

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE
 ERNEST H. PITT
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 617 N. LIBERTY STREET
 336-722-8624
 WWW.WSCHRONICLE.COM

Celebrating 41 Years of Community Journalism

ELAINE PITT Business Manager
 DONNA ROGERS Managing Editor
 WALI D. PITT Digital Manager

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.

Start now to determine best candidate for U.S. House

Three candidates will be competing in the June 7 Democratic primary for the chance to run against incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, who was first elected in 2004 to represent the 5th Congressional District.

Now is the time to look at these candidates before the June 7 primary.

This will be a new experience for many residents on the east side of Winston-Salem, who for years voted in the 12th Congressional District, which was represented by Alma Adams, an African-American woman from Greensboro. Most of eastern Winston-Salem's residents are African-American.

But earlier this year after a federal court struck down North Carolina's congressional districts as too racially concentrated in Districts 1 and 12, the congressional districts were reconfigured, and a separate June 7 primary was ordered. Now, all of Forsyth County is in the 5th Congressional District.

June 7 is less than a month away.

None of the candidates in the 5th Congressional District's June 7 primary, Democrat or Republican, is African-American.

Charlie Wallin, 44; Jim Roberts, 71; and Josh Brannon, 38, who lost to Foxx in 2014 by 22 percent, spoke at a forum held at Forsyth County



5th Congressional District candidates Charlie Wallin, Josh Brannon and Jim Roberts look on as City Council Member Dan Besse moderates a forum at Forsyth County Democratic Party headquarters on May 5.

Democratic Party headquarters on May 5. (See story on page A1.) This was one chance to check them out.

However, they all have ways to contact them:

*Charlie Wallin: www.charliewallinforcongress.com, www.facebook.com/Charlie-Wallin-for-Congress-338660630910/?ref=nf

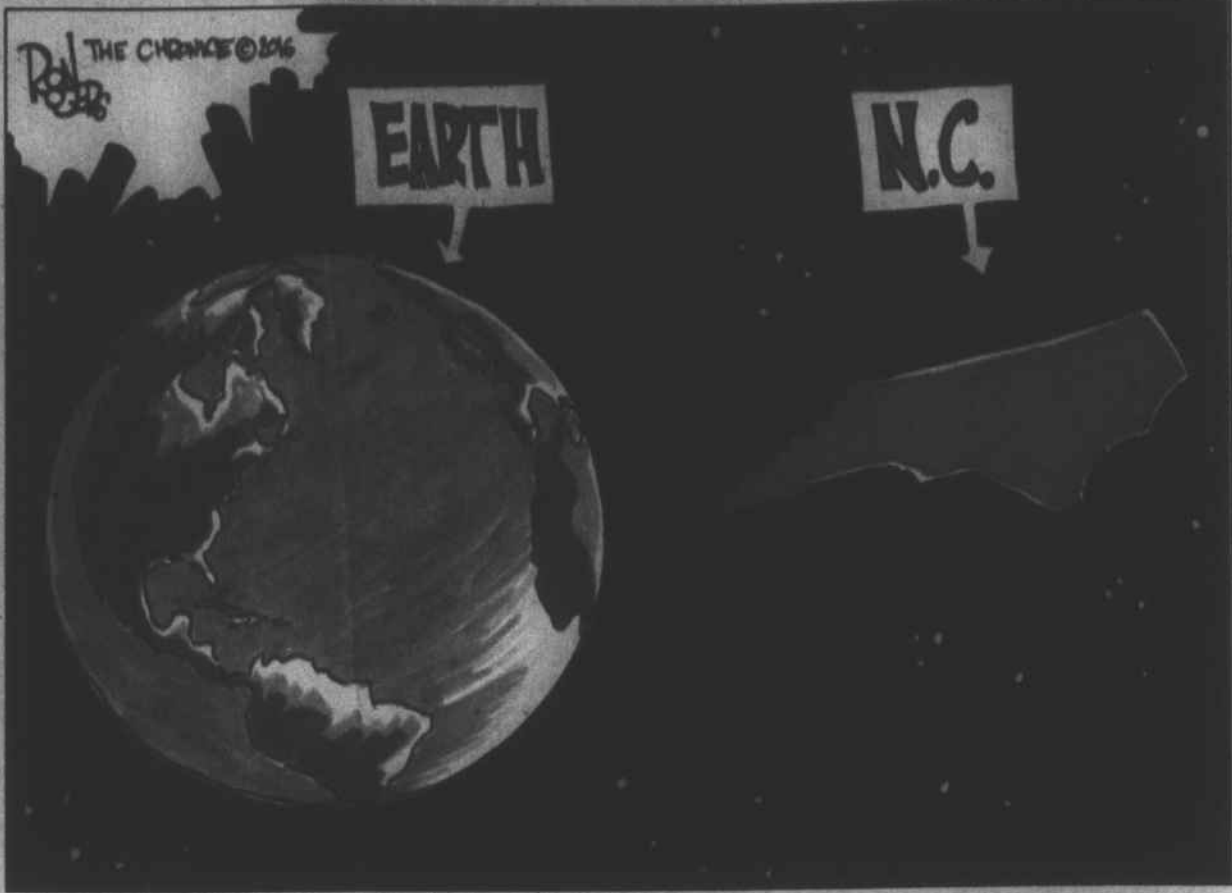
*Jim Roberts: www.facebook.com/Jim-Roberts-for-US-Congress-1029276277132949/

*Josh Brannon: <http://joshforushouse.com/>, www.facebook.com/JoshForUSHouse/

Now is the time to register to vote. The deadline to register to vote in North Carolina is 25 days before the date of an election, which is Friday, May 13, for the June 7 primary. The voter registration application must be received by the Forsyth County Board of Elections by this date.

New voter registration cards are being mailed out in Forsyth County to let current voters know that their congressional district has changed.

Be ready to vote in the 5th Congressional District and vote for the person who will work in your best interest.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations one year later on 41 years in business

To The Publisher:

I took my wife by the Chronicle recently and shared my stories with her about my first job and the lessons I learned there.

I was in town to do a training, ironically, for the WS Police Department. My trip stirred memories of the Sheila Epps McKellar case and the work we did in beating the mainstream press on the story.

You taught me a lot about character, grit and determination. I am forever grateful for the opportunity that you gave a fresh out of college aspiring journalist! May the Lord bless you tremendously for your service to your community!

Travis Mitchell
 Former Winston-Salem resident

Praise for Chronicle reporter

To The Editor:

My name is Alon and I work for the advertising/PR firm Bouvier Kelly, here in Greensboro. I wanted to reach out to you to provide some positive feedback regarding one of your freelance reporters - Timothy Ramsey.

Back in February of this year Tim was assigned to cover one of our stories for the Rhythms of Triumph event that took place at the Greensboro Coliseum. The purpose of the event was to acknowledge all those who are making a real difference in the community throughout the Triad every day.

Working with Tim first hand, he was very professional and worked extremely well with our clients (which was McDonald's of the Triad). He was able to effectively cover both the local winners, as well as the local owners. One of the owners that he covered was so pleased with the article he sent us the following note after the article was published:

"Very good article Alon. Thanks for your awareness and insight in inviting the Chronicle reporter to the

Rhythm that night. It's one of the best articles done by any Triad paper in the 16 years it's been in existence. Again, thanks."

Alon Vanterpool
 Greensboro

Voting does come at a cost

To the Editor:

In politics I thought I have seen everything when I was proven wrong when South Ward City Council candidate Ms. Highsmith decided to reduce the voting process to having a monetary value placed on voting.

It was not only appalling, but truly un-American to go before the Forsyth County Board of Commissions and request that the John Larson and Highsmith campaigns be reimbursed due to errors made during the March primary. John Larson has the good judgment to decline any tax payer reimbursement, but Ms. Highsmith feels her campaign should receive taxpayers' money to reimburse her campaign.

Men and women have given their lives to ensure that Ms. Highsmith and each of us have the right to cast our vote. Having the audacity to reduce the entire voting privilege to money is sickening and scary. This calls into question the judgment and decision-making skills of Ms. Highsmith when sound judgment is required. It does not cost money to vote, but voting does come at a cost! I speak from experience of having worked with Ms. Highsmith in the past.

John Larson is a proven leader with sound judgment, unity builder, bringing together people from all racial and social-economic backgrounds, Captain in U.S. Army, solid work history and committed to growing the South Ward in a positive direction.

John Larson is the right person to represent the South Ward on Winston-Salem City Council!

Please vote for John Larson on June 7th! Early voting begins on May 26-June 4 at the Government Center from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Absentee voting, April 16-May 31.

For leadership that is not divisive and brings people together for the greater good, cast your vote in the Winston-Salem City Council [South Ward] election for John Larson!

Brian L. Allison
 Winston-Salem

Honor these non-conforming trailblazers by voting

To the Editor:

Three non-conforming trailblazers, altruistic and audacious leaders in our first, second and third Reconstructions should be honored.

First Reconstruction: Hiram Rhodes Revels, 1827-1901
 Second Reconstruction: Fannie Lou Hamer, 1917-1977

Third Reconstruction: Rev Dr. William J. Barber Jr., 1963-

While the other two trailblazers have died, Rev. Barber is still with us.

Matthew 22:14: "Many are called, but few are chosen" is the best way to describe our anointed leader. Rev. Barber, President of the North Carolina NAACP, is fighting the good fight on so many issues that I will only mention a few.

His 120-year-old church, Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, invested over \$1.5 million into building 60 low-income homes, 41 units for senior citizens, a 90- student pre-school program, after-school academic computer lab for youth and adults, HIV information and testing center, second chance program for training formerly locked-up men and women in cooking, landscaping, technical jobs and other self-help programs.

He also currently leads Moral Monday, a non-violent protest against the North Carolina General Assembly's actions to roll back the civil rights and earned benefits our people fought for and some died for.

You can read more about Rev. Barber in our local Black newspapers. When you register and vote in 2016, you can honor the three trailblazers by taking three people to the voting booth with you.

Romans 12:2 (paraphrased) "And be not conformed to the unjust laws of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

James J. Hankins
 Wilmington

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, www.wschronicle.com.

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

We welcome your comments at our website.

Also, go to our Facebook page to comment. We are at facebook.com/WSChronicle.

Send us a tweet on Twitter.

We are at twitter.com/WS_Chronicle.

