HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL

AT-LARGE (2 SEATS)

Latimer Alexander



Lives in: High Point

Contact: latimer alexanderiv@gmail.com

Age: 57

Profession: Textile sales

Highest degree earned: High school; some college.

Leadership experience: Ten years, High Point City Council at-large member, four of those as mayor pro-tem; president of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and several other executive offices within that organization; Board of Directors of Electricities; Board of Directors, Presbyterian Homes/River Landing; National League of Cities, Finance, Appropriations & Inter-governmental Affairs.

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 do believe it is essential that you have members of council with real-world, legislative experience. I offer myself as a candidate that has a proven track record. I have served five terms on High Point City Council, four years as your mayor pro-tem.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? Business needs appropriately zoned land, water/sewer and electricity. They need a road infrastructure that supports the level of traffic that the business generates. They also need quick assistance with permitting. I have worked with many in the past and know how to make the system work for them.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Finding a city manager, learning what each council memeber desires for High Point, learning and building trust among both the professional staff and the elected officials. Communicating with residents and keeping them informed.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Need more information about the organization and their ideas.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Help with permitting is a big deal for small businesses. Many small business owners don't know how to negotiate through the process of City Hall. They need someone who can help them navigate through the process easily.

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? I support a public/private partnership. I believe there is a role for city government in the process, but I also believe the city needs to respond to what support the private investors need rather than dictate to the business community what they want to see.

Regina D. Chahal



Lives in: High Point

Contact: thelrrd chahal@northstate.net

Age: 52

Profession: Business owner

Highest degree earned: Associate degree in business

Leadership experience: To be a leader is to be able to have people to want to follow. I have always been an outgoing person. Friends and family have always asked for my advice. Does that make me qualified? I think it does. If I am elected, I will do my best.

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 will do the best of my ability; I will listen to the people who voted for me, their needs and what they think is best for our town. If I do not know something, I will ask. Make sure I show up for all meetings to be informed.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? Better advertising. Get the word out that High Point wants your business. SHOUT! We are here! We are here!We are here! Kinda like "Horton Hears a Who!" You know? Downtown turn around. Sidewalk Cafes. Etc. Maybe an amphitheater? Everybody loves music.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? I am not sure. Budget. Getting businesses to want to come to High Point. Community input. Working together as a team. ... I hope and pray that the year 2015 is the best we ever had.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Yes. I suppose. If it is good for High Point. Big business as well as small business, but mostly our mom-and-pop stores. We really need to help them be successful.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? That would be the community. We need to urge people of High Point to shop in High Point. Show our surrounding cities we want them to expand their business here by showing them we have what it takes to grow with them. You scratch my back, I will scratch yours.

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? I can't say either way. But to reduce funding is never a good thing. It seems to me to transfer someone's job is just a way of doing less yourself. Maybe all the departments need to work together instead of delegating.

Cynthia Davis



Lives in: High Point

Contact: cydavis1969 @aol.com

Age: 45

Profession: Community advocate/volunteer

Highest degree earned: High school diploma; continuing education certifications in bookkeeping and paraprofessional for community support services.

Leadership experience: I have been volunteering for nearly 18 years throughout High Point; Planning and Zoning Commission, chairwoman and vice chairwoman; Update High Point Ordinance Rewrite; Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road study; High Point Community Against Violence; Disproportionate Minority Contact committee; police department volunteer.

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 am the only candidate that has been attending all finance, council, budget sessions and citywide meetings, so couple that with my experience on the Planning and Zoning Commission, over four-plus years, I am well-informed, engaged and passionate about High Point. My desire to self-educate speaks volumes.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? High Point needs to be an affordable place to do business, as well as delivering timely permitting services. We must focus on drawing manufacturing/industrial work to our core by working with property owners, investors, coupled with city incentives when appropriate, to make ready sites for this type of growth.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Council's main responsibility is policy and procedure. They will be faced with overseeing the city manager, city clerk, city attorney, approving a budget, finding over $800,000 lost in privilege license, making up 1 percent that was transferred from fund balance, keeping the cost of services affordable, job creation, revitalization efforts ... .

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? I support freedom in business, so if the business professionals feel they want a business alliance, then I would support their decision. It should not be forced upon businesses to participate, but one of choice.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? The only way to retain local businesses is by soliciting businesses that will increase the current median income of $27,000; this will increase the average family's income, which will allow them to spend money locally. Transportation improvements to get residents to these jobs are a must, too.

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? The city has the right to restructure any department. I believe in prudent revitalization because for every $450,000 in bond debt it is an increase to the property tax by $.005. City Project (nonprofit) should continue their efforts if they are truly passionate.

Michael Holmes



Lives in: High Point

Contact: mholmes25@ gmail.com; www.facebook. com/Holmes4HighPoint2014

Age: 39

Profession: Lean Manufacturing coordinator

Highest degree earned: Bachelor's in economics, minor in political science and business administration

Leadership experience: I have held leadership positions in private-sector business as high as corporate director, along with serving as an elder and deacon in ministry for more than a decade. I have mentored young people through athletic coaching, academic guidance and social preparation, while also volunteering in my community.

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? It's valuable but certainly not required. I would use my education in political science and experience building consensus in the private sector to add a new perspective to the elected office. I would also not shy away from asking a more seasoned member for assistance on an important matter.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? Promote entrepreneurism. The greatest economic asset any city has is the innovative spirit of its residents. A city or state can't be subject to the whim of big business. Local businesses are invested in the long term success of a city. Promote from within for a strong local economy.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? How to spur economic growth, how to balance citywide progress without losing the historic significance of the city. How to better deliver services to residents at cost-effective means. Maintaining economic viability and retaining businesses. Providing quality education with budgetary constraints.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? I will support any measure that expands economic opportunity to the majority of High Point residents. However, these measures must be balanced and offer the same access to large and small businesses alike.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Great public schools; a trained, prepared work force; affordable housing; and effective protection of private property. High Point first needs to be a place that individuals want to stay and be part of and also want to move to. A vital, dynamic city will attract and keep 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? Why or why not? I understand the need to control costs, but I believe it is shortsighted and reduces funding to revitalization efforts. Revitalization is key to long-term growth. As for elimination of the department and moving the director's job, if a more efficient way is found that produces results, then it is necessary.