

# ★ Greensboro 2009 ★

## Guide for the City Elections



**PROFILES OF THE CANDIDATES**  
**HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE**  
**VOTE EARLY AND AVOID LINES**  
**VOTE WITHOUT LEAVING HOME**

### Why Should I Vote This Year?

The decisions of the City Council affect all aspects of your life—your safety, taxes, income, quality of life.

And YOU can decide who sits on the City Council—who wins, who loses.

Every vote matters: In 2005 in North Carolina, the winners in 27 elections won by less than 3 votes!!



## Greensboro Has 2 Elections This Year

**1** The Primary on October 6  
Early Voting Sept. 17-Oct. 3

**2** General Election on November 3  
Early Voting Oct. 15-30

See inside for details. You can register to vote as late as during the Early Voting period.

# Your Guide for the Elections

## About the 2009 Ballot

Your representatives on the City Council make decisions for the whole city. The Council has nine members: the Mayor, three members elected "At-Large" or citywide, and one member elected from each Municipal District by the voters who live in that District. Greensboro is divided into five Municipal Districts, District 1 through 5.

In the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election, each voter can choose their preferred candidate for Mayor, their District representative, and up to three At-Large representatives. When more than two candidates file for an office, a Primary election is held to narrow the field to two candidates per office (those two then appear on the November ballot). The October 6<sup>th</sup> Primary will narrow the number of At-Large candidates to six for the three seats. Because there are only two candidates for Mayor and two candidates for District 5, no Primary is needed for those offices and they will not appear on the Primary ballot. Election officials at the polls will give you the right ballot for your District, even if you don't remember your District.

If you don't know your District (or where to vote), call the Guilford County Board of Elections at 336-641-3936 or go to their web-site at [www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections\\_cms/](http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections_cms/) and click on "Voter Lookup" in the left column. If you have difficulty, call Democracy North Carolina on weekdays at 919-286-6000.

## Guide Sponsor

This guide is sponsored by the Guilford County Unity Effort, a coalition of civic groups and individuals formed to educate voters and help them make informed decisions, regardless of party affiliation. We also sponsor forums where voters can hear from and speak with the candidates. The Unity Effort began in 2008 as a prominent force for nonpartisan voter participation, expanded Early Voting, Sunday voting, and voter education. Anyone committed to educating citizens about their civic responsibility is welcome to join and work with us. We'd like to thank Democracy North Carolina and YES! Weekly for providing valuable support and information for this guide. For more information on the Unity Effort's activities, contact Sharon Hightower at 336-508-5346 or Ralph Johnson at 336-988-6001.

## Hear the Candidates, Ask Them Questions

Take advantage of these opportunities in Greensboro to learn more about the candidates:

**Sept. 15 - Noon**

### Forum for Candidates for Mayor

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 607 N. Greene St.

Sponsor: League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

Forum is free, \$10 for Lunch.

Contact [lwvpt.org](http://lwvpt.org) or 274-0202

**Sept. 22 - 6:00 to 9:00 PM**

### Forum for Candidates for At-Large, District 2 and District 5

Greensboro Historical Museum, 130 Summit Ave.

Sponsor: Guilford County Unity Effort

Forum is free. Contact 508-5346 or 988-6001

**Oct. 8, 12 and 19 - 6:30 to 9:00 PM**

### Three forums for candidates

Central Library, 219 N. Church St.

Sponsor: Greensboro Neighborhood Congress

Forums are free. Contact 852-9373 or 273-3849

**Oct. 14 - 7:30 to 9:30 AM**

### Candidate Forum on Economic Development Issues

Empire Room, 203 South Elm St.

Sponsor: Greensboro Partnership

Forum is free, but reservations required; call 387-8331

**Oct. 28 - 5:30 to 7:00 PM**

### Candidate Forum

Greensboro Historical Museum, 130 Summit Ave.

Sponsor: Elon Univ. School of Law and synerG

Forum is free. Contact 379-0821

No matter where you live in Greensboro, you can vote at these Early Voting sites during the Early Voting period. If you are a citizen and will be at least 18 by Nov. 3, you can also register to vote at the same time.

## Voting Early

**Use Early Voting for the Oct. 6 Primary at these locations and times:**

- 1 Old Courthouse, Room 100  
301 W. Market St., Greensboro
- 2 High Point Elections Office  
First Floor, Room #103  
505 E. Green Dr.

Both locations are open: Weekdays only, Sept. 17 to Oct. 2 - 8 AM to 5 PM; Sat., Oct. 3, Greensboro office only - 10 AM to 1 PM.

**Use Early Voting for the Nov. 3 Election at these locations and times:**

- 1 Old Courthouse - Blue Room  
301 W. Market St., Greensboro
- 2 High Point Elections Office  
First Floor, Room #103  
505 E. Green Dr.

Both locations are open Weekdays only, October 15 to 30 - 8 AM to 5 PM.

**In addition, 5 more locations in Greensboro will open the last week of Early Voting:**

- 1 Ag Center (Barn)  
3309 Burlington Road
- 2 Brown Recreation Center  
302 E. Vandalia Road
- 3 Bur-Mil Club- Clubhouse  
5834 Bur-Mil Club Road
- 4 Craft Recreation Center  
3911 Yanceyville Street
- 5 Leonard Recreation Center  
6324 Ballinger Road

All five locations are open Sat., Oct. 24 - 10 AM to 3 PM; Mon. to Friday, Oct. 26 to 30 - 10 AM to 6:30 PM; Sat., Oct. 31 - 10 AM to 1 PM.

# The Basics on Voting in NC

## Everything you need to know about voting in North Carolina:

### You have the right to vote...



... if you can answer "Yes" to all three of these questions:

- 1) Are you a U.S. citizen?
- 2) Will you be at least 18 years old on Election Day, Nov. 4?
- 3) Will you have lived at your current address for at least 30 days

before Election Day?

These are the basic requirements and they mean that you can vote if you are a student living on campus; or an ex-felon who has finished your sentence, including probation; or a person awaiting trial or serving a misdemeanor sentence; or a person who cannot read; or someone who has only lived in NC for a month before the election. **But you must register before you vote.**

### Registering to vote is easy!

To register, you fill out a form that asks for your name, address and birth date. You need to provide your NC driver's license number or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or another form of identification (or be prepared to show ID when you first vote). Other acceptable forms of ID include a utility bill (phone, gas, etc.), bank statement, paycheck stub or any government document with your residential address on it. Homeless people can list a shelter as their address. You can ask for help filling out the form if you need it.



To obtain a form, call or visit the Board of Elections at 336-641-3836 or call 1-866-522-4723. You can also get a registration form at any public library, high school, or Department of Social Services, public health or Division of Motor Vehicles office. Or you can print a form from this website: [www.sboe.state.nc.us](http://www.sboe.state.nc.us). If the library or other office does not promise to mail in the form, mail it in yourself to your local Board of Elections. By two weeks later, you should receive a voter card with information about your precinct and where to vote.



**If you have a question about how to register, where to vote, what District you live in, or other matters, call the Board of Elections at 336-641-3836 or Democracy North Carolina at 888-OUR-VOTE.**

### What if I'm a student?

You may register in your old hometown and vote there – or you can declare your new address as your home, even if it's a dorm on campus, because that is where you go "home" day after day. When you register, you can write in a permanent mailing address to receive mail, which might be different from your current residence. Be sure you fill out the part of the form to cancel any previous registration.

### When to register:

There are two deadlines when it comes to registering to vote. If you choose to mail in your form or give it to another person to turn in, the form must be submitted to the Board of Elections 25 days before the next election. Or you can use Same-Day Registration and register in person at a One-Stop, Early Voting site — see times and locations on the inside front cover.

### Help! It's getting late... can I still register to vote?!

Don't panic! You can register (and vote on the same day) using Same Day Registration & Voting (SDR) during the statewide One-Stop, Early Voting period. **But you cannot use Same Day Registration on Election Day.**

To use SDR, visit one of Greensboro's Early Voting locations (*inside front cover*). You need to show election officials one of these IDs with your name and current address: a NC driver's license, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck stub, student ID with a school document showing your address or a license, permit, bill or any other government document.

### Unpacking? Be sure to update!



You must change your voter registration when you move. And even if you've moved within the same city, you should still update your registration.

Use the same form as a new voter, but fill out the extra section asking for your old address so the state can cancel your old registration and assign you to a new polling place. If you moved within the same city and forgot to change your registration, go to an Early Voting site during the Early Voting period or go to your old polling place on Election Day and ask for a "Provisional Ballot."

### Su Voto Es Su Voz



Necesitas una forma de votación en español o información de los requerimientos para registrarte, no presentarse a votar e información general y preguntas de la cartilla de votación? Llama a La Junta de Elecciones al 1-336-641-3836 o visítelos en su página web [www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections\\_cms/](http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections_cms/). Si quisiera aprender más sobre el proceso de registro como votante, ya sea usted o alguien más o simplemente está interesado en como tomar parte de este compromiso cívico, puede contactar a El Pueblo llamando al (919) 835-1525.

### What if I changed my name?

To avoid problems when you go to vote, whenever your personal information changes (for example, your last name) you should fill out a new voter registration form. If you haven't done this by 25 days before the election, it's best to vote at an Early Voting site where you can update your registration at the same time.

### Can I vote if I am an ex-felon?

Yes. You temporarily lose your citizenship rights if you are convicted of a felony. But, no matter where you were convicted, your rights are automatically restored in NC after you serve your complete sentence, including probation or parole. You don't need a special document – just register and vote like any other citizen.

### Do you have a loved one serving in the military?



Voters outside the U.S. or in the military can vote using an Absentee Ballot (see details on next page) and have the option of faxing or scanning their Absentee Ballot request and sending it in as an attachment to an email. Contact the Board of Elections for details at 336-641-3836.

# There are 3 ways to vote in NC

**1. VOTE EARLY IN PERSON.** During the Early Voting period (see the inside front cover for dates), you can vote by going to one of the One-Stop Early Voting site in Guilford County. These sites are even open on some weekends but the different sites will have different hours, so check the inside front cover of this guide for locations and times Early Voting sites are open. Going to one of these sites is also the best way to vote if you have moved within your county or if you are not registered yet and want to use Same Day Registration.

**2. VOTE BY MAIL.** You can also vote by using an Absentee Ballot – this is a ballot that is mailed to the address you specify and then mailed back after you complete it. You do not need an excuse to vote with an Absentee Ballot. To obtain an Absentee Ballot, you or a near relative must write the Board of Elections; do **not** use a pre-filled out form. Send a simple letter with the voter's name, address of registration and date of birth, where the Absentee Ballot should be mailed to, and the signature of the voter or the person making the request for the voter. If the request is from a relative, it must also include that person's name, address and relationship to the voter. It is also a good idea to include a phone number or email address in case the Board of Elections needs to contact you. Be sure to follow the instructions sent with the Ballot very carefully.



**3. VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.** On Oct. 6, (the Primary) and on November 3 (the General Election), you can vote at your precinct's voting place (your "polling place") between 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM. Your precinct is based on your home address and appears on the voter card mailed to you when you registered. You do **not** need the card to vote. Call the Board of Elections at 336-641-3836 to find your polling place or call Democracy NC at 888-OUR-VOTE. If you are a first-time voter, you may be asked for ID, depending on how you registered.

## If there's a problem...

If the poll worker can't find your name on the voter rolls, or you accidentally go to the wrong voting location, or they ask you for identification you don't have with you – all is not lost! You have the right to ask for a "Provisional Ballot." You have to fill out a form in addition to the ballot so officials can verify your voter registration. But once your registration is verified, your ballot will count like any other ballot. You will be given a way to find out whether your ballot counted and, if not, why not.

**If you ask for a Provisional Ballot and are not given one, please call Democracy North Carolina for help:**

**1-888-OUR-VOTE.**



## It's a Family Affair...

**Don't let a lack of childcare stop you from voting!** Children are always welcome in the voting booth with you and often receive a special "I Voted" sticker when they accompany you to the polls. And now you can make voting even more fun, thanks to a group called **Kids Voting North Carolina**. Local chapters across NC sponsor a variety of activities for children related to voting and some even have special voting boxes at the polls so kids can vote when their parents do. Their votes are counted and announced just like the adult votes – and sometimes the results will surprise you! For more information and links to local chapters, visit [www.kidsvotingnc.org](http://www.kidsvotingnc.org).

## For More Information

For more information on voting in Guilford County, please visit the Guilford County Board of Elections at [www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections\\_cms](http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections_cms). You can also write or call them using the contact information below if you need more information on voting, polling sites and more:

### Guilford County Board of Elections

301 West Market Street  
P. O. Box 3427  
Greensboro NC 27402  
336-641-3836  
FAX: 336-641-7676

505 East Green Drive  
P. O. Box 698  
High Point NC 27261  
336-845-7895

Both offices are open 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may email the Board of Elections at [cfox@co.Guilford.nc.us](mailto:cfox@co.Guilford.nc.us).

[http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections\\_cms/index.html](http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections_cms/index.html)



# Candidate Information

## Candidates for Mayor of Greensboro: Please Vote for One

*Because there are only two candidates, no primary is needed for this office and the candidates for mayor will not appear on the October 6th Primary Election ballot. They will be on the ballot for the November 3rd General Election.*

### Yvonne Johnson, Candidate for Mayor (Incumbent)



**Age:** 66

**Website:** yvonnejohnsonformayor.com

**Occupation:** Executive director, One Step Further

**Elective experience:** Elected mayor in 2007, has served on city council since 1993, including six years as mayor pro tem

**Civic volunteer experience:** Board member, Malachi House; helped found Summit House and bring Delancey Street to Greensboro; first president, Women's Resource Center; board of trustees chair, Bennett College; Piedmont Triad Partnership; Downtown Greensboro Inc.; Transportation Advisory

Committee; Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee; liaison, Willow Oaks and Southside; served on the boards of Foster Friends, Sports Dreams, Greensboro Arts Council.

**Education:** Master's degree in guidance and counseling, NC A&T University

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

I have a vision of unity, not division; progress, not stagnation; prosperity and security for our citizens. Greensboro's government must be inclusive, accountable, and efficient. Here is how we get there:

**Jobs:** We must pursue new industry aggressively and offer incentives to bring it here; we must support our economic developers. Our citizens have approved over \$150 million for infrastructure. We must be aggressive about putting those resources to work – both for the immediate relief it will bring to the local economy, and for the long-term benefits of the infrastructure it represents. We must complete the Urban Loop and move forward with improvements to High Point Road.

**Safety:** Our people have a right to feel safe in their city. The City Council hired a consultant to review our police department and suggest best practices. We must continue to encourage our police department to work effectively and efficiently.

**Inclusive Government:** I will continue to hold town hall meetings – as I have in my first term – and to visit our citizens where they volunteer, where they work, where they gather and where they worship. I will continue to meet with small business people and include the universities.

**Green Spaces:** I have worked diligently to make the Greenway a reality and will continue to work hard until it is completed.

**Sustainability:** I have appointed a Sustainability Commission to look at ways we can conserve resources and make more of what we have and to leverage federal funds for local projects.

**Efficient Government:** The Council delivered a balanced budget without a tax increase for the past two years. We need to continue to work to provide efficient government.

### Bill Knight, Candidate for Mayor



**Age:** 69

**Website:** knightformayor.com

**Occupation:** Retired certified public accountant

**Elective experience:** City Council candidate in 2007

**Civic volunteer experience:** Board member, Greensboro Opera; board member, Parks & Recreation Commission. Former positions held: president, Hamilton Lakes Lions Club; board of directors, Greensboro Jaycees; executive committee, Greater Greensboro Open Golf Tournament; finance committee, Goodwill Industries; honorable

discharge, US Coast Guard; treasurer, Congressman Howard Coble

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in economics, UNCG

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**Economic development:** It's time for a business face on the Council. For too long the Council has concentrated on social issues. City government must accommodate the needs of our business community through streamlined approval processes, minimal red tape, and openness to dialogue with business. Greensboro must be actively engaged with other Triad communities in a common effort to improve our economic standing.

**Control of spending and taxes:** Greensboro has the highest tax rate among the 20 largest cities in the state. I intend to work on lowering our standing on this list and to seek ways to curtail spending. Under the current leadership, most council members seem to give little importance to financial matters.

**Crime and Public Safety:** Recent reports suggest an increase in crime in certain areas, particularly along the High Point Road area and at Greensboro Housing Authority properties. As mayor, I will look at the effectiveness of the GHA in addressing crime at GHA sites (the mayor appoints the Board). Five years ago, we had a world class police department, but today that's not the case. I will seek public safety measures that promote greater police visibility and improved responses.

**Trust and Accountability:** This includes assuring citizens that the City Council places citizen interests first in all matters, with no deference to special interest groups; openness on all matters; ethical conduct and professionalism.

**Representation:** Everyone is important and the mayor must listen to and represent all citizens. As mayor, I expect every citizen to acknowledge his or her personal responsibility to be part of the solution to our issues by being involved.

# At-Large City Council Candidates: Vote for Up to Three Candidates

There are 11 candidates running for three "at-large" seats. All voters in the city may vote for up to three of these candidates in the October 6th Primary. The six candidates with the most votes will then be on the ballot for the November 3rd General Election, and voters may vote for up to three of them at that time.

## Marikay Abuzuaier, at-large candidate



**Age:** 55

**Website:** [vote4marikay.com](http://vote4marikay.com)

**Occupation:** Owner, Mahi's restaurant, co-owner, curb markets and apartments

**Elective experience:** City Council candidate in 2007

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Board member, Greensboro Human Relations Commission; co-chair, International Advisory Committee; member, Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee; charter member of LYFE anti-gang initiative; member, Concerned Citizens

of Northeast Greensboro; member, East Market Street Merchants Association; member, Greensboro Landlords Association; graduate, Greensboro Citizens Academy; graduate, IMPACT Greensboro

**Education:** Bachelor's degree, Greensboro College

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**To have a city with a vibrant, healthy and positive environment by pursuing economic development, public safety, and consideration of ALL residents' concerns.**

As your City Council At-Large representative, I will be active in diligently pursuing economic development which would, in turn, create jobs which are so desperately needed in this economic recession. I will consistently promote Greensboro in a positive manner to entice businesses to relocate or open businesses in Greensboro. Important, also, is the retention of our small businesses which are the lifeblood of our community. Businesses look for several things when they are considering a city – public safety, quality of life and services, and how residents perceive their city and its government. I believe the Council can (and must) work together to bring stability and growth back into our local economy. With public safety concerns in this recession, I would pursue recruitment and financial support for our police department.

When elected, I can assure you that every item brought before me on Council will be researched extensively and that the concerns of all residents will be taken into serious consideration before my vote is cast. All "hidden agendas" must be dissolved and we must find common ground in every item brought before Council. My ability to interact with and respect Greensboro's unique diversity and to take to heart suggestions, ideas and concerns has enhanced my strong desire to represent all residents of Greensboro in order to attain my vision. It CAN be done and I promise you I will be there for you, your neighbor, your friends and family to ensure that all voices are heard on our City Council.

## Sandra Anderson-Groat, at-large candidate (Incumbent)



**Age:** 62

**Website:** Facebook

**Occupation:** Construction consultant, Kelly & Co.

**Elective experience:** Incumbent, serving second term as mayor pro tem

**Civic and volunteer experience:** board member, Family Life Council; board member, Senior Services of Guilford; founder, Inasmuch; board member, Homes 4 NC; member, Grace United Methodist Church

**Education:** Attended Greensboro College

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

First, I believe that public safety is the most important service we provide for the citizens. I would like to see Council, along with ideas from the Manager, work out a vision. This should be a ten-year vision with a revisit every two years to make sure the vision is still right or needs a little tweaking up based on what we have learned. We need a direction on a path we can all work toward together. If we don't plan where we want to go, there's no telling where we will end up. This must be a well thought out plan, with much discussion and input from each member of Council.

It would be the job of the Manager to make an implementation plan for our vision. Council must be clear with instructions to the Manager. Council should be clear without expectations from the Manager.

Secondly, economic development is a top issue. Quality of life doesn't matter too much to those who do not have a job. We must continue to work hard to get companies to locate here. We need the tax base as well as employment for our citizens. We should strive to help the medium and small business that are already operating here and provide 80% of jobs in Guilford County. We must grow our City.

## Max Benbassat, at-large candidate



**Age:** 27

**Website:** [maxbenbassat.org](http://maxbenbassat.org)

**Occupation:** Production analyst, Bentex Mills; owner, CFBG

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Adopt-A-Street; community gardening

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in international studies, Loyola University of Chicago; textile technology certificate, NC State University.

## Jorge Cornell, at-large candidate



**Age:** 33

**Website:** [cornellforcouncil.wordpress.com](http://cornellforcouncil.wordpress.com)

**Occupation:** Unemployed

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Member, Guilford County Schools Safe Schools Committee; NC leader of the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation; volunteer for the homeless; Guilford County Coalition for Just Laws and Peace Among Street Organizations

**Education:** Graduate, Ross High School, Brentwood, NY

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**Jorge envisions a Greensboro where everyone participates. His focus is on representing the voice of regular people, making our government more accountable to their needs.**

There are a number of ways that Jorge Cornell is working to make his vision for a better Greensboro a reality. Cornell remains involved and committed to building peace between individuals, organizations, and communities through

building unity and community and standing for justice. Specific examples include working with residents in Hickory Trails, speaking with the Boys & Girls Club in Ray Warren Homes, working to convince gangs to sign a peace treaty, and talking with everyday people on the streets of Greensboro.

A large part of the problems in Greensboro are generated by a lack of input from more residents who should be included in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Cornell has demonstrated that he is one of the few – if not the only – candidate willing and interested in going into certain communities that have been historically marginalized and forgotten. The serious issues our City have to deal with, such as economic deprivation, racial discrimination, and a lack of opportunities for youth are best dealt with by people who live and survive through them.

Some have suggested that Cornell's less-than-picturesque background should disqualify him from politics. On the contrary, it situates him to understand many people living here better than any other candidate. Though it's harder to quantify than degrees, certificates, and titles, life experience is equally (if not more) important than these commonly accepted measures of qualifications for political office.

### Donnell (D.J.) Hardy, at-large candidate



**Age:** 33

**Website:** [donnellhardy.org/dev/](http://donnellhardy.org/dev/)

**Occupation:** Financial analyst, Ciba (BASF Group)

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Deacon, member of strategic planning team and moderator of the Men's Council at St. James Presbyterian Church; member, Greensboro Jaycee; member, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce; moderator, To Do Justice Steering Committee; board member, Ole Asheboro Street

Neighborhood Association; member, Neighbors United Neighborhood Association; legislative intern, Florida Chamber of Commerce (1998-99); district coordinator, Florida Rep. J. Alzo J. Reddick; chairperson, REACH Committee; Enterprise Florida; College Leadership Florida

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in business economics, Florida A&M University.

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

*I am dedicated to ensuring Greensboro moves forward as a business and neighborhood-friendly city. Together, let us build a city that works for everyone.*

We are living in a time of critical importance. These times require us to select our best to confront the challenges that carry us forward into a new day of prosperity. Even more important, we have an opportunity to ensure the promise of that new day extends to all parts of the city and reaches across the barriers of the past.

**Balanced Economic Development:** Bring greater focus and determination to ensure every part of Greensboro is participating in its growth and development. There remain many struggling areas clustered in the south and eastern sides of town. We need to focus our incentive program on revitalizing these areas.

**Transparency/Efficiency:** Develop stronger inter-department communications methods and tools to increase cooperation and provide better service to citizens and businesses. Conduct more city business in front of citizens and more actively seek citizen participation across age groups and professions.

**Lower Taxes:** The average taxpayer is engaged in living life on less income and Greensboro should do the same. Lower property taxes and business fees would result in more disposable income or savings, both of which are a gain in local investment.

**Lower Unemployment:** Conduct a reassessment of our place in the global economy and position ourselves to take advantage of our natural skills and resources. More importantly, the City needs to develop better methods to communicate these strengths to potential partners globally.

### Julie Lapham, at-large candidate



**Age:** 64

**Website:** [julielaphamforcitycouncil.com](http://julielaphamforcitycouncil.com)

**Occupation:** Consultant, Themis Institute

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Impact Greensboro; graduate, City Academy; graduate, Leadership Greensboro; member, Women's Professional Forum; incoming chair, Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women; former executive director, Common Cause of Virginia

**Education:** Doctorate, Union Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

*In this economic downturn, creative critical thinking and community building are essential if Greensboro is not only to weather the storm, but grow responsibly.*

A recent report by Discovery Learning, Inc. states that the top ten in-demand jobs in 2009 did not exist in 2004. This suggests we need creative critical thinking to not only attract jobs, but to design new ones. It also suggests we need to change our way of thinking. Education/training must be more general, less specialized.

The current global crisis has emphasized a sense of urgency with this year's local election. Our region is confronted with major job losses. We need to think bigger, more expansive as well as smaller, more focused.

To enact this vision for our region we must simultaneously find ways to both build and sustain infrastructure. To develop a strategy that is inclusive, and brings all the stakeholders together requires development of a plan. Most importantly the tough questions must be asked. "What are the stakeholders willing to contribute and what do the stakeholders want in return," is but a beginning conversation.

I'm a candidate in part because I believe my skill set is just what Greensboro needs at this time. I'm trusted, a proven listener, an experienced critical thinker, and a community builder - all valuable skills crucial in representing Greensboro residents.

You will have an opportunity to elect a Mayor, three At Large council members representing all of Greensboro, and one District representative.

And even though local elections are nonpartisan, philosophical ideals go to the heart of how each of us makes decisions.

### Gary Nixon, at-large candidate



**Age:** 67

**Website:** None

**Occupation:** Former owner of engineering company Finkbeiner, Pettis and Strout

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Member, Rotary Club of Greensboro; board of directors, Greensboro Symphony Orchestra

**Education:** Master's degree in engineering, Cornell University

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

*To create an atmosphere for a unified and progressive City while providing taxpayers affordable infrastructure, basic services and recreational facilities.*

My specialized experience and qualifications will help Greensboro solve complex issues that need addressing:

- Restoring confidence in City government
- Determining priorities for capital improvements
- Finding a long term solution for solid waste (garbage) disposal
- Reducing Traffic Congestion
- Creating an atmosphere to bring jobs to the City and area
- Resolving current legal issues, hopefully through mediation
- Being a leader in promoting regionalism
- Evaluating and implementing City/County consolidation opportunities

### Robert V. (Robbie) Perkins, at-large candidate (Incumbent)



**Age:** 54

**Website:** robbieperkins.com

**Occupation:** President, NAI Piedmont Triad

**Elective experience:** Served on city council 1993-2005, 2007-present

**Civic and volunteer experience:** President of board of directors, One Step Further; board member, Bennett College; board member, Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation; member, Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee; member, Heart of the Triad Steering Committee

**Education:** Master's degree in business administration, Duke University

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

***Greensboro will become a city where the sum of the parts makes us an attractive place to live, work and play.***

Public safety and job creation are vital to implementing my vision. We cannot create jobs if our citizens are not confident the City is protecting their lives and property. The police, fire and inspections departments must work seamlessly together to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. I support providing the leadership and resources needed to perform these core functions at a very high level.

Good paying jobs must be created in areas that are sustainable in a global economy, generating a tax base that can fund the quality of life our citizens deserve. Creating good paying jobs requires consistent investment in community infrastructure, such as roads, water and sewer systems, and communication networks. Investing in quality of life issues such as parks, the arts and even swim centers are also important to compete in the global marketplace. We must follow through on planning efforts such as the High Point Road corridor study, the Aerotropolis plan, downtown revitalization, East Market Street redevelopment, and park land and open space initiatives. The City must work with our colleges and universities to insure they achieve their goals – and make the college experience so positive that Greensboro retains their graduates. We must finish our urban loop, continuing Greensboro's legacy as the "Gate City" of the Carolinas.

Most importantly, we must continue to work on regional initiatives to provide solutions to problems that we cannot solve alone. These include work force development and training, solid waste disposal, water supplies, and recruitment of industries.

**Did you know that churches and other faith communities can engage in nonpartisan voter registration and Get Out the Vote initiatives? Visit [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org) for information on permissible activities.**

### Ryan Shell, at-large candidate



**Age:** 30

**Website:** voteshell.com

**Occupation:** Marketer, Truiliant Federal Credit Union

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Member, Greensboro Board of Adjustments; president, Southside Homeowners Association; member, Southside Community Watch; founder, Greensboro Community Watch; blogger, GreensboroPolitics.com; participant, Adopt-a-Street; graduate, City Academy; Impact Greensboro

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing, UNCG

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

***My goal is to make Greensboro an even better place for you, your friends, your family and businesses to call home.***

The request was that candidates lay the groundwork on how the vision could be accomplished in 250 words or less. Given space limitations I will highlight a few items, but will not go in to great detail so that I do not shortchange myself or the reader.

What I will say is that I believe it is crucial for the council to:

- Become a more unified body
- Set and accomplish goals
- Work with the business community to ensure we are being as "business friendly" as possible
- Ensure that public safety and economic development are always a top priority
- Think "outside the box"
- Ensure that our local government is operating as efficiently as possible
- Become proactive planners

These are just a few things that can be done/focused on to ensure that we are on the path to making Greensboro an even better place for you, your friends, your family and businesses to call home.

### Danny Thompson, at-large candidate



**Age:** 47

**Website:** votefordanny.com

**Occupation:** Owns and operates Comfort Keeper, a home healthcare company

**Elective experience:** Served on student council at Asbury College

**Civic and volunteer experience:** President, Triad Retirement Living Association; board member, Summit Rotary Club; former member, Guilford County Commission on Aging; graduate, Leadership

Greensboro; loaned executive for United Way; ambassador for Greensboro Chamber of Commerce; Sunday school teacher, Friendly Hills Church; former administrative assistant for Gov. Jim Martin; deputy campaign manager for U.S. Sen. Jim Broyhill

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in psychology, Asbury College

#### Candidate's Vision Statement:

***Greensboro will lead North Carolina as the enterprise center for transportation, training and healthcare technology, making us effective, unifying and distinctive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.***

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the life of that great Greensboro resident, the Honorable John Motley Morehead, “the Father of Modern North Carolina.” It was Morehead who routed the rail lines through Greensboro, and shortly thereafter, brothers Moses and Caesar Cone picked Greensboro as the place for their textile business.

Today, Greensboro is poised to transform its tradition of textiles and tobacco into 21<sup>st</sup> Century trading enterprise by tapping into our under-utilized resources of transportation, job-training and healthcare technology. The proposed Piedmont Aerotropolis can help our City become the pre-eminent center for global logistics on the East Coast and literally transform our area’s economy. With the arrival of Fed Ex and HondaJet, our Piedmont Triad International Airport is just beginning to spread its wings. There is much work to do in collaborating with regional partners to recruit international distributors and manufacturers to Greensboro. It will require a concerted effort of public and private enterprise to outfit our city as a high-tech hub.

In realizing this vision, new, bold leadership must emerge that will explore financing options to pay for infrastructure needs, collaboration across city and county lines, and merging the Greensboro and Guilford County Planning Departments. Ultimately, we will succeed by consolidating all City and County government services as Louisville, KY and Indianapolis, IN did, which also serve as major air cargo hubs.

With more than 11 universities, colleges and technical schools in the surrounding area, we have the capacity to provide continuing education for an ever-changing, fast-paced technological work-force.

### **Nancy Barakat Vaughan, at-large candidate**



**Age:** 48

**Website:** None

**Occupation:** Community volunteer

**Elective experience:** Served two terms on Greensboro City Council from 1997 to 2001 before retiring

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Board member, Piedmont Triad Airport Authority; board member, Greensboro Beautiful; Junior League; Brownie leader; board member, Greensboro Day School; former board member, Greensboro Housing Development Partnership;

co-chaired domestic violence task force for two years

**Education:** Graduate, Roger Ludlowe High School, Fairfield, CT; attended Fairfield University for two years

#### **Candidate’s Vision Statement:**

***My goal is to improve the Quality of Life throughout Greensboro by planning for the future, attracting new jobs and focusing on public safety.***

As a resident of Greensboro, I am concerned with Economic Development and Public Safety. In June, the unemployment rate in Guilford County was 11.7%.

We must position ourselves to compete head-to-head with other North Carolina cities to attract new employers and retain existing businesses. True Economic Development is more than just attracting new employers; it is a long-term strategy to embrace change and to insure that all areas of our City will realize a tangible benefit. We will not be successful as a City if we neglect the needs of some of our neighborhoods.

Economic Development must have a positive impact in all areas of our community. We need to pursue Brownfield Grants to help clean up blighted and contaminated properties to make them attractive to the surrounding area and potential buyers. We need to pursue a regional solution to our long-term infrastructure needs, such as landfill and sewage treatment capacity.

People should expect to be safe in their neighborhoods and workplaces. We need to increase Community Policing and focus on building relationships that result in trust. I support the Chief’s plan of Firearms Crime Suppression Strategies. And, we must insure that the Police and Fire Departments have adequate personnel and the tools to effectively carry out their jobs.

## **A Special Thank You to YES! Weekly**

The Guilford County Unity Effort – as well as Democracy North Carolina which produced this Guide for the Unity Effort – would like to thank *YES! Weekly* for providing the photographs of candidates on many of these pages.

We also relied heavily on the biographical information collected by *YES! Weekly* for the opening section of each candidate’s profile.

Photographs of the following candidates are courtesy of *YES! Weekly*:

At Large candidates: Sandra Anderson-Groat, Max Benbassat, Jorge Cornell, Ryan Shell and Danny Thompson;

District 1 candidates: Diane Bellamy-Small, Charles Coffey, Luther Falls, Ben Holder, Jeramy Reid and Daron Sellars;

District 2 candidates: Dan Fischer, Gordon Hester and Jim Kee;

District 3 candidates: George Hartzman, Zack Matheny and Jay Ovittore;

District 4 candidates: Mike Martin, Joseph Rahenkamp and Mary Rakestraw;

District 5 candidates: Art Boyett and Trudy Wade.

*YES! Weekly* provides continuous in-depth coverage of the Greensboro city elections, the candidates, and related issues through its news stories and its blog, which is online at: [yesweeklyblog.blogspot.com](http://yesweeklyblog.blogspot.com). See its website for more features at [www.yesweekly.com](http://www.yesweekly.com).



# City Council Candidates for District 1: Vote for One Candidate

If you live in District 1, you may vote for one of these six candidates in the October primary. The two with the most votes will appear on the ballot for the November general election, and voters may then choose the one they prefer. Only voters who live in District 1 will see these names on their ballot.

## T. Dianne Bellamy-Small, District 1 candidate (Incumbent)



**Age:** 58

**Website:** bellamysmallforcouncil.com

**Occupation:** Trainer, Exceptional Children's Assistance Center

**Elective experience:** Currently serving third term on Greensboro City Council; candidate, Greensboro School Board; 24 years experience as an election official; president, NC Black Elected Municipal Officials

**Civic and volunteer experience:** NC state youth advisor, NAACP; Guilford County Coalition on Infant Mortality, Baby Basics program; Greensboro Historical Museum, Real McCoy exhibit; Greensboro Public Schools, School Safety Task Force; Negro League Baseball Recognition, Greensboro Red Wings; Mayor's Task Force on Drugs; Greensboro Education and Development Council Community Advisory Board; class leader, Challenge Greensboro; Friends of Vance Chavis Lifelong Learning Center; member, St. James Presbyterian Church

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in music/English, UNC-Chapel Hill; post-graduate studies at UNCG and Duke

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

***It is my desire that everyone in District 1 feels empowered to lead and make Greensboro the best place to live, work and play for all of its citizens.***

My platform is serious, but simple:

- Support diverse economic development to keep and bring jobs with livable wages.
- Provide leadership for economic and resource parity in East Greensboro.
- Create program structures for youth, seniors and the disadvantage.
- Provide fair and balanced leadership to the City of Greensboro.

## Charles Dayton Coffey, District 1 candidate



**Age:** 54

**Website:** None

**Occupation:** Plant machinist, Industries of the Blind; developer, Coffey of GSO LLC

**Elective experience:** Candidate for City Council in 2005 and 2007

**Civic and volunteer experience:** President, Lee Street Merchants Association; member, Central Corridor Gateway Committee, member Oak Grove Community

Advisory Panel; member, Greensboro Neighborhood Congress; board member, Heritage House Home Owners Association; member, Randleman Road Business Association

**Education:** Associate degree in police science, GTCC

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

***First, focus on economic growth and the creation of jobs in District 1. Second, end the controversy in the Police Department.***

By keeping property taxes, sales taxes, and business regulations and fees low, we can encourage economic growth and business development. This is an important aspect of economic development and the creation of jobs. Sound and reliable infrastructure services which include effective police and fire departments, trash collection, a road system that is kept in good repair with sidewalks, and a good water and sewer system. Affordable housing and reliable public transportation is a must for a reliable work force. Clean water and an efficient sewer system, roads, transportation is essential in getting sites readied for business investment. I wish to bring these things to District 1. If these steps are taken we will see business parks, retail development and small businesses in our district leading to job creation and badly needed retail options.

Building a strong and reliable Police Department is also critical to business development. As President of the Lee Street Merchants Association, I have found our police officers to be professional and hard working. My acquaintance with the active and retired men and women of our Police Department has given me great respect for the job they do. I will work to bring the controversy to a close. This is important because any investors will definitely look at the Police Department as well as infrastructure when considering relocating and/or building.

## Luther T. Falls Jr., District 1 candidate



**Age:** 55

**Website:** Facebook

**Occupation:** Life and health insurance agent, Western-Southern Life Assurance Co.

**Previous elective experience:** Candidate for City Council in 2005 and 2007

**Civic volunteer experience:** Secretary and marketing director, Watchful Network Inc.; Wiley Community Panel; founding member, St. Stephen United Church of Christ;

secretary of board of trustees and assistant superintendent of Sunday School, St. Stephen United Church of Christ; past chairman, Greensboro Community Resource Board; founder, Triad Youth Jazz Society; Alpha Phi Fraternity

**Education:** Master's degree in marketing and international business, Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

Greensboro is a very diverse and exciting city. I have been very fortunate to grow up and return to live here. Greensboro has a great deal of potential to develop much more, and changes in the next few years will determine whether that potential is realized.

I would like to help Greensboro become a major economic hub for North Carolina, the southeast and the nation. We can accomplish this goal by supporting and nurturing our small businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as medium and large corporations. Small businesses employ the most people, and we must help them be successful by providing capital, training, and development resources. We must utilize our existing programs much better and consider expanding them when the funds are available. This approach must be included with our continuous search for large corporations that want to do business here. The high-quality workforce, real estate, and quality of life make our city very attractive for business.

All citizens want to have a nice, safe place to live. I am committed to helping all communities, especially District 1, reduce crime and build community. The

best way to accomplish this goal is to make sure all citizens realize that they can help make a difference in their neighborhoods. In addition to neighborhood watch programs, residents must know each other and work together to help prevent crime. In this way, everyone does their part to maintain safety. Whenever a situation does occur, the citizens must contact the Police Department to provide quick response to address the matter. Anyone with information must be willing to provide that to the necessary authorities.

## Ben Holder, District 1 candidate

Age: 39



**Website:** [thetroublemaker.blogspot.com](http://thetroublemaker.blogspot.com)

**Occupation:** Property supervisor

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Has gotten municipal ordinances changed, advanced transparency, gotten massage parlors shut down, instigated the city to create the SCORE program, launched human trafficking awareness project

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in communications with concentration in journalism at Salem College in

Winston-Salem

## Jeremy Reid, District 1 candidate



Age: 33

**Website:** None

**Occupation:** Chef, Heritage Greens Retirement Community

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** None

**Education:** Graduate, Garner Senior High School; coursework in GTCC's culinary program and at UNCG

## Candidate's Vision Statement:

My goals as a council member is to help bring to Greensboro a level of financial responsibility and transparency, an open and respectful level of debate, as well as a focus on police-community involvement and mutual respect.

I will thoroughly review all budgetary issues and expenditures and request cooperation with city officials to enforce more controlled and responsible spending. I will focus on a long term and financially viable alternative to our current wasteful landfill problem.

Our current council often shows a total lack of respect and decorum during council meetings that is both an embarrassment to themselves as well as the city as a whole. I will try to work with other council members in a respectful way to achieve my vision while understanding that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and that resorting to raised voices and name calling is both uncalled for and ridiculous behavior by elected officials.

I will work with the police chief to push for a more community-based approach to our higher crime areas where police officers get out into the community and "walk the beat" to get to know those they serve and protect and rebuild the trust and cooperation with the residents in those areas.

## Daron R. Sellars, District 1 candidate



Age: 35

**Website:** [Daronrsellars.com](http://Daronrsellars.com)

**Occupation:** Wingstop restaurant franchise; owner, Modus Multimedia (Black Pages); Triad Nexus

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Former member, Greensboro Planning Board; cofounder, 100 Black Men of the Triad; former board member, United Way of Greensboro; gubernatorial appointee to NC

Tobacco Trust Fund; member, NC Black Chamber of Commerce; Democratic Party delegate for Guilford County, 2008; member, NC Democratic Party Appropriations Subcommittee; Mel Watt for Congress campaign; Obama campaign

**Education:** Graduate, North Gwinnett High School, Suwanee, Georgia

## First time voter? Here's what to expect when you go to vote:

When you go to vote for the first time, bring identification with you when you go, just in case, and make sure it has your residence address on it. The best thing to bring is a driver's license and the voter card you received in the mail after you registered to vote.

Elections officials expect questions from new voters, so speak up if you need help! If you think you'll need more time than usual, the best place to vote is at an Early Voting site, because they can handle more problems, more quickly.

You will need to check in at a table before you vote. Give the pollworker your name and address and he or she will take care of the rest.

If your name is not listed and you are sure you are registered to vote, ask for a "Provisional Ballot" and you will be given one by law.

If you live in a county with paper ballots, you will be given a pen and a ballot and sent to a private booth to fill in the ovals next to the candidates you want to vote for. After you fill out your ballot, you will be asked to feed it into a scanning machine. Don't be shy about asking for help!

Greensboro has touch screen voting, so you will be directed to a voting machine that looks a lot like an ATM computer. Just follow the directions on the screen and feel free to ask for help.

One final piece of advice: Make sure you know your voting rights before you go to vote! See the back cover for a complete listing.

**Habla Espanol? No hay problema, cada centro de votacion en Carolina del Norte ofrece instrucciones en espanol de como llenar la cartilla de votacion. Solo pregunte por una de ellas si la necesita.**



**In a hurry? Here are the least busy times to vote: on a weekday during Early Voting, in mid-morning or early afternoon, or in mid-morning or early afternoon on election day.**

# City Council Candidates for District 2: Vote for One Candidate

If you live in District 2, you may vote for one of these four candidates in the October Primary. The two with the most votes will appear on the ballot for the November General Election, and voters may then choose the one they prefer. Only voters who live in District 2 will see these names on their ballot.

## Nettie Lewis Coad, District 2 candidate



**Age:** 73

**Website:** [vote4nettie.com](http://vote4nettie.com)

**Occupation:** Executive director of the Partnership Project

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Chair, Greensboro Redevelopment Commission; Greensboro Health Disparities Collaboration; member, Greensboro Neighborhood Congress; former Boy Scout leader; former board member, Moses Cone Health System; former

president, Ole Asheboro Neighborhood Association

**Education:** Graduate, Dudley High School; management supervision coursework, GTCC; organizing instruction, Marin Institute

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**To continue to be receptive to citizens' ideas; hold staff accountable, promote equal committee representation; support positive business growth and investigate resources to end homelessness.**

I plan to commit my strengths as a longtime community leader, organizer and activist to create an environment of collaboration and mutual respect among citizens, businesses and nonprofits. I will work with the Council and appropriate staff to ensure clear communication and direction is coupled with high productivity and efficiency.

I will strive to seek the trust and confidence of our citizens by ensuring that local government is transparent and information is accessible to everyone. I will continue to attack the hard issues and make the tough choices. I will explore new pathways and solutions by involving the community in the planning, implementation and monitoring of initiatives to achieve a sustainable future.

I will work with the Council to provide an atmosphere that is inclusive to our city's diverse population, viewpoints, interests and creative ideas. I will encourage our Council to share all concerns and issues so that the problems that we face can be studied and corrected and cease to hold us back.

I will recognize the worth of all jobs and will work to expand opportunities for positive business and industry growth. I will diligently seek to identify and support projects that will ripple out and have multiple benefits throughout the city.

I will continue my support for neighborhood development efforts that focus on safety, sound housing and appropriate enforcement. I believe these efforts will empower the community to regain its political voice and receive equal access to all services.

## Dan Fischer, District 2 candidate



**Age:** 48

**Website:** Facebook

**Occupation:** Americorps Access member

**Elective experience:** Senior vice president, Association of Student Governments, University of North Carolina system

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Helping refugees; retired Navy Hospital Corpsman; graduate of NC Institute of Political Leadership

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in history, UNCG

## Gordon M. Hester, District 2 candidate



**Age:** 56

**Website:** None

**Occupation:** Coordinating counselor, unspecified government grant program; assistant pastor, True Worship Missionary Baptist Church

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Treasurer, NC Council for Education Opportunity; Sergeant First Class, Army Reserve; Special Olympics; United Negro College Fund; Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity; Masons; volunteer for Obama campaign

**Education:** Master's in public administration, Central Michigan University

## Jim Kee, District 2 candidate



**Age:** 51

**Website:** [www.votejimkee.com](http://www.votejimkee.com)

**Occupation:** Owner, Kee Development Corp.

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic volunteer experience:** Member, Mayor's Steering Committee; board member, Greensboro Historical Museum; co-chair, Concerned Citizens of Northeast Greensboro; previously served on Board of Adjustments and chair of the Firemen's Relief Fund

**Education:** Bachelor's in economics, NC A&T University

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**To motivate and empower ourselves and to foster outreach to and collaboration with others in order to facilitate economic development, public safety, and environmental responsibility.**

Greensboro can flourish even more if we reinvest in ourselves and the fundamental needs of all the residents in this community. The Kee Campaign believes that insuring economic development in District 2 means expanding the reach of Greensboro's Economic Development Office, sponsoring an Economic Summit to aid in the creation of a comprehensive economic development plan, and keeping various businesses stable, be it commercial development in Reedy Fork, or mixed use development along the East Market, Phillips, Yanceyville, Cone, Old Asheboro Corridors or the Nussbaum Center in District 2.

A larger strategy includes support for business start-ups and the expansion of already existing businesses, upgrades to the District's infrastructure, workforce development and the provision of amenities and services that residents of Greensboro both want and need.

Residents across our City will partake in the planning and implementation of promoting and fostering collaborations through various boards established on economic development, public safety and environmental responsibility. Such boards will be comprised of residents representing each neighborhood in District 2, hence motivating and empowering our citizens. Outcomes from these various boards will be shared with City Council, County Commissioners, and other City officials, facilitating the necessary changes and improvements for our City of Greensboro.

The Kee Campaign believes that District 2 should be in partnership with the city, the county, local law enforcement, and various community organizations to maintain a positive quality of life for all our residents.

# City Council Candidates for District 3: Vote for One Candidate

*If you live in District 3, you may vote for one of these three candidates in the October primary. The two with the most votes will appear on the ballot for the November general election, and voters may then choose the one they prefer. Only voters in District 3 will see these names on their ballot.*

## George Hartzman, District 3 candidate



**Age:** 42

**Website:** questionsforgreensboro.com

**Occupation:** Vice president for investments, Wells Fargo Advisors; president, Think Professional Education; teaches financial ethics, economics and life strategies to certified public accountants

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Recreational softball coach

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in science and philosophy, Frostburg State University, Maryland

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**George Hartzman, a financial advisor and author who teaches business, financial and political ethics and CPA continuing education, is not accepting donations or endorsements from lobbyists, special interests or political action committees (PACs).**

As a Greensboro City Councilman, I would like Greensboro to become a thriving city, where our kids will want to live when they grow up, by not spending more than we make on what we don't need.

I will work to pass "Pay to Play" ethics rules that prohibit candidates and elected officials from accepting campaign contributions from those with conflicts of interests, including leading members of organizations receiving taxpayer money, and/or developers, contractors or their lawyers or agents, for 12 months before and after doing business with Greensboro and Guilford County's governments.

When municipalities borrow and spend money, the community enjoys the immediate economic benefits. The problem is, when we spend money in the short-term, by borrowing for the long-term, we are indirectly taxing the future income of our children, which I believe to be taxation without representation. It's not like when borrowers die, and lenders forgive their debt. Greensboro's not-eligible-to-vote – our children – will have to repay principle and interest on huge sums of debt, after the economic benefits of spending has passed.

I believe that if the Southern Urban Loop is more noisy than advertised, the northern section should be redesigned, rerouted or cancelled.

## Zack Matheny, District 3 candidate (Incumbent)



**Age:** 36

**Website:** MathenyforCouncil.com

**Occupation:** Investor relations, Bell Partners

**Elective experience:** Elected to represent District 3 in 2007

**Civic and volunteer experience:** 40 Leaders Under Forty Award, 2005; advisory board member, UNCG Business Administration; fundraising chair, Greensboro Bicentennial; financial teaching instructor, GTCC; executive committee member, Chrysler Classic of Greensboro; loaned executive, Greensboro United

Way; Chamber Operating Group and Member Services Council, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce; co-chair, Civil Rights Museum Golf Tournament Organizing Committee; member, Greensboro Sports Council; Future Fund

Steering Committee member, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro; member, K for Kids; Can't Wait for the Ballpark committee chair, Action Greensboro; board member, Greensboro Opera; board member, Master Plan Oversight Committee; Big Brothers, Big Sisters; 2005 Vanguard fundraising chair, United Arts Council; former zoning commission member

**Education:** Bachelor's degree, NC State University

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

The vision for Greensboro is job creation and collaboration.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** I was an integral part in maintaining a "no tax increase" for two budget cycles. We were able to achieve this with little impact to city services expected and deserved by Greensboro citizens.

**Economic Development:** I have taken steps to make our city government and its processes more receptive to the needs of existing businesses. In a time where many existing jobs are being reduced, we have to continue to push for new jobs and preserve the ones we have.

**Transparency and Communication:** When campaigning, I promised to keep the lines of communication open. To achieve this I have hosted many neighborhood meetings, as well as, attended community meetings throughout District 3 and our city. In attempt to have transparency and hold Council members accountable for our comments and practices, I made a motion that was largely passed to tape record closed sessions.

In these historic economic times, leadership is more important than ever. Being your City Council representative has been the toughest and most rewarding public service job I have had the pleasure to accept. My enthusiasm for our city has never been greater. At this time, I ask for your continued support and advice.

## Jay Ovittore, District 3 candidate



**Age:** 36

**Website:** Facebook

**Occupation:** Self-employed house painter and contractor

**Elective experience:** Previously elected vice-chair of Guilford County Democratic Party and president of Guilford County Young Democrats; unsuccessful candidate for US Congress in District 6 (Howard Coble's seat), 2008

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Member, Greensboro Human Relations Commission; chair of the Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee; member, Truth and Reconciliation subcommittee; contributing editor and NC issues coordinator, Stopthecap.com

**Education:** Graduate, Paramus High School, NJ

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**Identify what jobs we want to attract, have a government that will be available to its citizens and repair trust in our police department.**

I believe that our city is still struggling with our identity. We still consider ourselves a mill town, but the mills don't feed us anymore. Before we can attract new businesses we must identify what we want to attract. Once we identify what we want to be, we must take action to lure these businesses to come here.

I don't believe in unconditional economic incentives for large companies. If

the taxpayer is not getting bang for their buck, then it is not worth it. I don't agree with incentives for large companies but I do support incentives for local small businesses. I will be a vocal representative for small businesses, which stimulate our local economy and create the environment for small businesses to grow into larger employers.

In a real effort to be accessible, I will hold constituent hours. I will be there for you at least 3 days a week, 4 hours a day. I will expand this if needed. I hope

to inspire other members of council to do the same.

What I am hearing from residents in neighborhoods in District 3 and around the city is that home and car break-ins are on the rise and have been for a while. I will request that the GPD start nighttime neighborhood patrols. The simple act of having the neighborhood officer drive through during the hours these crimes are occurring can deter future break-ins and help to protect your private property. Let's make home a safe place to be.

## City Council Candidates for District 4: Vote for One Candidate

*If you live in District 4, you may vote for one of these four candidates in the October primary. The two with the most votes will appear on the ballot for the November general election, and voters may then choose the one they prefer. Only voters who live in District 4 will see these names on their ballot.*

### Joel Landau, District 4 candidate



**Age:** 59

**Website:** joellandau.com

**Occupation:** General manager, Deep Roots Market

**Elective experience:** Candidate for City Council in 2005 and 2007

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Co-chair, Greensboro Community Sustainability Council, executive committee, Greensboro Neighborhood Congress; member, Greensboro Planning Board; member, Cool Cities Greensboro chapter; Impact Greensboro. Formerly

served as board member of Brandywine Homeowners Association, Resources for Artful Living, Appalantic Federation of Cooperatives, Citizens for Waste Reduction and Recycling, and Deep Roots Cooperative

**Education:** Bachelor's degree, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

My vision of Greensboro is a city where people care about, respect and look out for one another. A city of fairness, where resources and opportunity are available to all. A city that is prosperous and a safe, healthy place to live. A city where local government actively engages and listens to the community.

One person can not change the way a city operates, it takes many people working together. I have worked in the Cooperative sector much of my career, and have a history of working well with others to get things done for the common good. I've shown myself over the years to be dependable, to come prepared, and to be a creative problem solver. I will engage the community, listening to their concerns and input, and solicit their involvement. I have no ties to private industry groups, just a desire to serve the Greensboro community.

For a list of specific programs, and past accomplishments, please visit my website: [www.JoelLandau.com](http://www.JoelLandau.com).

### William (Mike) Martin, District 4 candidate



**Age:** 64

**Website:** Facebook

**Occupation:** Retired, Guilford Mills; consultant for a polyurethane foam company

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Counselor to Church of Latter Day Saints bishop for five years on welfare issues; served in Army and Navy Reserve for nine years

**Education:** Graduate, Amos Alonzo Stagg High School; coursework at UNCG and GTCC

### Candidate's Vision Statement:

**To be actively involved in the creation of an effective City Council, ensuring stability and balance for the City of Greensboro. My goals are:**

- To be an effective steward of city tax dollars.
- To establish a system of accountability that allows City Council to monitor exactly how specific organizations are spending appropriated money.
- Promote an environment that invites potential new companies and businesses to locate in Greensboro. Inform current small businesses of local support and provide information about agencies that will assist them in sustaining and growing their business. This will enable Greensboro to reduce the City's individual tax rate (currently, Greensboro has the highest property tax rate among the top 10 cities in North Carolina, by population).
- Better utilize the White St. Landfill by eliminating the cost of transportation and processing of waste in Montgomery County (\$9,000,000-plus annually).
- Create a profit center using the methane gas produced at our local landfill, thus assisting in the reduction of individual property tax rate.
- Thoroughly inform students from the local universities and colleges about the advantages of staying in Greensboro and creating new businesses or working with local, established corporations.
- Establish an effective, user-friendly system for informing citizens of meetings that impact their lives, such as re-zoning or the appropriation of city tax dollars.

### Joseph W. Rahenkamp Sr., District 4 candidate



**Age:** 74

**Website:** None

**Occupation:** Retired Greensboro firefighter, licensed real-estate broker

**Elective experience:** Candidate for City Council in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007; candidate for Guilford County Commission in 2004 and 2008

**Civic and volunteer experience:** None

**Education:** Graduate, People's Bible School (high school), Greensboro

**Primary Election = Oct. 6th**  
**General Election = Nov. 3rd**

## Mary C. Rakestraw, District 4 candidate



**Age:** 61

**Website:** maryrakestraw.com

**Occupation:** Retired real estate agent

**Elective experience:** Serving first term on city council, at-large; served two terms on the Guilford County Commission, 1996-2004

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Currently serves as city liaison to the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments; member, Friends of the Library Advocacy Committee;

member, Guilford County Agricultural Advisory Board; board member, Summit House; board member, Greensboro Red Cross; member, NC Association of County Boards of Social Services State Board; member, Courtwatch Advisory Board; Sunday school teacher, First Baptist Church; board member, Housing Partnership Coalition; member, Kiwanis Club of Greensboro; Paul Harris Fellow, Crescent Rotary Club; Leadership Greensboro; Other Voices; adopted a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Cone Elementary

**Education:** Certificate in French, University of Brussels

## Candidate's Vision Statement:

**Greensboro will become the city of ideas that will make Greensboro the place where people will want to live, work, and play.**

The role of the government is to deliver excellence in basic services such as police and fire protection, street maintenance, sanitation, and water at an affordable cost.

The vision will include the citizens of Greensboro perhaps through a survey of the top three issues or ideas that each district feels important not only to their district but also that will enhance the viability of Greensboro. Through this effort we can learn to work together as a community. We should look not only to city paid staff but to our colleges and universities, foundations, and businesses big and small to help with these ideas.

It should be recognized that each of the five districts may have differing issues which must be woven together in a common fabric.

**Busy Schedule? Vote Early!**

## City Council Candidates for District 5: Vote for One Candidate

*If you live in District 5, you may vote for one of these two candidates in the November general election. Because there are only two candidates, no primary is needed for this office and the candidates for District 5 will not appear on the October 6 Primary Election ballot. They will be on the November General Election ballot.*

## Arthur (Art) Boyett, District 5 candidate



**Age:** 67

**Website:** boyettforcitycouncil.com

**Occupation:** Retired accounting professor, Guilford College

**Elective experience:** None

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Community theater

**Education:** Doctorate in accounting, Texas Tech

## Candidate's Vision Statement:

**Greensboro must serve and protect citizens with well-planned, effective, efficient, open, responsive programs to meet their needs, being accountable for outcomes and resources used.**

Public safety is the primary concern of all city residents. We must make sure that the police and fire departments do a good job of protecting our citizens and also enjoy the trust and cooperation of those citizens. I will work to make all records of past investigations of these departments open to public scrutiny. I will also work to make sure that recommendations for change to make the departments more accountable to the public are implemented.

Good planning is essential for all programs and activities, including financial budgeting, zoning, annexation, and passing new ordinances. Zoning changes and annexations should be approved only after all potential impacts are identified, considered and taken care of.

Effective programs achieve their planned objectives. Programs must be evaluated regularly to determine whether they are making progress toward stated objectives. If not, they must be scrapped. I propose "Zero-Base" reviews of all programs to help accomplish this.

Efficient programs are cost-effective; that is, they cost no more than the benefits. I support performance of periodic budget-to-actual cost analysis and program audits of departments to compare their cost with benchmarks from comparable cities.

City Council members are the representatives of the citizens. I will listen to what the public wants and needs from city government and I will act in your best interest.

Good government is open government. I will make sure that all information about city activities is available, so that citizens can determine whether their government is performing as they want it to.

## Trudy Wade, District 5 candidate (Incumbent)



**Age:** 58

**Website:** trudywade.com

**Occupation:** Principal and owner, Jamestown Veterinary Hospital

**Elective experience:** Serving first term on Greensboro City Council; served on Guilford County Commission, 2000-2005

**Civic and volunteer experience:** Member, American and NC Veterinary Medical Associations; Veterinarian of the Year award, Guilford County Animal Shelter; Outstanding Board of Health Award, Association of NC Boards of Health; past president, American Business Women's Association; past director, Association of NC Boards of Health; former member, Friends Home Board of Advisors; former member, Greater Greensboro Community Health Partnership; member, Greensboro College Board of Visitors; former member, Greensboro Red Cross Board; past chair, Greensboro Board of Health; past chair, Guilford County Board of Social Services; member, Guilford County Economic Development Council; member, Moses Cone/Wesley Long Community Health Foundation; Women's Hospital of Greensboro Educational Advisory Board; NC A&T University Federally Funded College Student Training Program

**Education:** Doctorate in veterinary medicine, Tuskegee Institute, 1980; bachelor of science in biology, Greensboro College, 1975.

# The NC Voter Bill of Rights

If anyone tries to deny you these rights when you vote, call Democracy North Carolina at 1-888-OUR-VOTE or 919-286-6000:

- 1. HOURS...** Each polling place is open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM on Election Day. If you are in line or inside the polling place by 7:30 PM, you must be allowed to vote.
- 2. IDENTIFICATION...** In general, you do not have to show identification to poll workers when you vote. However, if you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail or who gave the form to another person to deliver, ID may be required. It makes sense to take a form of ID: a current NC driver's license or one of these documents with your name and current address: utility bill (electric, gas, phone, water, cable bill), pay-stub/W-2, bank statement, or a license, permit or other document from any government agency.
- 3. PROVISIONAL BALLOT...** If any problem arises, you have a right to vote with a Provisional Ballot. Ask for a Provisional Ballot if you believe you registered but your name is not on the rolls; or if you question the voting district (or ballot) assigned to you; or if you are told you're in the wrong precinct. You must also be given a way to find out if your Provisional Ballot counted, and if not, the reason why it did not count.
- 4. IF YOU MOVE...** If you have lived in your new home more than 30 days, you have the right to vote in your current precinct. If you have lived there less than 30 days, you should vote in your old precinct or cast a provisional ballot in your current precinct. If you have moved within your precinct, you have the right to update your information at the polls and vote.
- 5. NAME CHANGE...** If your name has changed, you have the right to vote, even if you have not reported your name change to election officials.
- 6. SPOILED BALLOT...** If you make a mistake and "spoil" your ballot, you have a right to a new ballot.
- 7. ASSISTANCE...** You have the right to assistance from a family member or, if you have a disability, from any person of your choice, except your employer or union agent. You can also receive ballot instructions in Spanish.
- 8. CURBSIDE...** If the polling place is inaccessible to you due to a disability, you have a right to vote at the curb, in the vehicle you came in, or at the door of the polling place. (See "**For Voters with Disabilities**" below left.)
- 9. EX-FELONS & MISDEMEANANTS...** You have a right to vote if you are in jail for a misdemeanor or if you are an ex-felon who has completed your sentence (including probation) and re-registered to vote.
- 10. INTIMIDATION...** You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote for anyone you don't wish to vote for.

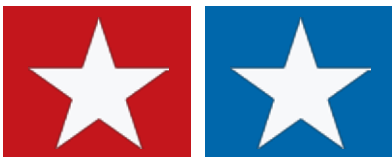
You also have the right to take this Bill of Rights into the voting booth with you.

## For Voters with Disabilities:



Sometimes access to your regular polling place can be difficult. If so, you may want to use Early Voting instead, since all Early Voting sites must be completely accessible. But if you prefer to vote on Election Day, you can vote from the curb without leaving your car. Polling places have a special spot for curbside voting near the front entrance. Simply pull up and wait and a poll worker will come out to assist you. (Usually, voters entering the polls will alert the poll worker that a car is waiting.) Before you go to vote, you may also want to check the accessibility of the polling place by calling the local Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections at 1-866-522-4723. You have the right to request another permanent polling place before the election if yours is inaccessible. Remember, if you go to your polling place and find it is inaccessible, you can vote at any other polling place in the county by asking for a Provisional Ballot.

For more information on disability rights in NC, call Disability Rights North Carolina at 1-877-235-4210 (voice) or 1-888-268-5535 (TTY). Or visit their website at [www.disabilityrightsn.org](http://www.disabilityrightsn.org).



This voter guide is brought to you by  
the Guilford County Unity Effort.

