

Q & A WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

Neill Lindley (R) Challenger for District Four

Who are you?



My Name is Neill Lindley. I am a native of Chatham County. As the only organic dairy farmer in the county, I have a daily connection with our water and soil. My business depends upon good stewardship of Chatham's natural resources. I also enjoy serving in civic and volunteer organizations.

Why are you running?

I would be honored to serve the people of Chatham County. I am not your typical political candidate, but I feel it is time for the voice of rural Chatham to be heard.

What will you do for the people if elected?

As commissioner, I will be committed to environmental issues, zoning and property rights and keeping our families working, shopping, and playing in Chatham County.



Commissioner James "Jim" Crawford (D) Incumbent, District Four

Who are you?



I am from a very small town in Pennsylvania. It's a town where the loudest sounds were the recorded church bells at the corner Lutheran church and the sound of trucks coming in and out of the local family-owned grocery store. Like Goldston, Pittsboro and Siler City, people from my small town have a strong sense of place and community.

My family were farmers and factory workers. My parents often worked swing shifts and two jobs to take care of the family. Living this way is stressful, and it takes a toll. My parents separated, and my dad raised us. And then tragedy struck, and my father died of a heart attack when I was just 15. This was a watershed moment in my life where my siblings and I had to come together and make difficult decisions in order to survive and prosper and eventually help me become the first member of my family to go to college.

Why are you running?

My daughter attended Chatham County schools and we have a local business in Pittsboro called "Chatham Cider Works" that is located in the Chatham Beverage District.

Chatham has been good to our family and I want to make sure that everyone who lives here has the opportunity to have the same experience that we have had.

Thus my life experiences inform my work as a commissioner. Our citizens are deeply connected to their physical place, to the land and the environment. Good jobs and fair wages impact not just the people who earn them, but their families too.

And education is life changing and it's the responsibility of everyone who has a voice to make sure that populations who don't always have an equal voice get heard.

I believe that democratic institutions are the fundamental backbone of our American experience and that the policies and public investments that we make as leaders result in fairness in our communities.

What will you do for the people if re-elected?

Education is life changing as I have personally experienced.

I will continue to advocate for the "Chatham Promise", which will guarantee two years of free tuition at CCC for any new high school graduate in Chatham County.

I believe that it's the responsibility of leaders to give a voice to the people — especially those who don't get heard.

And I will continue to push for high-paying jobs in our two mega-sites and nodes of commercial development across the County.

The people can count on me to continue to support smart growth strategies; investments in our overall quality of life; efforts to build community across Chatham County and our region; fully funding our schools and our teachers and protecting the air we breathe and the water we drink

Former County Commissioner Brian Bock (R) Challenger for District Three

Who are you?



I have served in the U.S. Navy and been a small business owner. I've also served on our planning board, the Board of Health, and been a member of the Board of Trustees for Central Carolina Community College.

Why are you running?

Currently 91 percent of our revenue comes from individual tax payers. Chatham has the highest debt per capita in the state. Forty-seven percent of residents commute 30 minutes or more a day; 74 percent of Chatham Co2 emissions is from this commuter factor. Chatham lost 650 million dollars in retail sales last year to other counties. Chatham needs leaders with a strong record of fiscal responsibility who can manage us through this unprecedented era of growth.

What will you do for the people if elected?

As Commissioner, I commit to reestablishing face-to-face town hall meetings to listen to all points of view, regardless of party. I'm going to focus on growing the commercial tax base, expanding education funding, and increasing environmental protections.

As Commissioner I have a record of bringing business investment and jobs to the county, implementing strong environmental controls to protect our natural resources, increasing support for our schools, and protecting private property rights.



Commissioner Diana Hales (D) Incumbent, District Three

Who are you?



My husband Cheyney and I have lived on an old farm on the Rocky River for more than 30 years.

I have actively followed Chatham County government for years, with a focus on public education, environment, and water protection issues. I retired from state government where I worked on a policy level with local governments, state and federal agencies on massive data coordination using geographic information systems technology. This informs my commitment to work collaboratively to solve shared problems. I have a long history of activism promoting women's rights and environmental issues related to water and land use. My previous employment history as a communications specialist in marketing and publishing provided important tools useful in building team consensus. A lifetime of researching difficult subjects has honed my skills and desire to expand my comfort zone and apply this knowledge.

Why are you running?

I ran and was elected in 2014 to break the Tea Party majority who had won the November 2010 election. I attended all their meetings to understand their priorities. Tea Party actions included staff reductions, short-changing the Chatham County schools budget, dissolution of advisory committees, roll backs in environmental protections, and no desire to plan for our future. I ran in 2014 to plan for our growth, to zone the county to protect neighbors from polluting industries, and to call on the expertise of our citizens to help guide us. We promised and delivered Chatham's first Comprehensive Land Use Plan with a map that details goals and strategies to achieve them. Those strategies are now incorporated in the County budget process. We fully fund Chatham County public schools. We reinvigorated advisory committees and have added committees on affordable housing and climate change. I am seeking your vote to tackle difficult issues that will move Chatham forward.

What will you do for the people if re-elected?

We are developing the first Master Plan for Infrastructure that includes all three towns in Chatham. Our Comprehensive Plan focuses job growth into our municipalities, but that requires partnerships for infrastructure investment. The Master Plan for Parks is nearing completion and will inform decisions on land acquisition. We established the Housing Trust Fund to provide incentives for private sector investment in affordable housing. We are regionally engaged in One Water discussions about nutrient reductions in Jordan Lake and storm water. We are planning for a regional water intake in Jordan Lake. We are committed to keep fracking out of Chatham County, and will solarize county facilities where feasible. We will integrate our ordinances into a Unified Development Ordinance that will tackle subdivision regulations for 21st century realities. We will balance services for retirees moving into Chatham with attraction of good paying jobs for millennials. We will do our best to deploy broadband to our citizenry.

Secrets to Aging Gracefully

by R. Gaines Steer

Here we go again. Yet another article about getting old? How to profit by it, avoid it, improve it, analyze, etc. Then ways and means to market aging, naturally... some bizarre new product that defies aging altogether. Been there done that!

Now, being of a certain age, I have decided to look into my basket of weird and counter-culture ideas about aging and go public with my top three notions. Yes, I have successfully tested all three, yet none of them is going to appear on the stock exchange or at the App

store. Dadgummit!

The first notion is one I was born with. You too! I am convinced that "it is good for all people, especially older ones," to go barefooted. Naked as can be. Toes do not really need socks to contain them. Most arches are doing just fine without a whole bunch of paraphernalia from the drug store. Take notice that bare feet do not overdose on drugs and do not possess police records. Even before our babies (well, other's babes) can turn over, they are permanently ensconced in expensive

footwear. And I'm not just talking about Nike, although it's hard not to, I admit.

To make my shoeless argument, I go against the American way. Americans insist that our shoes (bottoms, that is) are clean yet our feet are filthy and must be clothed at all times, except at the pool or beach. There is probably already a law against being barefooted in public places. Yes, I know it is unlawful to serve food to the those barefooted, especially undocumented immigrants.

Perform this test. Take off your footwear in the privacy of your home and wiggle your toes when you wake up each morning. At the end of a week have a meeting with your bare feet and leave the verdict up to them. Also notice that your balance and agility have improved. At night, or in the early morn, I advocate taking a few steps outside before the neighbors can report you to Mike, the Sheriff. If you discover that your health and overall attitude have improved, I invite you to write a letter to the editor of this newspaper for publication.

Moving right along, my second secret of aging gracefully is to return to the once prolific practice of writing in cursive. Be warned: do not share this one with your grandchildren. They already are convinced that you are from another planet. Cursive is as dead as Latin! Nobody* uses it nowadays, even dentists have lost the art. Our graveyards are full of long-retired school teachers (mostly female, of course) who are turning over in their graves. I presume, as they lament all of that wasted good work. You recall, I'll wager, being taught the art of penmanship using the cursive (or longhand). Printing using block

letters has replaced the once beautiful and flowing handwritten artform. You know this. Perhaps you do not know, however, that our kindly olde brains favored script over that nefarious print now in vogue. How do I know this? Never mind, that is my secret. Since I don't sell proven ideas such as this, I do not have to prove anything or be scrutinized by a congressional committee. Again, I pass on a topic that is verboten in this apolitical dialogue. I claim it as a fact: cursive handwriting is both pleasing and nostalgically healthy for the brain and its electromagnetic neurons and connective software, so-to-speak. There!

And finally, If I do say so myself, the third aging graceful technique is brilliant. Like many discoveries, it is ultimately obvious. I won't mess up this article's word count by beating around the bush: The truth is that the act of reading out loud (or aloud) and being read to out-loud is not only astonishing pleasing to the psyche (don't go there, Gaines!) but is loved, cherished and synergistically utilized by our precious encephalon to benefit of the aging process.

If you had the good fortune to be read to aloud as a child you will require no further convincing. Further, if you are among the very rare adults that can read aloud with any degree of acumen, you deserve the extended life that may accompany the renewal of reading aloud and being read to. Just do it!

That is three as promised.

R. Gaines Steer, a Chatham resident, a writer, publisher and former Outreach Editor for Chatham County Line.

* According to Wikipedia, 14 states still require cursive to be taught.

Two Locations Same Low Prescription Prices

We Will Match or Beat Local Competitors
15-Minute Guarantee + Free Medication Delivery*

501 Pharmacy
The Veranda at Briar Chapel
984-999-0501

Visit Our Ice Cream Parlor!

**Pittsboro
Discount Drugs**
628 East St, Pittsboro
919-542-7283

Chronic Disease State Management (with comprehensive medication review and medical device training) • Medication Compounding (veterinary, HRT, etc.)
Immunizations (shingles, pneumonia, influenza, etc.) • Medication Synchronization
Multi-Medication Adherence Blister Packaging • Pharmacogenomic Testing
Naloxone Dispensing • Diabetes Self-Management Education

www.501rx.com

www.pittsbororx.com

* Within our delivery areas. Call or visit our websites for more information.