

Kay Cashion answers

1. As an incumbent, why are you running for county commission and why do you think you are the best candidate?

#1 - As a long-time community volunteer, it is part of my commitment to serve to keep this a thriving, safe and healthy place to live. As a Commissioner, my pillars are: Quality Jobs, Quality Education, Quality Healthcare, and a Safe Environment. My volunteer leadership locally, statewide and nationally have broadened my view of community needs and opportunities to help meet those in innovative ways for long-term positive results. Such as, Chairing the County Family Justice Center initiative (having now served over 61,000 clients), Chairing the year long Substance Use study on Adolescents and Children (resulting in a White Paper referenced nationally, and Youth Mental Health and Drug Courts and other expanded services), representing Guilford on the Sandhills MH Board as vice-chair for 7 years, initiating the Behavioral Health Crisis Center for children and adolescents (built & operated by Sandhills for Guilford County), Founding and facilitating the Guilford County Citizens Academy (hundreds of citizens learning about county government), and other initiatives while Chairing Nat. Assoc. of Counties Justice & Public Safety Committee. Also Naco Arts & Culture Commission. Served on both Naco and the NC Assoc of Counties Boards of Directors for years. I am not a "one issue" candidate but rather embrace all aspects of good government with a collaborative and "Can do" attitude. It has been an honor to serve as Commissioner At Large for all our citizens.

2. How are you different from your opponent?

#2 - I am totally committed to this opportunity of service and have the interest, enthusiasm, experience, and time to devote that the At-Large position really demands and deserves.

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

#3 - My 50 plus years owning/operating a successful retail/design business gives me varied experience - fiscal, operational, human relations - personnel in workrooms, sales, management. Being a good listener at every level and being fair and accountable in every way has served me well. These principles apply in my Commissioner service whether it be budgets or in citizen services, realizing stewardship of our county's resources will continue stability.

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

#4 - maintaining a fiscally strong county while providing our mandated services and also investing in expansion of education, health-physical & mental, evaluating homeless/housing needs, infrastructure, and quality of life values (arts, parks, etc.). I am serving on the Joint Capital Facilities Committee - schools/county; housing Coalition Committee; JCPC, and other areas in support of these efforts.

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

#5 - My almost 18 years as a Commissioner have provided an opportunity to get a good understanding of priorities. I have served on several budget development committees - the county's internal budget and also the joint school/county budget committee. Doubt there will ever be a perfect budget but have tried to be a good steward of our citizens tax dollars. As a long time business owner, I am more fiscally conservative but still have a heart and concern for those who need services. The county enjoys a top credit rating by all three rating agencies. As Chair of the Internal Audit Committee, we look for ways to guide the Departments in being efficient and effective in every way.

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

#6 - As At-Large Commissioner, I have been a part of many meetings and discussions around researching and evaluating needs of all our citizens. And in listening to the cities and townships priorities such as Broadband, water & sewer needs, parks, health, education, as well as ideas for economic development, A "One County" approach Has guided our efforts to equitably distribute an investment of these funds for long-term benefits.

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

#7 - These vary as needs and opportunities present. Infrastructure, Broadband gaps, homeless issues, Behavioral Health services (Including transitional housing, particularly for women with children who are in recovery) are some of those needing expansion.

8. 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?

#8 - We should nurture an environment of respect for all our first Responders - EMS, Firefighters, and Law Enforcement, and their support teams. We should hire the best, provide them with training and equipment to do their jobs well, pay them at or above competitive levels, and then hold them accountable for performance.

9. 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?

#9 - lack of available, affordable housing is at a critical level. Many of our lower, limited income citizens have been faced with higher housing costs and unable to find alternatives. Our homeless population has increased not only our elderly but young career People whose

salaries will not support rising costs are impacted. The county has been meeting with non-profit housing providers and with Greensboro and High Point leaders. I serve on this Housing Coalition committee as well as on the COCBoard that addresses homelessness.

10. Anything else you'd like to mention?

#10 - it has been an honor and personally enriching to have the opportunity to serve with so many public servants and political leaders locally, statewide and nationally. It has also been humbling to be recognized by my peers with honors such as the national Americans for the Arts Public Service Award; the North Carolina Association of Counties 2019 Outstanding North Carolina Commissioner Award, and then the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award from Governor Cooper.