

Daily Progress questions for voter publication

1. Why do you want to be on the board?

I had been in the audience in Board of Supervisors meetings for 17 years before running for office in 2007. The county was changing fast, and citizens asked what had happened to their County. I am proud to be called a citizen-activist, because I am loyal to the citizens and to the community, rather than any particular group. I've been particularly focused on the environment, land use, and transportation for more than 20 years. As a native of Albemarle and a 1967 graduate of Albemarle High, I have a perspective of our collective history.

2. Do you support the approved water plan, including the phased-in construction of an earthen dam at Ragged Mountain?

I support the 2011 Water Plan. While I prefer the dam accommodate the 42 foot rise now, I support the phased plan as a first step, followed by the pipeline as soon as possible. Now is the time to prepare water supplies for the future, as my parents' generation did when I was nine and the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir was constructed next to our farm. The SFRR is essential as a collector of high water, as the intake for treatment, and separate from the Plan, as an important scenic and recreational asset for the County and City.

3. Do you support construction of the Western Bypass of U.S. 29? If so, how can the design be improved?

I do not support the current Bypass. It has a huge impact environmentally and financially, will destroy neighborhoods and our comprehensive plan, and all for an unproven traffic benefit. The process has cost local government the trust of citizens and that will take years to rebuild.

This is not the time to trust others to keep the County's best interests in mind. The Board MUST take a stand to represent OUR citizens in the planning and construction process. No one else will look out for our needs. Noise, speed, schools, streams, accident mitigation, all must be considered. If a bypass is built, it must be the most protective as possible.

4. What are the three most urgent issues facing Albemarle County in the next decade?

Transportation, a sustainable economic plan, and education.

I support completion of parallel roads to solve traffic problems in traffic-clogged areas. I oppose State efforts to assign responsibility for roads to localities, which would create higher property taxes.

Environmental protection and land use regulations do not interfere with economic recovery. A 'green' business plan for our County enhances economic recovery and attracts companies with the same values. I support strong environmental rules to

protect our soil, air and water, to enhance quality of life, create lower health care costs, and build a strong 'green' economy.

I support effective, student-centered education for the leaders and citizens of tomorrow.

5. Under what conditions would you consider raising the county real estate tax rate?

I have supported an equalized tax rate as values fell. My town hall meetings, fall and spring, connect me closely to citizens' views on taxes. They are unhappy about the necessity for a higher tax rate, but they understand the consequences if we do not, and most are willing to support an equalized tax rate. I support taking advantage of low construction costs and interest rates, to build needed projects and boost our local economy. The challenge will be to return gradually to the capital investment program that our citizens have relied upon for 30 years.

6. What can the board do specifically to encourage economic development and job growth?

Advertise our vision - a thriving county, anchored by a strong economy and excellent education system, respecting its rural heritage, scenic beauty and natural resources, with attractive and vibrant communities. Our mission values our rural character, quality of life, top performance of county staff and wise use of tax dollars. Keep our processes clear and defined.

Investors come to our area to stay because owners want to live here with their families. We should remember our assets and focus our business efforts on companies who want to identify themselves with our strengths, great workers and a beautiful and healthy environment.

7. What makes Albemarle County special?

"Special" is different for each person- the mountain views, the streams to play in, the cultural activities, school and neighborhood friends, an accessible local government which values input from citizens and has a strong set of values. Citizens want predictability, - that the community vision will be maintained, that change will be compatible with current residents.

I was fortunate to have an idyllic childhood here and tried to provide the same sort of experience for my kids and grandkids. As the community evolves, we need to hang on tightly to the special features we all value.