

Candidate for Mecklenburg County Commission District 4 – Queen Thompson

QUEEN N. THOMPSON is a 71 year-old Democrat who is running for the Board of Commissioners in District 4. Thompson said her civic engagement began in 9th grade during the Lyndon Johnson presidential campaign. She was president of her high school student government and a member of the Johnson C. Smith student government. She graduated from Johnson C. Smith University and obtained a Master’s Degree in counseling psychology from Southern Illinois University and has fifty years of experience in social work and counseling.

ON SCHOOL CHOICE:

Thompson said she is opposed to the CMS school choice plan and a quality education must be available to all students.

ON MEASURES TO INCREASE SCHOOL SAFETY:

Thompson said that students are under too much pressure today and it is “crazy-making.”

ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:

Thompson said that the “fun and joy” of learning must be returned to education and that students who are not selected for magnet programs must have other quality education options.

ON POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:

Thompson lists affordable housing, limited job opportunities, inadequate educational resources and lack of parks and green spaces as population growth issues.

ON MEASURES TO ADDRESS POPULATION GROWTH ISSUES:

Thompson believes the county should embrace urban planning proposals.

ON PANTHER STADIUM FUNDING:

Thompson favors a joint funding partnership between the county, city and Panthers owners.

ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Thompson believes the county needs a more affordable property tax rate.

ON 287(G):

Thompson believes the county should continue its partnership with federal immigration and customs officials.

ON OTHER ISSUES:

Thompson believes the County Board of Commissioners needs to ensure that bond sales are spent according to residents’ wishes.

1. **Name:** Queen N. Thompson
2. **Age:** 71
3. **District:** 4, County Commissioner
4. **Party Affiliation:** Democrat

5. Political background or other civic engagement endeavors: Civic engagement began in the 9th grade. Active in the Lyndon Johnson for President Campaign; President of High School student government and Mecklenburg county-wide Student Governments. At Johnson C. Smith University, I was a four year member of the Student Government. Active participant in helping to craft the Migrant Farm Labor bill.

6. What are your qualifications for this office? I hold a bachelors degree from Johnson C. Smith University; Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from Southern Illinois University. I have 50 years experience in social work and counseling.

7. Do you support the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School choice plan and other options such as charter schools and magnet schools? No I do not support the CMS choice plan. The foes of democracy conspire to destroy children and insure a permanent under- class where there is no upward mobility. A quality education should be available to all students. Learning should be fun and exciting. Children in elementary schools should not have the anxiety of worrying about test scores and getting into the magnet programs. I am a supporter of public education, America's greatest virtue. It has given all Americans the dream that they can grow up and be President.

8. What measures do you support to increase school safety? Currently America is engaged in "crazy making." Children are not allowed to be children. Children are put under too much pressure and they are internally angry. And, there is no one listening to the brokenness.

9. What measures can Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools take to address student mental health issues? Children as stated above are under a lot of pressure to please their parents, their parents and other significant others. The fun and the joy of learning has been taken out of education. Children not selected for a magnet school by 4th grade are left with poor prospects for a quality education.

10. What problems do you believe that Charlotte/Mecklenburg population growth creates? Affordable housing is an issue. Lack of work force opportunities and limited education resources. Adequate parks and green space Is another problem included.

11. How can the county address those growth problems? County can embrace growth problems through intensive urban planning.

12. Do you support the use of County funds to build a domed stadium to guarantee that the Carolina Panthers remain in Charlotte? I would support a joint usage of funds between the county, city and the Panthers.

13. What measures can the Board of Commissioners take to increase the stock of affordable housing in the County? I am not sure. I think an affordable property tax rate would help immensely.

14. Are you in favor of a resolution calling on the Sheriff's Department to discontinue its enforcement of federal immigration law (287(g))? No.

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

Deeper oversight with bonds, ensuring that the bonds are spent in accordance to the voters' wishes.