



Clinton City Council- District One



Q- Why are you running for the office of City Council?

A- I am proud and honored to have served the City of Clinton as District 1 Councilman for the last four years. We have made a lot of progress in that time but I believe there is always room to continue making headway. I am passionate about this community

DANIEL RUGGLES

and the city as a whole because my wife and I are raising our family here. Clinton has been good to me and I want it to be even better for my kids. A second term on the council would allow me to continue the positive growth and improvements that I have supported over the last 4 years.

Q- What are the issues that you hope to tackle if you are elected/re-elected?

A- I am dedicated to promoting growth in our city, specifically small, local businesses. Economic growth is essential for the city to be able to continually improve services for our citizens. I would like to see our playgrounds, parks and recreational facilities continue to advance and expand. The addition of greenways and more sidewalks to connect Clinton, especially around our schools and neighborhoods, would be excellent.

Q- Tell the readers about your family, your educational background and your work experience that helps in preparing you for the office of City Council?

A- I am a husband and father of three young children. Born and raised in the very district that I currently represent, I graduated with a degree in Business Administration from Sampson Community College. For over a decade, I have worked in the agricultural sector. I hold an active North Carolina Real Estate Broker license. Currently, I am a board member of the Clinton Kiwanis Club, Vice-Chairman of Life Line Sampson, and a member of the Triangle South Workforce Development Board.

Q- Why should the voters in your district cast their vote for you?

A- I truly have a vested interest in seeing our community advance and thrive. In the last 4 years on the council, I have strived to support causes and projects that I believe to be admirable, including taking the lead to support the Tucker Family on the Officer Donald Ray Tucker Memorial Bridge that will be dedicated in the coming months. My goal is to always do the right thing for our city and for the people who make Clinton their home.

LET'S KEEP

Daniel

RUGGLES

District 1 Clinton City Council

A photograph of Daniel Ruggles and his family (Lillian, Silas, and Henry) sitting on the steps of their home. Daniel is holding a sign that says "Daniel Ruggles May 17th Clinton City Council".

Daniel, Lillian
Mary T., Silas, & Henry

Daniel...

- Is a family man, born and raised in our district
- He supports local first responders
- He has actively worked to bring new businesses to our city

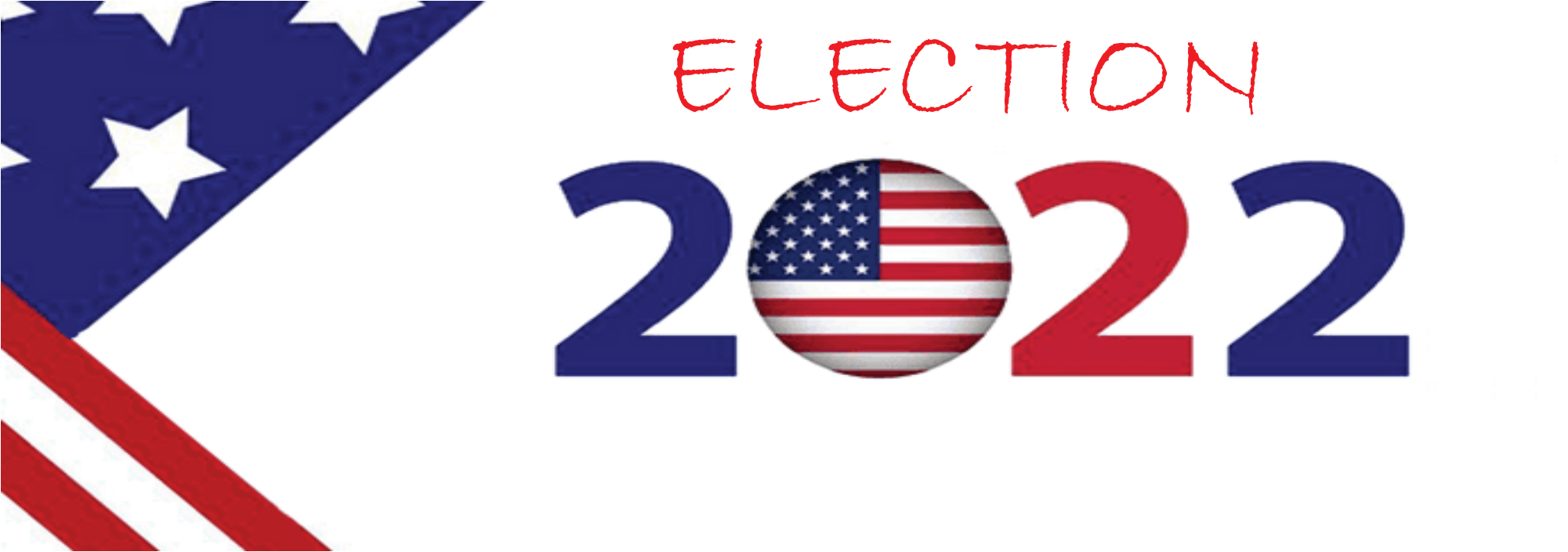
Vote RUGGLES for the future of our community!

Pro - Church

Pro - Family

Pro - Small Business

Paid for by Vote Ruggles



Clinton City Council- District One

JOEL ROSE

Q- Why are you running for the office of City Council?

A- I was raised in District 1 and believe that I have a vested interest in its future. After all, these are the same neighborhoods where I played as a kid, mowed lawns, and delivered newspapers on my bicycle. District 1 is a great little community in and of itself and reflects the small-town values which we’ve all come to appreciate.

A former resident, Steve Stefanovich, represented District 1 from 2000-2018. I always felt that he did a great job and was concerned about the community. But we now need better communications between the residents and City Council, the Police and Fire Departments. The neighborhoods located in District 1 will be facing new and ongoing challenges in the near future, and I want to be a part as it seeks solutions.

Q- What are the issues that you hope to tackle if you are elected/re-elected?

A- Over the last few weeks, I’ve been visiting the

various neighborhoods, speaking with residents, and I’m hearing a lot the same sorts of concerns: speeding cars, rising crime, litter, unkempt homes, and pockets of drug use. On some streets, folks are even afraid to walk out of their homes at night. I hope to be able to work with the local law enforcement officials to address and resolve many of these concerns.

I’m an advocate of economic growth, as an improved and stronger local economy serves our town and citizens best. When new business opportunities come our way, we should pursue them.

Q- Tell the readers about your family, your educational background and your work experience that helps in preparing you for the office of City Council?

A- I was raised in Clinton. My Dad, Byron Rose, first came to Clinton when he and my uncle, James Rose, opened a Buick dealership here many years ago. Back then, it was tough feeding two families from it, so Dad got a job working with the post office as the local postmaster. We lived at 801 College Street on the corner with Park Avenue. It was a drafty, old house but a perfect place for our family. Mom was a nurse with the Health Department, and I have two older brothers, George Rose and Billy Rose.

I graduated from Campbell University with a business degree where I was also a member of the ROTC. Upon graduation, I was commissioned into the US Army where I spent five years on active duty, mostly with the XVIII Airborne Corps at nearby Fort Bragg. After that, my career was spent as a bank trust officer, a financial adviser in Durham, and eventually I owned and operated my own property and casualty insurance agency in Clinton for many years.

I have two adult sons by



a previous marriage. Both attended the Clinton City Schools which I believe prepared them well. Both live in Louisiana and I have three grandkids there. Betsy and I have been together for over fifteen years.

I’ve always been involved in our community as a volunteer and I keep abreast of the ongoing activities of our City Council. My familiarity with our town, its officials and its residents provide me with a unique perspective that will allow me to respond quickly and understand the needs and concerns in District 1.

Q- Why should the voters in your district cast their vote for you?

A- I share the same conservative family values and concerns as do all residents of District 1: a desire for good schools, clean and safe neighborhoods, accessible recreation for children, and sensible property taxes.

We’re not going to experience the sort of growth seen in the Triangle or in our coastal areas anytime soon, but we can make this the very best place to live for our residents, and they should expect it.

The areas comprising District 1 have always included great neighborhoods for raising a family or just enjoying a quite life, and I’d like to make sure they stay that way.

ELECT

Joel Rose

Clinton City Council District 1

“I share the same conservative family values and concerns as do all residents of District 1: a desire for good schools, clean and safe neighborhoods, accessible recreation for children, and sensible property taxes. The areas comprising District 1 have always been great neighborhoods for raising families or just enjoying a quiet life, and I’d like to make sure they stay that way.”



- Graduate of Clinton High School and Campbell University
 - Member, Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church
 - Veteran, U.S. Army, XVIII Airborne Corps
 - Director, Sampson County History Museum
 - Board Member, Sampson County Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - Board Member, Friends of the Sampson County Waterways
 - Former Board Member, Sampson Regional Medical Center Foundation



I would appreciate your support on May 17th

Paid for by the Committe to Elect Joel Rose

RESOLUTION AND NOTICE

IT IS RESOLVED AND NOTICE IS GIVEN by the Sampson County Board of Elections in accordance with N.C.G.S. 163-128, that the new voting place has been established, effective immediately, for the following precinct:

Harrells Precinct	New Polling Site Location
Old Polling Site Location	Harrells Activity Center
Harrells Fire Station	891 Ward Rd
Training Center	Harrells, NC 28444
915 Ward Rd	
Harrells, NC 28444	
Plain View Precinct	New Polling Site Location
Old Polling Site Location	Plain View Community Building
Plain View Fire Station	5161 Plain View Hwy
5041 Plain View Hwy	Dunn, NC 28334
Dunn, NC 28334	

Adopted, this the 29th day of March 2022.



District Attorney



ERNIE LEE

Q- Why are you running for the office of District Attorney?

A- Serving as a career prosecutor has been an honor for me and I have been privileged to serve as an assistant district attorney and as District Attorney for four great counties-Sampson, Onslow, Duplin, and Jones. I am seeking re-election as District Attorney because this district deserves an experienced prosecutor, one who has tried the challenging and toughest cases, one who has made the difficult decisions, and one who has tried serious jury trials in all four counties. I am seeking re-election because experience matters when you or your family member is the victim of any crime. I am seeking re-election because experience matters when you or your family member have been the victim of a violent felony. I am seeking re-election because I believe in protecting victims' rights. I am seeking re-election because I believe in justice and want to continue serving you as your District Attorney.

Q- What are the issues that you hope to tackle if you are re-elected?

A- I will continue to schedule violent cases in this district and make those a priority. I will continue to schedule first degree murders and lead by example by trying many of those cases myself. I believe the District Attorney should have the experience to serve as lead counsel in a capital murder and non-capital first degree murders. I will continue to work with law enforcement including the Sampson County Sheriff's Office in the arrest and prosecution of drug dealers and traffickers. I will continue to be tough on impaired drivers when means enforcement of the law passed by the legislature that states "a person commits the offense of impaired driving if he drives any vehicle upon any highway, any street, or a public vehicular area within the State....after having consumed sufficient alcohol that he has, at any relevant time after the driving, an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more." That is the law of the State of North Carolina, I my office will continue to be tough on driving while impaired cases. Those who are not tough on those cases have apparently never tried impaired drivers who killed an innocent victim. I have tried those cases. If re-elected, I will continue working on the backlog of cases that were delayed by the pandemic since we lost a year of jury trial time from March 2021-March 2022. If re-elected, I will continue to treat seriously and enforce the law concerning sexual offenses, domestic violence, and property crimes that are so prevalent in our district and state. I will continue to work with the four sheriffs and the police chiefs of my district to ensure that law enforcement has the appropriate advice, as required by the NC Constitution, in charging decisions, evidentiary issues, and other matters arising in the enforcement of the laws of this State.

Q- Do you see the role as DA as more of practicing lawyer or as a supervisor and policy setter for the office?

A- I see my role as the District Attorney as all these things but primarily as a leader of the office who is prepared and experienced to try the toughest cases. I believe the elected DA must possess the experience to try

cases including the most serious crimes such as first-degree murders. I have that experience. The DA should not simply be an individual telling others what to do in a homicide when he has never actually tried a murder. I believe in leading by example. I believe the DA should be a practicing attorney in the office in that if the DA has the experience to sit as first chair in a murder or other serious case that demonstrates an excellent allocation of resources, provides leadership to the office, and instills confidence in the public. As DA, I often will have an ADA try the case with me for that ADA as I mentor them with my experience. I worked for two experienced District Attorneys, William H. Andrews, and G. Dewey Hudson and both tried murder and other serious cases. I have continued to do the same.

In addition, I believe the District Attorney must be the supervisor and policy setter for the office. As District Attorney, I must supervise a staff of 20 assistant district attorneys and 19 staff members in four counties. As District Attorney, I must deal with personnel issues, and I have done so as the elected DA for over 11 years. As such, I must make difficult decisions about hiring and dismissing individuals. I also must be the policy setter for the district. I have done so by implementing tough policies on homicides, violent felonies, drug dealing and trafficking, domestic violence, driving while impaired offense, and other offenses. My job is to represent the State in a fair and just manner but also be tough on criminal offenses.

Q- Tell the readers about your family, your educational background and your work experience that helps in preparing you for the office of District Attorney?

A- I was born in New Bern, NC. I am married to Misti Cavanaugh Lee of Pin Hook in Duplin County who as journalist, worked with the Jacksonville Daily News and a free-lance writer with Our State, the Marine Corps Times, and the Wilmington Star News. We have been married over 31 years. Misti's grandfather, Jonah Swinson pastored a church in Clinton as well as other churches in Duplin County before he passed away. Misti's parents and brother, Bull Cavanaugh, who farms, reside in Pin Hook. Misti and I have three children, Ashton, age 21 years and student at Campbell University; Catherine, age 18 years who is a senior at Jacksonville High School and will be entering North Carolina State University in the fall; and Carson, age 15 years who is a 9th grader at Jacksonville High School and working to achieve his Eagle Scout. My parents, who are in their 80s, reside in New Bern, North Carolina and they have been married over 62 years. My family has taught me loyalty, the value of hard work and service to the nation.

My father served and retired from the United States Air Force and as such, my mother, brother, and I lived in eight states. My brother also served and retired from the United States Air Force. Military service is very important in my family, and in service to my nation, I served retired as a commissioned officer and judge advocate from the United States Army Reserve after 22 years of service. I served with units at Ft. Jackson, SC and Ft. Bragg, NC with duty in Alabama, Maryland, Panama, and Germany. I also graduated from the Judge Advocate Basic Course and the Judge Advocate Advanced Course at the Army School at the University of Virginia as well as by correspondence the Command and General Staff College officer course. The military teaches one duty, sacrifice, and service to nation and others which are core value that are very important to me as the District Attorney.

I graduated from Campbell University School of Law and set upon a path of becoming a career prosecutor. I worked my way through college and law school with jobs at grocery stores, fast food, and two summers at Maola Milk and Ice Cream Company making ice cream. I understand the value of hard work and what it means to work on the clock.

As a prosecutor, I served first for twelve years as an assistant district attorney for William H. Andrews and then

for twelve years as an assistant district attorney for G. Dewey Hudson. Under their leadership, I immediately began trying cases. In fact, my first five and a half years as a prosecutor, I prosecuted ten first degree murder cases and ten of those were jury trials. I learned from them both, the importance of trial experience, the importance of working with law enforcement to ensure that justice is done, and the absolute necessity that one has the experience to prosecute the most serious cases and make the tough decisions. On January 1, 2011, I swore in as district attorney and in March 2011, I tried a first-degree murder case in Onslow County. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the defendant received life without parole. That trial shows the value of experience.

Q- Why should the voters in your district cast their vote for you?

A- I am a career prosecutor who has the experience, leadership, temperament, and dedication to service to be your District Attorney. I work hard and I do not shy away from the most difficult and challenging cases. That is evidenced by the number of jury trials I have personally prosecuted. I have tried more than 235 jury trials including DWIs, drug offenses, sex offenses, robberies, trafficking, and property crimes. I have personally prosecuted 145 defendants for murder including eight capital cases. I have obtained four death verdicts. My opponent has never tried a murder case. I have tried violent offenders in all four of my counties including an eight-week long capital triple homicide in Sampson County that occurred in Plainview. My last jury trial was in February 2022 in Onslow County and the jury convicted the defendant of first-degree murder and he received life without parole. That is my 34th first degree murder defendant to receive life without parole. I have had one other defendant receive life without parole in a jury trial in Duplin County as a violent habitual offender. If you or your family are the victims of a serious offense, you need a District Attorney who has tried cases and has proven results. I am that District Attorney.

As District Attorney, I have decided ten officer-involved shooting cases including four in Sampson County. In each case, I determined after extensive investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation that the officers were justified in using deadly force. I have the experience to handle those type of investigations. My opponent has never decided an officer-involved shooting.

I have the support of all four sheriffs in my district-Sheriffs Hans Miller of Onslow County, Jimmy Thornton of Sampson County, Blake Wallace of Duplin County, and Matt Wineman of Jones County. I have their support because I have proven myself to be accessible, hard-working, and able to handle the toughest of cases.

I believe that faith, family, duty, and nation are important and those are the bedrocks of my service as District Attorney. As a Gideon since 1994 and active member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Jacksonville, I understand the importance of faith. My family is so very important to me, and I know important you if you are ever victimized and need a strong advocate in court. Duty is engrained in me being raised in a military family and having served in the United States Army Reserve. And finally, nation, in that we live in the greatest country in the world, and I am honored to have served in the Army and as a career prosecutor. For those who choose to harm this nation and this district by endangering the safety of the public by their violent criminal acts, I will be tough but fair.

Those are the reasons you should consider voting for me as your District Attorney.





District Attorney

KEVIN KIERNAN

Q- Why are you running for the office of District Attorney?

A- I have been humbled by the encouragement of others to do this over the past few years. From colleagues to judges to members of law enforcement to so many who have interacted with the judicial system, their confidence in me has been an important part of this decision. However, the deciding factor has been my love of country and this community and my passion for the law. As both a prosecutor and a defense attorney throughout this district over the past 15 years, I have seen firsthand the challenges that face every stakeholder in the court system. I recognize that through a more proactive approach to case management, evaluation, and prosecution, this office can both climb out of the backlog of cases experienced from the shutdown of the courts and achieve better success at reaching just outcomes in more of those cases.

Q- What are the issues that you hope to tackle if you are elected/re-elected?

A- We often hear that more court time is needed, but we are not presently making the best use of the court time that we have. From district court to superior court, throughout the district, we are experiencing too many terms that break down without a sufficient number of cases being resolved. Over the past six months in the superior courts in particular, the State has not fared well in outcomes across the four counties to a level I have not previously seen in this district. I would seek to address that trend with more substantive training and mentoring in reference to case evaluation and trial preparation, while working to build a true team effort that would bring out the best in each member of the office. In reference to the backlog of cases and efficient use of court time, I would be proactive and build an ongoing dialog between the District Attorney's office, the clerks' offices, the judges, the defense bar, and law enforcement to achieve a better scheduling model that would allow for more consistent trial resolutions of cases at each level.

Q- Do you see the role of DA as more of practicing lawyer or as a supervisor and policy setter for the office?

A- Both. I own a law firm now that operates three offices and services this entire district. I am in court nearly every day and reviewing operational matters every day as well to ensure we remain on the right side of the ledger and that we meet the needs of our clients. If I failed to do either, our practice would fail. Similarly, the District Attorney cannot simply be a practicing attorney, but must concentrate even more on setting policy for the office and ensuring that each office is running correctly. By statute, our district is allowed 20 Assistant District Attorneys who generally are assigned to the cases throughout the counties in our district, but as many who have interacted with the court system have witnessed, the manner in which those cases are addressed can differ greatly even among the counties in our own district. A successful District Attorney must be willing to set appropriate policy across the entire district, remain abreast of the activity in each county, and be willing to go into court to work side by side with his team as needed.

Q- Tell the readers about your family, your educational background and your work experience that helps in preparing you for the office of District Attorney?

A- After living in Clinton for ten years, my wife Danielle and I moved to Kenansville in Duplin County nearly four years ago. Our daughter Heather and her husband Blake live in Alabama with our two beautiful granddaughters. Our family is very dear to me, and I am honored and grateful to have their support in this endeavor.

I was born and raised in Southeastern North Carolina by my wonderful parents who were both bench chemists by trade. I graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina State University with a degree in Computer Science, while working full time as a software developer at CISYS LifeSciences, Inc. After earning my law degree from Indiana University School of Law at Bloomington, I was eager to come back to North Carolina where I moved to Onslow County and joined the District Attorney's Office under Dewey Hudson. As an Assistant District Attorney, I prosecuted both misdemeanors and felonies across all four counties in this district for five and a half years. For the past nine years, I have been in private practice as a named partner of Silva, Kiernan & Associates, PLLC, where I have defended criminal cases from misdemeanors to felonies across the district. Additionally, in the advent of Covid-19, and the resulting mandates out of Raleigh, I assisted small business owners in the district with protecting their inherent ability to operate and earn a living for their families and employees.

I have served as the State Bar Councilor for the Fifth District since 2019; am a local member of the attorney network for the United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA); a present



member of the National College for DUI Defense; have successfully completed National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recognized DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST); have successfully completed NHTSA recognized Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE); and have successfully completed the NHTSA and International Association of Chiefs of Police recognized DWI Detection and SFST Instructor Development Course, which now allows me to serve as an instructor for the NHTSA recognized DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing course.

My family history, education, work history, and additional training have provided me a deeper understanding of the importance of teamwork and collaboration, and will afford me the background needed to improve the prosecution of cases in general, to include those cases involving impaired driving and the sale and distribution of controlled substances, as well as cases involving the growing trend of digital evidence.

Q- Why should the voters in your district cast their vote for you?

A- From the local courthouse to the United States Supreme Court, there has never been a time in our nation's history when it has been more important to have elected officials throughout the judicial system who believe in our Constitution and the rule of law. We must make a strong stand that the Constitutional principles upon which our Founding Fathers built this nation must be protected. "We the People" is you and your family. I will continue to strive to serve you every day and the office of District Attorney will be yet another opportunity for that service. I will bring a true conservative mindset to the office with a proven common-sense, proactive approach that is premised on communication, collaboration, and the original intent of the Constitution. For the first time in 20 years, the voters of this district have a choice in the election for District Attorney; the choice to vote for a proven Constitutional conservative leader who will unlock the true potential of the office.



✓ VOTED FOR

✓ WORKED FOR

✓ RAISED \$ FOR

CONSERVATIVES



paid for by Supporters of Kevin Kiernan



“Ernie Lee is dedicated to his country and the administration of justice. His word is his bond and I trust him. He has never wavered from supporting law enforcement.” - Sheriff Jimmy Thornton

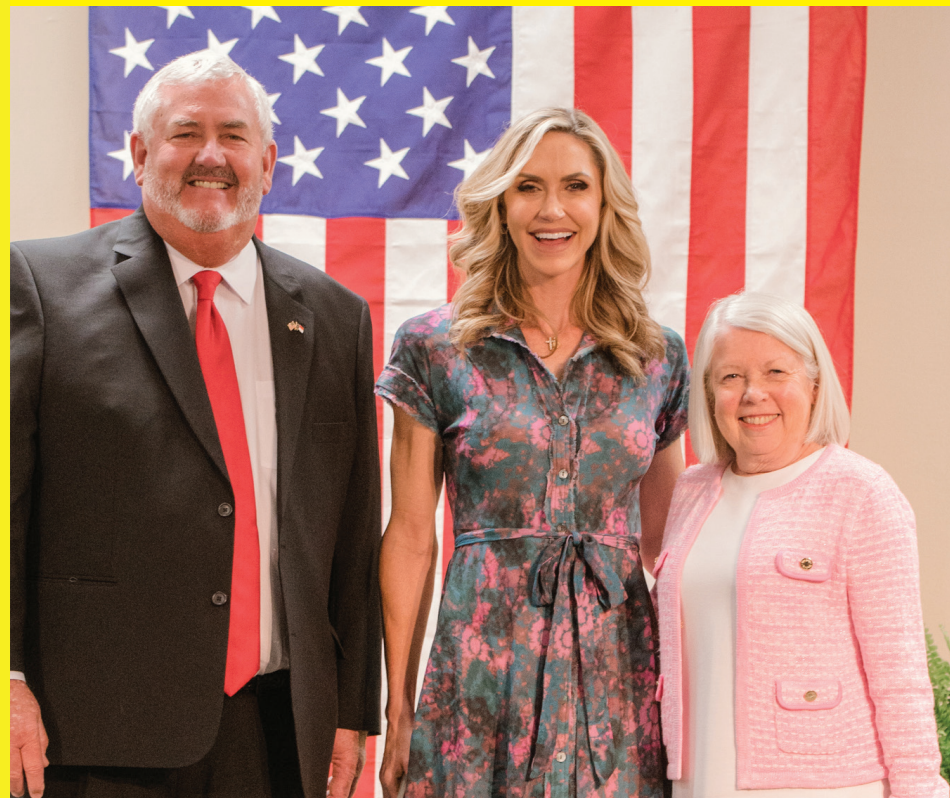


Ernie Lee - Endorsed by EVERY Sheriff in the district, including Sampson County Sheriff Jimmy Thornton. On May 17th, vote to Re-Elect Ernie Lee.

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Ernie Lee District Attorney

A MESSAGE FROM SUE LEE

Sampson County Commissioner Chair



Please allow me to share my thoughts and opinions on the Commissioner race in District One. **I have served with Clark Wooten for almost eight years** and have experienced knowledge of Clark's dedication to the people of Sampson County and the job he was elected to do. **He fervently fights for the taxpayers in District One and consistently takes a stand for all the people**, not just those who are asking for consideration from the Board of Commissioners. He is a strong conservative who shares our values, wants the absolute best for Sampson County, and stands up for principled fundamental values.

I currently serve as Chair of the Board of Commissioners which gives me in-depth knowledge of the hard work, tough decisions, and dedication that is required for this position. I have acquired a

respect for the leadership that Clark exhibited when he served as chair. To his credit, he always listened, gathered facts, and guided us to reasonable solutions to the issues at hand. He was always willing to hear opposing opinions and work together to form a consensus on the matter at hand. Part of the job is to never give favoritism to any one group and make the tough decisions no matter who is irritated by the decision. (I have learned that irritating people is the easiest part of the job!) **Clark is consistently determined to solve things in a fair, business-like manner.**

Clark has tremendous vision for the future and has worked very hard for Sampson County for the present and the future. **Whether it is economic growth, creating jobs, or advocating for our students, Clark combines his wisdom and experience on the Board with what he thinks is the right outcome for the families and businesses in Sampson County.** He is committed to doing all these things without raising taxes and creating an additional burden on our property owners.

I would ask that you vote for Clark Wooten on May 17th.

**RE-ELECT CLARK WOOTEN – CONSERVATIVE
FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER ON MAY 17TH**



SAMPSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



KIM SCHMIDLIN

Q- What is the biggest issues facing the Sampson County School system?

A- Overcoming the loss of learning due to the pandemic is the biggest challenge facing Sampson County Schools. Many of our students missed learning critical foundational skills or they lost skills previously learned in the 2 years we were fighting the pandemic. We have to ensure those gaps in knowledge are closed to safeguard the future academic success of our students. At the same time, we have to teach grade level curriculum. This is a huge task that will require dedication of all stakeholders over the next few years.

Q- What is your position on decreasing class sizes?

A- Smaller class sizes are important to allow for more individualized instruction. Sampson County Schools complies with state-mandated classroom sizes and we should maintain a good teacher to child ratio, especially in the early years.

Q- What do you think the school system needs to do to increase recruitment and retention of teachers?

A- Sign-on bonuses would be very effective in recruiting teachers to Sampson County Schools, particularly in hard-to-fill positions. Since teacher pay is mandated by the state, the only financial incentive we can offer is an annual supplement and bonuses where the budget allows. It is very difficult to find qualified teachers in certain areas so a retention bonus would be helpful. I believe retaining teachers also comes down to creating a positive culture within our schools. Teachers need to feel appreciated and county and school leaders should work to keep our schools great places for teachers to teach and students to learn.

Q- What can be done to increase graduation rates in the county?

A- Improving our emphasis on teaching trades would improve graduation rates. Many students don't see the benefit of a high school diploma and would prefer to go into the work force earlier. If we give those students more options for learning a skill that would translate to a job, they would see a benefit to completing their high school education. We also need to allow students more flexibility within the school day to work.

Q- Tell the readers about your education, qualifications and why they should vote for you.

A- Education:
I graduated from Midway High School in 1987 then went on to North Carolina State University where I earned a BA degree in Communications in 1991. I completed my Master of Science degree in 1993 in Speech-Language Pathology from East Carolina University.

My qualifications:
Speech Therapist - I have spent the last 29 years working as a speech therapist which has given me valuable experience in working with students and teachers in the special education program. My training gives me expertise in literacy and phonics which have been significantly impacted in the last 2 years.

Mother - My qualifications also include being a parent and advocate for my daughters' education. I understand the challenges parents face in working with the schools, teachers and administration. In the last 10 years we have locked parents out of our schools and the pandemic has made this situation even worse. This has led to distrust which needs to be rebuilt through greater parental and community engagement.

Business Owner - As a business owner for the last 20 years, I have experience in finance, personnel, and policy. I believe the school system should be run as a business and it is the responsibility of the school board to ensure we are fiscally responsible with taxpayer money.

I am asking for your support based on my voting record as a Board Member. During the pandemic I have been an advocate for transparency of school board meetings, in-person learning, in-person graduations, and optional mask use. I believe parents have a vital role in the education of their students and, as valuable stakeholders, their participation should be encouraged. I believe we need to support our teachers and ensure our schools are positive, innovative places to teach and learn. If you believe in this approach in education, I would appreciate your support to remain on the Sampson County Schools' Board of Education.

ROBERT BURLEY

Q- What is the biggest issues facing the Sampson County School system?

A- Closing the COVID learning gap- Parents, students, teachers, administration...everyone connected to our school community is working tirelessly to identify and address learning gaps to minimize disruption in students' education.
-Parents seeking alternative education for their children- This has been a concern for a long time, but it has become increasingly greater in recent years.

Q- What is your position on decreasing class sizes?

A- Every effort needs to be made to have classes small enough that students can receive the best education possible. Teachers have a community of learners they must prepare for each day. Decreasing class sizes, increases their ability to meet the varying needs of every student.

Q- What do you think the school system needs to do to increase recruitment and retention of teachers?

A- We realize funds are limited, but we need to make every effort to be as financially appealing as surrounding counties. We should solicit teacher feedback and respond appropriately.



Q- What can be done to increase graduation rates in the county?


A- Increase the number of vocational learning opportunities. Sports are a great motivator for some students. We need to continue to make these extracurricular activities available to students.

Q- Tell the readers about your education, qualifications and why they should vote for you.

A- I've served Sampson County Schools as a board member for the last four years. I am grateful to every member of this community for the opportunity. I'm nothing more than a neighbor, friend, and advocate for everyone that needs a voice. If it concerns you and our children, it concerns me. I look forward to serving you another four years.



KEEP
SCHMIDLIN


Kim

ON THE SAMPSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMITTED TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
PASSIONATE ABOUT EDUCATION
FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE
WITH TAXPAYER FUNDING
PROVEN COMMUNITY LEADER



SAMPSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



DARYLL WARREN

Q- What is the biggest issues facing the Sampson County School system?

A- Retaining and recruiting good teachers
-Keeping the students that reside in Sampson County in the Sampson County School System
-Utilizing funding to provide the best experience for our students, including but not limited to Technology and facilities

Q- What is your position on decreasing class sizes?

A- Reduced class sizes are extremely important. One of

the biggest issues that we face with trying to reduce class sizes are having the facilities to increase the number of classrooms to house students as well as the teachers to fill those classrooms. Mobile units are not ideal, but are necessary with our increasing population.

Q- What do you think the school system needs to do to increase recruitment and retention of teachers?

A- Sampson County has always done a great job of bringing back those students from Sampson County who had an interest in teaching in the classroom. We must continue to recruit those teachers who want to reside in the county and make a career with Sampson County Schools. As for retention we have to fight for every opportunity to increase the wages for our staff. One way is to look at increasing the supplement percentage that is paid out today.

Q- What can be done to increase graduation rates in the county?

A- I'd like to continue to support our CTE classes and give those students who aren't going to pursue a 2 year/4 year degree an opportunity to learn a trade or to gain inter-

est in a skill that they can use beyond high school.

Q- Tell the readers about your education, qualifications and why they should vote for you.

A- I am a 2000 graduate of Hobbton High School and a 2004 graduate of NC State University with a degree in Agricultural Business Management. I have 3 children, Lathan (14 – 8th grader at Hobbton Middle School), Sawyer (10 – 4th grader at Hobbton Elementary School) and Ellee (6 – Kindergartener at Hobbton Elementary School). I am married to Candace Warren who is an English Teacher at Hobbton High School. I have been employed for the past 19 years with Fastenal Company and have been in a District Manager position for the last 9 years. I am extremely active with coaching with Sampson County Parks and Recreation as well as having an active role at Saint Paul FWB Church in Newton Grove. I currently serve as the Chairman of the Sampson County Schools Board of Education and look forward to serving another 4 years if given the opportunity. I feel like having children and a wife in a Sampson County School every day gives me a huge insight as to what is happening inside our buildings and what is working and what needs to be improved.

GH WILSON

Q- What is the biggest issues facing the Sampson County School system?

A- I think we have two big issues facing us: 1....getting our kids back on track after Covid and 2 years of minimum contact with our classrooms and teachers. Our teachers did a great job during the pandemic and continue to do so...but the lack of daily supervision and hands-on teaching has put us behind. We must do our very best to to get caught back up.

B. Funding is and always will be an important issue.... Right now, the Leandro Case is being debated in the courts and will then be debated in the Legislature. If there is a significant reduction in that funding, it will be like a snowball rolling downhill. It has funded everything from teacher and staff supplements to our technology purchases. We also have been able to pay staff from these funds.

Q- What is your position on decreasing class sizes?

A- I support classroom reduction, especially in Kindergarten thru 5th grade. This is where we get the basics of a sound education and where we need smaller numbers

in the class. But again, we are also at the mercy of the General Assembly.

Q- What do you think the school system needs to do to increase recruitment and retention of teachers?

A- We have got to increase supplements, cut class size and Increase The additional stipends for Math and Science teachers. Teaching is usually a thankless job, and whatever we can do to show our appreciation and support is very important. I also would like to see us be able to increase supplements for non-certified staff. Those folks work hard and are often forgotten.

Q- What can be done to increase graduation rates in the county?

A- We have got to work harder to lower dropout rates, with parents and students alike in conversations. We definitely need more trade programs. Every student will not be able or desire to complete a 4 year college degree program. We need to be pro-active on this, and look at a possible STEM School that could serve the entire county,




A- I only have 1 year of college, but I feel qualified to be on our school board. I served 20 years on the Sampson County Board of Ed, serving 2 terms as Chairman. While on the school board, I was honored to serve on the North Carolina School Board, serving on the Board of Directors; chairman of goals and objectives; Chosen as AllState School Board Member, and accumulating over 900 hours of continuing Education courses.

Having Run a private business for over 40 years and meeting weekly payrolls, has helped me tremendously with the financial aspects of running a school system.

I was comfortable with working with our local County Commissioners, and felt I had a good relationship with them.

ELECT

ROBERT BURLEY




ROBERT BURLEY

SAMPSON COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

★★★★★ EXPERIENCE YOU CAN COUNT ON!! ★★★★★



☒Vote for experience

☒Vote for your children's future

☒Vote GH WILSON
Sampson County
Board of Education

"I believe in working to support our kids and our educators."



SAMPSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



SONYA POWELL

Q- What is the biggest issues facing the Sampson County School system?

A- One of the biggest issues facing the Sampson County School District is teacher recruitment and retention. In today’s job climate, the availability of certified/qualified teachers is very limited. If you add to that limited availability the inability for Sampson County to compete with larger school districts to offer incentives, especially comparable supplements, the pool of candidates becomes even smaller. At one point, the ability to attract “home-grown” teachers to Sampson County was on the rise, but even that source has become increasingly smaller as fewer students are graduating from high school and attending college to become educators. This has been evident in the fields of Mathematics and Sciences for over a decade. It is now a factor in all areas of education.

Another issue faced by Sampson County Schools is the need for new facilities. It is a known fact that there are several schools in the district that are in need of replacement or major repairs. The first one that comes to mind is Hobbton High School, followed by Roseboro-Salemburg Middle School, and Hargrove Elementary School. Members of the board of education have been painfully aware of the need for a new high school in the Hobbton district for a while, but the board has also been made aware of the lack of funding to build any new schools in Sampson County at this time. Even with help from the state, our county commissioners would have to make available matching funds on the county level. This could not be accomplished without an increase in property taxes. This is not possible at this time in our county. So, as soon as funding is available, the Sampson County Board of Education will recommend and oversee the building of a new high school in the Hobbton district, and then renovations to the other two schools mentioned.

The last issue I would say our district faces is that of school safety. Even though many improvements have been made to assist in the safety of our schools, there are still many more considerations. We are a rural school system and therefore many of our schools are situated on large, sprawling campuses. Our need lies in the ability to effectively protect all areas, without making our schools appear to be enclosed like prisons. We need more funding to make more areas only assessable by key cards. We also need a school resource officer on every school campus, even the elementary schools.

Q- What is your position on decreasing class sizes?

A- When the discussion is decreasing class sizes, naturally I am in favor of smaller class sizes. That can, however, be a two-edged sword. I am not in favor of smaller class sizes if it means that not every class would have a qualified teacher. I believe that it is much more important that every child has a certified/qualified teacher each and every day. As previously indicated, it is currently difficult to find teachers. I feel that placing a teacher assistant in a classroom with a certified teacher would be more beneficial than having a smaller number of students in classrooms without certified teachers in those classrooms.

Q- What do you think the school system needs to do to increase recruitment and retention of teachers?

A- The Sampson County School District is currently do everything it can to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers. That includes such measures as attending and sponsoring job fairs where positions available are advertised. Advertising teacher positions online in general, as well as on our website. Reaching out to colleges and universities that have teacher education programs and attempting to recruit teachers to come to Sampson County. Using such measures as international programs to allow teachers from other countries to come teach in Sampson County. We also continue our teacher recruitment in all our high schools with the Future Teachers program which is intended to support our “home-grown” initiative where students attend college, major in education, and then return to Sampson County for their career in teaching.

More important than the efforts of our individual school system to recruit and retain teachers is that effort on the state and national levels. Until the teaching profession is restored to its rightful place, among professions as a

whole, efforts will be ineffective and meaningless. That would require substantially increasing the salaries of teachers as well as bringing back the pride and respect to the profession. Teaching is a noble and worthy profession and should be treated as such by other professionals and others in general.

Q- What can be done to increase graduation rates in the county?

A- I am proud to acknowledge that over the last 10 years, graduation rates in the county had been on the rise. It is with the coming of the COVID-19 pandemic that there has been a slight decrease. That decrease can certainly be attributed to the inaccessibility of technology at a crucial point in the lives of some students. Now that technology is readily available to all our students, the graduation rates should rise again.

My suggestions to assist in the continuing rise of graduation rates is that the system continue to offer pathways that lead to college, the military, or the workforce. Every student should be able to find a course of study in high school that will lead them to the beginning of a successful future. The addition of more guidance counselors in each high school would help to give each student the personalized attention they need to make decisions for the future.

Q- Tell the readers about your education, qualifications and why they should vote for you.

A- My qualifications: I graduated from Winston-Salem State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in English Education, from Campbell University with a Master of Education with a Concentration in English, and I received my Add-On Licensure in Academically Intellectually Gifted from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

I have been a member of the Sampson County Board of Education for eight years. I am the board member with the most experience. I currently have more than 40 years in education and teach school daily. This is a qualification that I alone hold for the board. Not only am I an experienced educator, but I am also presently an educator. I believe in Sampson County Schools; I believe in education. My life experiences are all connected to education. I serve for the children of Sampson County. Just like Sampson County’s slogan states, I truly am “dedicated to continuous improvement.”

REELECT

DARYLL WARREN

★ BOARD OF EDUCATION ★

Paid for by: Committee to elect Daryll Warren for Board of Education