

# Alamance County commissioners race gears up as voting day nears

Jack Dodson  
News Editor

In the midst of a mid-term election cycle that's producing grassroots movements and high-profile politicians across the country, the Alamance County commissioners race has seen a 21-year-old candidate, a battle for two seats between three incumbents and the possibility of a write-in from former state representative Cary Allred.

The race, which will elect three members to the county's board of commissioners, consists of one two-year term and two four-year term seats. With seven official candidates running for the three seats — three Republicans, three Democrats and a libertarian — the field has already narrowed from a larger group before the primaries in May.

Jeremy Teetor, a 2010 graduate of Elon University and student teacher, is running against Tom Manning, an Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education member and former chairman of the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce. Both are two-year term candidates.

Teetor said his age has become less of an issue than he thought it might be going into the race, especially since he graduated. Now, interviewing for jobs as a teacher and campaigning takes up his time, he said.

"You really discover what it's like to be under a magnifying glass," Teetor said. "People really pay attention to what you do. It's a different realm."

Teetor said his main concern is reigning in spending by the county.

"Alamance County needs to spend a lot of time reevaluating its spending priorities," he said. "We need to restore fiscal responsibility to county departments."

He said his other concerns are attracting companies to Burlington, providing more effective public transportation and reviewing old policies of the board. Manning, on the other hand, said his biggest priorities are three items: economic development, education and public safety.

"The three are inter-related," Manning said. "I've said that all along. I'm ready to go into the fall, emphasizing the same things

that I have all along."

The four-year term candidates, Ann Vaughan, Tim Sutton and Bill Lashley, are vying for two seats, but all three already serve on the board. Lashley is at the end of his two-year term replacing Dan Ingle, who went to the state legislature to take over for Cary Allred when he resigned amidst accusations of inappropriate behavior. Vaughan and Sutton are at the end of their current four-year terms.

"As far as I'm concerned," Vaughan said, "I'm getting geared up now."

Sutton, who is on his fourth term with the board now, said he's running because he didn't want to just give up his seat.

"I just felt like I was going to have to run again because if they want my seat, they're going to have to beat me for it," Sutton said.

He said there's always been a challenge for his seat.

"It's Democrats versus Republicans," he said. "I've always had to run against somebody for the seat — even Republicans. I don't feel bad about it. Either way, somebody has to go, I just hope it's not me."

Sutton said some his biggest concerns are in the taxes and the spending in Alamance County. Both Vaughan and Lashley said taxes were a large part of their platforms, too, and that they didn't want to raise taxes in the county unnecessarily.

Vaughan said her plan with taxes is to

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COMMISSIONER

try to keep from raising them at all, but it's difficult to anticipate what may influence that decision.

"It's the unexpected we need to be concerned about — on the federal level coming down to the state," she said.

Lashley said while he wouldn't vote for tax increases, it's hard to avoid during a recession, and he said it's this kind of spending that gets local governments into trouble.

"In recessions, all forms of governments raise taxes," Lashley said. "When times are good, economies boom, they've got more than they know what to do with, so they spend it."

Former Rep. Cary Allred, of Burlington, said he has a petition with 200 signatures that he is considering submitting so he can be a write-in candidate. The petition is due August 4.

Allred, who was formerly a Republican, was a county commissioner for 10 years before he went to the state house. Once there, the Republican party accused him of inappropriate behavior.

"I have been the victim of some unfortunate harassment by the Burlington Police and my name has been dragged through the mud from false allegations in the legislature," he said.

He said the Republicans in Raleigh showed him a lack of support and were even back-stabbing. In 2009, he resigned amid controversy surrounding what critics called an inappropriate and lengthy hug of a teenage girl. Allred said it was his neighbor's daughter, a page at the state house, who he hugged and kissed on the cheek.

The recent move to consider another term as county commissioner came out of frustration with the board's performance, he said.

"The reason I wanted to run again is because I don't think the Alamance County Commissioners are conservative enough with the tax payers' money," he said. "They cater to special interest groups who are constantly asking for money."

He said he hasn't decided whether he'll submit the petition yet.

"There's a good possibility I will," he said. "It depends how mad I am on August 4."

## Local private school sued

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between the two teachers and had "disparaging comments about the students, faculty and staff at Elon, including derogatory comments about Khaki and her family."

Greene and her mother went to school officials to discuss the matter, where they were told the school would treat the internal affair as a "learning tool."

In February 2009, another anonymous package of emails were delivered to Greene's parents' restaurant.

The lawsuit claims the second batch of e-mails caused publicity and "Elon has been content to let Saxe and McKinney finish the school year, despite their clear incompetence." It was the publicity from the e-mails, the lawsuit claims, which forced The Elon School to terminate Saxe and McKinney's employment.

The lawsuit states students have access to teacher's e-mail accounts and Greene could have seen the e-mails and "that this would cause(d) severe emotional distress." The lawsuit does not say if students delivered the unmarked packages.

The Elon School has a policy that states all electronic communication system are property of the school and may be reviewed periodically "to assure that the use of the e-mail communication system is consistent with the school's interest."

The Elon School headmaster John Silva said he could not comment on current legal matters. Frank Johns of Booth Harrington & Johns is representing Greene and said they could not speak to the media about this case. McKinney, Saxe and Greene could not be reached for comment.

## Company officials, environmentalists speak out at commissioner's meeting

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design, propose and test for approved and consisted compliance."

And the companies would need time to apply for permits to build new facilities, she said.

More than a dozen supporters of the resolution were in attendance at the meeting.

Many stated Stericycle had the money and resources to use an alternative method of disposing medical waste.

Eric Henry, Burlington resident, congratulated Stericycle on maintaining a profitable business but told commissioners that profits where the company's main objective.

"So first I would like to request that Stericycle look beyond their bottom line to meet these new regulations," he said. "But I also would request our county commissioners protect

the citizens of Alamance County and pass this resolution."

The number one polluter, Commissioner Linda Massey said, was diesel. She asked the audience did that mean the trucks needed to be taken off the road.

"I just want to be fair to everybody," she said. "And I really am for clean air but I just think that we need to give these people the time

limit that the state and federal government has given them to be in compliance with the new rules."

Boswell said his father-in-law had a daughter who died from cancer and he wondered if what was being released from the smokestacks at Haw River where anyway related to her death. He said he read on Stericycle's website that the company wanted to be

environmentally friendly.

"Be considerate of the people you live around you too is all I want to ask because I think you mean that," he said. "And sometimes money is not an issue where life is. If there is something you can spend money on to improve this why wouldn't you?"

A state-wide hearing on the new regulations is tentatively set for August.

## Students blog, record regional Internet forum

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to not only learn about Internet governance and document an historical event," she said, "but would like to practice real-time journalism."

Colin Donohue, coordinator of student media and adviser to The Pendulum, traveled to D.C. to oversee the students' work and help in the documentation of the conference.

The conference, he said, was a great place for the students to learn about Internet governance from experts in the field, academia and civil society.

"It was a lot of fun watching students engage in a multimedia real time reporting enterprise on a tight deadline," Donohue said. "It was challenging but exciting, and I think the students gain some great experience from a valuable opportunity."

Throughout the day, the

students were paired together based on writing and video skills to capture all sides of sessions, panels and workshops.

"It was really nonstop action as soon as we got there," senior Camille DeMere said. "Writing, editing and filming didn't stop until an hour and half after the conference was over."

Representatives from the U.S. government, major communication companies, academia and civil society debated and engaged in the different sessions. After the initial welcome, the attendees chose between three scenarios, each with an alternative futuristic model of the Internet.

After a short break for lunch, attendees listened and debated with experts during workshops that covered privacy, Domain-Name Systems and child safety.

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