

Dan Ingle unopposed in re-election bid for NC House

by Caitlin O'Donnell, April 6, 2010

Former Town of Elon Police Chief Dan Ingle is running unopposed in upcoming elections to represent District 64 in the North Carolina State House of Representatives.

Ingle, who also works as an investigator for the Campus Police at Elon University, took the position in the House last June amidst a storm of controversy when his predecessor Cary Allred resigned. According to an October 2009 article in the Raleigh News and Observer, Allred was cited for driving over 100 miles an hour on Interstate 40, claiming he was rushing to go vote in the General Assembly.

In an interview with The Pendulum last summer, Ingle explained that after the vacancy, the Republican Party accepted names of people interested in the position. He gained a majority of votes in the first round and a selection committee then appointed him unanimously.

Ingle said his degree in political science from Elon College in 1998 was a major factor in his decision to serve, but not the primary one.

"It wasn't so much my interest in politics as it was in serving the people," he said. "I served as police chief for 18 years and have 37 years in law enforcement. This was an opportunity to continue to serve the people and to put my degree to use."

Before taking the position in the North Carolina House of Representatives, Ingle served as Alamance County commissioner for five years, which included setting the budget for the departments within the county.

"I noticed a big part of the budget went to the school system, yet we didn't have a liaison with them," he said. "I volunteered to serve as such and it helped me to understand the need of the schools and it gave them a better understanding of the physical restraints we had as a county."

As commissioner, Ingle also set up a food market for local farmers to sell excess crops as well as a program to preserve farmland in Alamance County.

When Ingle entered the House last June, representatives were right in the middle of the budget process and tough decisions had to be made.

"I had to get to know everyone, learn the faces and the people, get acclimated to the area, find my office, hire an assistant, all in the last few months of the session," he said. "It was challenging, but I like challenges."

Ingle said it feels strange to run unopposed in both the primary and general elections.

"I'm ready to go out and hit the campaign trail and it didn't happen," he said. "What it does allow me to do is focus more on the job at hand."

As a result, Ingle has established meetings on Saturday mornings where town members will have the opportunity