

CANDIDATES

From 1A

Bill Walker

#1 - School merger.

"I was opposed to it all the way. There was no reason for it, especially raising taxes like they'll have to. I teach school, my wife teaches school, my daughter teaches school, and I know we've already got good schools in Cleveland County."

"You could take all the money that it will cost for merger and improve the schools that we have already, by adding more classrooms and letting people go wherever they want to go rather than forcing the busing on them. It appears to me that Shelby has continued to keep all the good teachers that they have and paying them supplements out of taxpayer money, and should have been cutting back as the enrollment dropped. Right now, Union School will lose 150 students - 30 to Shelby and 120 to Spring, Crest and other places, and that will mean losing five teachers out of Union."

"(At the public hearing) Willie McIntosh made a closing statement, and I was really proud of him. He really took to heart what everybody said. Students from Kings Mountain really gave some good reports on how they felt about it. They are getting the bad end of the deal. They shouldn't tear Kings Mountain Schools up."

#2 - Infrastructure.

"We need to try to bring more industry and create more jobs, and from that to derive taxes rather than taking the taxes from the landowners and homeowners in Cleveland County."

#3 - Roads and district representation.

"We need a bypass around Shelby and we also need a road going east and west to include the bypass, and we need a road going from Spartanburg north to south and connect to the Morganton area. That would give us a cross-section of Cleveland County."

"I am 100 percent for district representation on the County Commissioners Board, especially since we have the school merger taking effect."

Tommy Bridges

#1 - District representation.

"The new census is coming in and they will be using districts for the School Board, so I think we will be able to push it through."

#2 - School merger.

"We need to work with the school boards to help the merger go smoothly. I think we can have good schools. I'd like to know what the interim board should be. I think the county and Kings Mountain should have their fare share in control of the county board."

#3 - Review of zoning.

"We need to review the zoning that they did in the upper part of the county, and make sure it's fair for all of the land owners. Quite a few of them are dissatisfied."

Kenneth Ledford

#1 - Education.

"Now that the County Commissioners have said that they're going to merger the school systems, it's going to take a commission that will back and support the board so we can get the best possible education we can attain. There will be a lot of things unexpected that the commissioners have not even thought about. In order for the education process to be properly obtained it will take a commission that is understanding of the process and knows how it works."

#2 - Economic development.

"The reason I say that is because we've had several plants in Cleveland County that have closed. We need to provide more jobs and better jobs for our citizens. We've also got kids that are graduating every year and it becomes more and more difficult to find jobs in Cleveland County."

#3 - Infrastructure and district representation.

"We need better roads, water

and sewer. It has already been stated in a survey, by AAA I believe, that Cleveland County has some of the worst roads in North Carolina. The commissioners need to work to get the bypass through, and also to have all the unpaved roads paved. Do more than just patch them. We need to have some of them repaved and put in better shape."

"We need to have a county-wide sewer system and I think we need to work with our communities and sanitary districts to make sure our water systems are adequate to give the water supply the industries need."

"I feel that we need district representation in order to equalize representation in all parts of the county. By elections at-large we have a tendency of one area monopolizing the majority of the seats on the county commission. District representation will eliminate this."

Mary Accor

#1 - Education

"I will be an advocate for the children. I will support the quality of education that we have presently in our county. If there is a merger, I will be supportive of trying to bring about unity between the three systems."

"I would hope that the commissioners get qualified people to be on the interim board of education and that they would be given ample time to plan for the success of the one system, and then utilize the strength of the existing systems. We have a lot of good things going on in our schools. Just by combining all the efforts we should be able to continue successfully."

"By the way it (merger) was planned and the way it was done, it's going to take a while to bring it all together. We have good people. When you're a professional you just have to take whatever comes to you and do the best you can. It's not about us - it's about the kids. Sometimes we have to put how we feel aside and do what's best for the kids and make sure

they're successful."

#2 - Growth.

"I want to assure managed growth through effective planning, and make sure that economic prosperity reaches every community by begin attentive to the needs of the county."

#3 - Relieving tax burdens of property owners.

"I want to find alternative sources for revenue to relieve the tax burden of all citizens. I think basically we need to look at different forms of tax to take the burden off property owners. It seems like more and more are being dumped on property owners. If we had a sales tax everybody coming in and out of the county will have to take part in relieving the debt. We'll continue to look at industry, but I want to make sure that's managed. We keep saying we're going to get industry, and without them it's just going to put more burden on us. It's easy to say they're coming in, but we have to continue to recruit the type industry that will bring in high-paying jobs for the people."

Joe Hendrick

#1 - Schools.

"I will continue to work toward the consolidation of the schools and to try to get the total utilization of the facilities to cut costs and taxes in the future, and to provide the best possible education for the children."

#2 - State mandates.

"I will continue to work with the legislature to stop the mandates of them trying to send all the cost of everything back down to counties - in other words, unfunded mandates. They should take more responsibility for the health, education and welfare of the people."

#3 - Infrastructure.

"I will continue to work for good roads and the extension of utilities to bring about industrial development. I will work on the environment to keep clean water and waste and get meaningful recycling."

Ralph Gilbert

#1 - Schools

"I'm in favor of giving the children the best education that's possible, but I think the matter of education is best left up to the schools themselves. We need parental support for the schools and students. Parents need to encourage students."

#2 - Caring

"The most important thing facing this county is to try to do something to get the people back to caring for each other. It bothers me that the school merger issue has caused so many people to be angry and say ugly things about their fellow man. We need to do what we can to soothe the souls of the citizens and get back to working together again."

"The county commissioners need to discontinue any personal agenda they have and get back to representing all of the citizens and follow the open meetings law to the letter. The commissioners ought to support the various boards in the county and appoint people that the boards recommend rather than picking people that they (the commissioners) want. The boards know who will make good members."

#3 - Unnecessary spending

"One of the most important things is to cut out unnecessary spending and make sure the tax money goes where it should. We can't stand any more tax increases. We need to do what we can to make the quality of life better for all citizens."

Ken Jones

#1 - Education.

Ed Shealy joins PSU

Tim Blackwell, CTS, President of Personnel Services Unlimited, Inc. (PSU) has announced that Ed Shealy has been hired as Director of Search and Recruitment in the Shelby office. Shealy earned his BS in Liberal Arts from Erskine College in Due West, S.C. He

"My number one concern was school merger, but it looks like that's already decided. The commission needs to stay out of the educational part of it and let the school board, or boards, whichever we're going to have, run the schools. All three school boards are doing a fine job and I question whether commissioners have a right meddling in it."

#2 - District representation.

"We over here in the western part of the county haven't had anybody to represent us in a while. I for one feel we need district representation. I feel like we need at least seven county commissioners, and they ought to be spread out all over the county, not just in one general area like they are now."

#3 - Infrastructure.

"We need the bypass and we need to work on water and sewer, especially a sewer system. I realize it's going to cost a lot of money. It's going to take a lot of study to come up with ways we can do this."

"We need to look at bringing industry to the county and ways we can attract better paying jobs for our kids coming out of school. One of the main things we need to look at is taxes. We've just had a rate hike with tax revaluation. It seems like they (the commissioners) think they can just raise taxes and never worry about the people on fixed income and the people who just cannot continue to pay more and more taxes. We need to look at what we can do for the citizens and the county in general, and be good representatives."

was formerly employed at Copeland Corporation as Human Relations Manager and has 28 years experience in Human Resources management.

Shealy and his wife, Judy, who is employed at Gardner-Webb University, have two children, Chuck and Alison.

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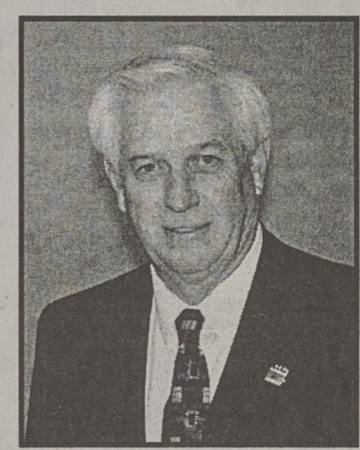
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VOTE FOR A CHANGE VOTE NO TAX INCREASE



VOTE FLOYD WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONER

SPECIFIC GOALS

- Maximize all of our federal, state, and county resources while minimizing our Expenditures. Very Conservative Approach - **NO TAX INCREASE.**
- Strong support to our county agencies that provide needed services to our citizens of Gaston County.
- Education Programs
 - Gaston County Schools, Gaston College, Charter/Private/Church
- Gaston Memorial Hospital
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Department of Social Services
- EMS/Rescue & Fire Department Units
- Improve our transportation system in Gaston County
- Improve our Economic Tax Base
- Work with all city municipalities within the county to help with their needs.
- Strong effort to make Gaston County a better place to live and work

Education

Ed.D. - Southeastern/Nova University
ED.S. - Western Carolina University
M.Ed. - UNCC
B.S. - Appalachian State University
A.A. - Gardner-Webb University

Experience

Superintendent of Education
Dean of Community College
Director of Vocational Education
Principal
Assistant Principal
Teacher and Coach
Previous member of various civic organizations
Previous member of Hospital Board
Member of St. John's Lutheran Church

- Experienced Leader in Education
- Knowledge of County and City Government
- Very Knowledgeable of Budget Development/Implementation & Accounting Procedures
- Positive & Caring working relationship with people
- Knowledge in community and public relations
- KNOWS HOW TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE

Objective

HELP MAKE GASTON COUNTY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

*Paid For By Committee To Elect
Floyd Wright, County Commissioner*