

Carly Cooke statement

Why I was compelled to run for office:

When my youngest son started kindergarten, I became actively involved in his school; first as a classroom volunteer, then a PTA volunteer, and eventually on the PTA board. Through years of dedicated service in our public schools, I witnessed firsthand the significant and ongoing lack of support they endure. This realization drove me to learn how I could contribute more effectively to increasing support for our schools. My advocacy work ultimately led me to step forward as a candidate for commissioner. Public education is the foundation of a thriving community, and I am determined to ensure our schools receive the support they need to serve all children in Guilford County. We have made a lot of good progress for our schools in the last 4 years but we have more to do. Throughout my first term and looking ahead, I remain committed to representing the values of Guilford County families on the Board of Commissioners.

Priority Issues:

County government plays a critical role in many areas of our community, making it difficult to narrow down the focus areas; however, several top priorities stand out. *We must continue to invest in public education from cradle to career and continue to support the GCS master facilities plan with the established funding model to ensure financial stability and consistent progress on schools. *Another key focus is improving access to essential healthcare and basic needs for our most vulnerable residents, including access to primary and specialty care, substance use and behavioral health services, and addressing housing and food security needs. *We've been fortunate to experience significant economic growth in recent years. We must work to continue this momentum but also assess and anticipate infrastructure needs to ensure our community can continue to thrive amid the economic growth.