

Four residents contend for Orange County commissioner seats

Margaret Brown
Margaret Brown, candidate for the Orange County Board of Commissioners, said she believed her work on various committees had given her valuable experience which is necessary to be an effective commissioner.
"I have a deep understanding of the

issues facing Orange County, and from all my experience of working in the county, I have gained good insight on the needs of the people of the county," she said.
Brown said she believed the growth of Orange County was the most important issue facing the commissioners right now. "We have to protect farmland and

water quality and make sure schools do not become overcrowded," she said. "I want to make sure we can adequately provide those things."
"We have to create good, well-paid jobs, protect local businesses, encourage small business and make sure we keep what is valuable about Orange County," she said.
Brown said she rejected normal political labels when describing her views because such terms are too widely used. She said she characterizes her view by saying she is a person who looks to the future in a positive way.
"I like good government based on a progressive, positive viewpoints," she said.
"Fiscally, I am a conservative, careful of how taxpayer money is spent."
Brown said the Orange County Landfill issue was very important. She said recycling could greatly help the problem.
"We need to have a solid recycling program to reduce the garbage that goes into the landfill," she said.
COMPILED BY SARA GRIFFITT

Margaret Brown
Age: 51
Previous experience: none
Residency: Orange County
Length of time in the community: 30 years

Moses Carey
Looking to serve Orange County for a fourth term as a member of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, Moses Carey is seeking re-election for one of the two seats open for election in November.
Carey points to his previous political experience as a motive for seeking re-election.
"I have served the county for many years," he said. "There is much county business that remains unfinished."
Among the most pressing needs facing Orange County is the issue of public schools, Carey said. "We must have adequately funded public schools and facilities to meet the needs of Orange County's children," he said.
Carey said he does not expect the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro school systems to merge anytime soon. He said he does hope to provide more equity between the school systems in the near future.
"We may never see full equity between the systems until there is a merger," he said. "We can minimize the gap in funding, and we are already doing that."
Another issue facing residents of Orange County is solid waste disposal. Commissioners will seek the help of local governments to help alleviate this problem, Carey said.
"The issue is not who will control the landfill," he said. "All governing bodies in Orange County will have some impact on the policy-making process."
With the rapid growth rate in Orange County, several principles must be adopted concerning the use of the landfill, Carey said.
"We must first learn to reuse, recycle the waste stream and reduce the waste stream as much as we can," he said.
The high growth rate has put a strain on the community, Carey said. "It has created more conflict between urban and rural interests," he said. "When urban interests encroach rural interests, lifestyles have to change and that causes stress."
The county can expect the same hard work and dedication that came with his past commissioner service if re-elected, Carey said. "I am committed to working to resolve pressing problems."
COMPILED BY ALEX PODLOGAR

Moses Carey
Age: 51
Previous experience: county commissioner for 12 years, chairman for eight
Residency: Orange County
Children: three
Length of time in the community: 25 years

Patrick Mulkey
Orange County commissioner candidate Patrick Mulkey cited taxes, schools and growth as three interlocking issues he felt were extremely important to Orange County.
Mulkey said he was running for commissioner because he wanted his children to have opportunities as they grew up in Orange County.
"I want my 7-year old and my yet-to-be-born child to be able to get a quality education and to be able to live and work in the area when they graduate," he said.
Mulkey said he thought he could bring a voice that is presently not being heard to the commissioners.
"I can represent people who feel they are not being listened to," he said.
"I can bring a different viewpoint and ask different questions than are being asked."
On the topic of the future landfill, Mulkey said he had proposed that it be run by representatives from each of the county's four governing bodies. As for the future of trash disposal in Orange County, he said he thought the issue was wide open.
"We don't have a master trash reduction or recycling policy in place," Mulkey said. "There are options available other than digging a hole and burying it."
Mulkey said he did not see a merger of the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro school systems in the future and it was not something he would seek.
"The systems are diverse in the education they deliver, and neither side can be faulted," he said.
Mulkey said he thought each school system was spending the same amount per child in operating costs and one had to look at how services were delivered.
"There is only so much the Board of Commissioners can do before it begins to tread into the school board's responsibility and authority," he said.
On the subject of growth, Mulkey said he thought growth had obviously changed Orange County, but it was something that couldn't be controlled.
"My belief is that we have an open and fair society," Mulkey said. "I don't choose to build a brick wall around our county to keep people out."
COMPILED BY JULIA WOOD

Patrick Mulkey
Age: 41
Previous experience: participated on various committees
Residency: Chapel Hill
Children: 7-year-old son, wife is pregnant
Length of time in the community: 12 years

John Thomas
Orange County commissioner candidate John Thomas said he believed solutions should be obtained through analysis of problems rather than relying on old, trusted assumptions.
Thomas said he is running for commissioner "to be a voice of new ideas." Thomas said he believes the government should play a major role in solving society's problems.
Thomas said the most important issue facing the county today is the rate of growth.
Growth is a "natural function," he said, but it also brings along many problems.
The increase in population has created traffic problems and environmental problems, Thomas said.
Growth has brought an increase in housing prices in the county, Thomas said. Keeping with his analyze-before-action philosophy, Thomas said the county should "evaluate (the) overall impact" of growth before major actions are taken.
Another major issue facing the county is what should be done as the current landfill becomes full. Thomas said county officials should analyze what is generating waste in order to figure out the best solutions.
Thomas said one solution would be to "improve recycling capabilities." There should be recycling at the landfill, he said.
He also said the county should "spend money on education" so people know how to minimize their waste. This would be better than just spending money to build new landfills, he said.
"I'd like to see Orange County become a model in reducing waste," Thomas said.
In terms of who should control the future landfill, Thomas said, "(I have) no definite conclusion on that yet."
The issue of a possible school system merger is also an important local issue. Thomas said he does not have all the details in regard to whether one system or two systems were better, but he said one large school system might not be the best solution.
COMPILED BY MIKE HIRSCHL

John Thomas
Age: 48
Previous experience: none
Residency: Carrboro
Children: four
Length of time in the community: 1 year

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Campus Calendar
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12:30 p.m. — Journalism Professor Chuck Stone will speak about "The Politics of Limited Options for African-Americans in 1996: Jesse Jackson, Louis Farrakhan and Colin Powell" in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center.
The talk is a part of the Blacks in Diaspora Lecture Series.

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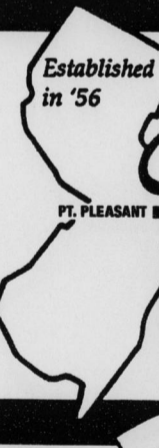
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