

Election 2015 Candidates – Town of Huntersville

Office	Candidates	# seats in election
Mayor	John Aneralla* Jill Swain*	1
Council	Melinda Bales Dan Boone Phil Carey* Sharon Eskridge* Mark Gibbons Charles Guignard* Rob Kidwell Sarah McAulay* Jeff Neely* Danny Phillips Toni Primiano Leonard Richardson III* Nick Walsh	6

*High school students surveyed all candidates for office in Election 2015. Candidates who completed the questionnaire are included in this guide. * = The candidate did not provide the requested information.*

**Melinda Bales
Town Council
Huntersville**

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Melinda Bales, Huntersville Town
Commissioner



Melinda Bales

Education/Occupation

I attended East Tennessee State University, I am currently in my second term as a Huntersville Town Commissioner

Community involvement and leadership experiences

I am the new Chair for the Lake Norman Transportation Commission and I also serve on the Lake Norman Education Collaborative Executive Board, the CPCC Paramedic Advisory Board and the Business Retention Committee with the Lake Norman Economic Development Corporation

Where I grew up and when I came to Mecklenburg Co.

Tennessee, my husbands job relocation brought us to the area in 1999.

As a student, I was interested in government, leadership, and civic issues because...

Being able to make a difference in the world around me.

Favorite news source

All news sources. It is important to get many perspectives

Political viewpoint

Fiscal Conservative

First issue I will tackle

Building Relationships w/ new Board members-In order to make progress and move Huntersville forward, the Board members must work together. Issues cannot be tackled if you do not work together. I will first reach out to each member and commit to working with them to get things done.economic development:: build new infrastructure to provide jobs, build new public/private schools, repair roads,bridges...set up industrail parks to produce high tech products.

I think the most important role of town government is

Providing quality services and infrastructure for our residents and businesses.

What does our town do well? What can we do better?

Huntersville has done a good job at partnering with other organizations to provide services within our town such as the Huntersville Fire Department. We can continue to work with NCDOT to provide better road infrastructure for our residents.

A town issue that does not get enough attention – and how I will solve it

Water/Sewer Connections-There are many areas in Huntersville that still do not have access to water and sewer. I will continue to work with Town Staff and the County to help bring water and sewer to Huntersville. This will open up areas for local business. We have made improvements in the last 3 1/2 years but I hope to see more.

My impact on the town's progress and growth

I have worked for 3 1/2 years now on moving Huntersville forward. I will continue to work on road improvements, fire stations, economic growth and the importance of education for our future work force. We need diverse jobs within our community and people with the skill set to keep those jobs in Huntersville.

Do all kids in our town have equal opportunities for success? How I will help...

Yes, I do believe that every kid has equal opportunity for success. I will continue to work with the Lake Norman Education Collaborative to put added resources back into our schools. One example is the new Partners In Education program from the Lake Norman Chamber. This brings businesses and schools together to meet needs.

Why students should get involved in GenerationNation and CLT-Meck Youth Council

Our democracy only works when "we the people" get involved. We should never lose sight of what makes this Country great. If we do our freedoms could and can be lost or taken away. Our future will be in your hands and if you do not know our past and present how can you impact our future? That is why you must get involved.

One more thing I want people to know about me

I love Huntersville and the main reason I decided to run for local office was for the future of my community and my children. Our futures do not just happen. We must work hard and keep our goals in the forefront of our decisions.

**Dan Boone
Town Council
Huntersville**

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Dan Boone

Education/Occupation	Univ. of Tampa
Community involvement and leadership experiences	Huntersville Planning Board vice-chairman, Board of Adjustments. Huntersville Historic Society, treasure. HPD volunteer, Crime Stoppers and Soup Kitchen
Where I grew up and when I came to Mecklenburg Co.	Military family. Move every 3-4 years.
As a student, I was interested in government, leadership, and civic issues because...	US History Key Club, Boys State
Favorite news source	Computer
Political viewpoint	conservative
First issue I will tackle	Please check my FB page.economic development:: build new infrastructure to provide jobs, build new public/private schools, repair roads,bridges...set up industrail parks to produce high tech products.
I think the most important role of town government is	To serve all the citizens of Huntersville.
What does our town do well? What can we do better?	Please check my FB page

A town issue that does not get enough attention – and how I will solve it

Please see my campaign FB page.

My impact on the town's progress and growth

Please check my FB page

Do all kids in our town have equal opportunities for success? How I will help...

I think a person who has been elected needs to have the same equal opportunities for all the citizens.

Why students should get involved in GenerationNation and CLT-Meck Youth Council

This is the time to start to learn about what the issues are in the community. Get involved, attend the town board meetings and look at the town's budget.

One more thing I want people to know about me

**Mark
Town Council
Huntersville**

Email: electmarkgibbons@gmail.com



Elect Mark Gibbons



@navgibbo

Education/Occupation	Bachelors in Agriculture and an MBA in Aviation management. Pilot
Community involvement and leadership experiences	American Legion, Marine League, St. Mark church. Pastoral council and usher.
Where I grew up and when I came to Mecklenburg Co.	Muscoda, WI. My wife and I moved to Huntersville from the DC area. We love the people, the weather, and the topography.
As a student, I was interested in government, leadership, and civic issues because...	I always looked at people in government as servants and judged them accordingly. I want to serve my community.
Favorite news source	Reuters. Try to read news that is not totally leaning one way or the other.
Political viewpoint	Conservative
First issue I will tackle	Look into town budget. I believe there is room for cuts and the budget comes up for discussion soon after elections.economic development:: build new infrastructure to provide jobs, build new public/private schools, repair roads,bridges...set up industrail parks to produce high tech products.
I think the most important role of town government is	Maintain the lowest possible tax rates on citizens while providing necessary services.

What does our town do well? What can we do better?	Huntersville welcomes new residents and businesses with open arms. We could plan the infrastructure needed to allow these residents and businesses to flourish better.
A town issue that does not get enough attention – and how I will solve it	Roads. We need to put in low cost temporary fixes while we wait for the state to get to our big road projects. Turn lanes and busy intersections would help a lot.
My impact on the town's progress and growth	I will work with the other board members to ease the burden of regulations. We will keep high standards and adhere to regulations, but we will do our best to make them straight forward and easier to comply with. I will try to ensure the permitting is done in a timely manner so both businesses and home builders want to come to Huntersville.
Do all kids in our town have equal opportunities for success? How I will help...	Huntersville does better than many towns in this area. We always need to be alert to discrepancies based on socio economic status. Our schools, parks, and other town amenities do a good job of serving all of our citizens.
Why students should get involved in GenerationNation and CLT-Meck Youth Council	So they have a general understanding of government and the proper role(s) of government. We must not let our youth grow up thinking that government (politics) is just for a few and that we can rely on them to do what is right.
One more thing I want people to know about me	I am a veteran of the Navy and Marine Corps. I loved my 32 years in the service of my country and want to continue it in another capacity.

Rob Kidwell
Town Council
Huntersville

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www.facebook.com/voterobkidwell



<https://twitter.com/voterobkidwell>

Education/Occupation

BA Psychology. Production Manager for a label and industrial printer facility.

Community involvement and leadership experiences

I am finishing up my first term as Huntersville Town Commissioner. I began several years ago as a member of the Mecklenburg County Young Republicans, serving one term as the campaign chairman. In 2012, I was appointed to the Mecklenburg County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Authority. That same year my service began on my HOA board as vice president and the president until April 2015, when I stepped down to focus on my role as town commissioner. As a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity alumni chapter of Charlotte I also helped bring in the new chapter at the UNCC campus. This past year I also was appointed to the North Carolina League of Municipalities Tax and Finance Legislative Action Committee

Where I grew up and when I came to Mecklenburg Co.

Kansas city, Kansas

As a student, I was interested in government, leadership, and civic issues because...

Doing what was right, even if it was not popular

Favorite news source

BBC America, Fox New, MSNBC, Huntersville Herald, LKN Citizen, Charlotte Observer

Political viewpoint

Common Sense Leadership

First issue I will tackle	Infrastructure: There are creative ways for us to build our roads, sidewalks, and green ways, we just have to work together to utilize them. With your continued support, we can drive for more change in our budget, to put more money in our public works department. .economic development:: build new infrastructure to provide jobs, build new public/private schools, repair roads,bridges...set up industrail parks to produce high tech products.
I think the most important role of town government is	To maintain and improve the level of service to the residents, town staff, and businesses of our community while still remaining fiscally accountable and responsible with our tax money.
What does our town do well? What can we do better?	Our town does Parks well. We have one of the best departments out there. We can do better to offer real workable solutions to our infrastructure needs.
A town issue that does not get enough attention – and how I will solve it	It is my opinion that we should look at the current pay structure for our Police department and modify it. It is not an easy task and will require some gives and takes on both side. The bottom line is we need to put a pay system in that will compensate our officers competitively and allow them to advance and grow in our town
My impact on the town’s progress and growth	I will continue to work towards positive economic growth for Huntersville. We currently work together with the Chamber and the Lake Norman Economic Development Committee to attract new business. With that growth comes housing needs. We have over 15,000 homes Huntersville with another 5781 planned and another 1260 planned for our future growth.
Do all kids in our town have equal opportunities for success? How I will help...	Every child is different and requires different tools for learning. The Lake Norman Education Collaborative has done a great job working with schools and business to promote the education initiatives for our children and they will continue to have my support.
Why students should get involved in GenerationNation and CLT-Meck Youth Council	Simply, THEY ARE THE FUTURE, and they need to understand the processes involved, the history of our country, and the hard work and determination it will take to Lead future generations.
One more thing I want people to know about me	Holding office is not just an elected position to me, it’s a job, and one that I hope I can continue doing if hired by the citizens of Huntersville for another term.

Danny Phillips
Town Council
Huntersville

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Education/Occupation

I am a high school graduate and a small business owner (Old Store) and farmer.

Community involvement and leadership experiences

I am currently a member of the Huntersville Town Board and I am active in the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce and I also volunteer with the non-profit Sow Much Good.

Where I grew up and when I came to Mecklenburg Co.

I grew up in Mallard Creek but moved to Denver, NC when I was in high school.

As a student, I was interested in government, leadership, and civic issues because...

I didn't take an interest in politics until I was in my early twenties and became a father. I realized that voting directly impacted my daughter's future and that really resonated with me.

Favorite news source

I don't have a favorite; I believe you should read multiple sources to better understand all sides of an event.

Political viewpoint

Conservative

First issue I will tackle

I will continue to fight for road improvements and stopping the tolling of I-77. Without reasonable road infrastructure Huntersville cannot thrive because it makes the lives of citizens more complicated and can keep businesses from coming to the area. economic development:: build new infrastructure to provide jobs, build new public/private schools, repair roads, bridges...set up industrail parks to produce high tech products.

I think the most important role of town government is

To listen to the wishes of the citizens and implement the wishes into our policies and procedures.

What does our town do well? What can we do better?

Huntersville is great at being family friendly. I believe that Huntersville could do a better job of ensuring that we factor in long term planning so that we practice smart growth that will benefit our children.

A town issue that does not get enough attention – and how I will solve it

A town issue that doesn't get enough attention would be that we don't work with our neighboring towns or the county on more issues. Instead of working individually, we need to treat the area like a community, which is why I am in contact with our county leaders, neighboring towns, and state representatives to make sure we're "in the same boat".

My impact on the town's progress and growth

I will continue to listen to the citizens of Huntersville and reflect their wishes when I vote. The citizens are very concerned with road issues that may lead to tax increases or make it hard for them to go to work and I will continue to address these concerns by working with citizens and our representatives in Raleigh.

Do all kids in our town have equal opportunities for success? How I will help...

No, I do not. Huntersville's economic make-up is vastly different and not all communities are the same. I believe in working with community leaders to see what they need for their kids to thrive and talking to teachers to see what is needed at their schools to make things easier for students to reach their full potential.

Why students should get involved in GenerationNation and CLT-Meck Youth Council

Students need to be involved in government and politics because they are shaping the world to be what they want to live in.

One more thing I want people to know about me

**Toni Primiano
Town Council
Huntersville**

Email: Toni2015@gmx.com

Education/Occupation	Juris Doctor, Legal Law Masters. I am an attorney.
Community involvement and leadership experiences	I volunteer for Council for Children's Rights. I represent indigent clients.
Where I grew up and when I came to Mecklenburg Co.	I grew up in Colorado. I moved to North Carolina after law school.
As a student, I was interested in government, leadership, and civic issues because...	As a youth, I was most interested in indigent services.
Favorite news source	BBC, New York Times and Washington Post.
Political viewpoint	I emphasize education reform and the need to keep college education affordable. It is important for North Carolina to grow and allow for the growth of businesses, but we should not lose our charm and beauty.
First issue I will tackle	I will focus on our secondary roads, like 21 and 115, because economic development is important to Huntersville. Our schools are doing well and should never lose our attention and focus. We need to keep our amazing teachers and staff that educate our students.economic development:: build new infrastructure to provide jobs, build new public/private schools, repair roads,bridges...set up industrail parks to produce high tech products.

I think the most important role of town government is

The most important role I have is to serve the people.

What does our town do well? What can we do better?

Our town promotes small business growth well. We need to improve our zoning laws so that we encourage development, while protecting green spaces.

A town issue that does not get enough attention – and how I will solve it

I77 is a major project, but it should not overshadow our focus to extend our secondary roads and road improvement projects. Our secondary roads keep our local businesses and communities connected.

My impact on the town's progress and growth

Huntersville is a growing community that is a great place to work and live. We need common sense decisions that make it easy to do business in Huntersville all while keeping our community safe and charming.

Do all kids in our town have equal opportunities for success? How I will help...

Yes, but our community should continue to promote events that encourage our youth to be leaders.

Why students should get involved in GenerationNation and CLT-Meck Youth Council

One more thing I want people to know about me

I currently live in Huntersville with my husband and two year old son. I am a small business owner here in Huntersville. I have my own law practice Primiano Law, PA. I volunteer for Council for Children's Rights.

**Nick Walsh
Town Council
Huntersville**

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[VoteNickWalsh](#)

Education/Occupation

I attended St Petersburg College and currently work for Ricoh as a National Services Specialist in our Global Division.

Community involvement and leadership experiences

I was a volunteer fireman many years ago and served on a couple of Board of Directors for Homeowners Association where we lived. I was President of the Wynfield Homeowners Association a few years ago and held several management positions for various companies I have worked for over the years.

Where I grew up and when I came to Mecklenburg Co.

I grew up in Northern Virginia (Fairfax). I moved here 22 years ago with my wife, two children, and a Great Dane. We always enjoyed the area when we traveled through here. The people were friendly and the weather is great. We also love Lake Norman.

As a student, I was interested in government, leadership, and civic issues because...

Growing up in the DC area exposes you to daily politics (both national and local). I spent countless hour debating an endless array of topics. The decisions we make about who we elect affect our lives in so many ways. It's important to understand the issues and get involved.

Favorite news source

Zite

Political viewpoint

I am a registered Republican although my views are moderate. I vote for people and issues and not along party lines.

First issue I will tackle

I want to start with a revitalization of downtown Huntersville. I envision a downtown with more restaurants and other unique attractions bringing out citizens day and night. Imagine strolling through our downtown listening to live music with friends and family.economic development:: build new infrastructure to provide jobs, build new public/private schools, repair roads,bridges...set up industrail parks to produce high tech products.

CANDIDATE – TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE

I think the most important role of town government is

The most important role of town government is enhancing our quality of life. This means having the right mix of housing, jobs, public safety, parks, and other amenities to make Huntersville a great place to live. The final thing is for our elected officials to have the vision to plan for healthy future of our town.

What does our town do well? What can we do better?

I would like to see more efforts made to increase the quality of communication. The town website would be a good place to start, by making the site easier to navigate and more user friendly. Connecting with the local HOAs is a great vehicle of communication and allows for the town to understand what is happening within each of the communities.

A town issue that does not get enough attention – and how I will solve it

Our downtown needs to be cleaned up and revitalized. It's been neglected for too long. Many people think Birkdale is our downtown which it is not. We need the town to spearhead an effort to develop a master plan for the redevelopment of downtown Huntersville.

My impact on the town's progress and growth

People would not want to move here if there were not places to live, jobs, shopping, restaurants, or doctors. We want to continue growth and provide more opportunities without losing the essential character that is Huntersville. I want to encourage the opening of more local business that add to the unique character of the town.

Do all kids in our town have equal opportunities for success? How I will help...

The short answer to that question is no. However, I would not be able to articulate the problem or solution in 350 characters or less as required by this survey.

Why students should get involved in GenerationNation and CLT-Meck Youth Council

There is nothing that affects your life more than the government especially at the local level. The roads that you drive on, schools you attend, and the economic opportunities you might have locally someday have foundations in our elected representatives. You need to understand the issues and elect people who have your best interests in mind.

One more thing I want people to know about me

I have been a member of the Huntersville community since 1993 and have personally seen many changes that made the town what it is today. I am passionate about my hometown and wants to continue making Huntersville a destination place where residents can live, work & relax. Regardless of your choice, please vote on November 3rd.