

WHY I AM A CANDIDATE TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 40 IN THE NC SENATE

My friend, the late Mecklenburg County Manager Harry Jones, Sr, had the following message attached to his voicemail system: “I hope you are making a difference.” By that he meant working toward goals that will benefit humanity. I served on his county management team for twelve years. As public servants, we did not delve on partisan politics but carried out local government policies as determined by our elected officials. I considered myself to be the most conservative member of the management team. By conservative, I mean being careful to not waste public resources and to guard against unnecessary regulations or interference with individual rights. I offered behind-the-scene advice to help shape good public policy.

I retired from local government in 2013 and spent the past five years operating a small business and volunteering in various professional and civic capacities. During that time, I observed partisan politics in action and did not like what I saw. Our democracy is too important to allow our attention to be diverted away from goals that will promote good government and toward those that are designed to stir up emotions. I want to help the NC General Assembly enact laws that will make effective use of public resources, avoid unnecessary regulations and respect individual rights.

There are many issues impacting Senate District 40 and North Carolina, especially related to economic development, infrastructure and education. Over the past four years, our incumbent senator has been the primary sponsor of approximately thirty bills, none of them became law. We should not believe the argument that a shift in leadership from one political party to the other will make a difference. Now is the time for bold, knowledgeable and effective leadership with a track record of public service. Now is the time to elect Bobbie Shields as the next senator to represent District 40.

Harry Jones ended his emails with an excerpt from President Theodore Roosevelt’s The Man in the Arena speech – “... the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood... if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. . .” I am running to represent District 40 in the NC Senate because I want to be in the arena – daring greatly.