

2022 Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: Blake Kiger

Address: 9803 Scheer Court Harrisburg, NC 28075

Office Sought: Cabarrus County Commissioner

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1. Will you accept REALTO Political Action Committee contributions:

Yes

2. Please provide your background and why you are running for office.

I am a licensed general contractor and own a construction consulting business. Since 2009, I have provided consulting services on over \$6.4B worth of construction projects. I am an incumbent Commissioner and running to keep the momentum going for economic development. The *CBJ* announced in 2014 that Cabarrus County was “closed for business”. Since that time, the new board of commissioners has worked diligently and announced over \$3.5B in new business.

3. What are the top three challenges your community is facing? If elected, how would you address those challenges?

Public safety is and will remain a top priority. One of the ways we can support law enforcement is by addressing mental health issues. As a result, we would like to provide a mental health facility and have recently acquired property to begin this process. Sewer capacity is also a pressing issue. We have been working with our legislative delegation to increase sewer capacity while reducing burdensome state regulations that impact the true capacity. Continuing the momentum for structured economic development also remains a top priority.

4. Give an example of how the city or county could play an active role in economic development and land use/smart growth, including job creation and work site development?

The current Board of Commissioners for Cabarrus County has provided strong economic development incentive grants for the past seven years. We have also announced \$2Billion dollars' worth of projects in the last six months. We provide applicants with certain criteria, such as the amount of the investment required and the expected average wage. Other projects, such as distribution, are welcomed, but not incentivized. We also provide incentives for existing Cabarrus County companies that want to expand. All these incentives have a time capacity (3 to 7 years typically) and are only paid after a full audit by the tax department showing evidence that all criteria have been met. The increase in land value, however, is not incentivized. Instead, property tax is paid in-full from the beginning.

5. What plans or policies should be in place to grow affordable housing at all levels of income? Are there any plans or policies that you would change or remove? If so, why? Please give a brief explanation.

Affordable housing is primarily a municipality issue vs. a county issue due to location and transportation. However, in the short run, Cabarrus County has used ARPA funds to try and address some immediate needs. In the long run, Cabarrus County is partnering with the City of Concord, Habitat for Humanity, and the Cooperative Christian Ministries to formulate strategies for long-term solutions.