

Jerry Alan Branson
Candidate for Guilford County Commissioner At Large

Candidate Questionnaire for the November, 2022 Election

- 1. As a former county commissioner, why are you running for county commission again and why do you think you are the best candidate?**

I have proven leadership skills from 2012-2020. Under the Republican Majority Leadership the Board of Commissioners lowered taxes and provided more money for schools each year. I will encourage to provide more opportunities for the safety and security of our school children and citizens of Guilford County. I will continue to be a driving force for Economic Development, Job Creation, Safety, and Support for all men and women in uniform.

- 2. How are you different than your opponent?**

I will be more of a conservative voice from the Business Community.

- 3. What are some of your proudest achievements as a former commissioner?**

It was an honor to be a part of the Board of Commissioner that orchestrated the Guilford County's Budget that lowered taxes for all citizens along with increasing the money for our schools. We were able to provide more opportunities for students entering the workforce. We also provided a more safe environment for our communities.

- 4. What is your current occupation and how does that job experience translate to working as a county commissioner?**

My wife and I are owners along with her cousin in our family's third generation business which was created in 1946, Stout Trucking, Inc. We have a day to day operation with customers and employees. We have to meet a budget and provide payroll for all our employees. We also provide a benefit package to each employee. We have to be competitive in the marketplace so that our business can continue to thrive.

5. In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges Guilford County faces currently and what would you do to address those concerns?

The Safety and Security for our schools and citizens is one of my biggest concerns. We need to provide adequate funding for our EMS, Fire, and Sheriff Departments. We need to offer them good pay and benefits so that more people will join these forces to make our communities safer.

6. A lot of the county commission's job is working with the county budget. What experience do you have with working with large budgets?

I have eight budget cycles under my belt when I was on the Board of Commissioners in 2012-2020. Four of those eight years I worked closely with the County Manager, Budget Directors, and Department Heads to create the budget for our county.

7. A lot of the work that the county has been working on is spending ARPA and other Covid-19 funding. How is that going and how have you worked with the board to facilitate that process?

I don't think this question pertains to me. I went off the board in 2020.

8. What things should the county be spending more money on? Spending less money on?

More – Health and welfare, drug rehabilitation, family justice center, and parks and recreation

Less - Less Tax-Payers money should be spent on non-profit organizations

9. Since the events of 2020, many in the country are calling for police reform and even defunding of law enforcement agencies. What are your thoughts on these stances?

I support our men and women in Law Enforcement. I do not agree on the stance of defunding our law enforcement agencies. They need more money not less. The response time of our law enforcement and the number of shootings each day are of utmost concern for me.

10. As reported recently, Greensboro saw a huge increase in rent prices for one-bedroom apartments over the last year. If re-elected, how would you work to provide affordable housing to people in the county?

We must continue a strong economic development outreach in both our urban and rural areas of Guilford County to keep cost of affordable housing low. Our current Board of Commissioners continue to spend money unnecessarily causing our taxpayers dollars to increase.

11. Anything else you'd like to mention?

**Refer to my website to read my Bio.
jabranson4countycommisioner.com**