

Meet the candidates

Morrisville voters will go to the polls Tuesday to elect a new mayor and commissioners.

To give readers a glimpse into how the candidates feel on issues facing the town, we asked the hopefuls to respond to five the following five questions we posed. Here are their answers.

How do you plan, if elected, to improve relations between members of the board?

Mayor Candidate Incumbent Margaret Broadwell: I will always encourage professional, respectful behavior as Town business is conducted on the Town Board. I, as Mayor, however can only suggest and encourage, bring into play all available resources to both inform and enlighten Board members, and do my personal best to lead by personal example. Other members have to want to get along with each other.

Mayor Candidate Gordon Cromwell: One thing I think would help improve the perception, at least, is if internal disputes between the commissioners and the mayor were not aired in public. Most of that stuff should happen in an executive session or in private. It shouldn't happen in a public forum. It would at least help improve the perception of the relationships.

Mayor Candidate Bruce Newnam: I would encourage everyone on the board to put aside any personal differences they may have. If elected mayor, I would also encourage the board members to have a positive attitude with each other and conduct themselves in a professional manner during town council meetings.

Bill Case, commissioner candidate, District 2: I would have my own opinion about issues with the town. I would also be open-minded and professional in the discussions to the policymaking process. This is what we don't have at the present time, but what we do need for the growth of our town.

Phyllis Newnam, incumbent commissioner candidate, District 2: I plan to work very hard to establish a positive relationship with everyone on the board. The majority of the board gets along really good, but you have a few that want to be difficult. The people of Morrisville put us in office to do what is best for them and I will do my best if re-elected to see that this is done.

Faulkner, candidate commissioner-at-large: When elected, I will do my part to improve relations between members of the Town Board. Some of the current members of Morrisville's Town Board have quit listening to the citizens concerns, each other, or member of the business community I have attended several of the Town Board Meetings and have seen a lack of respect for other members on the board as well as

for the Mayor. Elected public officials need to have open ears and open minds. When elected I will remain honest and receptive.

Sauls, incumbent candidate commissioner-at-large: The majority of the board has good relations.

What is one talent or experience that you personally bring to the board that you feel will help the town?

Broadwell: As Mayor of Morrisville, I have excelled in building professional relationships with peoples of many nations, those in all walks of life, and those in various levels of government. I truly believe that my love for this job and for all citizens has helped me to represent Morrisville in a very positive way wherever I go.

Cromwell: I have quite a bit of experience in being president of a council in New York for over 12 years, and in industry I was in supervisory and management positions for over 20 years. I think that should probably help.

Bruce Newnam: I feel that my communication skills, out-going personality, and keenly competitive and well-disciplined character along with municipal experience will help the town.

Case: The professionalism that I have gained through my job with Eckerd Drugs as well as being a Volunteer Captain and part-time paid lieutenant with the town of Morrisville Fire Department. Also being involved with the community as a firefighter I see the needs in our community for the growth.

Phyllis Newnam: I have been on the board for almost four years I have learned a lot about the workings of town government and would like to continue to put to use what I have learned. I also have a lot of experience in public relations. I deal with the public on a day to day basis and I feel that this is an asset to me being on the board and communicating with the people of Morrisville.

Faulkner: My talent that I will personally bring to the board is the ability to put the correct emphasis on issues that are most important to the citizens of Morrisville. This will not be an emphasis on personal control, egotism or such trivial things as office space for public officials. Instead, an emphasis on such things as honesty, an open ear to the citizens as well as local businesses, and insightful planning for the future growth of Morrisville.

Sauls: The ability to work with the board and to get things done.

Are you happy with the level of service the town is providing, and if not, what suggestions would you make for improvement?

Broadwell: Generally, I am happy with the level of service that our Town government provides our citizens. I would like to see however, a recycling service and would also like to re-examine our landscape contract to allow for greater beautification of Morrisville. The roadsides need greater attention during the growing season. Perhaps a successful partnership can occur with the Department of Transportation in this regard.

Cromwell: Yes, I'm not complaining. But I think sewer should definitely be provided. Sewer and water is a necessity and it should be provided to all residents. Those that really need it should get it first. There are some places that really need it. Shiloh has been promised sewer for some number of years. As yet they haven't got their sewer. I think that needs to be taken care of.

Bruce Newnam: I believe that the level of the town services at this time is good, but additional staff should be added in the future to continue a high level of committed service, because of the expected future growth of the town.

Case: In some cases the level of service is ok, but, in some cases--i.e., sewer and water, it has been set up as a quick fix not for future growth.

Phyllis Newnam: I think that the services that the town provides is good but we can always improve. We need to be able to provide water and sewer for everyone and we need to reduce the costs of water and sewer whenever possible. We need to keep our tax rate at the present level or lower so the people of Morrisville can get the best rate possible.

Faulkner: The Morrisville staff has worked hard over the past few years. We have been faced with the rapid growth and extensive development within our jurisdiction. However, the process that proposed site plans and zoning changes go through should be streamlined and reviewed carefully to optimize the personnel currently in place and also to assure timely attention.

Sauls: Yes, but as revenue increases, so will service.

Do you feel the town has an adequate plan for growth? Explain your answer.

Broadwell: No. Our Land Use Plan is outdated because of actual development, which was allowed but has not always followed our original Land Use concept. The great influx of residential projects and supporting General Business uses will reshape our needs and change our total buildout picture over what was first envisioned. We need to consider outside influences of other jurisdictions as well because of our close proximity to each other.

Cromwell: If the long-term plan

which they have on the books is carried out, I think it's a step in the right direction. A plan for growth has to be continually updated; it can't be static. I think the plan that is on the books at the present may be adequate for the present, but I think it's got to be continually reviewed and updated as sewer is made available, as areas of the town grow up, as rules and regulations change. It's got to be something that is not nailed into stone and unchangeable.

Bruce Newnam: No. At the present, the town is in need of a plan for affordable water/sewer services for the entire corporate limits. The town's expected future growth needs updated planning for its utilities, roadways, and land use plan.

Case: I think they are trying to plan future growth but I feel at the present time a lot of issues are on a quick-fix basis.

Phyllis Newnam: The town has a plan for growth, but it has been a while since it has been updated. The plan for growth needs to be updated now and at least every two years. The town has grown a lot in the last five years and will probably grow even more in the next five years. The growth needs to be well thought out and controlled so Morrisville can have a variety of good things for the people to be proud of and call home in the future.

Faulkner: The updating of our current Land Use Plan (or plan for Morrisville's growth) is one of the most important issues facing the Town Board. Morrisville needs this plan updated to aid in making decisions when proposed site plans and developments are brought before the Town Board. When I am elected, I will work with the Planning Board, suggest changes to the Land Use Plan, and make that plan available both to the Town Board and to the public for their continual review.

Sauls: Yes, but we need more staff, and to update the land use plan.

What is your vision of Morrisville 10 years from now, and how can you help make that a reality?

Broadwell: I would like to see Morrisville achieve "All American City" status. The community has to participate in joint projects with the Town as well as the Town as a whole has to represent the best quality of life to its citizens by its infrastructure, police and fire protection, recreation programs, civic organizations and cultural arts availability. Since we cannot grow geographically because we are already surrounded by other towns, it is all the more important that we build and plan right the first time. I would imagine that 10 years from now, we would have grown to our capacity as long as utility services are able to be provided. I will be proud to know that I have had a major part in seeing Morrisville become the best that it can be!

Cromwell: At the present time, we're pretty well surrounded by other municipalities and the RTP. Boundary-wise we're limited. We have some limitations due to the airport overfly problems, and so I think as a town in 10 years from now, we will physically be about the same area. They have done a good job in the past of controlling the way the town has grown.

I think the town has to make projections as to how they want the residential population to grow. If they want it to grow and just be more and more people, the apartment idea is good. I'd like to see more single-family housing. But the airport does affect how you build the town. Because of that, and because of the limited area of the town, we're probably going to end up with a lot of emphasis toward multi-family housing.

I expect in 10 years, we will be pretty well built out. The only thing you could do is help control the way it grows. I think we have to keep a good mix of residential and industrial. It looks like that has been planned. I think we need to keep an updated plan, something that indicates where we are and where we are going, a moving target, not permanent. The commissioners, those that have a say in this, have to make sure that plan is a plan that fits into the wishes of the people of the town.

Bruce Newnam: To have established a workable infrastructure, utilities, and public services that would be efficient and effective to all. I can help make this a reality by

working closely with town staff, board members, residents and businesses if elected mayor.

Case: I think 10 years from now Morrisville will be a very large community. But you need a town government that is willing to work together to address the needs for the town and future growth. I would like to see street upgrades as well as pedestrian walkways to ensure safety for the children and adults in our community.

Phyllis Newnam: My vision for Morrisville ten (10) years from now include water and sewer for every household. I would like water and sewer rates to be lower if possible. We want the best police, fire, inspectors and other municipal public services that improve the quality of life for all our townspeople.

Faulkner: Morrisville is a growing community with a limited amount of land to develop. In the near future I see Morrisville continuing to develop at a quick pace. If the growth rate continues, the majority of the land in Morrisville will be developed within the next 10 years. Such growth requires continuous thought and detailed planning. Once the pace of development in Morrisville levels off there should be an emphasis on civic groups, community services and organizations, greenways and overall quality of life in Morrisville.

Sauls: Morrisville will be bigger and better, but still be a wonderful place to live.

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