

DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONERS

Five Vying For Rabon's Seat Say County Needs More Jobs

Brunswick County needs to work harder at recruiting new industry and jobs, say candidates for the District 4 seat on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

Three Democrats and two Republicans are hoping to replace incumbent Frankie Rabon of Town Creek, who chose not to run for re-election. Although C. Lephus Pigott of Shallotte previously dropped out of the race, his name will still appear on the Democratic ballot. District 4 is the largest district by area, stretching from Ash to Town Creek.

Recruiting new jobs for Brunswick County is the top issue for three candidates who listed education, taxes, solid waste management, sewer and water needs and cooperation between paid and volunteer rescue services as other key concerns.

"This (business) expansion should provide jobs for our citizens and an increased tax base for the county," said Tom Rabon Sr., a Winnabow real estate broker.

He believes the board can better address the county's problems and provide crucial services to residents that need them. Commissioners

must give financial leadership to but demand accountability from the Board of Education, he said.

"We must, however, never lose sight of the taxpayer," said Rabon, "and make sure that tax money is used in the most fair and efficient way."

Children represent the county's largest resource and need the best education they can receive, said Patricia Young, a self-employed Winnabow businesswoman.

"Then we need to have employment here in the county for them," she added.

Small businesses need tax breaks and the county needs to work harder at attracting new industry, said Ms. Young, who is also concerned about how tax dollars are being spent and the accountability of county department heads.

Tom Simmons, an educator from Boiling Spring Lakes, agrees that commissioners need to do more to bring in new jobs. He's concerned about the county's solid waste management program and lack of confidence in elected officials.

"We must develop safer, cleaner

waste management programs," said Simmons. "We have to stop polluting the air and poisoning our land."

Several candidates say they plan to hold the line on taxes and county spending if elected. Jo Ann Bellamy Simmons, a businesswoman who lives in Ash, said she'd devote time to solid waste management and water expansion.

She would "work to get water to those that are in need at the least possible cost" and also "look for grants that might be available" to help keep those costs down.

"I want to be sure we are going in a direction that will not burden the people," said Ms. Simmons.

Water expansion is the top concern for Gene Sellers, a licensed building contractor from Supply. He believes the county should start a sewer system and work in full cooperation with volunteer rescue workers. As a volunteer, he has helped the county implement its 911 program.

Rabon said his experience in business and government as a retired postal worker qualifies him to represent District 4.

"I believe Brunswick County sits at a crossroads," said Rabon. "We can either go forward or backward. I believe that I have the vision to move this county forward by providing economic opportunity for all of its citizens."

Having owned and operated a business since 1976, Ms. Young said she knows what it means to govern spending. Her goal is to "represent the people of Brunswick County, since I am one of them."

Ms. Simmons said she will use political knowledge she gained from her grandfather, Raymond Bellamy, "who told me to always care about the people," she said. "I want any decision I make to be influenced by the people."

A life-long resident, Sellers said he wants better county government.

"I have worked throughout the county and I enjoy working with people," he added.

Simmons, an assistant elementary school principal, said he believes he has the leadership skills needed to "find solutions for today's problems and the visionary thinking necessary for planning for the future."

CANDIDATES RUNNING...



Name: Tom B. Rabon Sr.
Age: 62
Address: Winnabow
Party: Democrat
Occupation: Real estate broker, retired postmaster
Education: High school, business school
Family: Wife Lois K. Rabon, three children
Previous Experience: Former member of Brunswick County Social Services Board, Brunswick County Board of Elections, Doshier Hospital Board of Trustees

Name: Tom Simmons

Age: 49
Address: Boiling Spring Lakes
Party: Democrat
Occupation: Assistant principal, Union Primary
Education: Master's in education, University of South Carolina, 1987; bachelor's in physical education, UNC-Wilmington, 1971
Family: Wife Janis Simmons, two sons
Previous Experience: Boiling Spring Lakes town commissioner, mayor pro-tem; state board of directors for N.C. Association of Educators; Democratic nominee for county commissioner, 1988; appointed to governor's task force on school improvement, "North Carolina 2000"



Name: Jo Ann Bellamy Simmons
Age: 55
Address: Ash
Party: Democrat
Occupation: Self-employed business woman
Education: Shallotte High School Graduate.
Family: Five children
Previous Experience: None

Name: Patricia (Patty) Young

Age: 44
Address: Winnabow
Party: Republican
Occupation: Self-employed businesswoman
Education: T.C. Roberson High School, Skyland, 1966
Family: Husband David Young, four children
Previous Experience: Member, board of trustees, The Brunswick Hospital



Name: W. Gene Sellers
Age: 63
Address: Supply
Party: Republican
Occupation: Licensed building contractor
Education: Shallotte High School, 1957
Family: Wife Emily Kirby Sellers; son, Walt, 13
Previous Experience: Past president Brunswick Fire and Rescue Association; past president Supply Volunteer Fire Department; assistant scoutmaster Boy Scout Troop 287; past president Supply-Shallotte Dixie Youth; R.A. counselor and past R.A. director Brunswick Baptist Assoc.

Three Democrats Seek Register Of Deeds Post

Incumbent Register of Deeds Robert Robinson faces two challengers in next Tuesday's Democratic primary.

Edward F. Mintz of Bolivia and Grace Beasley of Leland are challenging Robinson for the elected county post he has held since 1980.

Robinson cites office improvements during his tenure as a reason he should be re-elected, while his opponents say record retrieval in the office needs to be made simpler for the public.

The winner of the Democratic primary will face Republican Arthur

Knox of Bolivia in the November general election.

All three Democratic candidates responded to a *Beacon* questionnaire, with their answers included below.

Grace Beasley

The former county commissioner said she's running for office because she has a combination of experience in government operation and budgeting and an appreciation of the level of service required by the public.

"I can provide both fiscal and operational leadership for the office," Ms. Beasley said.

Making record retrieval as simple as possible for the public is among the top issues she said the register of deeds must address in the upcoming term. Other priorities should include relating office operations to assist the county's Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) mapping department and becoming active in the register of deeds office operations.

Ms. Beasley said she has the "most relevant combination of government service and private business experience" which is needed to operate the office efficiently and in a manner that is responsive to the public.

Edward F. Mintz

Mintz says balancing the budget by ensuring that revenues exceed expenses is one of the most important issues the register of deeds must address in the coming term.

The candidate also said he would strive for a more user-friendly computer system to make information more accessible to the average person.

"I would be in strong support of any cost effective changes which would help eliminate waste," said Mintz.

The former Bolivia alderman said he's running for register of deeds

because he wants to "serve the people of Brunswick County in a more efficient, professional and sound fiscal manner."

Mintz, who received a business administration degree from East Carolina University, owned 1967 Chevrolet in Bolivia from 1969 to 1990.

"My background in business with experience in financial management, budgetary and overall fiscal responsibility will equal more competence in the office of register of deeds," he said.

Robert J. Robinson

Robinson, who was first elected in 1980 and re-elected in 1984 and 1988, says he is running again so he can continue to improve the county office.

"Our innovations and achievements in records management are now setting new standards for register of deeds offices across the state," Robinson said. "We have and want to continue to make this office a success."

He lists records management as the top issue the register of deeds must address during the next four years. "Because the environment in which the register of deeds functions is so dynamic, it is vital that he remain current in the field to ensure that new developments in records and information management may be appropriately applied," he said.

Robinson, who is certified by the N.C. Association of Registers of Deeds and the N.C. Institute of Government as a register of deeds, lists credibility as another important issue.

"The office is a place of knowledge (records), it's not a place for trial and error," he said. "As register of deeds you have only one chance to record and it must be right or remain wrong forever."

Name: Grace Beasley

Age: 54
Address: Leland
Occupation: self-employed, real estate management
Family: husband Lemuel (deceased), two children
Education: Penderlea High School, Preferred Personnel Management, N.C. Institute of Government courses
Previous Experience: Brunswick County Commissioner 1984-1990 (former chairman), Southeastern Mental Health Center Board, Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority Board, PTA president, church offices, public relations and TV coordinator for United Cerebral Palsy Telethon, 1980-1983



BEASLEY

Name: Edward F. Mintz

Age: 51
Address: Bolivia
Occupation: Car sales, Ocean City Chevrolet; former teacher and former owner of Mintz Chevrolet
Family: wife Diana, two children
Education: B.A., business administration, East Carolina University
Previous Experience: Former Bolivia town alderman and Brunswick County Resources Development Commission member, officer and member of various automobile dealer associations; Bolivia Lions Club, South Brunswick High School advisory board and Cougar Club president



MINTZ

Name: Robert J. Robinson

Age: 39
Address: Supply
Occupation: Brunswick County Register of Deeds
Family: Single, two children
Education: King College, Randolph Technical College, N.C. Institute of Government courses
Previous Experience: Register of Deeds since 1980, vice chairman of Brunswick Democratic Party in 1974, served as officer in N.C. Association of Register of Deeds



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