

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.

Rulings make June 7 primary real important

It seems as though we have just been through this. It's time for another primary election. Early voting starts today at the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem.

This time, the ballot is not as long, but is pretty important. Voters are asked to choose Democratic and Republican nominees for the 5th Congressional District. We also must choose a state Supreme Court judge in a non-partisan primary. (See pages A8 and A9 for a guide to the candidates.) Both elections are a result of rulings in lawsuits.



A federal court ruling earlier this year shot down two previous congressional districts in North Carolina, saying they were drawn with too many minorities in them, which violated the constitutional rights of minorities. Districts 1 and 12 were affected.

Much of the east side of Winston-Salem was in District 12. Now all of Forsyth County is in the 5th District, which is why we must vote in the new district on June 7. The congressional maps were redrawn.

Another federal court ruling on May 6 struck down a 2015 law that let an incumbent, elected justice seek re-election to another eight-year term without a challenger. That means the June 7 primary for a

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seat on the court will go on as planned. There are four candidates running for one seat. The two candidates with the highest votes in the primary advance to the general election.

The elections are important because House members in Congress help decide important issues, such as whether to restore the 1965 Voting Rights Act to a form that will help disenfranchised people. The state Supreme Court makes rulings on appeals of laws and issues that could change lives, such as the retention-law ruling. The law was not upheld because of a 3-3 tie in the state Supreme Court. The incumbent judge up for re-election, Justice Bob Edmunds, didn't participate in the decision or listen to arguments the court heard in April, The Associated Press reported.

We point out that Michael Morgan of Raleigh is an African-American superior court judge who is running for the Supreme Court seat. That is important enough to vote in the June 7 primary.

Don't forget your proper ID so that your vote will count.

The N.C. State Board of Elections says:

One stop early voting for the June 7 primary begins on May 26 and ends at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 4. Some counties may not be open on the first weekend, or Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day).

Tuesday, May 31 is the regular deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for June 7 primary.

Monday, June 6, is the military and overseas deadline for board of elections receipt of voter registration and absentee ballot requests.

Tuesday, June 7, is Primary Election Day (polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.). Civilian absentee ballot deadline: voted absentee ballots must be delivered to the appropriate county elections office by 5 p.m. on this day. However, such ballots postmarked on or before Election Day will be accepted through Friday, June 10. Military and overseas absentee ballots are accepted until 5 p.m. on June 13 if cast and sent by Election Day.

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WHO'S TO BLAME FOR HB2?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Winston-Salem native seeks Miss WSSU Alumni 2016

To the Editor:

My name is Valeria Clark Edwards, native of Winston-Salem, and a 1978 graduate of Winston-Salem State University. I am seeking the title of Miss Alumni 2016. This scholarship fundraising event, sponsored by Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association, is an effort to raise money for students to attend WSSU and make their dreams come true. Therefore, I seek your support.

Winston-Salem State University was there for me over 35 years ago when my dreams were launched. I am proud to be a Winston-Salem State University Ram!

The great education and experiences provided me at WSSU launched me into a career path from primary reading teaching to administration in Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools. As a token of my gratitude, I am eager and ready to work to give back, and that is why I have decided to seek the candidacy.

The crowning of Mr. and Miss Alumni 2016 will take place during the Homecoming festivities in October.

On behalf of the Miss WSSU Alumni Campaign, I am seeking corporate, business and individual support to win this crown, but most of all, to support future Rams. The sponsors, ads and patrons will be printed in the 2016 Homecoming Souvenir Journal.

As an ambassador for WSSU, with your financial support, we will be "Linked together in unity. Serving together with purpose."

Tax deductible donations may be checks or money orders, made payable to:

Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association or WSSUNAA

(Memo line: Valeria Edwards)
Mail to: Valeria Edwards, P.O. Box 222, Spencer, VA 24165

Deadline: Must be received by Aug. 1.

I humbly appreciate your help. For additional information, contact me at 336-418-0366, or you may send an email to:

vedwards1978WSSU@gmail.com.
"I need your green, to help others see Ram Red!" I would love to hear from you!

Valeria Clark Edwards
WSSU - Class of 1978
Spencer, Virginia

how to build a stronger South Ward, a better Winston.

Joshua Canzona
Winston-Salem

John Larson should get your support for City Council

To the Editor:

I am a South Ward resident writing in support of John Larson's campaign for City Council. His name will appear on the ballot in the primary election on June 7, with early voting starting on May 26.

John has lived in Winston-Salem for 40 years and bought his current home in the late 1970s, just in time to restore the building before the city tore it down. This captures a lot of John's spirit. He believes in the future of Winston and looks for practical ways to make our city a better place to live.

John has served on the board of Keep Winston Beautiful for over 15 years and has done a lot of work to clean the streams and waterways connected to our drinking water. Dragging litter and tires out of creeks is not glamorous work, but it is important work. John's humility and commitment to service will be an asset to the City Council.

When I met John, a friend told me he had been involved in the restoration of the famous Shell-shaped Service Station on Sprague Street. What I didn't find out until later is that he also volunteered time to help with the restoration of Lloyd Presbyterian [at 748 Chestnut St.], the oldest historically black church still worshipping in its original building and location in the county. My own work includes teaching Christian history and theology; that John helped preserve a building so central to Winston's religious and cultural heritage really impressed me.

With 40 years of roots and hard work in a community, John Larson is more than an activist. He's a fixture, a pillar. Elect him to the City Council and we will gain an experienced advocate with a real vision for

On June 7, in South Ward, vote for passionate Carolyn Highsmith for City Council

To the Editor:

Voters in the South Ward are lucky to have the opportunity to vote for Carolyn Highsmith for City Council on June 7.

Carolyn is a truly worthy candidate. Her record shows her to be a long-time passionate and effective advocate for the community.

For years, Carolyn has organized neighborhood watch groups and has been a grassroots leader in improving public safety and crime prevention. She has been instrumental in the re-landscaping of West Clemmons Road, has helped deal with the proliferation of unwanted sweepstakes businesses in our neighborhood, and spoken out for her ward on tax reappraisal and our area plan.

Carolyn is not merely involved in these and other important issues but has taken the lead.

In addition, Carolyn is an advocate for more public and green space in the South Ward. These areas provide a place to enjoy nature, gather with other residents, play sports, and provide habitat for wildlife. The South Ward needs more of both of these types of spaces.

Unfortunately, the 2014 Forsyth County Bond will not improve this situation. Of the \$30,850,000 allocated to recreation in this bond, the South Ward received only \$500,000, 1.6 percent of the total. Currently, the only greenway that runs through the South Ward, Salem Creek Greenway, is not close to the majority of South Ward residents.

Voters in the South Ward deserve better representation! Please vote for Carolyn Highsmith on June 7.

Lois Schneider
Winston Salem

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.

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