ROCKINGHAM COUNTY - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (2 SEATS)

Keith 'Zero' Mabe (R) (i)



Lives in: Eden

Contact: kmabe12@triad.rr.com; keith.mabe.3 on Facebook; @zeromabe on Twitter

Age: 59

Profession: Real estate broker and auctioneer

Highest degree earned: Electronics digital technology and mechanical engineering

Leadership experience: Elected to the Board of Commissioners in 2010; vice chairman in 2011 and chairman, 2012-2013; district director of the North Carolina Association of Commissioners; vice chairman of Partnership Economic Development since 2012. Serve on the Health Services Board.

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? Prior experience gives one the ability to lead and to help others be successful. I have been in a leadership role most of my time as commissioner. Leadership is getting the task or job completed in the most cost-effective manner. Leadership is negotiating skills that I have from Volvo.

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 worked with (former) Commissioner (James) Kallum on concerns like the horse park and land use concerns. I have worked with Commissioner (Keith) Duncan on issues concerning the landfill and the consolidation of the health and social services departments. I work with all the board by having an open mind and listening.

What's the biggest challenge facing Rockingham County? The biggest hurdle is the fully skilled workforce. RCC has done a great job in adding more skills that meet today's work needs. RCC has added a computerized numeric control machine shop and started microbrewery and food processing classes. RCC is making the right changes at the right time for our future.

Craig Travis (R) (i)



Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: tcraigtravis@bellsouth.net

Age: 43

Profession: Service technician for AT&T

Highest degree earned: Some college, certificates of completions in electrical and basic law enforcement training

Leadership experience: Military and present county commissioner

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 prior elected experience is important to the extent that I am aware of the initiatives that are currently under consideration, budget challenges we face and familiarity with the process of moving projects along and not taking undue time to implement them. Also, familiarity with other elected officials.

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? There have been more initiatives than a single item that you can look to and see that more times than not, our mixed board has voted unanimously on items before the board. In fact, you can probably count on one hand the times there have been dissenting votes.

What's the biggest challenge facing Rockingham County? The biggest challenge in Rockingham County is lack of employment opportunity. We have done a stellar job in working to get both small and large businesses to locate here. With a continued emphasis on job creation through a business-friendly environment, these opportunities will continue to grow.

Tim Robertson (D)

Lives in: Eden

Contact: vote robertson@yahoo.com; www.vote4robertson.com.

Age: 37

Profession: Self-employed

Highest degree earned: Bachelor's

Leadership experience: I own and operate a telephone business. I also co-own multiple movie theaters with my family. I am the manager of Eden Drive-In Theater. I have experience working with people, delegating tasks, working with budgets and meeting deadlines.

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 prior experience is a working knowledge on how things are done. But experience in politics is not always good. I am not a career politician. I want to help make Rockingham County flourish. I will also be open to collaboration without personal or party agendas.

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 feel like both parties can come up with great ideas. The key is for everyone to work together for the good of the community. A good idea does not mean it is a Democrat's idea or a Republican's idea. I will not be scared of different viewpoints.

What's the biggest challenge facing Rockingham County? Economic development and quality, good-paying jobs are the biggest challenges facing Rockingham County. The most important factor that will affect economic development is the need to support education. No industry will move to Rockingham County without a qualified and educated workforce.

Eugene Russell (D)



Lives in: Mayodan

Contact: erussell1968@gmail.com; www.voterussell.net

Age: 64

Profession: Attorney

Highest Degree Earned: Juris Doctor, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law

Leadership Experience: Rockingham County attorney (25 Years); treasurer, Rockingham County Salvation Army; Morehead Hospital trustee; member, Aging, Disability & Transit Services Advisory Board. Previously served as president, RCC Foundation; president, N.C. Association of County Attorneys; president, Madison-Mayodan Rotary; moderator, Dan Valley Baptist Association; and deacon, Mayodan First Baptist Church.

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 not previously held elective office. However, I served as county attorney for 25 years working with virtually every county agency and department dealing with issues on a daily basis. I also worked closely with municipal and state officials and was widely engaged in civic endeavors.

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 a record of working with commissioners and other officials elected on a partisan (both Democrat and Republican) and nonpartisan basis. It would always be my intent to listen to all sides of an issue and seek common ground and a practical solution serving citizne regardless of party.

What's the biggest challenge facing Rockingham County? The biggest challenge Rockingham County faces is economic. We already have wonderful people and a rich cultural and natural heritage. However, because of the national economy, we are challenged to provide employment and business opportunities for our residents and to have sufficient tax base to fund schools and essential services.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY - SHERIFF

Sam Page (R) (i)



Lives in: Eden

Contact: sheriffpage@gmail.com

Age: 57

Profession: Sheriff

Highest degree earned: None

Leadership experience: Veteran of U.S. Air Force: Security Police field sergeant, 1975-1980. Served in different levels of management/supervision roles during tenure at Rockingham County Sheriff's Office and Eden Police Department during past 32 years. President of N.C. Sheriff's Association, 2010-2011. N.C. Sheriff's Association Executive Committee, current member.

What is the greatest public safety threat now faced by the county, and how would you address it? Prescription medication abuse and deaths resulting from same. Community and law enforcement education regarding causes and dangers, and prevention. Statewide participation with Project Lazarus, a prescription medication overdose prevention program. Gang prevention and drug prevention programs taught in our schools by my deputies.

What role should local sheriff's departments play in deciding who is issued a pistol permit? The N.C. General Statue defines the role of the sheriff in the pistol permit process.There are certain legal considerations that are reviewed for each pistol permit issued. If there are no prohibited violations, the sheriff is the issuing authority as defined by statute.

What role should the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office play in addressing illegal immigration? All counties in North Carolina with local jails participate in the (I.C.E.) federal program "Secure Communities." This is a post-arrest jail program geared toward non-U.S. born criminal offenders. Local and state officers only enforce state laws and ordinances. Only federal officers can enforce immigration law.

What is the best use of federal forfeiture funds — money the sheriff's office gets from seizing property and money from drug dealers? Law enforcement investigation purposes, law enforcement training, law enforcement equipment, drug and gang awareness and education programs, matching funds for grants, and any other law enforcement program approved by the Department of Justice for equitable sharing.

What should be the role, if any, of the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners in deciding how federal forfeiture money is spent? The county Board of Commissioners has the oversight of the sheriff's requests made for expenditures of shared seized assets, keeping in mind that priorities should be given in supporting community policing activities, training and law enforcement operations.