

Candidate for Mecklenburg County Commission District 2 – Angela Edwards

ANGELA EDWARDS is a 56-year-old Democrat running for Board Commissioner in District 2. She is a mother and grandmother and former trainer in a mental health organization.

ON SCHOOL CHOICE:

Edwards is critical of the lack of diversity in the CMS west side schools and believes CMS has become too political.

ON MEASURES TO INCREASE SCHOOL SAFETY:

Edwards believes that schools need to address the mental health needs of students and does not support adding armed staff or metal detectors in the schools.

ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:

Edwards believes the government should provide more funding to add experienced mental health professionals in the schools.

ON POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:

Edwards believes there needs to be a return the core family values especially in neighborhoods which have a high percentage of renters.

ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:

Edwards thinks the Board should address mental health issues caused by population growth.

ON PANTHER STADIUM FUNDING:

Edwards opposes using county taxes to pay for a new Panthers stadium.

ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Edwards says the lack of affordable housing is a city issue but the county has land where houses can be built. She believes the county should partner with the city to build more affordable houses.

ON 287(G):

She believes the Sheriff's Office should only turn over inmates who have been arrested for violent crimes to federal authorities, not those arrested for petty crimes.

ON OTHER ISSUES:

Edwards believes some county employees are treated with disrespect.

1. **Name:** Angela Edwards
2. **Age:** 56
3. **District 2**
4. **Party Affiliation:** Democratic
5. **Political background or other civic engagement endeavors:** I was a trainer for the System of Care, a mental health organization. Training the parents. And part of the

Network Informal Support Group. 4.5 years at Reid Park Academy as President of the Parent group P.T.O. and former Vice President for the Association of the Reid Park Community. And currently a board member of the Charlotte Area Fund.

- 6. What are your qualifications for this office?** Compassion for people. I have a heart for people especially in the times we live in now. And all my other experiences a mother of 6, a grandmother of 3 and a pet owner. With my past experiences in the system of care you have to know how to meet and connect with people as they are.
- 7. Do you support the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School choice plan and other options such as charter schools and magnet schools?** I have a hard time with CMS. CMS has become so political. Look at what they have done for children on the West side. There is no diversity in a predominantly minority setting.
- 8. What measures do you support to increase school safety?** Metal detectors seem harsh. The school shootings are really a mental health Issue. With bullying kids are even killing themselves. The safety issue is the manifestation of the mental issues within these kids. We need to address these mental issues first before we put the metal detectors up or have guns in schools.
- 9. What measures can Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools take to address student mental health issues?** We need to make sure we have qualified trained people. The more experience we have with people to identify these behaviors the better. This requires more funding on good experienced mental health professionals and the problem is the government does not want to provide the funding to support our people.
- 10. What problems do you believe that Charlotte/Mecklenburg population growth creates?**
Being in Charlotte all my life I have seen drastic changes esp in areas with more renters than owners, there is less of a family atmosphere. We are moving further away as we grow bigger from Charlottes core family values. And it is sad that no one addresses these issues.
- 11. How can the county address those growth problems?** It is right in front of their faces. The mental health problems. I am not sure why they are so busy doing other things but they are not addressing the mental health issues. They say they are doing it but I see no evidence so far of them doing it. The current Board of Commissioners did whatever they were gifted to do but now we have more people and more stresses, and we need to go back to the basics and address their mental and humanity issues caused by the growth problems.
- 12. Do you support the use of County funds to build a domed stadium to guarantee that the Carolina Panthers remain in Charlotte?** No. what we need is more housing. That is what we need. Charlotte is trying to be so competitive now that are not putting people first. They are putting the cart before the horse and are expecting everything will turn out great, But it does not work that way. Instead of things getting better they are getting worse. I think a new County Commissioner Board will be good for the people of CLT Mecklenburg county. The board has to be of one accord together so we can implement all that is needed for the people of CL Mecklenburg.

- 13. What measures can the Board of Commissioners take to increase the stock of affordable housing in the County?** The Board keeps saying it is a city issue and I heard this only just last night. But the county has land that they can build houses on. So the county can and should partner with the city to build more houses as needed.
- 14. Are you in favor of a resolution calling on the Sheriff's Department to discontinue its enforcement of federal immigration law (287(g))?** I am in favor of the violent criminals being sent back but not for petty crimes. We need to use the money for other more important things.
- 15. What other issues do you believe the Board of Commissioners should address?** Definitely when people do get jobs, to be treated with respect. I hear employees are unhappy working at the airport because they are treated with disrespect by their employers. I would encourage people to open their mouth and speak against unfair treatment at work. We complain to our neighbors and our friends but not to the employers. We have to speak out.