

## **Candidate for Mecklenburg County Commission District 3 – George Dunlap**

**GEORGE DUNLAP**, 61, is a Democrat incumbent representing District 3. He is a former CMS board member, the chairman of the Health & Human Services Committee and former chairman of the Efficient & Effective Government Committee. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

### **ON SCHOOL CHOICE:**

Dunlap is in favor of giving families educational options to meet the needs of their children.

### **ON MEASURES TO INCREASE SCHOOL SAFETY:**

Dunlap says he would support metal detection “wanding” anyone entering a school campus and recommends studying successful measures taken by other school districts.

### **ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:**

Dunlap supports funding additional positions for mental health professionals such as licensed clinical social workers and counselors and clinical psychologists to assess and diagnose mental illness, provide short-term intervention and referrals for additional services.

### **ON POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:**

Dunlap believes that population growth has contributed to overcrowded schools, housing shortages, increased homelessness, crime, traffic congestion, increased carbon footprint among other challenges.

### **ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:**

Addressing the problems associated with rapid growth, Dunlap says, will require cooperative efforts among community partners as well as effective public policy, community engagement, budget prioritization and strategic action.

### **ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING:**

Dunlap is in favor of measures like the review of current zoning practices, a requirement that developers include affordable housing in any new development and other initiatives to assist housing nonprofits in securing county- foreclosed properties and direct funding to support construction of affordable housing.

### **ON 287(G):**

Dunlap supports a resolution calling on the Sheriff's department to discontinue its enforcement of federal immigration law - 287(g).

### **ON PANTHER STADIUM FUNDING:**

Dunlap believes other county funded initiatives have a higher priority than funding for stadium improvements.

### **ON OTHER ISSUES:**

Health disparities across the county and chronic health issues

**1. Name:** George Dunlap

**2. Age:** 61

**3. District** County Commission District 3

**4. Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**5. Political background or other civic engagement endeavors:**

Board of County Commissioners, District #3 Representative (2008 – Present)

Chair, Health & Human Services Committee

Former Chair, Efficient & Effective Government Committee

Member, Economic Development Committee

Member, Public Safety Committee

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, District #3 Representative (1995-2008)

Finance/Capital Committee

Member, Board's Architectural Selection Review Team

Member of several other community boards/commissions: (1) Fire Commission; (2)

University City Partners Board of Directors; (3) Cardinal Innovations Healthcare

Solutions Board of Directors (Audit Committee, Manager's Compensation Committee);

and (4) Former Chair, Centralina Economic Development Committee.

Member, St. Paul Baptist Church, (Chair, Board of Directors)

**6. What are your qualifications for this office?** My educational preparation, professional experiences, and many volunteer leadership roles at the local, state and national levels have greatly enhanced my public service in our community. I remain passionate about helping to improve the quality of life for all the residents of our county.

**Education:**

M. S., Public Administration, University of North Carolina Charlotte (2003)

Fellow, NC Institute of Political Leadership (1992)

B. S., Criminal Justice, University of North Carolina Charlotte (1991)

A. A., Correctional Science, Central Piedmont Community College (1983)

A. A., Law Enforcement, Central Piedmont Community College (1979)

**Relevant Experience:**

Board of County Commissioners, District #3 Representative (2008 – Present)

Chair, Health & Human Services Committee

Former Chair, Efficient & Effective Government Committee

Member, Economic Development Committee

Member, Public Safety Committee

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, District #3 Representative (1995-2008)

Chair, Facilities & Finance Committee

Member, Board's Architectural Selection Review Team

Member of several other community boards/commissions: (1) Fire Commission; (2)

University City Partners Board of Directors; (3) Cardinal Innovations Healthcare

Solutions Board of Directors (Audit Committee, Managers Compensation Committee);

and (4) Former Chair, Centralina Economic Development Committee.

Member, St. Paul Baptist Church, (Chair, Board of Directors)

**7. Do you support the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School choice plan and other options such as charter schools and magnet schools?** I support CMS' efforts to provide a

variety of options to meet the diverse educational needs of students. I recognize "the one size fits all"-model is an ineffective model for most, if not all, urban school districts. Children and families need and should have options they believe will allow for optimum student success. Conventional schools work well for many students, while magnet programs and/or charter schools work well for others.

- 8. What measures do you support to increase school safety?** Community safety, including school safety, is a major concern for our entire community and is one of my top priorities as a commissioner. I believe security at our schools needs to be greatly enhanced to increase school safety. Adding more school resource officers could be very helpful. As a commissioner and former school board member, I would be willing to provide county money to implement other safety initiatives, including but not limited to "wandering" everyone who enters the schools, based on supporting evidence that this is an effective and efficient way to substantially improve school safety. We should benefit from lessons learned from other school districts across the country regarding effective school safety measures.
- 9. What measures can Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools take to address student mental health issues?** CMS might well be served by investing in the hiring of more mental health professionals, e.g., Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs), and clinical psychologists, who are able to assess/diagnose mental illness, provide short-term intervention, and/or referral for appropriate services. These professionals are trained to support teachers, school leadership, students, their family members and collateral community agencies.
- 10. What problems do you believe that Charlotte/Mecklenburg population growth creates?** Charlotte/Mecklenburg's growth creates over-crowded schools, affordable housing shortages, increased homelessness, crime, traffic congestion, an increased carbon footprint, and more.
- 11. How can the county address those growth problems?** The county must work closely and cooperatively with its community partners, e. g., civic, corporate, faith-based, and government, to address these problems. Many of the problems will be effectively addressed through well thought out public policy, community engagement, budget prioritization and strategic action
- 12. Do you support the use of County funds to build a domed stadium to guarantee that the Carolina Panthers remain in Charlotte?** I believe the county should remain focused on its statutory responsibilities and priorities to serve the needs of our community relative to health and human services, education, environmental services, public libraries, and parks and recreation. I would strongly encourage the Carolina Panthers to seek support through the private sector, e.g., user fees, advertisers, vendors, etc. to build a domed stadium. As a PLS owner, I would, however, be willing to pay a higher ticket cost to support the Panthers building a domed stadium.
- 13. What measures can the Board of Commissioners take to increase the stock of affordable housing in the County?** Although affordable housing is not a core function of county government, the county can and is doing a number of things to address the issue. We are reviewing zoning practices, processes and requirements that could be barriers to building and the construction of affordable housing. We are requiring developers who purchase land from the county to add affordable housing stock to the developments they

build, The county is making available to nonprofit organizations that deal with housing, an opportunity to secure homes foreclosed by the county. Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners is contributing funds to support construction of affordable housing.

- 14. Are you in favor of a resolution calling on the Sheriff's Department to discontinue its enforcement of federal immigration law (287(g))?** would support such a resolution.
- 15. What other issues do you believe the Board of Commissioners should address?** The Board of County Commissioners should expedite its efforts to address health disparities across our community and increase its emphasis on chronic health issues.