

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Huntersville Town Commissioner

1. What are the top three issues your community needs to address? How would you propose to tackle these issues?

*We need to put in writing our TOP priorities, post them on the Town's website and as a Board, every decision and dollar spent needs to follow suit. We will never accomplish our goals if we don't put them in writing and hold ourselves accountable.

1. Traffic Congestion- This is not only an inconvenience but it is a safety issue. Overcrowded roads are a negative impact on our quality of life as well as our businesses. We have to stop playing catch up and start getting our roads in place before more congestion is created.

2 .Public Safety / Law Enforcement / Emergency Services – I would push to have a new Police department built, one that can house those that are arrested within Huntersville. The safety and well being of our citizens must take precedence over everything else.

3 .New Business' Development – We must look for ways to attract business to our area that will add tax revenue, jobs, and will add to our already existing businesses. This will help us keep our taxes low and our housing affordable.

2. Because of present economic realities, what changes do you propose to your town's policies and regulations to adjust to the new economy?

I do not support government owning and/or operating private business. I believe it gives an unfair advantage against private business. There is no real incentive for a town to make a profit and they can therefore charge less than their private competitors while making up the loss from increased taxes. I would like to see a policy in place that prohibits our town from this practice.

3. Do you believe your town should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for your town?

Yes, I do. Schools - Our children should always be top priority. Overcrowded schools are unsafe and do not foster a good learning environment. Parks are awesome and add to our quality of life but they should not take priority over the other items. What good is a park if citizens feel unsafe, the roads are too crowded and discourage use...I would like to see a small fee charged for some of our free park programs in order to keep them available in the future and so that funding is not taken from the other more important areas such as roads, police, and emergency services.

Should purchasers of new homes be responsible for funding these services for the entire town?

Absolutely not! This type of taxing discourages home ownership especially for those in the lower income bracket. If the residents of a town want to have these services than they are willing to pay for them. We must keep housing affordable.

Do you believe that these types of proposals are a fair way to pay for required services to existing taxpayers?

I believe the tax burden should be carried by all, not by a hand picked group.

4. How would you encourage your town's economic growth while including a variety of housing types and prices?

We must encourage all types of business and industry to our area. That means blue collar and white collar jobs. If there is a population with varying housing needs, builders and developers will continue building to meet those needs. That means increased tax revenue from the new development as well as from those working, living, and spending money in our town.

5. Recently adopted ordinances and policies have increased development costs and as a result will increase prices for office, industrial and retail space, as well as housing. What could be done to lower development costs in order to prevent families and businesses from relocating across county lines?

We must work with the local EDC as well as county and state offices to find legal and smart ways to encourage new business as well as keeping companies that are already here. The county has offered incentives to companies that are made available after they have met certain goals. We don't have all the answers and we must look to those towns and areas that have had success in this area.

6. Would you support a cost/benefit analysis for existing and proposed land use regulations in order to ensure that the purported benefits outweigh their negative impacts on economic development and housing affordability?

Yes, we must always keep an open mind and make sure that our regulations, zoning, laws, etc... are truly benefitting the community. We shouldn't stop at just looking at how it impacts our area financially. We must also make sure that it is keeping us on track with our towns 'master plan', priorities, as well as the desired quality of life for our community. IT'S OUR TOWN ` LET'S MAKE IT GREAT!