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treme politics are not shared by all of us."

We agree. Sanford was thoughtful and progressive as one of North Carolina's best governors, and he should be an equally good senator.

For County Commissioner

Supporters of Mazie Woodruff stubbornly plan to wage a write-in campaign on her behalf, to the chagrin of the county's Democratic Party.

The lone black commissioner fell in the May primary, a loss that stunned and angered her, but which she helped precipitate by creating questionable coalitions and running a less-than-effective campaign.

Write-in efforts, like Hail Mary passes in football, usually are last-ditch, desperation measures. This particular campaign also may open rifts in the party between white and black Democrats.

But the possible rewards outweigh the consequences. Black representation on the Board of Commissioners is that important. Black Democrats' decision to defy the party's establishment also is significant. Mrs. Woodruff deserves another chance at a seat that she should have maintained easily in the primary.

By the same token, fellow Democrat John Holleman deserves a seat as well.

Holleman is fair, principled and hard-working. On the school board, he has even taken the lead in looking out for the black community's interests when lone black board member Beaufort O. Bailey has remained silent.

For instance, it was Holleman and not Bailey who consistently opposed school-system contracts that did not involve black firms.

Ask NAACP President Walter Marshall, who has monitored most school board meetings over the years.

Some question Holleman's motives and say that he is too ambitious and opportunistic -- as if most politicians aren't. But we prefer to measure him by his record; what matters most to us is *what* he does as an elected official, not why.

Should the black community not support Holleman in the general election, it will set a dangerous precedent. If black voters don't support white elected officials who are responsive to blacks, why should those officials continue to be responsive?

Board of Education

The enigmatic Beaufort O. Bailey has been the only black city-county school board member -- ever.

Sometimes he struggles so hard not to rock the boat that he sort of just sits there, like a brown-skinned anchor. Indeed, Bailey is prone to tiptoe into and out of school board meetings without having said or done much of anything.

What Bailey needs is more prodding from his black constituents, who stay away from school board meetings in droves.

He also needs company in the form of Evelyn A. Terry and Nancy L. Wooten, two Democrats who could help jolt the board out of its characteristic doldrums.

Mrs. Terry, who fell short last election in a bid to become the second black school board member, has much to offer -- if she would spend less time making wordy speeches and more time listening and studying issues.

She, Bailey and Mrs. Wooten, who has been a proponent of women and minorities in previous terms on the board, could build a formidable coalition.

State House, 67th District

This relatively quiet but very evenly matched race involves a black man and a black woman in a heavily black, heavily Democratic district.

Democrat Logan Burke's major advantage over Republican Diana Williams-Henry, besides his party affiliation, is his knowledge of how state government works.

Burke worked as director of transitional services for the Department of Human Resources in the Hunt administration.

He gets our blessings to return to Raleigh.

The Others

• *State House, 39th District:* Democrats R.J. Childress, Mabel Holton and Keith Sharpe clearly outdistance their Republican opponents when it comes to fairness and

responsiveness to all constituents, including the black community.

On the other hand, GOP incumbents Ann Q. Duncan, Theresa H. Esposito and Frank E. Rhodes two summers ago undermined "enabling" legislation that would have let the city set minority quotas in its contracts. They should be reminded of that fact at the polls.

• *State Senate, 20th District:* We choose to endorse no one in this race because no one in this race impresses us. We endorsed both Ward and Kaplan in the last election, but their stances on the city's enabling legislation changed our minds.

• *State House, 66th District:* Democrat Annie Brown Kennedy is running unopposed, but she deserves our vote of confidence, even if she doesn't need it.

• *Superior Court Judge, 26th District:* W. Terry Sherrill: Sherrill, a native of Huntersville, would be the only black resident Superior Court Judge in the state if he is elected. He has been a public defender in Mecklenburg County and a District Court judge. He pledges to be "firm but fair" and, at 31, would add a younger perspective to a post usually sought by older candidates.

• *District Court Judge, 21st District:* Democrat Roland H. Hayes.

• *Chief Justice, Supreme Court:* Democrat James Exum.

A final note: Something should be done about the way judges are elected. Who knows Louis B. Meyer or Arthur J. Donaldson? It's silly to ask a citizen to vote for an associate justice of the Supreme Court when most people don't know who the candidates are or what they stand for.

Either let judges campaign like other politicians or appoint them.

At any rate, let's be sane about the situation.

The same may be true for soil and water conservation district supervisors. What do they do? Why are these positions political? Why aren't they hired?

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