

Moving Chatham Forward

re-elect

Jim Crawford & Diana Hales



Chatham County Board of Commissioners

As your Commissioners we commit to:

- Fully support our public schools, teachers and staff
- Support work force training with Community College programs in public schools
- Implement smart growth strategies in our Comprehensive Plan
- Actively pursue the clean-up of Jordan Lake
- Plan for future water supply with regional partnerships
- Fight fracking to protect our air, land and water
- Work cooperatively with our towns on infrastructure
- Promote economic development and broadband
- Invest in environmental protections for Chatham
- Engage in the climate change discussion, and act locally

 **VOTE
DEMOCRAT!**
November 6

Endorsed by
the Sierra Club

Four more years of thoughtful
planning for Chatham's future!

Or, our opponents stuck in yesterday.

Paid for by the Diana Hales for Commissioner Committee
Paid for by Crawford for Chatham

WALKER

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cases, gaining citizenship can take over 17 years. This is unacceptable." Finally, Watts wants to "hold the Trump Administration and ICE accountable in order to protect hard working Americans, veterans, and others who are being detained and deported without proper legal and moral justifications."

Observant readers will notice the direct quotes from the Watts campaign, while for Walker, I relied on his co-sponsorship of legislation. This is where the interesting part comes in. When I contacted the Watts campaign, somebody answered. After contacting Walker's office, I never heard back.

It wasn't for lack of trying. I used Walker's email to send messages on May 22, June 11, and July 6 of this year. The system sends a confirmation notice, so I know my requests arrived. Still, it is easy for email to get lost in the shuffle, so in July I sent a request by regular mail. Here's the text of my requests:

Dear Mark Walker,

I write an occasional column for the newspaper, Chatham County Line. In anticipation of the November election, I would like to convey to the readership your position on international migration. This will not be an editorial, but a straight forward reporting. Could you please send along a statement that outlines your position?

As I sat down to write the column mid-September, I still had no response, so I had to dig around on-line for Walker's position. I googled "Walker for Congress" thinking his campaign would have the information. Then I googled again. Had I missed something? Walker's campaign website had not been updated since 2016. I turned to Walker's other official website, one that all Congressional Representatives have. The front page lists thirteen "issues" the Congressman focuses on. Immigration wasn't one of them.

I searched the page further. That's where I learned about Walker's co-sponsorship of the Secure America's Future Act. The news was one of 80 press releases put out by Walker's office this year. Two other press releases touched on immigration. In January, Walker held a roundtable on DACA with approximately eight people who included members of The LIBRE Initiative, a group funded by the Koch brothers that advocates for "limited government." A July 18 press release announced Walker's support for a Congressional resolution declaring support for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

Given my fruitless attempts to communicate with Walker, the title of that July 18 press release made me chuckle. Democrats did not support the resolution. Walker said this meant 'Democrats Have Shown They are "Completely and Irresponsibly Absent" on Immigration Debate.' Based on my experience, it was Walker who has been absent from debate.

According to a Gallup poll, 83 percent of Americans support giving children brought to the US illegally the chance to become citizens. Some 57 percent oppose building a border wall. I share those sentiments, but I also recognize immigration is a complex topic. As a society, we need civil, in depth conversations to soften the current political impasse.

In other settings, Walker has called for the same approach. Last year, he wrote: "It's easy to preach to the choir, but we must take our message to new places, to new neighborhoods and new communities. Learn to listen." In yet another twist, he was talking about the need for the GOP to reach out to minority voters. Yet, ironically, on the question of immigration, it was Democrat Ryan Watts who followed this advice.

Nora Haenn lives in Pittsboro and teaches anthropology at North Carolina State University. All views expressed here are her own.

HURRICANES

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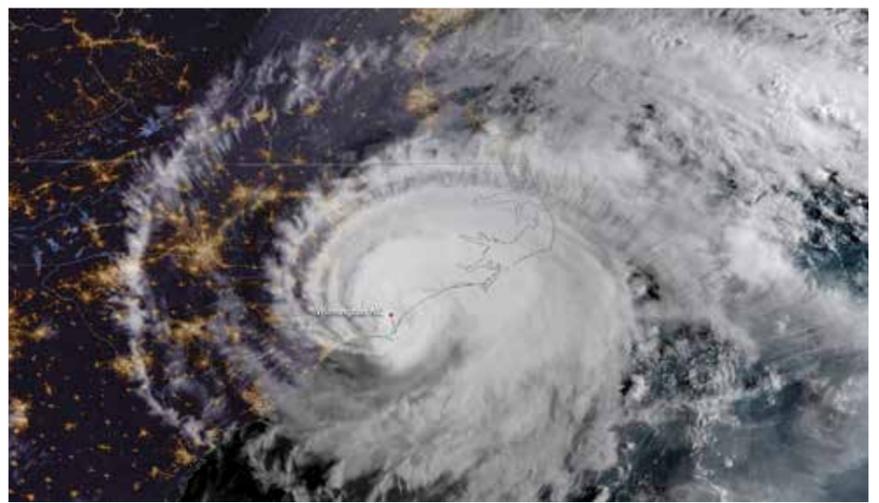


PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA

been without electricity for two weeks. Again, I felt really lucky.

Along comes Hurricane Florence and I am not feeling so lucky as I watch it hurling across the Atlantic Ocean and headed straight for North Carolina. My past hurricane experiences have me very worried. Worried because our home is surrounded by some very large trees and worried because I now have a business located in the Haw River floodplain. Hurricane Fran had put five to six feet of water into what is now The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. office and river shop. We are kind of used to water getting into the building every time it rains. The building was built into the side of a hill at a time when vapor barriers were not a common building practice. What concerned me was I knew all the sewage treatment plants upriver would overflow if we got the rain that was predicted. The prediction looked like Hurricane Fran all over again. Rain water in the building is one thing. Human sewage and industrial waste is another thing. Fortunately, only a little rain water got into the building while the river got to within a foot of coming into the front door. It is a lot easier to clean up

after rain water.

Of course, I am feeling very lucky again, but I cannot stop feeling a little guilty this time because I know how easy it is for me, but how difficult it will be for those in eastern North Carolina to get back to a normal life any time soon. Hurricanes will be coming back, and I have dodged the bullet way too many times.

I am feeling a little helpless since the odds are not in my favor. Besides, it does not seem that enough of our political leaders are taking climate change seriously enough, and it is because not enough of us, you and me, are demanding that they do. The predictions are that stronger and more powerful hurricanes are in our future and that a greater amount of rainfall will be associated with them. Mother Nature is telling us to wake up from our sleep and take notice, but I do not see that we are.

Joe Jacob, a Chatham resident for more than 30 years and a marine biologist by training, is president of The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co., www.hawrivercanoe.com, 336.260.6465. He worked for The Nature Conservancy for 20 years and served as Director of Science for TNC's Southeast Region.