citizen and the illegal by not addressing the immigration issues facing this country.

What is the best use of federal forfeiture funds — money the sheriff's office gets from seizing property and money from drug dealers? The best use is how we use it. It buys equipment and pays for enhancements to the operation of the sheriff's office that the taxpayer does not have to pay for. It has been used for things such as computers, bulletproof vests and educational programs. It saves taxpayer dollars.

What should be the role, if any, of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners in deciding how federal forfeiture money is spent? None. The use of federal forfeiture dollars are dictated by federal direction as to how the funds can be used. It must be used to further the cause of law enforcement and is audited to make sure it fits their criteria; failure to do so means loss of funds.

Danny Rogers (D)



Lives in: Jamestown

Contact: elect@dhrogersforsheriff.com

Age: 50

Profession: Owner, 3N1 Professional Services

Highest degree earned: Bachelor of science in criminal justice

Leadership experience: Community service, including serving on local boards such as the Carl Chavis YMCA, John Coltrane Jazz Festival and Sherri Denese Jackson Foundation. High Point vice chairman for the African American Caucus; member of the Democratic State Executive Committee.

What is the greatest public safety threat now faced by the county, and how would you address it? Domestic violence and drug abuse. I believe that we must get back to basics. I will run a department that will be visible in every community of Guilford County. I want to have school resource officers teaching students about avoiding drug use and crime.

The sheriff's office and commissioners have occasionally clashed over the scope, cost and purpose of the county's jail facilities. As sheriff, what do you want to accomplish with the county jails? The current sheriff's office has failed to utilize programs that were already paid for to their fullest extent. Unfortunately, the current sheriff felt the need to spend taxpayers' dollars on ATV safety training courses instead of courses that would educate our teenagers and young adults about the pitfalls of drug use and crime.

What role should the Guilford County Sheriff's Office play in deciding who is issued a pistol permit? The sheriff's office should do criminal background checks locally and nationally on applicants who apply for pistol permits.

What role should the Guilford County Sheriff's Office play in addressing illegal immigration? I would first like to say that I will not condone racial profiling of any kind. However, through the course of a criminal investigation, if contact is made with an undocumented person who may have committed a criminal offense, as sheriff I will follow protocol as outlined in the state and federal law.

What is the best use of federal forfeiture funds — money the sheriff's office gets from seizing property and money from drug dealers? Education of teenagers and young adults regarding the harsh effects of drug use and abuse. Better training and equipment for officers to help aid them in the fight against the war on drugs.

What should be the role, if any, of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners in deciding how federal forfeiture money is spent? As sheriff of Guilford County, I believe that the sheriff's office and county commissioners can work together and agree on programs and initiatives that will best serve the residents of this great county.

GUILFORD COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Janet Wallace (R)



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: Janet@foskettlaw.com; www.Janet4Clerk.com.

Age: 45

Profession: Attorney

Highest degree earned: Juris Doctor

Leadership Experience: Involved with the Wyndham Championship for over 10 years. In 2007, I was a member of the executive committee responsible for merchandising. Greensboro Transit Authority Board (2008-2013), chairwoman of budget and finance. Owner/member of the Renaissance Community Co-op.

How valuable is prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be successful as clerk? Prior elected experience is not important. What is important is the desire to serve the people with honesty and integrity. My 15 years of working in the community shows my commitment to the people of Guilford County.

How have you worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal? If you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? I have never asked someone their political affiliation before agreeing to work together to accomplish what is best for the community. I'm sure there were/are Democrats on the GTA Board, the Wyndham Tournament Committee, as well as the other owners of the Renaissance Community Co-op.

What will be your priorities as clerk? I want the court system running efficiently and user-friendly. The information available to our judges and the public should be as accurate as possible so they can make informed decisions. The use of technology, i.e., the Internet, should be used more in our court system to improve customer service.

How would you improve the public's access to public records? Use the Internet to publish all the court calendars, not just a select few. Have those calendars reflect the most accurate information possible.

How would you make the clerk's office more efficient? Work with Raleigh/Administrative Office of the Courts to promote an e-filing system; work toward having filings available online; and lobby for an electronic kiosk that gives courtroom and case information on the main floor of each courthouse.

Lisa Johnson-Tonkins (D)



Lives in: Greensboro

Online: www.lisajohnson-tonkinsforclerk.com; lisajt4clerk@gmail.com

Age: 41

Profession: Assistant district attorney

Highest degree earned: Juris Doctor

Leadership experience: National President for The Drifters Inc.; trustee for Providence Baptist Church; president of The Greensboro Drifters Inc.

How valuable is prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be successful as clerk? Experience is important; however, experience can be derived in many forms. I have experience with how the clerk's office functions through my 10 years of practice and 7½ years as an assistant district attorney in the courtroom every day. I also was a paralegal for nine years.

How have you worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal? If you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? I have worked on my mother Yvonne Johnson's campaign for Greensboro City Council at-large and her campaigns for mayor of Greensboro.

What will be your priorities as clerk? My priorities as clerk will be to improve the efficiency of the clerk's office to decrease the amount of missing/misplaced files and to cut down on excess paper waste. I will bring a higher level of customer service to residents.

How would you improve the public's access to public records? The public currently has access to public records via the computers provided by the state at the courthouse and can come and view files in person at the courthouse. Some information is available online already.

How would you make the clerk's office more efficient? I would decrease the amount of copies made that could not be reused. I would improve the filing system to cut down on the amount of missing/misplaced files and to make sure the correct information is placed in the correct file.