

# 2006 - 2008 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## About the Board

The nine-member Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is the governing body of Mecklenburg County. Partisan elections are held in November of even-numbered years. Six members are elected from single-member districts, and three at-large members are elected by a county-wide vote. Commissioners elect a chairman and vice-chairman during their first meeting each December.

## Board Meetings

Board business meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 East 4th Street in Charlotte. All Board and Board Committee meetings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend. Those wishing to address the Board at one of the meetings can sign up online until 4 p.m. on the day of a Board meeting. After 4:00, you must sign up with the clerk in person in the meeting chamber. Each speaker has three minutes or a total of ten minutes for groups wishing to speak about a single subject.

## Board Duties

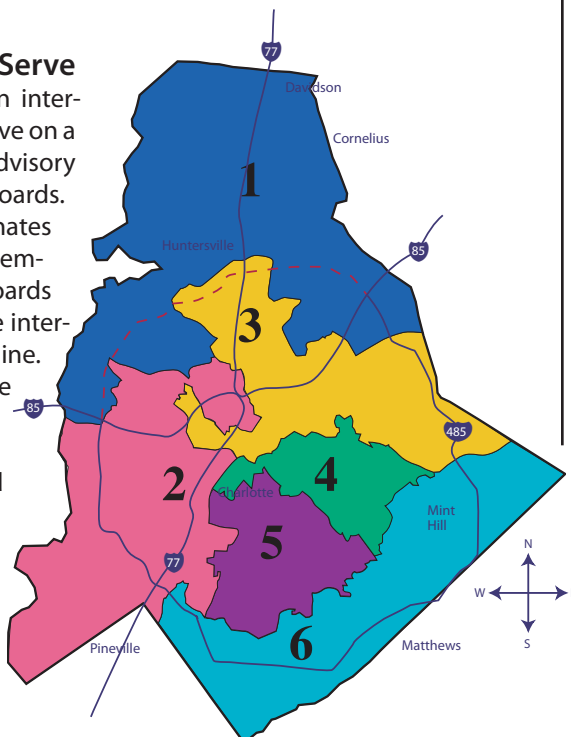
The Board's major responsibilities include adopting the annual County budget, setting the County property tax rate, and assessing and establishing priorities on the many community needs, especially those related to health, education, welfare, mental health and the environment.

## Questions

Most of your questions about the Board can be answered by going to [www.MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](http://www.MecklenburgCountyNC.gov) or by calling the office of the Clerk to Board at 704-336-2472.

## Your Chance to Serve

The Board relies on interested citizens to serve on a variety of citizen advisory committees and boards. The Board nominates and appoints members to these boards every month. Those interested can apply online. Applications are retained for two years so if you aren't appointed the first time, your name may come up again as openings occur.



## AT-LARGE MEMBERS



### Jennifer Roberts Chairman

Jennifer Roberts is a Democrat elected at-large for her second term on the board.

Roberts was executive director of the Charlotte World Affairs Council from 1997 until 2002. She is currently an adjunct professor in the International Studies Department at UNC-Charlotte. She is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, and has a Masters Degree in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC and a Masters in European History from the University of Toronto.

704-336-2574 • [jennifer.roberts@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:jennifer.roberts@mecklenburgcountync.gov)



### Parks Helms Vice-Chairman

Parks Helms is serving his eighth consecutive term on the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, elected at-large.

He was first elected to the County Commission in 1992, and served as chairman during five of his seven terms. Helms was a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1974-1984, He was chairman of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party from 1986-1987.

A Charlotte native, Helms earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

704-372-4884 • [PHelms@helsmhenderson.com](mailto:PHelms@helsmhenderson.com)



### Dan Ramirez

Dan Ramirez, a Republican, was elected first to the Board in 2002 and again in 2006, both times as an at-large member. He owns an engineering, surveying and GIS technologies firm.

Ramirez is founder and chairman of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly of North Carolina, an affiliate of the Republican National Committee. He earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering at University of Gracolumbia in Bogota, Colombia and his MBEP at Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

704-336-2641 • [dan@danramirez.com](mailto:dan@danramirez.com)

DISTRICT MEMBERS on reverse side

# 2006 - 2008

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

### DISTRICT MEMBERS



#### **Karen Bentley** **District 1**

Karen Bentley, a Republican, was elected to her first term on the Board in 2006 representing District 1. This is her first elected office.

Bentley served as President of the Lake Norman Charter School PTO. She also served as President of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Republican Women's Club in 2004.

Bentley was part of the grassroots effort to study the deconsolidation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in 2005 & 2006.

704-336-2089 • [karen.bentley@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:karen.bentley@mecklenburgcountync.gov)



#### **Norman A. Mitchell, Sr.** **District 2**

Norman A. Mitchell, Sr., a Democrat, is serving his fifth term on the Board representing District 2.

Mitchell is retired from the U.S. Postal Service, and is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam where he was wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart. Mitchell serves on the Homeland Security Task Force and

Human Services Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo).

704-336-2088 • [normanam@aol.com](mailto:normanam@aol.com)



#### **Valerie C. Woodard** **District 3**

Valerie Woodard, a Democrat, is serving her third term on the Board representing District 3.

She is a National NAACP Trustee, a certified mediator, and a graduate of Focus on Leadership. She is a Deaconess at Saint Paul Baptist Church and a member of the Golden Hue #15, Order of the Eastern Star. Woodard, a former

criminal investigator in the Office of the Public Defender, is a conflict resolution consultant. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from UNC-Charlotte and a Master of Arts degree from Columbia College in Columbia, S.C.

704-336-4419 • [2woodard@bellsouth.net](mailto:2woodard@bellsouth.net)



#### **Dumont Clarke** **District 4**

Dumont Clarke, a Democrat, is serving his fourth term on the Board representing District 4.

Clarke is an attorney who concentrates his practice in corporate finance with the law firm of Moore and Van Allen PLLC. He is a former member of the Mecklenburg County Citizens Capital Budget Advisory Committee, which helps the Board

prioritize its capital spending.

He graduated from Vassar College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and he earned his law degree four years later at UNC-Chapel Hill.

704-331-1051 • [dumontclarke@mvalaw.com](mailto:dumontclarke@mvalaw.com)



#### **J. Daniel Bishop** **District 5**

J. Daniel Bishop, a Republican, is serving his second term on the Board representing District 5.

He also serves on the Effective and Efficient Government, Natural Resources and Education Liaison Committees. Bishop is a native Charlottean, having graduated from South Mecklenburg High School. He received his B.S. in

Business Administration in 1986 from UNC-Chapel Hill with highest distinction, and his law degree with high honors, in 1990.

704-716-1200 • [dan@votedanbishop.com](mailto:dan@votedanbishop.com)



#### **Bill James** **District 6**

Bill James, a Republican, is serving his sixth term on the Board representing District 6.

James serves on the Board's Community, Health and Safety Committee and has served as the chair of the Effective and Efficient Government Committee. James served as the first Chairman of the City of Charlotte's Privatization

Advisory Committee. He earned his MBA in accounting from Nova-Southeastern University and a B.S. in Accounting from Florida Atlantic University.

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