

Homeowners CoalitionSM

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Post Road Committee
For Proper
Development

CANDIDATE PLEDGES, RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES, GOP QUESTIONS

1. Action Pledges from BOC Candidates

The Homeowners Coalition and many Forsyth citizens are aware that a 2015 survey indicated that 74% of citizens participating believed the county was **heading in the wrong direction**. The Coalition believes the simplest approach to **change the direction is intelligent residential growth, high quality standards of development, and vibrant, high paying commercial development.**

Hence, the Homeowners Coalition on April 5 asked the 2016 candidates for the Board of Commissioners in Forsyth County to allow voters to understand their position on changing to a more desirable direction by the county. The six (6) candidates were asked to comment on ten (10) critical action pledges compiled by coalition leaders to move the county towards the desirable direction accented above.

The Candidates were provided a table to indicate their agreement or disagreement with each pledge. Proof of delivery was built into the requests including a certified letter to the incumbent candidate. It was noted that a non-response would be reported to the citizens as: **“apparently unwilling to share his/her views with the citizens and be compared to other candidates”**.

Responses were received from 5 candidates; all in 100% agreement with the Homeowners Coalition actions to turn the county’s direction around! The table at the end of this document shows the pledges and candidates’ choices.

Cindy Mills did not reply. In a related newspaper article, she implied there were legal reasons with one issue and **concluded not to share her positions with the public and voters**. It is clear from her voting record; she would have a difficult time agreeing with most of the 10 Coalition action pledges!

2A. Recommended BOC Candidates

The 5 candidates who returned the pledge documents all supported the pledge actions 100%. Our thanks to them!

The Homeowners Coalition is endorsing three candidates, **Laura Semanson D-5, Rick Swope D-2, and Kelli Warren D-4** and has designated these three as **Homeowner Choice** due to additional factors including past contributions and efforts to enhance the county, prior professional experience, and amount and quality of homeowner contacts in Forsyth County.

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It is gratifying that the other two candidates, Justin Hawkins and Chandon Adams, endorsed the pledges and it is hoped that they will continue their goals of serving the county for its further enhancement.

The Forsyth Herald has written an article on this effort that can be accessed at <http://www.forsythherald.com/stories/Homeowners-Coalition-shines-light-on-politicians,91564>. The Coalition is finding that the Forsyth Herald is increasingly reporting real facts about Forsyth County (versus just “feel good” stories) - - - it is a good resource for citizens who wish to become more informed.

2B. Recommended Other Candidates

(in addition to Laura Semanson, Rick Swope, and Kelli Warren)

Homeowner Oriented Officials to re-elect

Rep. Sheri Gilligan

Rep. Wes Cantrell

Rep. Geoff Duncan

For Sheriff:

Ron Freeman

For State House:

Todd Jones

For Board of Education D-3

Steve Mashburn

3. GOP Questions (number 2 & 3 impact how county is run!)

1 ***Your Choice*** - - - - changing has many potential pro's & cons.

2 ***When electing a Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, should voters from the entire county vote on the office or only voters from the commissioners district?***

Please Vote “County Wide” - - - - Cindy J Mills wouldn't have a chance in the May 24 primary as county-wide district citizens where CJM has hurt so many neighborhoods would say: ***“you made \$\$\$ on the harmful real estate/zoning deals , it's time to pay the piper” (Not Duane!!)***

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3 *Should the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners be changed to have four county commissioners elected by their respective districts and a fifth commissioner elected by the county who will serve as the county chairman?*

Please vote "No". The # 2 initiative, county-wide voting for all Commissioners makes each Commissioner responsible to all citizens. No Commission member should be able to hide behind district voting!

#4 *When electing a member of the Forsyth County Board of Education, should voters from the entire county vote on the office or only voters from the members of the Board of Education district?*

Please vote "County Wide." Each BOE member votes on policy for the ENTIRE County. Thus, the ENTIRE County should vote each BOE member? **Same exact situation as the BOC members!**

The Forsyth Citizens for Responsible Growth is pleased to provide this information contributed by a number of Homeowners Coalition leaders. We all believe that a fully informed local citizenry will make Forsyth the best place to live and work!

Thank you.

Tony DeMaria, Lee Cohn, & Bill Gunby

Web site: www.ForsythCRG.org or email: HomeownersCoalition@ForsythCRG.org

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Results of the Action Pledges

	Pledge Percent Agreement	Laura Semanson 100%	Rick Swope 100%	Kelli Warren 100%	Chandon Adams 100%	Cindy Mills Apparently chose not to allow voters to know her positions	Justin Hawkins 100%
1	Require 100% impact fees for new homes, Stop existing citizen subsidies of developers.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
2	Require adequate schools, roads, etc. before zoning or building permits.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
3	Create new Land Use Plan; return to higher quality, <u>less density</u> , balanced growth, & agreement to never exceed Plan's density/intensity.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
4	Preserve McFarland, 141, Ronald Reagan, etc for new upscale technical and regional offices & quality job opportunities, cease all residential development (adopt a county policy of quality jobs not apartments)	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
5	Exclude flood plain and required buffers to set residential units, change UDC to better protect water supply.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
6	Stop clear cutting Forsyth's trees, particularly specimen trees, adopt a green policy.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
7	Improve Sheriff's Office: Return to National Accreditation program, Patrol Deputies back to South Precinct, stop wasteful spending on exorbitant vehicles/boats.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
8	Require a transparency of all persons in rezoning applications	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
9	Stop rise of higher taxes in Forsyth including bonds which support growth.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree
10	Ask Forsyth state legislators to require EDP water allocations to equal our Forsyth's population needs/ratio versus the city's.	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	No reply	Agree