

2020 ELECTION GUIDE

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAURINBURG EXCHANGE

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Trump vs. Biden: Where they stand on health, economy, more

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid the tumult of the 2020 presidential campaign, one dynamic has remained constant: The Nov. 3 election offers voters a choice between substantially different policy paths.

President Donald Trump, like many fellow Republicans, holds out tax reductions and regulatory cuts as economic imperatives and frames himself as a conservative champion in the culture wars. The president has offered few details about how he would pull the levers of government in a second term. His most consistent argument focuses on stopping Democratic opponent Joe Biden and his party from pushing U.S. policy leftward.

Biden, for his part, is not the socialist caricature depicted by Trump. But he is every bit a center-left Democrat who frames the federal government as the force to combat the coronavirus, rebuild the economy and address centuries of institutional racism and systemic inequalities. The former vice president and U.S. senator also offers his deal-making past as evidence he can do it again from the Oval Office.

A look at where the rivals stand on key issues:

ECONOMY, TAXES

Low unemployment and a soaring stock market were Trump's calling cards before the pandemic. While the stock market has clawed its way back after cratering in the early weeks of the crisis, unemployment stands at 7.9%, and the nearly 10 million jobs that remain lost since the pandemic began exceed the number that the nation shed during the entire 2008-2009 Great Recession.

Trump has predicted that the U.S. economy will rebound in the third and fourth quarters of this year and is set to take off like a "rocket ship" in 2021. He promises that a coronavirus vaccine or effective therapeutics will soon be available, allowing life to get back to normal. His push for a payroll tax cut over the summer was thwarted by stiff bipartisan opposition. But winning a second term — and a mandate from voters — could help him resurrect the idea.

First and foremost, Biden argues that the economy cannot fully recover until COVID-19 is contained. For the long-term recovery, he pitches sweeping federal action to avoid an extended recession and to address longstanding wealth inequality that disproportionately affects nonwhite Americans.

His biggest-ticket plans include a \$2 trillion, four-year push to eliminate carbon pollution in the U.S. energy grid by 2035 and a new government health insurance plan open to all working-age Americans (with generous subsidies). He proposes new spending on education, infrastructure and small businesses, along with raising the national minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Biden would cover some but not all of the new costs by rolling back much of the 2017 GOP tax overhaul. He wants a corporate income tax rate of 28% (lower than before but higher than now) and broad income and payroll tax hikes for individuals with more than \$400,000 of annual taxable income. All that would generate an estimated \$4 trillion or more over 10 years.

Biden frames immigration as an economic matter as well. He wants to expand legal immigration slots and offer a citizenship path for about 11 million residents who are in the country illegally but who, Biden notes, are already economic contributors as workers and consumers.

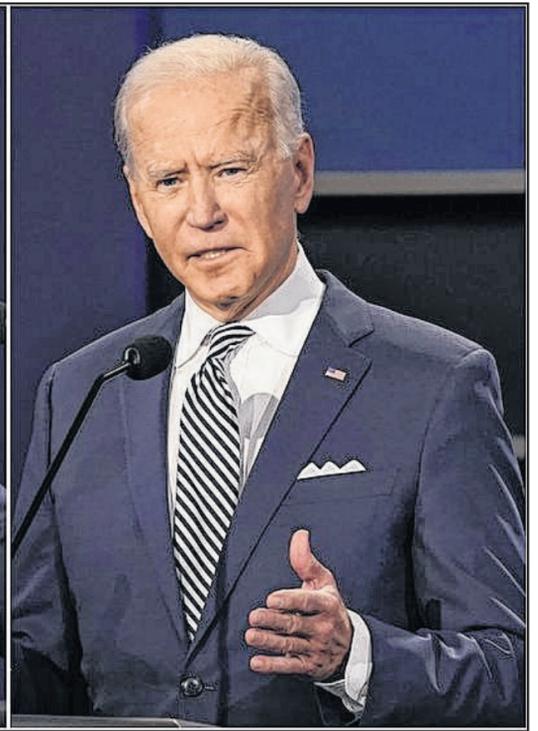
HEALTH CARE

As a candidate for the White House, Trump promised that he would "immediately" replace President Barack Obama's health care law with a plan of his own that would provide "insurance for everybody." Americans are still waiting for his plan.

Trump recently returned to health care amid disapproval of his administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and growing uncertainty about the future of the Affordable Care Act, which his administration is asking the Supreme Court to overturn. He is reiterating his 4-year-old promises for quality health care at affordable prices, lower prescription drug costs, more consumer choice and greater transparency.

He also announced executive orders calling for an end to surprise medical bills and declaring it the policy of the U.S. government to protect people with preexisting conditions, even if Obamacare is struck down. However, protections for preexisting conditions are already the law, and Trump would have to go to Congress to cement a new policy through legislation. In the first presidential debate, Trump also held out the repeal of Obamacare's individual mandate to have health insurance as individual progress, while ignoring questions about his lack of a comprehensive plan.

Biden wants to expand Obama's law to provide more generous coverage to a greater number of people and add a "Medicare-like public option" that would compete with private insurers and be available to working-age Americans. Biden estimates that would cost about \$750 billion over 10 years. That positions Biden between Trump, who wants to scrap the 2010 law, and progressives, who want a single-payer system to replace private insurance altogether. Biden sees his



The Associated Press

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approach as the next step toward universal coverage and one he could get through Congress.

Biden also has sought to turn the current Supreme Court vacancy into a health care matter, noting that the late liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a key vote in upholding the 2010 health care law, while Trump's nominee, federal appellate Judge Amy Coney Barrett, has criticized the court's reasoning in that decision.

CORONAVIRUS

Over the course of the summer, Trump went from acknowledging that the pandemic may "get worse before it gets better" to declaring that the U.S. is "rounding the corner" on the crisis. Then he tested positive for the virus himself.

The pandemic remains the biggest obstacle for his reelection hopes, and his bout with the virus just weeks before Election Day only brightened the spotlight on the issue.

Roughly 7 in 10 Americans think the nation is on the wrong track, and just 39% of Americans approve of Trump's handling of the crisis that has killed more than 207,000 people in the U.S., according to a recent poll The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Congress approved about \$3 trillion in coronavirus relief in March and April, and Democrats and the White House have been at loggerheads over another significant round of funding, with Trump sending mixed messages on what he wants.

Trump has largely placed responsibility with governors for leading the response.

Biden draws some of his sharpest contrasts with Trump on the pandemic, arguing that the presidency and federal government exist for such crises and that Trump has been an abject failure responsible for tens of thousands of preventable deaths.

Biden endorses generous federal spending to help businesses and individuals, along with state and local governments. He's also promised aggressive use of the Defense Production Act, a wartime law a president can use to direct certain private-sector activity. Additionally, Biden promises to elevate the government's scientists and physicians to communicate a consistent message to the public, and he would have the U.S. rejoin the World Health Organization. He's also willing to use executive power for a national mask mandate, but whether that is enforceable is questionable.

ABORTION

Years before his run for the White House, Trump described himself as a strong abortion rights proponent. But since coming to Washington, he has been cheered by anti-abortion groups for his administration's efforts to restrict access to the procedure.

As a candidate and as president, Trump has consistently expressed his opposition to the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide and said the issue should be decided by states.

He has expressed support for the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits Medicaid from being used to pay for abortions in most circumstances, and he's sought to restrict access to two drugs that are used to induce abortions in the first 10 weeks of pregnancies.

In his Republican National Convention speech in August, Trump declared that "children, born and unborn, have a God-given right to life." Nominating Barrett, a 7th Circuit Court of Appeals judge, has the

anti-abortion movement hopeful that the high court — should she win confirmation — will tilt decisively to the right and pave the way for the court to eventually overturn the Roe case.

Biden has declined to offer his own list of prospective Supreme Court nominees, but he's said repeatedly that he supports Roe v. Wade's finding that the Constitution establishes a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy. He's endorsed calls for Congress to codify that right, a move that would keep abortion legal statutorily even if the court struck down the constitutional protections.

A practicing Catholic, Biden talked publicly for years of his personal struggle over abortion as a moral issue. He cited that as a reason he supported the Hyde Amendment ban on federal taxpayer funding for abortion services. But he reversed that position early in his 2020 campaign after coming under pressure from women's groups and Democratic activists. Biden said he wasn't bowing to pressure but instead argued that Republican legislatures around the country had restricted abortion access to the point that the Hyde Amendment had become an untenable barrier for poor or working-class women to access a constitutional right.

TRADE

Trump views the signing of two major trade deals — an updated pact with Mexico and Canada and Phase 1 of a China agreement — as signature achievements of his presidency. U.S. and China signed Phase 1 in January, less than two months before the pandemic put an enormous strain on U.S.-China relations. Trump says Phase 1 led to China buying roughly \$200 billion over two years in U.S. agricultural products, energy and other American products. In return, the U.S. canceled planned U.S. tariffs on Chinese-made smartphones, toys and laptop computers. The U.S. also cut in half, to 7.5%, the tariff rate levied on \$120 billion in other China imports.

Phase 2 of the deal is expected to focus on some tougher issues between the countries, including Trump's wish to get China to stop subsidizing its state-owned enterprises. But for Trump, who has come to frequently refer to the coronavirus as the "China virus," it remains to be seen whether he will be able to effectively reengage Beijing on trade. Trump recently said he's currently "not interested" in talking to China.

Biden has joined a growing bipartisan embrace of "fair trade" abroad — a twist on decades of "free trade" talk as Republican and Democratic administrations alike expanded international trade. Biden wants to juice U.S. manufacturing by directing \$400 billion of federal government purchases to domestic firms (part of that for buying pandemic supplies) over a four-year term.

He wants \$300 billion in new support for U.S. technology firms' research and development. Biden says the new domestic spending must come before he enters into any new international trade deals. He pledges tough negotiations with China, the world's other economic superpower, on trade and intellectual property matters. China, like the U.S., is not yet a member of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the multilateral trade agreement that Biden advocated for when he was vice president.

Tillis vs. Cunningham: U.S. Senate race tight

Republican Sen. Thom Tillis and Democrat Cal Cunningham are locked in a toss-up Senate race in North Carolina, where roughly a quarter of voters say the challenger's extramarital affair is important in their vote but with far more saying control of the Senate and the incumbent's support for President Trump matter, a Washington Post-ABC News poll finds.

The Post-ABC poll shows that, among likely voters, Cunningham is at 49% and Tillis is at 47%, a gap well within the survey's 4.5-percentage-point margin of sampling error. More than nine in 10 Democrats and Republicans support their party's candidate, while independents split almost down the middle: 48% for Cunningham and 45% for Tillis.

Cunningham is fueled by a 16-percentage-point advantage among female voters, while Tillis holds a 14-point edge among men. That gender gap is slightly wider than in the presidential race in North Carolina, where Biden leads by 11 points among women and Trump leads by 10 points among men.

The last few weeks of the Senate campaign have been dominated by revelations that Cunningham exchanged illicit text messages this summer with a woman who is not his wife. Cunningham, an officer in the Army Reserve who is a married father of two and has argued about the importance of character,

has apologized for the texts but requested privacy, calling the issue a "personal matter."

Republicans have criticized Cunningham, with Tillis demanding a full explanation of the affair and a super PAC aligned with Senate Republican leadership airing an ad focused on the text messages that asks, "What else is he hiding?"

The Post-ABC poll suggests that while the scandal is a factor for some voters, it has not become the dominant issue for the overall electorate.

Cunningham's 49% support among likely voters is identical to that of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, knotted in a close race against Trump, who stands at 48%.

The poll finds 89% of likely voters in North Carolina are supporting the same party in the presidential and Senate elections, including 45% who support Biden and Cunningham and 44% who support Trump and Tillis. A 92% majority of Biden supporters back Cunningham, the same percentage of Trump supporters who back Tillis.

The close alignment between presidential and Senate support is not surprising given the degree to which voters are focused on which party controls the U.S. Senate. An 81% majority of North Carolina registered voters say control of the Senate is "extremely" or "very" important in their vote, including



Tillis



Cunningham

nearly nine in 10 Democrats and Republicans as well as about seven in 10 independents.

Trump also looms large as a factor in the minds of voters, with a 56% majority saying Tillis's support for the president is important in their vote, including majorities of Republicans and Democrats and just under half of independents.

Asked directly about the importance of Cunningham's affair, 26% of registered voters say it is extremely or very important in their vote, including 41% of Republicans, 24% of independents and 11% of Democrats.

There is no gender gap on this question. Roughly seven in 10 male and female voters alike say Cunningham's affair is "somewhat important" or "not so important," while about a quarter of both men and women

say it is "very important" or "extremely important."

More than four in 10 White evangelical Protestants say the scandal is important in their vote, though the heavily Republican group expresses the same level of support for Tillis in the Senate race as for Trump in the presidential election (82%).

Cunningham's service the U.S. Army Reserve, including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, figured to put him in a strong position in a state in which nearly half of voters say someone in their household has served in the military. Voters in veteran households divide evenly, 47% for Cunningham to 48 percent for Tillis, almost the same as their 47-to-50 split between Biden and Trump in the presidential race.

The poll finds 28% of voters in military households say the affair is extremely or very important in their vote, roughly similar to 23% of voters in nonmilitary households.

The Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 12-17 among a random sample of 795 adults, including 706 registered voters and 646 likely voters in North Carolina, with 75% of interviews completed on cellphones and the remainder on landlines. The margin of sampling error for results among both registered voters and likely voters is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Bishop faces Wallace for U.S. House District 9

(AP) — Incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Dan Bishop is being challenged by Democrat Cynthia Wallace in the North Carolina 9th Congressional District election.

Bishop secured the seat in a special election in September 2019, defeating Democrat Dan McCready. Bishop served in the state House and state Senate before pursuing his congressional seat and spent most of his career as an attorney.

Wallace has been the chairperson for the 9th Congressional District of the North Carolina Democratic Party for three years. She is an executive at a financial service company and has spent more than 25 years in the industry.

The district includes Union, Anson, Richmond, Scotland and Robeson counties and parts of Mecklenburg, Cumberland and Bladen counties.

Before winning the seat, Bishop took a pledge to vote against tax increases. He

signed the Americans for Tax Reform's Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a written commitment to oppose higher income taxes.

While in Congress, Bishop introduced the Increasing Opportunities for Small Businesses Act to boost investments in Opportunity Zones, which were created by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act as a way for the private sector to help low-income communities.

"The Trump tax cuts led to one of the strongest economies our nation has ever seen. Dan will work to rebuild that strong economy and keep taxes low," Bishop's campaign website reads.

Bishop also has proposed a resolution denouncing the Modern Monetary Theory, which argues that countries with their own currency never can fall short of money.

As a member of the House Committee on Small Business, Bishop helped pass



Bishop



Wallace

the Paycheck Protection Program, which was included in Congress' Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. He also advocates for gun rights and has been endorsed by the National Rifle Association.

Wallace is an advocate for gun safety reforms.

"Gun violence is more than mass shootings

- it's everyday violence like domestic violence, community violence, suicide and more," Wallace tweeted.

Wallace said she wants to increase affordable health care, create jobs and provide "quality" education.

"I will protect (and) expand the Patient Bill of Rights that my opponent and his party have spent a decade trying to kill," Wallace wrote on Twitter. "Coverage of pre-existing conditions is only one of the benefits of the [Patient Bill of Rights], passed into law in the [Affordable Care Act] ..."

Wallace supports keeping small businesses open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When I am elected as congresswoman to represent District 09, one of my goals will be to ensure small businesses continue to open safely," she tweeted.

Wallace also said she wants to increase retirement and disability benefits, reduce the gender pay gap and improve infrastructure.

JOHNNY BOYLES

Conservative Leadership for NC House District 48

- ★ A conservative who shares our values
- ★ Second amendment defender
- ★ Strong Christian
- ★ Emergency service responder for over 47 years
- ★ Experienced in farming and agriculture
- ★ Hoke County native and lifelong resident

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY.
UNITED BY A COMMON GOAL.
SUPPORTING OUR FARMERS.
INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES.**



"I've spent my whole life in North Carolina and want to see our state prosper. I am running for State House because I have a clear vision for District 48 and have the experience to get the job done. I'm ready to 'stand in the gap' to make Hoke and Scotland Counties a better place to be. I humbly ask for your support this Novembert"

- Johnny

Johnny's Plan for District 48

- ★ Support our veterans, active duty service members, and military families.
- ★ Back our law enforcement and first responders at the Legislature.
- ★ Invest in education and raise teacher pay in North Carolina.
- ★ Stand up for our NC farmers and agricultural community.
- ★ Lower taxes for North Carolina families and businesses.



NC HOUSE DISTRICT 48

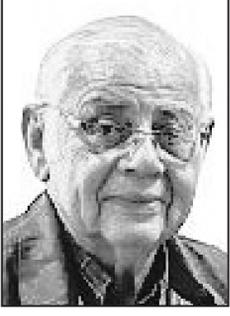
Photo & biographical information		1. Should the state approve a measure to legalize the use of marijuana?	2. Is there a path forward that will allow the state to pass a new budget?	3. Has the governor's plan during the coronavirus been good for the state?	4. How would you handle the lack of high-speed internet access in rural areas?
 <p>Garland Pierce, incumbent (D)</p>	<p>The Rev. Garland Pierce has served in the NC House for eight consecutive terms. He is the House minority whip, as well as the pastor at Bright Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for the past 30 years. A resident of Wagram, he also served in the U.S. Army from 1971 to 1974. Pierce and his wife Barbara have two children, James and Nicole.</p>	<p>Medical marijuana should be legalized in the state of North Carolina. Marijuana has been used successfully to treat AIDS, anorexia and cancer in both California and Florida. Studies also show that marijuana can treat depression, insomnia, bipolar disorder and anxiety. Many veterans suffer from PTSD and studies show that medical marijuana can alleviate the symptoms.</p>	<p>As a state legislator, that has worked on the appropriations committee. The appropriations committee manages how funding is distributed throughout the state. I look forward to passing a bipartisan budget that continues to support the vast economic growth of the great state of North Carolina.</p>	<p>The governor's plan was based on leading medical professionals' recommendations to keep North Carolina safe. However, as a state legislator, I cannot ignore the economic devastation of COVID-19. Many local businesses have been impacted financially by COVID-19. The General Assembly passed the bipartisan Cares Act that has assisted local businesses and working families. There is more to be done. It will be my priority to bring back more funding from Raleigh to aid small businesses in House District 48.</p>	<p>A part of the Cares Act provided funding specifically for high-speed internet. I'm presently working with the Great Grant Program to bring funding to House District 48 to continue to expand high-speed internet in the more rural counties.</p>
 <p>Johnny Boyles, challenger (R)</p>	<p>Johnny Boyles is a first-time challenger for a House seat. He graduated from Hoke County High School in 1970 and went into farming. From 1970 to 2012, he farmed cotton, corn, soybeans, rye and wheat with BYL Farms; from 1970 to the present, he has been the manager of Upland Trace Golf Course.</p>	<p>I do not think this is or should be a priority for the House to take up. We have legal hemp, which is without the THC that gets you high. Hemp produces CBD oil that has healing properties. Let science study this and we will see future data as it becomes available. Some terminal cancer patients have used marijuana with THC and have said it helped relieve pain and helps to retain an appetite. So, maybe we need a more detailed look at medical marijuana.</p>	<p>The state needs to remember that big government has a big price tag. During this time of COVID-19, the state and federal government have a responsibility to help our citizens have the PPE needed and help from the government to speak clearly about what steps we need to take when citizens are sick. Our state's future has to consider policy choices on spending and taxes, health care and quickly getting people back to work.</p>	<p>Recently, the CDC did a press release stating that our closures were not the best idea for the situation. So, our Gov. Roy Cooper had the highest amount of required restrictions of almost any state. To be fair, the governor allowed Walmart, Lowes and Home Depot to open and sell whatever was in their store. But large numbers of mom-and-pop stores and some small chain stores could not open. Nancy Pelosi had a hair salon open and do her hair while wearing no mask. Some states are 100% open and North Carolina is still in a state of partial shutdown.</p>	<p>One of the top hot-button issues is to have high-speed internet accessible all over our state. Our rural farmers have equipment that is high technology. For our state, farmers need high-speed internet for a stronger agri-business, rural business, our country homes, for education and some of our cities. Tax incentives and grants are avenues that need to be used to help make this happen. It needs to be part of our infrastructure.</p>



SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

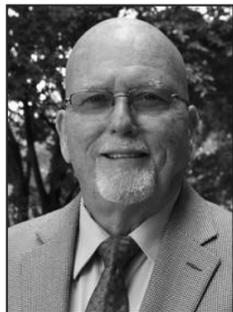
Photo & biographical information		1. What qualities are you looking for in a new superintendent?	2. What are your opinions about virtual learning and how do you think it will be used in the future?	3. What precautions should be taken to protect students in the classroom?	4. What can be done to keep students from falling behind?
 <p>Rick Singletary, incumbent (Stewartsville seat)</p>	<p>A native of Hoke County. After graduating I attended NC A & T State University where I received an undergraduate and two Masters. I am a retired educator of 38 years, with 22 of those years in Scotland County. I served as an administrator at North Laurinburg Primary and Sycamore Lane Middle and 3 years in Marlboro County. I am currently serving as Chairman of our School Board. I have served on numerous board in our county. I am married to Valerie and have two children Kevin (Kachina) and Freda and six grandchildren. Our children and two grandchildren are graduates of Scotland High School.</p>	<p>After analyzing the surveys from our staff, community, and board, several qualities stood out. Some of those were: *Maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment and campus. *Being an effective communicator whose focus is on student growth and achievement *Requiring residency in Scotland County and being active throughout the community. *Having a focus on the harmony and well being of students and staff *Being transparent *Requiring the ability to maintain budgets while emphasizing 21st century learning.</p>	<p>I feel there is no replacement for in-person learning. However, in a pandemic of this nature, I truly believe virtual learning is the next most effective approach. There are several ways to utilize virtual learning such as, during inclement weather where we could maybe revert from a regular school day to a virtual day, which could decrease the number of make up days. Also, I can see using such technology with professional development for our staff.</p>	<p>I believe at a minimum, we must follow the CDC regulations/guidelines and include other possible steps that may be necessary from our local infectivity and hospitalization rates. We must maintain continued communication with our local Health Department and Hospital. I also think we should observe what has and has not worked in other districts that have already started in-person learning. We should then gather pointers that might benefit us. We must do whatever it takes to ensure the safety and health of all of our staff and students.</p>	<p>I think the understanding that we are all in this together must remain our focus. I believe parents must become more active and engaged by monitoring that their children's work have been completed, and request assistance if needed. I think teachers must keep parents abreast of any changes they might observe, academically or emotionally in students. The school must keep lines of communication open to parents or other necessary/relevant individuals that play a role in ensuring our students success. Lastly, students must be held accountable for their engagement or lack there of and given the opportunity to be successful regardless of socioeconomic level.</p>
 <p>Gary Mauk, challenger (Stewartsville seat)</p>	<p>I am a Professor in the Department of Counseling at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. I hold a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology (child-adolescent emphasis) from Utah State University, a Master of Arts degree in Developmental Psychology and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in School Psychology from Gallaudet University, and Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from California University of Pennsylvania. I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and a North Carolina Department of Public Instruction-licensed school psychologist. I have been affiliated with the fields of child-adolescent developmental psychology and school psychology since 1984</p>	<p>An individual of excellent character who possesses: (1) knowledge of evidence-affirmed practices and requisite leadership, communication, problem-solving, documented competence, and interpersonal skills to lead and support principals, assistant principals, teachers, other staff members, and parents/families as they instruct and engage students to learn the curriculum and to develop into successful, efficacious citizens; and (2) a clearly defined and articulated vision and related goals, objectives, and associated strategies for maintaining currently effective district-based operations and practices, improving those operations and practices that, based on evidence, have been demonstrated to be ineffective, and moving the Scotland County Schools forward into distinction.</p>	<p>Virtual learning cannot compare to/compete with the educational and social interaction dynamics of the face-to-face classroom environment, especially in the elementary and middle school grades. With an ever-increasing amount of human interactions being facilitated through various digital media platforms and other means of electronic discourse, face-to-face instructional/learning opportunities are a welcome social-emotional respite and invaluable vehicle for students' interpersonal engagement, personal development, and quality educational experiences. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has made virtual learning a necessary option that will likely become more of the norm for K-12 schools, perhaps to the detriment of students' academic enrichment and social-emotional wellbeing.</p>	<p>September 2020 CDC guidance (https://bit.ly/36l3yH3) noted the following four considerations for protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of students, school teachers and staff member, and students' families: (a) Promoting behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 (e.g., remaining home when appropriate, proper hand hygiene/respiratory etiquette, mask usage); (b) Maintaining healthy school environments (e.g., cleaning and disinfection of frequently touch surfaces, modified layouts for social distancing); (c) Maintaining healthy school operations (e.g., protections for staff and children at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, alternating/staggered schedule, virtual/hybrid instruction); and (d) Preparing for when someone gets sick in the school environment.</p>	<p>A July 2020 systematic review of research studies by the National Bureau of Economic Research (https://bit.ly/2SylBA3) concluded that tutoring (i.e., one-on-one or small-group instructional programming by volunteers, parents, teachers, and paraprofessionals) is an impactful educational tool. The review's authors found that tutoring programs, especially those conducted during the school day and involving teachers and paraprofessionals, yielded substantial positive impacts on students' mathematics and reading skills. As such, teachers should use curriculum-based diagnostic assessments to determine each student's current learning levels, which would then be used as the starting points for personalized, tailored tutoring responsive to the student's assessed academic-area needs.</p>

SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Photo & biographical information		1. What qualities are you looking for in a new superintendent?	2. What are your opinions about virtual learning and how do you think it will be used in the future?	3. What precautions should be taken to protect students in the classroom?	4. What can be done to keep students from falling behind?
 <p>Tony Spaulding, challenger (Stewartsville)</p>	<p>I am a product of Scotland County wherein I developed an interest in life-long learning. I am a proud member of the SHS Class of 1987. After graduating, I attended Morehouse College and transferred to Pembroke State University, where I completed a BA in Political Science and I completed an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Webster University. Currently, I am a Team Lead providing Community Based Mental Health Services serving families to avoid out of home placement for their children.</p>	<p>Our superintendent should have proven educational leadership experience, curriculum implementation and an approach to address the social-emotional development of the whole child.</p>	<p>Virtual learning is a platform that can provide innovative ways to add to how we deliver learning opportunities; however, it does not replace in-person learning it should add to the overall experience.</p>	<p>No answer provided</p>	<p>Continue offering tutorial and remediation as a part of the virtual learning experience for children who struggle to keep up. Consultation can be made with our local University and Community College partners who have teaching through virtual platforms and can assist the public schools as we navigate during through the pandemic.</p>
<p>No photo available</p> <p>Lester Brigman Jr. challenger (Stewartsville)</p>	<p>Born Sept. 3, 1968, I grew up in the adjoining city of McColl, South Carolina. I graduated with honors from McColl-Fletcher High School in 1986. I completed my associate degree from Florence-Darlington Technical College with an associates degree in nursing in 1992. I have practiced nursing as an RN at McLeod Regional Medical Center, Marlboro Park Hospital and Scotland Healthcare System. All of my children have attended Scotland County Schools. I hold a bachelor's degree in nursing from Lander University, a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a masters degree in early childhood education from Francis Marion. In 2007 I graduated with my masters in nursing in public health nursing, becoming certified as both a family and pediatric nurse practitioner. I finished my education by completing my doctorates from the University of South Carolina in educational leadership and the University of Kentucky in nursing practice.</p>	<p>In the process of looking for a superintendent, my first question is the experience they may bring to the area. It is very important to me that the successful candidate for the superintendency has had years experience in teaching before having sought out any roles in the administration. I would also consider it a positive if the candidate was planning to live in the community and understands the dynamics of how smaller cities and schools operate. I want a candidate who is not planning to make Scotland County Schools a stepping stone to a larger district.</p>	<p>I know that the last half of the 2019-2020 school year and the entire 2020-2021 school year to date has a challenge for everyone involved. The struggle to balance health, safety and a quality education unfortunately has pervaded our homes, our workplaces and our schools. However above all else the safety of the students is paramount in the decision-making process. We don't know enough about COVID-19 to fully understand the repercussions. However, there is another side to this pandemic as well. The cultural and social effects it has on children. Personally, I have taken multiple courses "via" virtual learning but I am a developed adult. At this point, I am afraid tremendous harm is being done as our children develop without the interaction between other students and our teachers. Somehow we have to do better.</p>	<p>I have had personal experience in this area. My daughter was bullied and physically attacked in her elementary school. As we sought help from the district, my family and I were constantly told it was being handled. When she was ultimately hit by an object, the other child was suspended for several days and allowed to return to school in the same classes and on the same schedule as my child. We must ensure, "all the children, all the time," which is why I am running for school board.</p>	<p>First and foremost, there needs to be a task force comprising of parents, students, teachers, administrators and let's do some research and see what our options are, by considering how other districts have helped their students, to understand how they have been successful. Then we need to share the plan with everyone. I completely support our teachers, having been one myself, I understand the struggles faced in the classroom. I also support the SROs and other police officers but we have to learn to communicate with everyone. Basically, we need to understand we can't do it without everyone being involved.</p>
 <p>Carolyn Banks, incumbent (At-large)</p>	<p>Married to Arthemias Banks and they have three sons: Arthemias Jr. and wife Yara of Jacksonville Florida; retired Major Antoine Banks and wife Rhonica of Upper Marlboro, Maryland; and Retired Lt. Col. Aaron Banks and wife Erika of San Antonio, Texas. She is currently up for re-election to the Scotland County School Board. She is the director of a 21st Century Community Learning Center, SYSTEM (Strengthening Youth Through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). She has worked in education for 27 years as a career and technical education teacher and TSA (Technology Students Association) advisor. She is a National Board Certified teacher and she is certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator. She has worked on many grants, especially in the area of project-based learning and STEM education. She currently is the director of a 21st Century Community Learning Center- SYSTEM (Strengthening Students Through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).</p>	<p>The qualities I would like to see in a new superintendent are first of all a visionary. A person who can start with our current district initiatives and determine where we need to go. A person who use data to make decisions about the needs of all students. A person who knows about best practices in education and can set obtainable goals for the district. I would also like to have a superintendent who is approachable, one who is involved in the community and supports students by attending events and is visible and available when needed. I would like for the new superintendent to be able to work with the BOE to maintain an open line of communication. He (she) should also be able to manage the financial resources so that the school budget is spent in the areas where it is most needed. Finally, I would like to have a superintendent who had had experience in working with high needs populations and students at risk of failure.</p>	<p>Virtual learning has been around for a while in education. It is a tool that uses computers and the internet to promote learning. The teacher and the learner are separation by distance and the goal is to enhance learning using technology. Virtual learning when used correctly can promote learning that 21st century learners can use as a substitute for on-site learning. I feel that nothing can replace in person instruction especially for the young learner but virtual learning is a valid option when in person learning is not available. Scotland County students' have Chromebooks and they are using the Chromebooks to connect with their teachers. Teachers are using NC State standards to guide their instructions, I feel very good about our students and teachers when it comes to virtual learning now and for the future.</p>	<p>There needs to be a strict enforcement of the rules at every school. First of all, when students get on the bus, their temperature should be checked. When they arrive at school they should go directly to class and stay there. Hand sanitizing stations should be strategically placed in each classroom. Teachers should explain the procedures for staying safe to the students, the three Ws (wash your hands, wear a mask, and wait at least 6 feet) and other safety measures should be the norm for safe operation of school. Lunch should be delivered to each classroom. Students should wear their mask at all times except to eat. Students should not share materials or food. Teachers should monitor students for any sign of illness. The room should be disinfected before, during, and after the students leave, especially if the room is to be used by another class.</p>	<p>Administrators and teachers need to make sure that students login to their classes. The teachers need to explore new and exciting ways to motivate students to learn. Teachers can make personal phone calls to reach out to parents and share their concerns if a student is having problems. There is concern that students need social and emotional support so we need to make sure counselors and mental health personal are available to provide assistance if needed. The teachers are available to work one on one with students. Parents should make sure that their child is meeting the required hours of attendance. Parents need to also express their concerns to the principals if they feel that their child needs additional support.</p>
 <p>Jimmy Bennett, challenger (At-large)</p>	<p>Jimmy Bennett born in Scotland County attended school in Scotland County Pembroke State very active in the county President of the Kiwanis Club and the President of Scotland County Veteran Council.</p>	<p>What I look for in a new Superintendent is He or She needs to live in Scotland County visit all school to keep abreast of what happening at all school have dialog with teacher and essential personnel.</p>	<p>Virtual would be OK if the kids had internet in all parts of the county. If it works with the students then it could be good in the future.</p>	<p>School personnel should do everything possible to make sure students can stay safe.</p>	<p>Keep up with the virtual learning and send material to the students home for them to keep up.</p>



SCOTLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER (at-large)

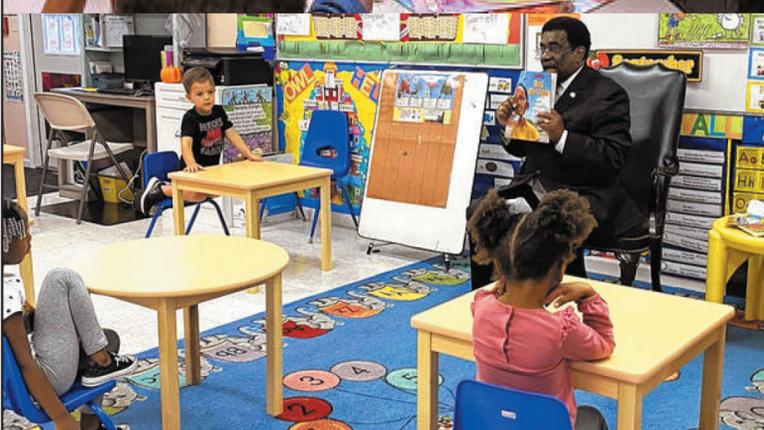
Photo & biographical information		1. How do you feel about the current board's attempts to create a policy designed to help prevent social media posts by Commissioners which could be viewed as racial or controversial?	2. In the matter of the lost grants that created a \$575,000 deficit to the county, do you feel this issue has been handled properly as far as the transparency of the board during and after the process as well as solving the issue of lost funds and determining who is at fault?	3. What, if any, changes do you believe need to happen within the board for it to improve the way it serves the community?	4. What do you think should be done with the former IEJ Elementary School?
 <p>Whit Gibson, incumbent (D)</p>	<p>In my early years, I was raised as an Army brat; my dad was a career soldier and my mom a teacher and a homemaker. Both parents were born and raised in Scotland county. I graduated from Laurinburg High School in 1966 and UNC-Chapel Hill with a BA in political science in 1970; participated in the UNC School of Gov't, Justice Executive Program in 1982. Employed 1970-1981 State of NC - Juvenile Court, Parole, prison superintendent; 1981-2007 Scotland County Clerk of Superior Court and Probate Judge; 2007-2019 First Capital Bank, Compliance and Security Officer, then in 2018-2019, the Regional Executive over Laurinburg and Bennettsville branches. Have served as a Boy Scout leader, Optimist baseball coach, United Way president and campaign chair and chamber president. Married to Tammie Caulder Gibson and we have four sons.</p>	<p>There is a policy regarding county employees (including elected officials) use of social media. The County Commissioners on September 8th asked the Policy Committee (standing committee) to review the policy because of recent posts by Commissioners. No action has been recommended, but I believe the only recommendation would involve statements on social media that suggests a Commissioner is violating or suggesting the violation of his (her) oath of office. This policy would not limit anyone's "freedom of speech", but would caution Commissioners to remain faithful to their oath to support, maintain and defend the Constitutions of the United States and North Carolina.</p>	<p>County Commissioners have done a poor job of answering questions and being "open" about what occurred and for that, I apologize. There was no intentional effort to deceive nor personal gains obtained in this effort to bring 90 jobs and \$38,000,000 in capital investment to Scotland County. The county has spent \$575,000 for which it has not been reimbursed. We will be reimbursed by a Department of Commerce loan with a first payment due 7-1-2021. Hopefully, this loan will be forgiven before the first payment is due. These "loan" negotiations have occurred between March-August 2020, and are primarily why commissioners remained mostly silent on this topic.</p>	<p>First, the board should improve its ability to conduct meetings virtually. We have had extremely important meetings that have not been broadcast clearly, nor effectively informed the public. Better virtual communications would improve discussions and understanding between county commissioners and Scotland County's citizens. Additionally, commissioners need to be more open to questions and better inform citizens of the reasons behind the decisions that we make. I believe commissioners need to be less defensive when confronted with questions and more expansive in their answers.</p>	<p>I believe there is interest from the I.E. Johnson community and from the Laurinburg City Council and Scotland County Board of Commissioners to consider a plan that would utilize the I.E.J. property for the benefit of that community. Hopefully (and reportedly), there are "third parties" that may be willing to invest in the property for charitable or entrepreneurial purposes. These "third-party" interests, along with governmental support for academic, vocational, recreational or community-centered functions could maximize the use of this much-loved campus to continue as a center of hope and pride for this community.</p>

SCOTLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER (AT LARGE), CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



"A vote for Representative Pierce is a great investment in the education of our children and their future."

RE-ELECT GARLAND PIERCE
for NC House District 48

ENDORSED BY









RE-ELECT GARLAND PIERCE
for NC House District 48

Early Voting Oct 15 - Oct 31 | Election Day November 3

Vote November 3

WHIT GIBSON

Thank you for allowing me to have served you previously as **SCOTLAND COUNTY CLERK OF COURT from 1981 - 2007** **SCOTLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER from 2012 - Present**

I would like to continue to serve you as your County Commissioner. I offer you additional information about our Board's accomplishments and my goals are listed below.

Board Accomplishments:

- Reduced the Tax rate in 3 of the last 6 years,
- Worked with the Scotland County School Board to determine the funding amount for each year since 2015, instead of depending on the "School Funding Formula",
- Through the efforts of the Economic Development Corporation, the board facilitated the recruitment of a new industry or the expansion of an existing industry in every year since 2009. Since 2012, more than 800 new jobs have been created with a Capital Investment of over \$300,000,000,
- Expanded "fire coverage" with 2 new substations, lowering insurance premiums for many citizens,
- Worked with Richmond Community College to achieve "full campus designation" for facilities in Scotland County.

Continuing Goals:

- Maintain Scotland County Services during difficult economic times,
- Promote "economic development", including the creation of additional jobs for Scotland County citizens,
- Cooperate with other "governing" boards to improve the services provided to citizens (Board of Education, local City Councils, Local Government Commission, etc.).

SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Whit Gibson



SCOTLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER (AT LARGE), CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Photo & biographical information		1. How do you feel about the current board's attempts to create a policy designed to help prevent social media posts by Commissioners which could be viewed as racial or controversial?	2. In the matter of the lost grants that created a \$575,000 deficit to the county, do you feel this issue has been handled properly as far as the transparency of the board during and after the process as well as solving the issue of lost funds and determining who is at fault?	3. What, if any, changes do you believe need to happen within the board for it to improve the way it serves the community?	4. What do you think should be done with the former IEJ Elementary School?
 <p>Bo Frizzell, challenger (R)</p>	None provided	A commissioner should be above posting anything that would offend anyone regardless of race, age, sex, or occupation. Or for that matter political views. I feel that a county commissioner should be for all people. A County Commissioner gives up the right to have a personal opinion when they are elected and sworn in so you can represent all people equally.	This issue has been handled poorly. The board has not been truthful to the citizens of Scotland County. They continue to direct all the fault onto Mark Ward and not his superiors. As a commissioner you are required to serve the people of Scotland County and direct all funds to the betterment of the county.	I think that the board needs new commissioners with fresh and improved ideas. The board is ineffective in the way that they are handling and conducting business. With the most recent events in the past year, it is not hard to see this.	It should be used as a community center. It should also be used for further education programs, work programs, and after school tutoring. The playground and ball field should be opened back up. Maybe even possibly a Boys and Girls Club. It needs to be utilized to benefit all citizens of Scotland County.



SCOTLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER (Stewartsville Township)



Clarence McPhatter, incumbent

McPhatter is the owner of McPhatter Funeral Home and is currently on the Scotland County Board of Commissioners. He did not submit answers to the questions provided or biography information.



Angie Kersey, challenger

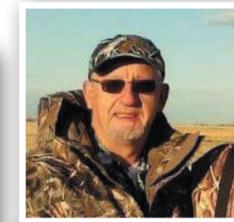
Kersey is running against McPhatter for county commissioner. She did not submit answers to the questions provided or biography information.

VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD

BO FRIZZELL

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

It's Time for A Change Scotland County!



★★★★ MY MISSION AS COUNTY COMMISSIONER ★★★★★

- Increase the workforce in Scotland County by promoting incentives for new businesses in the area
- Work with the School Board to re-introduce Vocational Education programs in public schools
- Create job programs for residents to help end poverty in Scotland County and create financial independence
- Explore ways to provide assistance to local First Responders by attending training meetings gathering input
- Work with local colleges to create solutions for local teacher shortages
- STOP WASTEFUL SPENDING
- With my experience in planning, construction and spending I will make more informative decisions regarding how our tax dollars are being spent.

Paid for by Bo Frizzell for County Commissioner