

2010 SPPACE Questionnaire

BARBARA EVELAND

Candidates for the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners District 3

1. What are the top three issues facing Mecklenburg County and how do you propose to address them?

1) Taxes and Spending 2) Private Sector Jobs 3) Education

All of these are connected to each other. We are the highest taxed County in North Carolina and I would do everything possible to reduce Property Taxes and Sales Taxes. We are loosing our tax base to upstate South Carolina and surrounding counties, because of their much lower tax rates.

We have got to reduce spending. I am in favor of reducing the size of County Government and having an outside independent audit of each department. We have got to have accountability of tax payer money. We really need to limit governments role.

Private sector jobs, I believe will come if we get our corporate tax rate more in line with South Carolina and lessen some restrictions. Private sector jobs are do not want to relocate into an area with a failing school system and not knowing where their children will attend school from year to year. Also, parents are concerned about how long their children would be on a school bus. We are spending over \$8,000 per student, we need to have the School Board be more accountable for the monies received from taxpayer dollars.

I would be a leader in getting our County Commissioners to work with Raleigh to reduce our Corporate Tax Rate. We have one of the highest in the country and along with our high NC State Withholding Tax, these are definitely working against our County to entice new private sector jobs.

2. In 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized counties, subject to voter approval, the ability to impose an additional general fund revenue source (a .4% land transfer tax or a .25% sales tax). Do you support a .4% land transfer tax? Do you support a .25% sales tax? Please explain your answer.

No, I do not support either a .4% land transfer tax nor a .25% sales tax. We need to reduce taxes in order to encourage growth in home ownership and businesses.

- 3. It has recently been reported in the local media that Mecklenburg County faces an estimated budget shortfall of \$16 to \$60 million dollars in FY 2010-2011. How do you plan to address this issue?**

As stated above, I would reduce the size of county government, hold all departments accountable for tax dollars spent and require an independent outside audit of each. Reducing taxes, in my opinion, would bring additional revenue. We are losing a lot of tax revenue to South Carolina, due to it's close proximity to Mecklenburg.

- 4. Do you support Public-Private Partnerships for the construction of schools? Please explain your answer.**

Yes, I do support Public-Private Partnerships. I am a Conservative and a Capitalist and believe that PPP's are the way to go with schools. The private sector would purchase the land, build the school, provide maintenance to the building and grounds. The school board would pay a lease amount to the owner, provide the teachers and equipment necessary for teaching.

- 5. If the General Assembly authorized Mecklenburg County to hold a "Pennies for Progress" referendum similar to South Carolina's, would you support putting the measure before voters? If yes, for what infrastructure projects (i.e. roads, schools, parks, libraries, courts, jails, etc.) would you advocate using the money?**

No, to the "Pennies for Progress". This is just another way to say TAX.

- 6. Are you in favor of the Mecklenburg County playing a role in incentivizing environmentally sustainable development? Please explain your answer.**

At this time Mecklenburg County doesn't have the funds to incentivize any new ventures. Maybe when we get control of the Revenue and Spending, we could consider this and other things.