

Pergerson, Brown Friendly Rivals For District 4 School Board Seat

Democrat J. Bryant Pergerson (Pergerson on the ballot) of Boiling Spring Lakes and Republican Pat Purvis Brown of Ash are friendly rivals for the seat representing the farflung rural District 4 on the Brunswick County Board of Education.

After a career in education, this is Brown's first bid for public office; it's Pergerson's second try.

He lost a primary nomination for the District 4 school board seat four years ago to fellow Democrat Donna Baxter, school board chairman. Pergerson was named by the Brunswick County Democratic Party to replace Baxter on the ticket when she withdrew her bid for a third term in the days following the primary. After an opponent who died shortly before the election garnered a large share of the votes, Baxter said she had reached the painful conclusion that she had become a liability to the school system moving forward.

School board candidates run from the district in which they reside, but are elected by voters countywide. The winner on Nov. 8 will serve a two-year term.

Here are the two candidate's responses to three questions asked by *The Brunswick Beacon*.

1. What specific steps do you think the school system should take to generate more interest in education among Brunswick County parents?

Pergerson thinks there are three steps schools can take to generate

DISTRICT 4 SCHOOL BOARD

PAT PURVIS BROWN

Age: 58
Occupation: retired teacher
Political Party: Republican
Education: graduate, East Carolina College; Waccamaw High School; credentials in teaching the learning handicapped, counseling and guidance, resource specialist, University of California
Previous offices: None
Related experience: PTO treasurer and school volunteer, Waccamaw Elementary School; adult Sunday School teacher, Soldier Bay Baptist Church; presenter for conflict resolution and peer mediation student training; 30 years in educational system



BROWN

J. BRYANT PERGERSON

Age: 38
Occupation: emergency preparedness specialist, Carolina Power & Light, Brunswick Nuclear Plant
Political Party: Democrat
Education: B.S., science education, N.C. State University
Previous offices: South Brunswick Middle School Advisory Council, 1992-94
Related experience: taught math and science, 7th-9th grades; parent of four, three in Brunswick County Schools; past cubmaster, Pack 238; past area youth soccer coordinator; past president, Dixie Youth Baseball League



PERGERSON

parent interest: each school generate a periodic newsletter to inform parents of activities and opportunities available to their children; establish a tutoring center at each school to effectively use volunteers to create the best possible learning environments; conduct workshops on parenting skills to help parents become more effective in dealing with their children.

Brown envisions that the schools and churches should be the "social center" of the community, a place where people gather and talk and share concerns. She recommends also that each teacher establish a parent telephone tree for their class; that concerned parents hold monthly coffee groups in their homes and invite a school representative to answer questions; more programs by the PTO that involve student performances, or the school could hold a fair with food and games; science exhibits, talent show, etc.

2. Both the general public and county officials say they have trouble understanding the school system budget (\$52 million this year) and in determining how responsibly the school system uses the money it receives from the federal, state and county governments. What do you think the Brunswick County Board of Education should do to make the

budget easier to understand and to be more accountable for the money it spends?

Brown advocates holding budget meetings at each school, and allowing written questions to be submitted for central office staff representatives to answer.

Pergerson recommends a team approach to budget development that involves central office professional staff, board members, principals and business leaders, with input from teachers and parents. "Each principal must be able to understand and account for money allocated to his or her school," he says. "This

will allow greater flexibility in spending to meet the unique needs of the student population." He also says board members must be fully trained in the budget process to make wise decisions when spending the taxpayers' money.

3. Many parents and educators aren't happy with the current practice of dismissing students early on Wednesdays. Is this practice justified? Why or why not?

According to Pergerson, the question isn't "Should teachers be allowed to use Wednesday afternoons for group planning and workshops" but "What am I to do with my child Wednesday afternoon?" His answer? That the school system needs to help facilitate child care for working parents.

"Some educators don't like that their work week is now two hours longer without additional compensation. The differentiated pay plan should incorporate the Wednesday afternoon time to help teachers achieve their goals to earn the additional pay."

Brown, however, thinks the early dismissals are justified. "With the current demands on teachers for reports, committee meetings, training to update teaching skills, planning across the curriculum and grade-level projects and meeting state requirements and guidelines, the Wednesday afternoon meetings seem to be the only way to accomplish all that is required."

Free Fish Fry

The Brunswick County Republican Party will sponsor a free fish fry on Friday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m.

The "Meet Your Candidates" rally will take place in Shallotte Township at the Calabash Fire Department. It will include a cake auction.

Everyone is welcome, said Shirley Babson, party chairman.

Polling Places Open Early

Twenty-two polling places across the county open at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and remain open until 7:30 p.m. for voting. Curbside assistance is available on request for the physically handicapped or disabled.

Polling places are as follows:

Precinct	.....	Polling Place
Shingletree	.....	Calabash VFD Building
Grissettown	.....	Jones/Byrd Pav., Sea Trail
Ash	.....	Waccamaw Community Building
Freeland	.....	Myrtle King Building
Longwood	.....	Roland Gore Store
Frying Pan	.....	NCNG Armory, Shallotte
Shallotte	.....	Shallotte VFD Building
Secession I	.....	Lockwood Folly Comm. Building
Secession I	.....	Bellamy's Net Shop
Supply	.....	Supply VFD Building
Mosquito	.....	Sunset Harbor VFD Building
Bolivia	.....	Bolivia Town Hall
Boiling Spring Lakes	.....	BSL VFD Building
Oak Island I	.....	Caswell Beach Town Hall
Oak Island II	.....	Long Beach Recreation Center
Southport I	.....	Jaycee Building
Southport II	.....	American Legion Building
Town Creek	.....	Town Creek Community Building
Belville	.....	DOT Maintenance Building
Woodburn	.....	Leland Town Hall
Leland	.....	Leland Community Building
Hood Creek	.....	Hood Creek Comm. Building

Who's Got The Vote In Brunswick County?

Party

Democrat	.....	18,820
Republican	.....	11,473
Unaffiliated	.....	2,527
Total		32,820

Sex

Women	.....	17,422
Men	.....	15,398

Racial/Ethnic Group

White	.....	28,052
Black	4,674
American Indian	4
Other	89

Source: Brunswick County Board of Elections



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TO THE RESIDENTS OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY

I would like to remind you that on November 8, our General Election will be held. It's important, especially this year, that everyone gets out and votes.

I was in a local establishment recently and it was very disturbing to overhear a conversation of an elderly gentleman who said he was going to vote strictly Republican across the board, because he was unhappy with our President of the U.S. I believe it was unconstitutional for a man or woman to make a statement such as this because they may be unhappy with one person who happens to be a Democrat, and it should have no bearing for any candidate for any office. Aside from the outside candidates for the U.S., we should be concerned about the candidates running in Brunswick County. Aside from the other candidates running for School Board, County Commissioner, etc., we should be especially concerned about filling the Brunswick County Sheriff's seat.

If you're looking for a man with integrity and one who is looking out for the children and residents of Brunswick County; who worked his way up from being a little guy from high school to Lt. of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Dept. through sincere devotion to all; with over 10 years in law enforcement and pushing the DARE program as hard as it's been pushed; who's offering to give us a 24-hour Sheriff's Dept. open at all times, among a whole variety of new opportunities this county has never had in the past. Whereas, with a change such as this, you may see either your child or grandchild possibly become the President of the U.S. in the future, due to opening new doors and by achieving goals that were promised from the beginning.

That's why on November 8, don't go out and vote strictly on party basis, vote for experience, dedication and integrity of the person who is running for the seat. That's why I am asking for your pledge to vote for Ronald E. Hewett, Sheriff of Brunswick County on Nov. 8. There would be no way you would be wrong in making that decision.

Thank you,
John R. Callari
Supply, NC

Political ad paid for by John R. Callari

Professionalism, Not Political "ism"

JAMES BROWN FOR SHERIFF

"to serve and protect..."

EDUCATION

Graduate, Noncommissioned Officer Academy
Graduate, Intelligence/Military Police School
Honor Graduate, DA Retention and Career Counseling School
Honor Graduate, 5th Combat Training Brigade
Honor Graduate, Combined Arms Training Center
NC Basic Law Enforcement
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, IL.
Supervision of Police Personnel
Deadly Force and the Police Officer
Police and Administrative Guidance
Citizen Support for the Police
Stress and the Police Manager
Evaluation and the Police Supervisor
Police Supervisor as Communicator
Leadership and the Police Supervisor
Legal Aspects of Discipline by Police Administrators
Law Enforcement Supervisor and the Recruit Patrol Officer
Officer Violator Relationships
Pursuit in Traffic Law Enforcement
Assisting in Prosecution

A PROVEN LAW MAN

Certified NC Law Enforcement Officer
Patrolman, Southport Police Department, Reserve
Fayetteville/Ft. Bragg Investigation Division, 1970-1972
NCOIC Intelligence and Security on Missile Site, 1972-75

A PROVEN LEADER/ADMINISTRATOR

Squad Leader in Viet Nam, 1969-70
Section Leader Supervising up to 240 Personnel, 1970-75
Senior Career Counselor, 1975-77
Owned and Operated Business, 1977 to present

AWARDS

Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry, 1969 • Soldier of the Year, 1973

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Southport Baptist Church • Drug Awareness Officer, Elk's Lodge 2769
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 10400 • Moose Legion #69
New Hanover County Law Enforcement Officers' Association
Moose Lodge #2059, Oak Island • Elk's Lodge #2769, Oak Island
Southport Lion's Club • Sponsored 3 Dixie Youth Ball Teams, 1980-85

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