

Pat Tillman answers

1. Why are you running for county commission and why do you think you are the best candidate?

My adult life has been focused on serving others and working to make the wider Guilford community a better place to live, work, recreate and raise families. Starting from my service to my country as a 14 year US Marine Veteran, (including two combat deployments), serving on local Boards, and my last 5+years serving as a Dist 3 Board of Education representative, serving others and not caring who gets credit is a calling. I am running to continue that service to the citizens of Guilford County. I believe Guilford County is ready for a true "Renaissance". I am prepared to lead, collaborate and serve in the direction of this vision. I'm also running because serving our community as a Board of Education member I have seen the gleam in a child's eyes and I don't ever want that light to ever go out. And, we as servants of the public good have a key responsibility there. In short, I want Guilford County to be the following: 1) The business friendliest County in the southeast, 2) I want Guilford County to be the safest County and lastly I want Guilford County to be the cleanest and most welcoming County in the region. My vision is to do this in a collaborative fashion with fiscal responsibility, whilst getting the most value for our tax dollars, grants and whatever monies that may come under our purview.

2. How are you different than your opponent(s)?

The biggest and most significant difference is I am have served and am currently serving all of the constituents in District 3 as their elected Board of Education representative. I have worked with Mom's and Dad's, grandparents and the students to help solve problems and yield better outcomes at the most basic and important level - a child's education. There have been times when a constituent has no place to turn and helping that person/person's is my greatest joy. In additon, given my military experience, business experience and public service I am the most well rounded and qualified candidate. Finally, I am the only candidate in this race with children that attend public schools in this District.

3. If you are an incumbent, what are some of your proudest achievements as a commissioner?

Launching our 5 signature career academies here in Guilford County was a landmark event, not only for Guilford County but our entire region as it relates to ensuring our students are career (or college) ready. Building this talented pipeline of career ready students for the economic development that we now know is coming to Guilford Count was an enormous win for the entire County. These academies include but are not limited to Advanded Manufacturing, Supply Chain & Logistics, Healthcare, Aerspospace and more. Our model is now the envy of neighboring counties and the southeast. I was fortunate enough to have a front row seat and was able to work hand in glove with a wide spectrum of business partners, community leaders, the NC State Legislature, County Commissioners and Chambner of Commerce. I also fought for an additional \$3mm dollars for strictly "pilot program" only for Guilford County that was written in approproations to

help further our ability to provide the necessary programming (equipment, tools, technology) to fule these academies

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

I am currently Dorector of sales & marketing team at Friends Homes - a continuing care retirement community. With over 400+ employees and serving 600+ residents I am intimately involved in large budgets, leading/collaborating with multiple departments within the organization. In my previous occupations, I had the privilege of working with Fortune 100 and 500 companies in their sales and marketing/advertising campaigns and putting deals together.

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

In my view there are two things that are inextricably linked and those are as follows: 1) Job creation/retention - In the 1980's Guilford County was home to more corporate headquarters than our Charlotte and Ralogh neighbors. We must work just as hard in attracting business and industry as we do in keeping business & industry.

2) The second is how we effecitvely and responsibly build and maintain our schools. We have a bond on the ballot as well as a quarter cent sales tax for the voters to make decisions on. We must also reimagine public education. I mentioned the Career Academies which is one example, and another is a new Aerospace magnet High School in the Northwest area of District 3. Its no secret that a part of the reason for Toyota and Boom Supersonic deciding to make Guilford County their home was in part because of our CTE (Career Technical Eduction) efforts in Guiford County Schools. We must also challenge the status quo with reagard to how we finance the building and enovating of schools. Conventional school bonds are what we rely on today but as a County and a State Legislature we must explore more fully alternative and sophisticated funding models like lease/lease-back agreements and P3 schools (public, private partnership schools). There's a reason the two priorities I mentioned cannot be mutually exclusive and that is because empirical evidence and current data shows that in order to attract and retain a high functioning workforce we must have a robust pipeline of career ready students ready the these challenges. Some of the job opportunities a student that graduates in 2026 have access to aren't even defined "jobs" yet.

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?

Serving on the Board of Education has provided me a breadth and depth of experience that will help me if I am honored to serve as a Commisisoner. This coupled with being a part of large corporate budgets helps for a very smooth segue to the County budget.

7. What previous political experience do you have, if any?

I was elected in District 3 to the Board of Education in 2016, and re-elected in 2020. In addition, for many years I worked to help others get elected in the local political party.

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

Our primary focus should be on HHS (Health and Human Services) Education (public schools and community colleges) and Public Safety. The areas where we have more flexibility and potentially spend less on is support services and community services. Things like Commissioners giving themselves a raise and 208 staff positions should be examined for any efficiencies there.

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 this?

In my judgement this is a flawed philosophy and crime data around the nation underscores this. In particular, where police departments and Sheriff's offices have been marginalized and/or monies reallocated (defunded) for social experimentation those communities have been hurt the worst. The most vulnerable of people are ones paying that price and that's just wrong. We need to attract and retain law enforcement personnel and obviously hold them accountable, but support those that protect and serve so they can be trusted partners in the communities where they serve, not maligned.

10. Many in the Republican Party have aligned themselves with former President Trump and have stated that the November 2020 election was stolen and have supported those who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6. Can you tell me your thoughts on these issues?

Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Mike Pence, Hilary Clinton, George Bush....None of these people are on the ballot, but I'm on the ballot running for County Commissioner in the place I love. But, to answer the question, no I do not think our election was stolen. Frankly questions like this aren't productive and I've always encouraged citizens to fix their eyes locally. It's in the small areas where we can yield positive outcomes, zip code by zip code, street by street. Don't look to POTUS' or US Senators to make one's local community stronger. Rather, look to your right and left at those people around you and vote for those running for public office with a common vision and do the hard things together. We may not always agree but we will get high quality public policy for our citizens.

11. Anything else you'd like to mention?

In closing, I'd like to say that next to serving my country by leading Marines and Soldiers both in peacetime and in wartime, serving on the Board of Education in District 3 has been the greatest privilege I've experienced. Guilford County is ready for a "Renaissance" and I want to be a small part of that as the next Commissioner of District 3.