

Candidate for Mecklenburg County Commission at Large – Jamie Hildreth

JAMIE HILDRETH is a 28-year-old Democrat who is running for Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners as an At Large Candidate. He was a board member of the Democratic Party in 2015-2016 and a party precinct chair. He has been a board member of the county LGBT Pac since and its chairman since 2016. He was a volunteer and executive for the Latin American coalition from 2013-2014 and a volunteer for Charlotte Pride.

ON SCHOOL CHOICE:

Hildreth does not support charter schools because he cites studies that have shown that charter schools increase segregation and do not perform substantially better than traditional public schools. He thinks choice only works when the education field is level and that charter schools lack transparency.

ON MEASURES TO INCREASE SCHOOL SAFETY:

Hildreth believes that Charlotte Mecklenburg Public School policy experts should lead on the issue of increased school safety but supports such preventative measures as hiring more school social workers, psychiatrists and nurses.

ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:

In addition to hiring more school nurses, social workers and school psychiatrists, Hildreth believes the county should lobby for more state and federal dollars to fund these positions. Positions and salaries for teachers should be at or above national average.

ON POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:

Hildreth believes population growth increases congestion, overcrowded schools, environmental stresses and can lead to a degradation in the area's livability.

ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:

Hildreth believes the county must fully fund schools and build out the greenway and park systems. He believes vacant county land is estimated to be depleted by 2030 and the county should begin to address future needs by building mass transit between Mecklenburg and other counties.

ON PANTHER STADIUM FUNDING:

Hildreth is not in favor of using county funds to build a new Panther stadium.

ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Hildreth believes the county should leverage its land and cash resources to partner with city, state, business, faith and non-profit organizations to fund \$150 million in new affordable housing units.

ON 287(G):

Hildreth believes the county should discontinue its cooperation with Federal immigration and Customs Enforcement agents which was approved in 2006.

ON OTHER ISSUES:

Hildreth believes that because Mecklenburg County has one of the highest rates of new HIV/Aids cases, the County should fund pre-exposure prophylaxis clinics to reduce the rate of new cases.

1. **Name:** Jamie Hildreth
2. **Age:** 28
3. **District:** Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners At-Large
4. **Party Affiliation:** Democrat
5. **Political background or other civic engagement endeavors**
 - a. Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Board Member 2015-2016
 - b. Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Precinct Chair
 - c. MeckPAC (Mecklenburg LGBT PAC) Board Member 2012-2018, Chairman 2016-2018
 - d. Latin American Coalition Volunteer and Executive Assistant 2013-2014
 - e. Charlotte Pride Board Member and Volunteer 2012-2018
 - f. Neighborhood Association Leader
6. **What are your qualifications for this office?**
 - a. I have been an active volunteer or board member in multiple community organizations that has grounded me in the needs of Mecklenburg County. I have interacted with the county in various advocacy roles and worked directly in a local government (Anson County) in the tax and finance department.
7. **Do you support the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School choice plan and other options such as charter schools and magnet schools?**
 - a. I do not support the current approach to charter schools in NC. Countless studies have shown that charter schools only increase segregation and do not perform substantially better than our traditional public schools. Choice only works when it's a level field, but charter schools have no transparency.
8. **What measures do you support to increase school safety?**
 - a. I support what our school policy experts, CMS Board would recommend. They should lead on this issue. But I support preventative measures such as more school social workers, psychiatrist, and nurses.
9. **What measures can Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools take to address student mental health issues?**
 - a. The BOCC should fully fund request for school nurses, social workers and school psychiatrist. Also, use its legislative agenda to lobby for more state and federal dollars to help fund these positions. Ensure these positions along with teachers also have salaries at or above the national average.
10. **What problems do you believe that Charlotte/Mecklenburg population growth creates?**
 - a. Congestion, overpopulated schools, increased environmental stresses, and potential decrease in livability. But with proactive leadership the BOCC can mitigate or reverse all of these issues.

11. How can the county address those growth problems?

- a. Fully fund schools, build out the greenway and park system before we run out of land that is estimated to happen in 2030. Think regionally to build mass transit between multiple counties.

12. Do you support the use of County funds to build a domed stadium to guarantee that the Carolina Panthers remain in Charlotte?

- a. No.

13. What measures can the Board of Commissioners take to increase the stock of affordable housing in the County?

- a. Leverage county land and cash resources to partner with the city to fund \$150 million in new affordable housing units. A partnership with the city, county, state, and community business, faith, and nonprofit resources will be the only way we can even begin to catch up with demand.

14. Are you in favor of a resolution calling on the Sheriff's Department to discontinue its enforcement of federal immigration law. (287(g))?

- a. Yes. I also support going further and using a creative budget process to defund 287(g). The BOCC approved the positions in 2006, let's take them away in 2018.

15. What other issues do you believe the Board of Commissioners should address?

- a. The BOCC should focus on being proactive and reactive as it has been. Such as funding PReP clinics across the county to bring down new cases of HIV/AIDS in the county to ZERO. Mecklenburg has one of the highest rates in the country we can end that with PReP.