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Lewis Hendricks

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Posted Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:00 am

Name: Lewis Hendricks

Current Home Address: 227 Bluffwood Ave - Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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Date/place of birth: 3/31/1973 - Milford, Delaware

Current occupation: Small Business Owner - Restaurant

Campaign website/social media: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076085323211>

Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):

Megan - wife - 38

Madilyn - 13

Owen - 11

Matthew - 11

Benny - 6

Party affiliation: Democrat

Why are you seeking this office?

The greatest impact we can have on our community and society is through a great education system. The support our teachers and school system have received is embarrassing.

What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the office you seek, and in 100 words or less, why do you believe you're qualified to fill that role?

The responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners is to make policy including land use planning, recreation, utilities, building inspections and permits, waste disposal and recycling, libraries, tourism and emergency response. They also play a key role in funding education at the K-12 and community college levels. I feel qualified to fill this roll because of my budget experience in government agencies, being a small business owner, and have lived in Chatham county for over 20 years.

Give us three goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected.

1. Increased Teacher Pay
2. County Bond Fund to buy county land to preserve our waterways and expand our natural parks.
3. Increased funding of our schools with the goal being equity in education for all Chatham county students.

What are the biggest challenges in Chatham right now and how would you address them?

The biggest challenges in Chatham are retaining and attracting teachers to our schools and how to manage growth. Teacher pay and overall teacher support has to be dramatically improved to maintain and improve our school system. Making sure we are thinking of secondary and tertiary effects of development decisions is critical to managing Chatham's growth.

Chatham County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. What do you see as the major challenges due to growth and how would you address them?

Waste water, clean water, and pressure on our school class sizes are a few of the major challenges due to growth. Increased capacity of our infrastructure in regard to these issues must be in place before development begins. If capacity can't be increased to meet the proposed development then the proposed development won't be able to move forward.

Parts of Chatham County's future development plans are closely tied to the comprehensive development plan. What do you see as the next steps working toward Chatham's future and the role of the comp plan?

The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is the next step. The UDO will serve as the primary regulatory document guiding all development and land use within the county. It is critical for the residents of Chatham and our environment that the Board gets the UDO right.

What is your view of the expansion of rural broadband and how do you see the county's role?

Access to broadband for all of Chatham schools and residents is critical in creating equity for all students in the county.

What's your overall view of the role of county government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?

The county government is doing a very good job during difficult times. From the full time county staff to the Sheriff to the Superintendent of Schools the county has a very thoughtful and hard working team in place to move Chatham forward.

What differentiates you from your opponent which makes you the better candidate to represent your party?

Whether in the Army, the State Department, or small business I have always looked to be part of a team that leverages the strengths of each member to accomplish great things together.

Biographical Facts

Political/government hero: Abraham Lincoln

Favorite book: The Wealth of Nations by Adam Smith

Book most recently read: Raving Fans by Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles

Favorite film: Swingers

Hobbies: Running

Church/civic involvement: Ronald McDonald House

Personal motto or one-line philosophy: Just because you can doesn't mean you should.

Strongest childhood ambition: Military Service

Most significant life goal you've accomplished: Army Commander

Goal you haven't accomplished yet: Serve Chatham county as an elected official.