HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL

Alyce Hill



Lives in: High Point

Contact: www.hill4hp.com or ahill@hill4hp.com

Age: 47

Profession: Former attorney and banker

Highest degree earned: Juris Doctor

Leadership experience: Family Service of High Point Foundation, chairwoman, vice chairwoman, treasurer, Annual Campaign co-chairwoman; Board of Adjustment, chairwoman; St. Mary's Episcopal Church, senior warden, ECW president, Vestry member; Wood Foundation, vice-chairwoman, secretary; High Point Central PTSA, treasurer, fundraising co-chairwoman, scholarship chairwoman; Citizens for Central founding member; Junior League of High Point, treasurer.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? High Point needs change and a new way of doing business. Continuing to do business the same way it has for years is not helping the city grow and thrive. Too much experience can lead to entrenchment. My new perspective and openness to new ideas is what High Point needs.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? The city must become more open and accommodating to developers, entrepreneurs and business owners. This will require a change in our city's culture from leadership down. Tax incentives, public-private partnerships and expedited approval processes are a few methods that, when used appropriately, can spark economic development.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Overcoming the dissension prevalent in the existing City Council. Doing so will promote consensus-building and allow a new council to take a unified approach in building our tax base and revitalizing our economy for the benefit of the entire city.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? An alliance of business leaders and other organizations united in their vision for economic development, if it can be achieved, would be a powerful tool for a forward-thinking council willing to work collaboratively to make that vision a reality.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Business retention is equally crucial as attracting new business. Most importantly, leadership must be open to innovative measures for both. Leadership must communicate with existing businesses to understand changing needs. Other methods could include assistance with licensing, permitting, work-force development or performance-related incentives. Quality of life is important for both.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Council's transfer of City Project's executive director's job only served to add bureaucratic layers over efforts to breathe life into High Point's economy.

WARD 3

Judy Mendenhall (i)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: www.judymendenhall.com; jpmendenhall@northstate.net

Age: 75

Profession: Retired

Highest degree earned: Not answered

Leadership experience: President, Chamber of Commerce, High Point Market Authority; Volunteer: board chairwoman, United Way, Arts Council, Open Door Ministries, Community Clinic. President, Junior League; board member, YWCA, YMCA, Community Foundation, Girl Scouts, Open Door Ministries, GTCC Advisory Board, High Point University Board of Visitors; various positions at First United Methodist Church, Area III member and chairwoman, Association of Junior Leagues.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? I have served as follows: City Council, 1979-1985; mayor, 1985-1987; City Council member, 1989-1992; City Council, Ward 3, 2012-present. I was chairwoman of various council committees and served on both state and national local government committees.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? The city offers incentives for new companies providing jobs and increases to the tax base. Efforts are made to encourage existing companies to expand. Infrastructure improvements are often made to encourage development. When I was mayor we extended utilities, which led to Piedmont Center and additional growth.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Revitalization for businesses and neighborhoods in the core city. There is much work to be done to improve the quality of life for residents of much of the core city in addition to providing jobs, better housing, improved public transportation as well as improvements to major thoroughfares such as South Main.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? If you refer to funding a separate entity as proposed to council by the City Project board, I do not. That vote has already been taken by this council and was rejected by a 6-2 vote.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Efforts have to be made to ensure that our policies and procedures are user-friendly. We are also looking at special tax districts, a granting process for businesses and low-interest loans that would encourage local businesses to expand in High Point. We have policies in place for new businesses.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? I supported eliminating the City Project as a city department. There was no funding reduction in the revitalization effort; council actually increased it. I do not believe it is appropriate to use tax dollars to provide an executive director for a nonprofit. This is a bad precedent to establish.

Jim Bronnert



Lives in: High Point

Contact: oakview citizens@gmail.com

Age: 63

Profession: Retired business owner

Highest degree earned: High school and vocational diploma

Leadership experience: President and founder of Oakview Citizens Council; member of the High Point Parks and Recreation Commission; member of the High Point Leadership Council.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? Prior leadership roles. I am a problem solver and a people person.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? Incentives and improved transportation to get to and from jobs. Streamlining the permit process.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Economic development and making High Point a more affordable city to live in.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Yes.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Lower utility rates, taxes and fees.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? Yes, I agree with the elimination of the City Project as a city department and the reduction in funding. I agree with the transfer of the director's job because I feel the director will be more efficient since the revitalization effort is so important to the growth of the city.

WARD 4

Jay Wagner (i)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: jwagner@highpointlaw.com; www.votejaywagner.com

Age: 46

Profession: Attorney

Highest degree earned: Juris Doctor

Leadership experience: High Point City Council, two years; practicing attorney, 16 years; town attorney, Town of Wallburg; High Point Planning & Zoning, seven years; City Project, nine years; Uptowne High Point Inc., founder and chairman; YMCA of Greater High Point, board chairman; Camp Cheerio, board chairman; High Point Convention & Visitor's Bureau, board member; High Point Development Ordinance Advisory Committee, six 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 council member? The biggest value of elected experience is acquiring a greater knowledge of the mechanics of city government, which is not something the average citizen sees, or maybe wants to see.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? Improve and streamline the building approval process. Make targeted investments in infrastructure to spur investment by the private sector. Aggressive redevelopment of our core city. Empower innovators and entrepreneurs to create jobs in High Point. Add quality-of-life amenities to make High Point a more desirable place to live.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Having/developing the courage to attempt to do great things. Our current council has refused to attempt projects that will transform High Point and make it more competitive in the modern economy. It's time we quit settling for mediocrity.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Yes.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? We have to support and encourage existing local businesses both from government and privately by encouraging our citizens to shop locally. Improving the quality-of-life amenities in our core city will help attract new, young entrepreneurs who are attracted to urban living. We must improve the building permitting process.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? Absolutely not! The actions of the current council alienated our volunteer, business and philanthropy communities and the tens of thousands of our citizens who are passionate about revitalization. Their actions will make revitalization harder. To move our city forward, we must elect visionary, courageous leaders.