

Lowe files for full term in N.C. Senate

Most City Council members file to run for their seats

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Sen. Paul Lowe Jr., a Democrat, has filed to run for the 32nd Senatorial District of North Carolina, seeking election for his first full term of office. He joins most of the Winston-Salem City Council members in filing to run on Tuesday, Dec. 1, the opening day of the filing period for 2016 races.

Next year will be the first City Council election affected by a 2011 state law that changed the city's elections from being held by themselves on odd numbered years to being held on even numbered years with presidential elections.

The General Assembly moved the primary from May 10 to March 15. These changes are on top of a new requirement that voters show a government-issued photo ID, or fill out a form on why they couldn't get one, in order to vote in 2016.

However, there are legal challenges to the voter ID law that could overturn it, possibly before the primaries.

Winston-Salem is one of only a few municipalities that has had its municipal elections changed to even years.

There were 40 different contests before Forsyth County voters in 2012. Adding the mayor and eight City Council races along with a statewide Connect NC bond, which

will likely be on the primary ballot, will make for a longer ballot.

Lowe, who also is pas-



tor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, is new to elected office.

Local Democratic Party leaders met in January and appointed Lowe to fill the unexpired term of former N.C. Sen. Earline Parmon, who resigned from office to join the staff of U.S. Rep. Alma Adams.

"Our families deserve a strong voice on education, jobs and economic opportunities," Lowe said

in a statement. "...There's much work ahead of us."

Besides Lowe, the following candidates filed on Tuesday to seek their current positions:

***Joyce Krawiec**, N.C. State Senate, District 31, Republican

***Evelyn Terry**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 71, Democrat

***Debra Conrad**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 74, Republican

***Dave Plyer**, Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, District B, Republican

***Gloria Whisenhunt**, Forsyth County Board of

Commissioners, District B
***C. Holleman**, Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Democrat

***Allen Joines**, City of Winston-Salem, Mayor, Democrat

***Derwin L. Montgomery**, Winston-Salem City Council, East Ward, Democrat

***Denise "DD" Adams**, Winston-Salem City Council, North Ward, Democrat

***Jeff MacIntosh**, Winston-Salem City Council, Northwest Ward, Democrat

***James Taylor**,

Winston-Salem City Council, Southeast Ward, Democrat

***Dan Besse**, Winston-Salem City Council, Southwest Ward, Democrat

***Robert Clark**, Winston-Salem City Council, West Ward, Democrat

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke and South Ward Council Member Molly Leight are the only City Council members who did not file on Tuesday.

Residents are able to file at the Forsyth County Board of Elections for federal, state and local offices. The filing period closes on Dec. 21.

Black pastors press Trump on tone during meeting

BY JILL COLVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Dozens of black pastors pressed Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump on Monday to address what some called his use of racially charged rhetoric, with several describing a meeting that became tense at times as attendees raised concerns about his blunt language.

While some left the gathering at Trump's skyscraper in midtown Manhattan with hopes their message had resonated, Trump said afterward he had no plans to change his approach, which he said had taken him to "first position in every single poll."

"The beautiful thing about the meeting is that they didn't really ask me to change the tone," Trump said. "I think they really want to see victory,

because ultimately it is about, we want to win and we want to win together."

But several pastors who met with the billionaire real estate mogul and reality TV star, who has held a consistent lead in preference polls of GOP voters for several months due in large part to his aggressive style of campaigning, told a different story.

Bishop George Bloomer, who traveled to the gathering from North Carolina, said he arrived in New York with concerns about "the racial comments that have been made and the insensitive comments that have been made," including an incident earlier this month in which a black protester was roughed up by Trump supporters at a rally in Birmingham, Alabama.

Trump said after the incident, "Maybe he

should have been roughed up because it was absolutely disgusting what he was doing."

"I asked him: 'Are you a racist? People are saying that about you,'" Bloomer said. "If you are seeking the African-American community to support you, at the least, you're not helping with these kind of things that are going on."

Bloomer said that he told Trump that "if he wants to have our ear as a community, to at least tone down the rhetoric some kind of way, tone it down. And he said that he would."

Pastor Al Morgan of Launch Ministries in Raleigh, North Carolina, said part of the group's discussion focused on whether Trump should maybe lighten up a bit.

"What he said was that he would take that into consideration," Morgan

said. "So the thing was, trying to be who he is, so you have to remain true to yourself. And, in his defense, that's gotten him where he is. So the thing is, how do you convey a person's heart with their personality? That's the dilemma."

Trump has been courting the support of evangelical black clergy members as he works to broaden his appeal in a crowded Republican field. Monday's meeting was originally promoted by his campaign as an endorsement event, in which he would receive the backing of 100 black evangelical and religious leaders.

But many of those invited to the meet-and-greet objected over the weekend to that description, saying they had instead accepted the invitation because they wanted to

meet with Trump to challenge him about what he's said as a candidate.

Trump kicked off his campaign with a speech in which he said some Mexican immigrants are rapists and criminals, and recently drew criticism for retweeting an image of inaccurate statistics that vastly overrepresented the number of whites killed by blacks, among other errors.

In a letter published by Ebony magazine, more than 100 black religious leaders wrote that "Trump's racially inaccurate, insensitive and incendiary rhetoric should give those charged with the care of the spirits and souls of black people great pause."

They also expressed concern that the meeting Monday would "give Trump the appearance of legitimacy among those who follow your leadership

and respect your position as clergy."

Plans for a post-meeting news conference were initially canceled, but then unexpectedly revived by a few participants. They met with reporters in the lobby of Trump Tower.

While there was no endorsement from the group as a whole, some of those who attended expressed their full-throated support for Trump.

"What we were able to do today was allow people to see his heart for themselves and to make up their own minds about him," said Darrell Scott, the senior pastor of New Spirit Revival Center in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, who helped to organize the meeting. "They find out that he's not the person that the media has depicted him to be."



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