

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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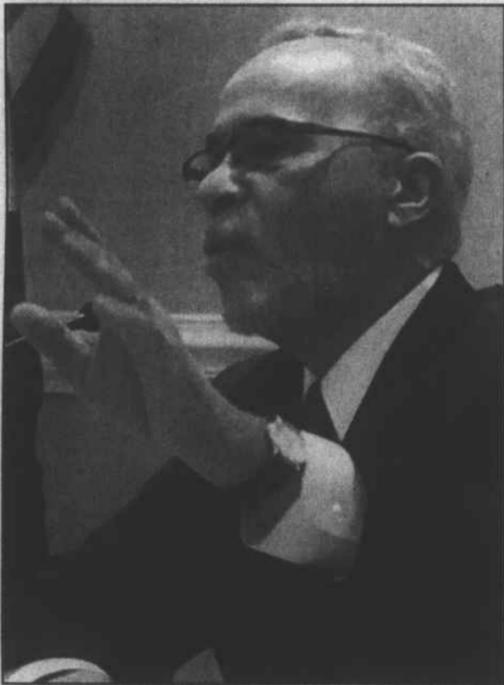
Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

Ken Spaulding is prepared to be governor

North Carolinians are voting for governor this year, and they have a choice in the Democratic primary. Attorney General Roy Cooper is considered the front-runner, and he has raised a great deal of money. The other Democrat running is Ken Spaulding of Durham. This is the man The Chronicle endorses for governor in the Democratic primary.

Spaulding, an African-American, has experience as a legislator, so he knows how to deal with issues of concern to the people directly.



Candidate Spaulding

In 1978, Spaulding was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives, where he served until 1984. While there, he introduced and helped secure passage of the state's first Rape Victim Assistance Program. He also pushed for literacy achievement for adults throughout North Carolina, introduced and helped pass legislation that allowed public housing residents the opportunity to serve and vote on local Housing Authority Boards.

He also has served on the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

Spaulding has been a practicing attorney since 1970.

During Spaulding's private sector career, he helped bring hundreds of millions of dollars of economic investment and development into North Carolina along with thousands of jobs for the people of this state.

He is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1970.

Spaulding says he is prepared to tackle the tough issues the state faces, such as education. He supports increased pay for teachers as part of a way to rebuild our education system.

Spaulding also would work for stable social and business climates to create "a vibrant and active business community," because, he says, they go hand in hand.

The Durham lawyer has the public and private sector experience to lead North Carolina in the right direction. Right now, the state is moving backward as voting rights are being taken away and assistance to help the state's most vulnerable is, too.

Cooper has been part of the backward movement by failing to push for justice in cases involving the deaths of black men, such as Jonathan Ferrell of Charlotte, and the lives of black men who have not been given the consideration of innocence, such as Calvin Michael Smith. If he operates on that level, what would he do as governor?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support John Larson for South Ward of City Council

To The Editor:

When my wife, Anne, and I decided to downsize and move to a dwelling and community well suited for retirees, a townhouse one block from Old Salem won hands down. We have always considered Old Salem a Winston-Salem treasure, and we learned that one of the persons deserving much credit for this treasure is John Larson, vice president for restoration of Old Salem Museums and Gardens.

We are so pleased that John is a candidate for the City Council, representing the South Ward. He will now be able to employ his vision, expertise, and creative energy that served him so well at Old Salem in service of the citizens of the South Ward. John is a 40-year resident of the ward and has pride in and high aspirations for his community.

One of his incomparable qualifications for the City Council is a working knowledge of the functions, policies, and procedures of city government that was honed in his career as a key figure in the development of Old Salem. John will be an asset to the Council on day one, and his learning curve will be minimal.

John's contributions to the community have extended beyond his professional responsibilities. His involvement in citywide ventures include the board of Creative Corridors, member of Southeast/Gateway Planning team, past chair of Historic Properties Commission, and past board member of Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful.

A vote for John Larson will be a vote for a proven leader who will serve our community with distinction.

Charles Francis Wilson
Winston-Salem

Let's check our candidates on education

To The Editor:

As the American people are digesting the results of the 2016 New Hampshire primary, and the news media are acting like the contest for democracy is over, a reminder of how democracy in America works in is order.

Over 150 years ago, de Tocqueville called the four-year cycle of presidential elections a "revolution ... in the name of the law," writing:

"Long before the appointed day arrives, the election becomes the

greatest, and one might say the only, affair occupying men's minds ... As the election draws near, intrigues grow more active and agitation is more lively and widespread. The citizens divide up into several camps ... The whole nation gets into a feverish state ..."

Wait, you mean that this isn't the first year people wanted to send a message? The reality is that - thankfully, for the cause of education - the New Hampshire primary is just the beginning. Democracy matters, and for the media and the pundits to begin to declare winners and losers long before November is an assault on what we stand for: knowledge and the cause of opportunity for all Americans.

Those of us engaged in education know that knowledge matters. In the spirit of knowledge (as well as improving the institutions that help many arrive at such knowledge, namely schools), here are a few American government basics for the voters (and a candidate or two?) of what this democracy in America that de Tocqueville reported is all about:

1. Many people feel disenfranchised, lacking basic education, work, housing and support. "If ever freedom is lost in America," de Tocqueville cautioned, "that will be

due to the ... majority driving minorities to desperation ..." But our common sense, he predicted, would most often prevail.

2. Despite widespread frustration with the status quo, and a very conflicted populism that changes their opinions day to day, New Hampshire is a state, not a nation. The great democratic contest for the next president goes on for another nine months. (Sorry candidates - it's not over!)

3. Presidents do not abolish agencies. Congress makes laws, presidents execute. Even abolishing agencies - say the Department of Education - does nothing to the programs that exist within them. You want to change education? You change state laws. Presidents can lead, recommend and cajole, not end state or federal efforts. Even a united Congress has difficulty doing that.

4. Saying education should be about local control ignores the fact that the only people who have the control are school boards and teachers' unions. Assigning children based on zip codes bestows no power on those who need it the most - parents. This has been the case since 1965, unless states have pushed those institutions to reform or adopt various charter school or choice programs.

As we move toward the next round of contests, let's check our candidates every step of the way on what matters most to making education - and by extension our nation - great. Rather than responding to aspirational talk, for starters, we should be asking:

*What is education and why does it matter?
*Precisely what do you know about how the government functions

in and around education, and what would you do to make it work for the people?

*What have you done to create more educational equality, as well as quality options, for kids? What would you do?

*For the guardians of education reform, there has never been a more important moment in history. Let's be educated about the stakes, and educate our neighbors and our fellow citizens to distinguish between the reality and the rhetoric.

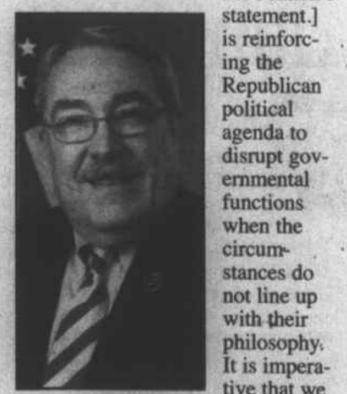
Jeanne Allen
Founder and President Emeritus
The Center for Education Reform
Washington, D.C.

Move forward to nominate Scalia successor

To The Editor:

[G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) released the following statement in response to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell]

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's



Butterfield

statement.] is reinforcing the Republican political agenda to disrupt governmental functions when the circumstances do not line up with their philosophy. It is imperative that we have nine members of the United States Supreme Court deciding constitutional issues that are important to the American people. It is absurd to suggest that President Obama should be denied the opportunity to nominate a qualified jurist to replace Justice Scalia on the Supreme Court. The American people should clearly understand that Senate Republicans have a political agenda to pack the Court with conservative justices who would reverse years of progressive jurisprudence.

The Congressional Black Caucus urges President Obama to expeditiously nominate a replacement for Justice Scalia who has the scholarship, values and temperament to sit on the highest court of our country and decide cases based on established law rather than a political agenda. We will vigorously confront Senate Republicans at every turn should they dismiss President Obama's nomination."

G. K. Butterfield, Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus
Washington, D.C.