

2010 SPPACE Questionnaire

JIM PENDERGRAPH

Candidates for the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners At-Large

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

#1: Public Safety-Always making sure adequate funding is provided to maintain our safe communities. #2: Accountability and Trust: True or not, most of the public does not believe government is watching their money closely and there is a perception of distrust of elected officials. I have a 13 year record of trust as Mecklenburg County Sheriff that I will carry with me. I may not always say what the citizens want to hear but it will be the truth.

- 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. We don't need any more tax burdens on the citizens.

- 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?**

First, I won't be because the first budget I will have any say over will be the 2011-12 budget. I hope it is better but I also know there is still waste in county government that must be dealt with when I am elected.

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

I do but I don't know enough about it yet to discuss.

- 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?**

Yes, I would put it before voters. All listed need the funding but would start with Jails, Courts, and education.

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

Yes, but only because all surrounding counties and states are doing it. In my discussions of this issue with local businessmen and women, they all agree it is necessary if we are going to be able to compete.