

2022 Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: Alan Thompson

Address: 3688 Camp Julia Rd, Kannapolis, NC 28083

Office Sought: Cabarrus County Commissioner

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Please reply briefly & legibly in the space below.

1. Will you accept REALTOR® Political Action Committee contributions?

Yes.

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

I run for this position because of my passion for public service and my desire to be part of the continued forward progress of Cabarrus County. I do not run with grudge or a single issue in mind, but rather run with a commitment to listen in order to be sure the needs of our citizens and community partners are heard while keeping Cabarrus County positioned as the best place to live, visit, and conduct business. I have made the decision to run because I believe I have been led to this and I believe it is important to stand for what you believe while doing the work that needs to be done in a way that demonstrates high levels integrity, professionalism, and commitment. A chance to serve...a chance to make a difference is why I run for this office. I encourage voters to learn more at www.facebook.com/electalanthompson and through my attached CV.

3. What are the top three challenges your community is facing? If elected, how would you address those challenges?
 - a. Responsible growth – Comprehensive economic development programs and appropriate incentives with an ear to the community listening for the desired balance of business, housing, and open space.
 - b. Infrastructure expansion- Infrastructure plans with associated accountability to support current and future growth.
 - c. Mental health – Continued collaboration with mental health advisory board with consideration for dedicated mental health treatment space in this county.

Additional areas for continued focus include support of public safety providers, quality education, affordable housing, child advocacy, veteran services, and keeping taxes at a level appropriate for expected services.

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.

Economic development programs yield a \$6 return for every dollar invested. I believe it is important to continue listening as we keep our eyes to the future. We are uniquely positioned as a destination for business, tourism, and living while still having a strong and valuable agricultural presence. Economic development expenses are the 2nd lowest expenditures in the budget yet they yield tremendously by making sure the right growth comes to the County. Growth will come...responsible stewardship makes it our responsibility to see this growth produces higher salaries, strong community partners, and stabilizes tax rates. Keeping tax rates low while providing the highest levels of service requires great balance and collaboration.

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

Opportunities exist to improve affordable housing options. This significant market improvement for houses has quickly elevated purchase and rental costs. I believe Cooperative Christian Ministry recently stated an income of \$44,000 annually was generally required for individuals to purchase an entry level home in Cabarrus County. Fortunately, economic development programs have improved median incomes in Cabarrus County to \$44,000 plus with other jobs scheduled to come with \$70,000 plus averages. The challenge is that reduced availability of affordable housing must be considered in the context of how rapidly it has occurred with the need to consider the question of when this housing price surge will stabilize or correct. In this county, excellent efforts are underway through the collaborative efforts of the Cabarrus Health Alliance, non-profits, faith-based groups, county government, and municipal leaders to identify needs and solutions. I think additional work needs to be done, especially in the area of inviting real estate professionals and builders to the table for input and options. Collaboration is the key.