

## 2010 SPPACE Questionnaire

LEE ANN PATTON

### Candidates for the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners District 2

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

High Taxes: Currently, our county and our citizens are facing financial hardships due to the economic crisis affecting the entire nation. The government can help resolve the problem at this time by decreasing the tax burden of its citizens and businesses. If I am elected I will work diligently to see that property tax rates do not increase and as appropriate, will recommend decreases in taxes to reflect upcoming assessed property values.

Spending: This county, state and country have recklessly overspent their revenue which has caused the economic woes we are currently facing. Until we learn to live within our means as individuals, families, communities, counties, states and a nation we will never be able to recover.

Many of our social problems have been caused by the government allowing people to become dependent upon them for their welfare. It is not the government's responsibility to take our hard-earned taxes to provide for the people, but rather is the responsibility of each individual to first take care of themselves, then their families, then their neighbors, then their fellow citizens.

Jobs: The unemployment rate in Mecklenburg County is currently 10.7%, which is higher than the state and national rates of 9.8% and 9.6%, respectively. By focusing my efforts on controlling high taxes and spending in the coming year, I hope to see an improvement in our economic status which should result in job growth for the county.

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.**

I support NO NEW TAXES, neither sales taxes, real estate transfer taxes, property taxes, income taxes, and taxes on services or fees, nor any other means by which our citizens' tax burden is increased to fund out-of-control government spending.

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 individuals, we cannot spend more than we make and the same should be expected of our government. We must reduce government spending to *below* the level of tax revenue the county is receiving. This will not only resolve the budget shortfall problem, but will also begin to build a safety net for the future if revenue falls short of projections.

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

I would support such a partnership if a win-win situation could be developed between the two parties without a tax burden imposed upon the citizens of Mecklenburg County. As I understand it, though, current legislation does not provide for such an arrangement to be a lucrative proposition for a private partner in the construction of schools, so it is unclear as to why they would agree to be involved in the first place.

**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?**

“Pennies for Progress” is just another avenue created to increase the tax burden on the public. I do not support any further increases in taxes being imposed on our citizens to support our government’s wasteful spending practices. The county must simply learn to spend NO MORE than is being taken in, and build a reserve for the future.

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

Absolutely not. It is not government’s place to make social policy. If a proposed development is economically viable, the private sector will fund and support it. To have the government financially committed to a development project that has the potential to fail would be an irresponsible use of taxpayer money.