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Meck. candidates talk of schools, services

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Slideshow



10/7/2008 Susan Walker. The six county commissioner at-large candidates are taking part Tuesday in the annual WTVI/League of Women Voters debate. TODD SUMLIN - tsumlin@charlotteobserver.com

More Information

- ['What is one thing the county can do better, and how would you work to improve it?'](#)

Here's how at-large county commissioner candidates answered one question in Tuesday's debate:

Hal Jordan (R): Its relationship with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. "We need to

encourage ways for them to be creative about how they approach their building schools ... (and) to have a little bit less heavy-handed administration.”

Dr. Dan Murrey (D): More collaboration. “In any institution there is a tendency to view problems in silos – it’s an education problem, housing problem a social services problem. ... We really need to try to get out of that mentality.”

Dan Ramirez (R): Promoting social services programs. “The best assistance that we can give to these people is to help them help themselves.”

Jennifer Roberts (D): Communicating with other governmental entities. “One of the things I’ve been working to increase (is) our mutual collaboration and ... communications.”

Susan Walker (R): Work with businesses. “We want to make sure that we can retain the jobs that are here and also ... create new jobs as well.”

Harold Cogdell (D): Customer service. “From the top down ... we need to put egos aside and really focus on the (problems) that people in their individual lives are facing.”

- wttv.com/debates/ART0.10082008.595KB6A_InfoBox595KB6A

Other debates

The League of Women Voters also hosted debates for state Senate District 37 and county commissioner District 1. Other debates had been planned, but did not happen because of cancellations by some candidates and a scheduling mix-up.

Senate District 37: Incumbent and Democrat Dan Clodfelter touted his experience as a legislator, including helping to get money for new court system personnel and working on green energy and drought management plans. Rusty Sheridan, a Libertarian, stressed the need for less heavy government involvement in lives and business and lower taxes. A third candidate for the seat, Republican challenger Vince Coscia did not attend the debate.

Commission District 1: Newcomer and Democrat Rao Kommareddi listed finding solutions to rising crime and education as his top priorities. Karen Bentley, a Republican and incumbent, highlighted how she has helped ensure that more infrastructure, including school and parks projects, come to the northern district.

Candidates vying to be a Mecklenburg County commissioner or state Senator met Tuesday for three debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

The group fielded questions on topics that ranged from how to rein in government spending to what should be done to fight crime in the community.

The debates were filmed at the WTVI studios and are scheduled to air on the public television station, broadcast Channel 42, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday. Podcasts also will be available at www.wtvi.org and www.goleaguego.org.

Tuesday's debates featured the six candidates running for three at-large seats on the Board of County Commissioners, two candidates for the District 1 seat on the county board, and two competing for state Senate District 37.

The election is Nov. 4.



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