

The Butner-Creedmoor News

To the Editor:

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Three years ago all of that changed. The SECU Board implemented new policies. SECU is now no longer the credit union for all members.

Last year the members nominated three longtime volunteers to run for the SECU board. Those three member-nominated volunteers defeated the three incumbents, self-selected by the SECU Board. This year is another contested election with four member-nominated candidates running for the SECU Board. Those four-Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Hawes, and Kirby Parrish-want to take SECU Back to Basics!

This is why they are running.

- 1) End Risk Based Lending. Restore the same, best rate for every member.
- 2) Restore competitive savings rates for every member.
- 3) Restore the commitment to "Do the Right Thing" for every member.
- 4) Restore the local focus. Local communities, local jobs, local decisions for every member.
- 5) Restore the employees' faith in fairness, equal opportunity, and quality service for every member.

There are many state workers in Granville County—in the schools, at Butner, and at DOT. This election will determine whether SECU will return to the core, founding values that every member will receive the same, best rates for loans and savings.

For more information on the candidates and on how to vote, go to secuforall.com.

Voting begins September 3 and ends October 1.

Jean Blaine
Wilton, N.C.

The Courier=Times

Your Connection to Roxboro and Person County!

A Vital Election

To the editor:

My name is Sheila and I am writing to you today as a long time North Carolina State Employees Credit Union [SECU] member in hopes to spread the word of another vital election is about to take place. Over the past few years SECU has shifted focus from a “credit union” to “traditional bank” which is hurting members across the state (most just don’t realize it yet). Many members are not aware that the board of directors (made up of State Retirees, Volunteers, and others) set the rules, rates and “vibe” of SECU. In the past few years many things have changed and not all from the better. Tier based lending has become the “norm” and hurting members that have not held the perfect credit life – either with higher rates or being told “There is nothing we can do based on our guidelines”. The “people helping people” focus is gone.

I’m writing today to educate the 2 million plus members of SECU on this important election to vote, vote, vote for change. Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Haws and Kirby Parish are member-nominated candidates who need your vote. They are ready to make SECU trusted again and “get back to the basics” of member service. These four nominees are ready to end risk-based lending and restore local focus to North Carolina communities. I urge every member to do the right thing by voting during the allotted time frame starting Sept. 3 online or by mail ballots. Candidates’ profiles will be listed on the website for further review as well.

Sheila Sanders
Timberlake

The Enterprise

To The Editor:

I would like to voice my concerns about changes that have, and will continue, to take place at State Employees' Credit Union under the current Board leadership. I retired in 2021 from SECU after 42 years of service. I have been a member of SECU for over 45 years and in all that time, never worried about the focus of the organization. SECU is an asset to the community and values its relationship with local members and state entities throughout North Carolina. Unfortunately, SECU has changed over the last few years and is no longer focusing on serving members equally or serving the local communities.

This year, we have 4 Director seats coming available. The SECU Board Nominating Committee has recommended 4 incumbents to be re-elected. A mass email was sent to all members recommending they vote for these 4 incumbents.

Last year, SECU members voted out 3 incumbents. Rather than re-electing 4 incumbents this year, members of SECU are pooling together again and choosing the following MEMBER-NOMINATED candidates to fill the available positions:

Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Hawes, and Kirby Parrish

These member-nominated candidates are well respected exemplary leaders and would be honored to have the opportunity to help restore SECU focus, especially in the following areas:

- 1) End Risk Based Lending. Restore the same, best rate for every member.
- 2) Restore competitive savings rates for every member.
- 3) Restore the commitment to "Do the Right Thing" for every member.
- 4) Restore the local focus. Local communities, local jobs, local decisions for every member.
- 5) Restore the employees' faith in fairness, equal opportunity, and quality service for every member.

The member-nominated candidates are heavily weighted toward hands-on, in-the-trenches experience and knowledge of the operations and purpose of State Employees' Credit Union. Please help SECU to "Get Back to Basics" by voting for the 4 member-nominated candidates listed above. Voting for SECU Directors starts on September 3, 2024. Please visit [secuforall.com](https://www.secuforall.com) on Facebook for voting instructions, member-nominated candidate BIOS and additional information.

Thank you so much for your support!!

Debra Floyd
101 Southampton Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545



To the Editor,

I grew up in the great town of Kinston! Learned to swim at Emma Webb pool, learned to drive the safe streets of Kinston and spent my elementary years at Northwest School. My church was Queen Street Methodist. It was a wonderful place to grow up.

After graduating from ECU, I began a career at State Employees' Credit Union where I have been a member for over 40 years. I had the privilege of working at the credit union in Wilson, Greenville, High Point, Winston-Salem, Williamston and Raleigh. I can speak first hand of how the local branches and staff served these community throughout North Carolina.

My grandfather, Dr Joseph C. Knox, Sr was one of the founders of SECU and was passbook number seven of what is now 2.7 million members. He used to tell the story of why SECU began. In 1937, times were difficult and many state employees were struggling to make it paycheck to paycheck. As a result, they would go to loan sharks who would charge exorbitant rates and they were stuck in a situation they could not get out of. The non-profit member owned credit union was founded on the principal of "people helping people".

The credit union has changed substantially over the last three years as the current management and board has changed its focus from grassroots input and service to corporate centralization in Raleigh.

Local influence has been reduced significantly. Every member was treated with the same quality of service and loan rates. The average housekeeping assistant was given the same rate as the governor would receive on a similar loan. It lived up to its "Not for profit" cooperative concept. It was a unique rarity among financial institutions. Our service and products enabled us to become the second largest credit union in the United States while I was there. Member surveys were simply outstanding.

Today is a different day. We no longer pay competitive market rates on our money market accounts and many of our loan members have to pay a surcharge because of credit bureau algorithms without local override capability. This is happening at the same time our board was boasting of historic record profits at last year's annual meeting.

As a result of many unpopular policies, the 3 board nominated candidates were defeated by 3 member nominated candidates at last year's annual meeting. This year there are 4 board nominated candidates opposing 4 member nominated candidates. The 4 member nominated candidates are Julian Hawes, Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, and Kirby Parrish. The member nominees have a stated platform of "Get Back to Basics" with the following platform:

- 1) End Risk Based Lending...Restore same best rate for every member!
- 2) Restore competitive savings rate for every member!
- 3) Restore" Do the right thing " for every member!
- 4) Restore local focus...local communities...local jobs!
- 5) Restore employee faith for fairness and equal opportunity!

Over 2.7 million ballots will be mailed to members of the credit union starting September 3, 2024. Please vote for member nominated candidates and refer to website secuforall.com

Thank you

Susie Ford
Cary NC

News Argus

Rochelle Moore, Editor

To the Editor

I am writing as a long term State Employees Credit Union member of 50 years. I had the privilege of working at the credit union in Goldsboro as a loan officer, branch manager, and area district manager over a 30 year span of employment. I can speak firsthand of how the local branches and staff served the Goldsboro community well for the three decades I was there.

The credit union has changed substantially over the last three years as the current management and board have changed its focus from grassroots input and service to corporate centralization in Raleigh. Local influence has been reduced significantly. Every member in the past was treated with the same quality of service and loan rates. The average housekeeping assistant was given the same rate as the governor would receive on a similar loan. The credit union lived up to its "Not for profit" cooperative concept. The credit union was a unique rarity among financial institutions. Our service and products enabled us to become the second largest credit union in the United States during my tenure. Member surveys were simply outstanding.

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The member-nominated candidates have a stated position of "Get Back to Basics" with the following platform:

End Risk Based lending ... Restore the same best rate for every member!

Restore competitive savings rate for every member!

Restore "Do the right thing" for every member!

Restore local focus ... local communities ... local jobs!

Restore employee faith for fairness and equal opportunity!

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Julian Hawes

NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Subject: SECU BOARD SEAT ELECTION

TO: Cory Lavalette, Senior Editor

My name is Patty Munns. I am a longtime member/employee of State Employees' Credit Union (SECU). I am writing to you to express concerns regarding the changes over the past 3 years made by our incumbent Board of Directors. The Board is moving away from our highly successful 85 years of non-profit, "People Helping People" service to our members. The changes, in my opinion, mimic a commercial banking business model. Nothing wrong with commercial banking, just a very different business model. Three incumbent Board Directors were voted out last year by the membership. This year 4 MEMBER-NOMINATED candidates are Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Hawes and Kirby Parrish. These 4 candidates have put together their reasons for running for a Board seat.

- 1) END risk-based lending. Restore the same best rates for all members.
- 2) Restore competitive savings rates for all members.
- 3) Restore the commitment to "do the right thing" for all members.
- 4) Restore the local focus, local communities, local jobs, local decision making for all members.
- 5) Restore the employees' faith in fairness, equal opportunity and quality service for every member.

Voting for SECU Directors begins 9/03/2024. Please vote for the 4 candidates member nominated folks. They will work hard to restore our "People Helping People" Credit Union----they know the difference! Hopefully, this message can reach many of our members that subscribe to your paper.

Sincerely,
Patty Munns, Raleigh

Oxford Ledger

Phone: (919)693-2646

EST. 1881

opl@earthlink.net

To the Editor:

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Last year the members nominated three longtime volunteers to run for the SECU board. Those three member-nominated volunteers defeated the three incumbents, self-selected by the SECU Board.

This year is another contested election with four member-nominated candidates running for the SECU Board. Those four-Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Hawes, and Kirby Parrish-want to take SECU Back to Basics!

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For more information on the candidates and on how to vote, go to secuforall.com.

Voting begins September 3 and ends October 1.

Jean Blaine
Wilton, N.C.

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper in a Good Community

To the Editor:

For over 85 years SECU provided much needed financial assistance to state employees, teachers, and families. Every member was treated with the same respect and concern no matter what their job: university president, teacher, office workers, maintenance workers, janitorial staff, even the Governor. Every member got the same loan rate and the same saving rates, which for most of that time were the best rates going.

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- 5) Restore the employees' faith in fairness, equal opportunity, and quality service for every member.

The Brunswick County School System is the largest employer in the county. The policies enacted 3 years ago cause new teachers, all folks with no credit history, to pay higher loan rates—just because they are young and starting out in life. Is that fair? For the first 85 years of SECU's history, every member received the same, best rate! Blaine-Ford-Hawes-Parrish want SECU to restore those founding principles that contributed to the success of SECU.

For more information on the candidates and on how to vote, go to secuforall.com.

Voting begins September 3 and ends October 1.

Southport born and bred!

Jean Burdette Blaine



To The Editor:

State Employees' Credit Union-Back to Basics

I am a longtime member and a retired employee (30 years) of SECU. SECU is a valuable asset to the community and our state.

It has changed drastically over the last 3 years and is no longer the SECU FOR ALL. There are 4 member-nominated candidates for the Board of Directors.

These candidates are: Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Hawes and Kirby Parrish.

These candidates are running to restore best loan rates, competitive savings rates and local branch decisions for every member.

New directors are needed who have hands-on-experience and knowledge of the operations and purpose of SECU.

Voting for directors starts September 3, 2024.

For more information visit: www.secuforall.com

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

J. Gray Stephens, Avid Reader

Sun Journal

Trevor Dunnell

8/22/2024

Editor

tdunnell@newbernsj.com

My name is Graves Vann and I am writing as a former employee and a long-time member of State Employees Credit Union. Five generations of my family have been members of the Credit Union beginning in 1937. I opened the New Bern branch office in 1980 and ran it up until 1996. The local branch and employees have served all of our community well and have become a valuable asset to New Bern and the surrounding area.

Over the last few years changes have been made at SECU and because of those changes, SECU is no longer the credit union for all members. As a result, last year, 3 incumbent directors were voted out by the membership. This year, four member nominated candidates are running for election to the SECU Board of Directors. These candidates are Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Hawes, and Kirby Parrish.

These four member-nominated candidates have put together these reasons for running:

1. End risk-based lending – Same rate for all
2. Restore competitive savings rate – same rate for all
3. Restore commitment- do the right thing for all
4. Restore local focus- local communities, local jobs, local decisions for all members
5. Restore employee's faith in fairness, equal opportunity and quality service for every member

This year's member nominated candidates are heavily weighted toward hands-on, in the trenches experience and knowledge of operations and purpose to State Employees Credit Union.

Voting for SECU directors starts 9/3/2024

Graves Vann
NEW BERN, NC

thetimesnews

8/26/2024

Subject: Upcoming SECU Board Election

I am Peggy Carter, a longtime resident of Elon and member of the State Employees Credit Union (SECU). SECU is an important and valuable asset to Elon, plus Burlington and surrounding communities. The local branches/staffs has served our communities well. I am writing to highlight that SECU has changed over the last 3 years and no longer is an "SECU for All" institution. I believe it's time for SECU to "Get Back to Basics". In fact, last year 3 incumbent directors were voted out by the membership. This year the 4 additional member-nominated candidates are: Jean Blaine, Susie Ford, Julian Hawes, and Kirby Parrish. The 4 member-nominated candidates have identified the following reasons why they are running:

- 1) End Risk Based Lending. Restore the same, best rate for every member.
- 2) Restore competitive savings rates for every member.
- 3) Restore the commitment to "Do the Right Thing" for every member.
- 4) Restore the local focus. Local communities, local jobs, local decisions for every member.
- 5) Restore the employees' faith in fairness, equal opportunity, and quality service for every member.

Last year's nominees featured long-term, dedicated volunteers; this year the member-nominated candidates are heavily weighted toward hands-on, in-the-trenches experience and knowledge of the operations and purpose of SECU.

Voting for SECU directors starts 9/3/2024.

For more information communities can visit: www.secuforall.com.

Sincerely,

Peggy Carter
Elon Resident