

FLORES

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Gomez Flores lives in Siler City and graduated with honors from Jordan Mathews where he played soccer for its legendary long-time coach Paul Cuadros.

Gomez Flores graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2016 with a bachelor's degree and a major in biology.

Gomez Flores currently serves on the Chatham County Planning Board and staked out these seven areas of potential focus if he is elected in November:

- Increasing affordable housing
- Promoting responsible growth by following Chatham's Land Use Plan
- Advocating for equitable pay for equitable jobs
- Protecting immigrants' rights
- Supporting a quality education for all
- Seeking the diverse perspectives of Chatham's citizens
- Providing responsible, collaborative leadership

His campaign also elicited excitement and support from the Vice-Chair and Chair of the County Commissioners, "Franklin will be a terrific addition to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners as the first Hispanic to be elected in Chatham," said Vice-Chair Diana Hales (D). "His enthusiasm, background, and concerns for his Siler City neighbors will provide a new voice in our diverse county."

"I am pleased to endorse Franklin Gomez for the District Five seat on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners," stated Chairwoman Karen Howard (D). "As a first-generation Hispanic American who was educated here in

Chatham and at UNC-Chapel Hill, Franklin will bring a welcome perspective that will enhance the work of the board and contribute to the quality of life in his community and beyond."

The Chatham County Republican Party has not offered an official response to the candidacy of Franklin Gomez Flores, but long-time GOP stalwart and candidate for office Bill Crawford said, "I can't speak directly for the CCGOP, but my response will probably be within their parameters."

"I congratulate Mr. Flores for offering to enter the arena. Anybody who has been through that knows what it takes

out of a person. I wish him well, even as I do my level best to ensure his effort is unsuccessful.

"It does say something that, after two election cycles of allowing the 5th District to go unchallenged, the Democrats suddenly saw a need to not run an empty ballot this year. I heard from a few sources that the party was looking for someone to commit before the December filing deadline and couldn't, all this lends credibility to that."

"I would advise Mr. Flores to run an independent campaign that befits his unaffiliated ballot status, rather than be tied into the arrogance and intolerance

of the two Democrats running alongside him for re-election. Fortunately for the CCGOP, the Chatham Democrats don't often heed my advice."

Chatham voters will have the opportunity to vote for representation for District Five and other races during early voting in October or on Election Day on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Voters with questions for the Board of Elections can call 919-545-8500 or send an email to elections@chathamnc.org.

The Board of Elections is open daily from 8 am – 5 pm except holidays and is located at 984 Thompson Street, Suite D in Pittsboro.

Chatham Decides on Referenda

On March 3rd the fates of two referenda were settled in Chatham County with 44.1% of the eligible voters participating.

The question regarding the sale of malt beverages in the County was addressed by a count of 16,785 votes FOR and 5,969 AGAINST, which meant that over 73% of the primary voters approved the referendum. It had wide-based support and passed in sixteen of the eighteen county precincts and only failed in Harper's Crossroads and Bennett.

The referendum on the local sales and use tax also passed, but the approval was a lot closer. The ballot measure passed

with 11,935 votes (51.4%) FOR and 11,289 votes (48.6%) AGAINST.

Essentially five precincts carried the day as the sales tax referendum received 71.7% of its support in Bynum, Mann's Chapel, North Williams, Pittsboro, and West Williams and passed those five precincts with a plurality of 62.7% to 27.3%. (8,567 votes FOR to 5,081 votes AGAINST).

The middle to western precincts of Albright, Bennett, Bonlee, Harper's Crossroads, East Siler City, Goldston, Hadley, Hickory, and West Siler City opposed the measure by a count of 4,040 votes AGAINST (69%) and 1,811 votes

FOR (31%). Four precincts—East Williams, Oakland, New Hope and Three Rivers in the east and north sides of the county—also opposed the measure by a narrower margin of 2,168 votes AGAINST (58.2%) versus 1,557 votes FOR (41.8%).

Ultimately, the north and eastern sides of Chatham County cast 75% of the total votes and favored the sale tax measure by a margin of 10,174 votes (58.3%) FOR to 7,249 votes (41.7%) AGAINST.

The Chatham County Republican Party opposed the sales tax measure while the Chatham County Democratic Party favored it.

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