

ABCPOA Candidate Questionnaire 2020
County Commissioner
District 3:
Patricia L. Sykes

Please complete the following questionnaire and return it not later than September 25, 2020
Please limit responses to 200 words

Question 1.

Please define the one clear change that you wish to accomplish and how you intend to build support for this change during your tenure in office if elected”?

Response 1.

One item that needs to be accomplished is to help pave the way for low income housing so small business owners will have workers that can afford to live here. Brunswick County has initiated a Comprehensive Plan to work toward this goal. In November citizens will be able to provide input on the Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Recreation Master Plan on the website at www.BlueprintBrunswick2040.com. The main thing is to work as a team to build our county to be the best by providing safe quality drinking water, establishing and maintaining the sewer capacity needed to accommodate our growth, keeping taxes low, continue with pay-as-you-go on non-required projects, working with economic development to attract jobs and providing a safe community for our citizens.

Question 2.

What is your opinion of the actions that are being taken by DEQ to stop PFAS releases into the Cape Fear River? What additional steps do you think should be pursued to ensure downstream residents can be confident of their drinking water quality?

Response 2.

I support the actions DEQ has taken to stop PFAS and I support any additional requirements. DEQ needs to update their list of contaminants, be proactive in reducing the pollution of our Cape Fear River and in contacting the utilities that are using the Cape Fear River as soon as possible. In addition, Brunswick County has taken action to add a Low-Pressure Reverse Osmosis treatment system to our Northwest Water Treatment Plant and that expansion is currently under construction. Research indicates that the LPRO treatment is effective in bringing most known contaminants to a non-detectable level. In the fall of 2017, Brunswick County hired Baron & Budd to file suit against Chemours and DuPont to hold accountable those who are now or have previously discharged chemicals into the water supply.

Question3

Brunswick County has a number of industrially zoned sites (adjacent to US 74/46, Cape Fear Regional Airport, Port Authority property north of Southport). What do you propose as a means of marketing these sites for development?

Response 3.

Brunswick County partners with Brunswick Business & Industry Development (Brunswick BID) to market these sites. The Brunswick County Chair and Vice-Chair serve as ex-officio members to the Brunswick Business & Industry Development Advisory Board while Brunswick BID actively works with the N.C. Department of Commerce, EDPNC, North Carolina's Southeast, the N.C. State Ports and other economic development partners to promote all of our industrial sites. Commissioners are updated with information and necessary action. Over the past two years we have seen a steady stream of interest in our sites, and there have been several visits this year at our sites. In addition to networking with consultants and other lead sources. Brunswick BID is in the early stages of developing a marketing campaign to build awareness of Brunswick County and what we have to offer. Finally, a developer has agreed to build a spec building on one of the sites, and this will provide us a stronger product to show to potential industrial clients.

Question 4.

The extension of the Carolina Bays Parkway can be either a boon or a blight to Brunswick County depending on how it is routed. Please share your thoughts on the route(s) which you believe will be the least intrusive and the most advantageous to future economic development.

Response 4

I support the concept of the Carolina Bays Parkway, provided that the selected route does not unnecessarily and adversely affect Brunswick County businesses and residential areas on a large scale. Commissioner Thompson and I met with North Carolina Department of Transportation and requested that they provide us an alternate route that was less intrusive. I support proposed routes 1A and 4A. However, the state committee will be determining the final 2 or 3 routes then they will be presented to us to make the final decision in conjunction with public input.

Question 5

Over the years neighborhoods and communities have been developed with no provision for roads to be maintained nor dedication to local, county, or state authority leading to situations where public health and safety are jeopardized. What do you propose as a way to remediate this situation?

Response 5.

In North Carolina, counties do not own or maintain roads. Under State law, county governments in North Carolina are not involved in road maintenance and construction. The North Carolina

Department of Transportation owns and maintains many of the roads in Brunswick County; others are maintained by a municipality or are privately-owned and maintained. To remedy part of the situation is for developers to build roads by state requirements and request to maintain them. However, there is not an easy solution due to the state's current status on funding.

Question 6.

Revenue shortfalls will likely need to be addressed in the current fiscal year. Where do you see opportunities to reduce expenses? To increase revenues?

Response 6.

Counties in North Carolina are only permitted to generate revenues in a way permitted under state law. In terms of expenses, we have already reduced our budget (the current year's budgeted expenditures are less than the prior year) by temporarily deferring capital expenses and other expenses.

Please save as a pdf file and return to: genevasile208@gmail.com

Thank you for participating in the ABCPOA candidate questionnaire.