

Candidate Forum District 3

Additional Questions

David Hamrick:

1. If elected, what will you do to ensure that we have additional judges and court staff added in the courthouse to handle the rising number of cases?
 - a. The general assembly sets the number of judges, based upon the workload of the courts. The court system needs to be evaluated for efficiency in moving the cases through the system. Cases should be reviewed from the point of beginning. The oldest cases prioritized. Discussions of process and settlement should be utilized. Reasons of delays in process, should be identified and solutions for correction applied. Should evaluation show a need for an increase in personnel, the general assembly then should be notified in accordance with procedure.
2. How do you plan to reach out to the youth?
 - a. Community outreach meetings to listen and address concerns. We should have gatherings at the community centers where discussions can take place with our youth. Their concerns, questions, ideas, and input into today's economics and issues in society have relevance in moving the county forward. Each generation views society in a different light from its predecessor, and these different in perception of the reality of topics before them, deserve attention.
3. How do you plan to change the image of Clayton County with highways being trashed with litter and garbage?
 - a. People throwing trash and garbage into the streets and parking show the lack of morals in society. Years ago, those who lived here cared about their community. Now, we have grown into a community of self-first with no concern or respect for our fellow citizens. I would like to see "Keep Clayton Clean", program brought back. I would ask and inquire about the use of cameras to help identify those involved. I would push the courts to prosecute, fine, and jail if needed to be emphasized the need for behavior correction.

4. What type of programs would you like to introduce to help ex-convicts be more productive and find sufficient housing, if they show improvement in citizenship?
 - a. There are programs available to help those gaining release from prison. The Re-entry Partnership Housing is a program to provide short term housing. It is in collaboration between some Georgia Agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Community Supervision, the Georgia Department of Corrections, and the Council of Accountability Court Judges. These programs are voluntary and depend on participants' desire to seek a better life. As with most programs, you get out of it what you put into it.
5. What actions or policies have you implemented within the last 6 months to improve the quality of life for Clayton County residents?
 - a. I have spoken before the Clayton County Commissioner to ask for a Quality of Life ordinance. This property code would allow and define the responsibilities between landlords or tenant. I have spoken to the commissioners about the need for improving housing availability and the program with celebratory gunfire.
6. Mental illness is a growing problem nationwide, sometimes leading to increased crime etc. What is your take on tackling this crisis?
 - a. Mental illness has led to substance abuse problems and homelessness. The difficulty in recovery is a two-fold issue. Those that want help, need programs to be available and flexible. Some of those in treatment are worried about the label which may be inferred. Clayton County has outpatient treatment and inpatient available. The cost of treatment, insurance, or lack thereof, must be addressed by the use of all resources at our dispose. We must reach out to those who need, but refuse treatment. A portion of these individuals have complications with substance abuse. There are programs that deal with these issues also.

7. What have you done as a resident of the community to improve the quality of life for the people of District 3?
 - a. As a retired shop foreman for Clayton County Fleet Maintenance, I have offered and shown County employees how to inspect and review their own private vehicles. I have bought bicycles and worked on the same for kids in the neighborhood. I have bought rakes and helped to get jobs for those young people wanting to work, I have worked with a food pantry to distribute food to those who could use it.
8. What is your vision for Clayton County and District 3? How will you implement your vision?
 - a. I would like to see Clayton County stand on its own. We need to have the citizens reduce their dependency on government programs. Being dependent on the government reduces the freedom of the people. Reliance upon others means you only have what you are given. Education is a way to be self-reliant and allow for growth and independence. This would be a starter for building wealth. Economic education and business development, along with a mentorship program, for a more in person, family like atmosphere, to help move the county away from and increasing poverty level. Increasing the wealth of the citizens would lead to better housing security, disposable income, and a more secure financial future.
9. What would you do or implement in accountability and transparency to not allow a theft of taxpayer's money by a company like Roman United to steal \$559,000 from the taxpayers?
 - a. I would follow the advice given by consumer protection advocates and do not give money up front. All major projects need to have a certified bank issued report to verify the financial records of the company. A bond of completion would help to protect the county against the project not being completed. Documentation of previously completed projects would be required. Individuals associated with the company's leadership would need to have background checks, done through law enforcement.

10. What type of programs and efforts have you established or planned by district 3, and the county as a whole?

- a. I have put forth a Quality of life initiative to offer protection for the renters in Clayton County. I have pushed for ethics reform in the county, to increase transparency and accountability. I want the zoning board to work with the citizens of the county. We don't need the same businesses every few miles. I would like to reintroduce the students to the option of trade school. I have a vocational background and we need to realize that college is not a one size fits all. Those who can work with, and be creative with their hands, can make a good living learning a trade.

11. Do you think there should be a limit to corporations purchasing single family homes, and make more provisions for families to purchase in Clayton County?

- a. When you talk of limits to companies or corporations purchasing homes to rent out, current laws need to be examined. While this sounds good and has merits, we must use due diligence to protect all parties involved. I do favor limits on the amount of rentals in each neighborhood. Some HOA's may have limits that are in effect. The question would be how to set a limit that would not violate the rights of the homeowner, as would refer to a military family wanting to rent for two years, then return home.

12. What strategies will you employ to enhance community engagement, and ensure the voices of all people are heard?

- a. Vitalizations of social media and community apps. Topics of discussion and interest can be posted. The citizens are then free to post their thoughts and opinions. This will allow people to be involved when they might be unable to be present at a meeting. These tools, in addition to community meeting, would allow and give District 3 residents multiple ways to engage and make their voice heard.

13. How would you make yourself available to the citizens and residents of your districts?

- a. I would ask the residents for their input and choice of a monthly meeting venue. This would allow me to present updates with the county. It would allow for discussion of topics and give people a chance to speak and concerns. There will also be the three-monthly meetings of the commissioners to allow for discussion and input.

14. How familiar are you with the county's strategic initiatives, and do you plan to assist with ensuring the county is achieving those initiatives?

- a. The county's strategic initiatives are only as good as the communication and the sharing of information. We need to communicate with the citizens our desired goals. Coordinate all members and parties involved to achieve the desired objective. Institute cooperation to bring resources to their full potential. The more knowledge and understanding of what is available, would better help the citizens by more complete utilization of the programs. The leadership of the county should set the example of what can be versus the example of don't let this happen to you. Our professional and economic growth depend on it. The ethics reform I have pushed for, will benefit and enable the fiscal responsibility and image of and for the county.