

Bill James for County Commission



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Press Release
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Matthews, NC – Mecklenburg County Commissioner Bill James announced plans to run for re-election in 2014. District 6 is one of six County Commission districts in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and has approximately 167,000 people.

Over the last 12 months Commissioner James has led the County through a number of significant matters including:

- Resolving the failed 2011 Revaluation (hiring of a new assessor and a new team of individuals to fix the flawed revaluation). We still have lots of work left to complete the 'reval redo'.
- Fixed senior management issues at the County to provide management willing to be responsive to citizens' needs.
- Served on the new County Manager search committee (one of 4 Commissioners) who worked to interview individuals to be the new manager.
- Supported the new Matthews Sportplex opened in 2013 and assisted the Town of Matthews in securing County capital funds to construct.
- Served on the 'Mecklink' Privatization committee to work out the transition of mental health services to an outside agency (Cardinal). This state-mandated action will result in a significant reduction in mental health spending.
- Founded the County's Audit Review Committee to monitor and provide oversight of County departments.
- Proposed and established a 'bond fund' for Mecklenburg County capital projects (first mentioned by me in December of 1996) that allows a fixed amount of capital projects to be issued without a tax increase.
- Recent capital projects provided school funds for District 6 including the new Pineville Elementary.
- Passed CMS Elementary school security package (to add cameras and security systems that can be accessed by the police in case of an emergency) to prevent situations like those at Sandy Hook.
- Senior Republican on a Democrat majority Board of Commissioners.

Issues on the horizon:

- Phase 2 of the Matthews Sportsplex.
- New school construction in District 6 (future \$30 million Elementary school planned to ease Community House/Ballantyne/Elon Park/Hawk Ridge overcrowding) starts in 2017.
- Upcoming \$32 million expansion of the CPCC Levine Campus in Matthews (Phase 3).
- Implementation of the new Voter ID mandate (the Board of Elections is a County department),
- A possible library branch within the Town of Pineville is under discussion.
- Fixing the annexation and code enforcement problems with the Danby area subdivisions near Ballantyne.
- Continuing discussion with South Charlotte & legislative leaders about proposals for a Town of Providence.
- Keeping a watchful eye on CMS spending so District 6 residents receive their fair share of tax dollars. South Charlotte residents do not receive the same benefits as other areas of the City and pay more in taxes. District 6 receives about 25% less per student than other areas of Mecklenburg County. This disparity has led to discussion about splitting up CMS into three separate school districts.

I look forward to working together with the people of District 6 to keep government efficient, effective and taxes low. The people of District 6 need a strong conservative voice on the County Commission, someone that will stick up for them again in the coming years. Julie and I would appreciate your support in 2014.

Please note that I have a new Campaign P.O. box. The new address is **P.O. Box 2152, Matthews, NC 28106**.

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Paid for by the Bill James Campaign