

## Construction consultant joins school board race

By Justin Vick

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Construction consultant Blake Kiger is willing to provide his expertise free of charge to fast-growing Cabarrus County Schools.

Kiger, 40, of Harrisburg, became the latest candidate for the Cabarrus County Board of Education race this week, making the Nov. 4 school board ballot a dozen names deep.

"With the population growth the county is experiencing, I'm interested in making sure we have good oversight on projects currently in place," Kiger said.

He serves as principal of Kiger Construction Consultants, providing Charlotte-area developers and business owners advice on land acquisition, contracts, site work and presentations made to elected officials.

"We fortunately live in an area that has a very good system," Kiger said, noting he's not going into the campaign critical of existing board members. "But we need to continue to keep the bar high."

He'll have two children attending middle school next year. He was also inspired to run by his grandfather, a longtime Davidson County educator.

Kiger joins a school board race consisting of 11 other candidates, matching the size of the 2004 election ballot.

Others running include incumbents Holly Blackwelder, Cindy Fertenbaugh and Wayne Williams, as well as challengers Lew Davidson, David Harrison, Mike Helms, Anna Hood, Wilma Means, Dr. Jan van Ravesteyn, Philip Stephens and Robert Tizon.

Five of seven school board seats are up for grabs in the Nov. 4 election, with the fifth-place finisher earning the two remaining years of Liz Poole's term. The school board appointed retired principal Don Hoyle to serve Poole's term until the election.

Residents have until Aug. 1 to apply for the school board ballot. The process involves filling out paperwork and paying a \$5 filing fee to the county elections office at 53 Corban Ave., S.E., Concord. The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Details: 704-920-2860 or [www.co.cabarrus.nc.us/elections](http://www.co.cabarrus.nc.us/elections)

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