

Dear Pender County GOP Executive Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my interest in the open District one Pender County Commissioners seat. Committee members, while it's unfortunate for the county that this process is taking place. I want to introduce myself and explain why my appointment with the Board of Commissioners would be beneficial.

I am a lifelong resident of Hampstead/Sloop Point, as is my wife of 33 years. My mother's family has been in Hampstead for over 100 years. My father's family settled for a short period in the Long Creek area of New Hanover County as they made their way to the coast of Masonboro. My wife is also a lifelong resident of Surf City/Sloop Point, as were her parents and grandparents. Her father's family dates back to this area over 100 years. I carry on the tradition and have raised three children in Hampstead; 2 of the three still reside in Hampstead. The oldest son lives in Holly Ridge, just across the line, however, both he and his wife work in Pender County.

Career

In 1987 I graduated from Topsail High School; at that time, Topsail High had a total population of fewer than four hundred students. Two days after graduation, I left Hampstead for a short period to fulfill my enlistment in the US Navy. Following basic training, I became stationed at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, for a short time and transferred to Naval Reserve Center Wilmington, NC, where I completed my active enlistment on July 2, 1991.

On August 5, 1991, I started my career at General Electric Nuclear, where I am still employed today as a Maintenance Coordinator. I coordinate the maintenance activities of ten industrial maintenance employees, and several sub-contractors. I am responsible for the maintenance planning of over seventeen hundred assets and administer several million in purchase requisitions and purchase orders.

Community Involvement

Before adulthood and continuing today, I have been active in the community, county, and schools. Community service is important to me and I have instilled this love of community to my children.

- Volunteer firefighter with Hampstead Volunteer Fire department, later moving to Sloop Point when I became married, serving well over 20 years.
- Past member of Pender East EMS, a medic, and a board member from 1988- 1995.
- County at-large member and past member of the Hampstead Kiwanis Park Board.
- Member of the Pender County Parks advisory board District 1 for ten years.

- Member of the Topsail Girls Softball organization from 2011-2017
- Member of numerous PTA committees and booster clubs from 1999-2018.
- Boy Scout leader Cub-Boy Scout from 1999-2014.

Political Experience

Currently, I am a Pender County Board of Education member; I was elected to my first term in July 2012 and have completed three successful campaigns. I have served as chairman on two separate occasions.

As a member of the BOE, it affords me some valuable insight into the internal operations of the local county government.

- BOE members work with the district staff members to finalize an operating budget, 2022-2023 budget of more than \$129,126,585.41.

In comparison, BOCC members work with county staff members to finalize an operating budget, 2022-2023 budget of \$84,724,884.00

- BOE members are the directing Board of the county's largest employer and contract approvers for several contractors such as food service providers, custodial services, building maintenance, and construction.

In comparison, BOCC members are the directing Board of many employees and are the contractor approver for several supporting contractors, such as Fire and EMS, Engineering specialties, and construction.

As a BOE member in 2014, I worked for the passage of a \$75 000,000.00 bond, worked with land acquisition for the placement of Surf City School complex, collaborated with architect firms in the design of 3 new schools as well as several expansion and remodeling projects across Pender County.

As a BOE member in 2022, I worked for the successful passage of a \$175,000,000.00 bond package. These experiences could greatly help the Board of Commissioners as they work on several large county projects while working with the Board of Education on school projects.

In conclusion, as a BOE member for the last ten years, I have witnessed the effects of uncontrolled growth; I see firsthand the growing pains for the district. As a lifelong resident, I also see and feel the daily impact. Whether it be an extended drive home due to traffic, my oldest living outside Pender due to affordable housing, or the mile-long wait at the area's only public boat ramp. These experiences allow me to offer my perspective to the BOCC and work toward a solution while embracing growth.

Over the past several years, I have attended or streamed the Commissioners, Planning Board, or Board of Adjustment meetings. Throughout this time, along with researching local government, I firmly understand the working nature of each of those boards. At a time, such as this, our county needs strong, experienced leadership. I have such leadership experience and would like to continue to serve my county in this role. A strong understanding of operations and a historical knowledge of how we got here will be essential for this Board of Commissioners moving forward.