

Kids Voting Election 2011

Charlotte

Grades 6-12



A word cloud for the 2011 Election. The most prominent words are 'Election 2011' in large black font, 'Civics' in large red font, 'Leadership' in large blue font, and 'Kids Voting' in large blue font. Other words include 'reading', 'social studies', 'local government', 'ballot', 'critical-thinking', 'voting', 'civic literacy', 'writing', 'elections', 'decision-making', 'government', 'candidate', 'Pineville', 'Davidson', 'Charlotte', 'Matthews', 'Mint Hill', and 'Cornelius'.

Election 2011
Civics
Leadership
Kids Voting
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candidate
Pineville
Davidson
Charlotte
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Mint Hill
Cornelius

❖ Election

- A vote to decide who serves in certain leadership roles

❖ Vote

- Make a decision

❖ Candidate

- A person running for office

❖ Office

- An elected role in government

❖ Ballot

- Where candidates are listed and votes are made

Political parties

- ❖ Groups of people who have similar ideas
- ❖ Major US political parties
 - Democrats <http://www.mecklenburgdemocrat.org/>
 - Republicans <http://www.meckgop.com/>
 - Libertarians <http://www.lpnc.org/>
- ❖ Some local government offices are nonpartisan
 - The individual candidates can have political ideas but don't officially run as members of a political party

- ❖ A city is a unit of government
 - Like a town or a village
- ❖ Cities and towns are located within counties
 - 100 counties in N.C.
- ❖ Each level of government has its own elected officials, staff, services, budget
- ❖ City services
 - Includes police, fire, land use, transportation, economic development, neighborhoods

❖ **Grades K-12**

– Mayor

- Charlotte, Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill or Pineville

❖ **Grades 3-12**

– School Board

❖ **Grades 6-12**

– City and town council

- Charlotte, Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill or Pineville

❖ Mayor

- 2-year terms

❖ Role

- Represents the city, chief spokesperson for city
- Leads City Council meetings
 - Votes in the event of a tie; can veto a vote
- Works with City Council
 - To establish community priorities, set policy, approve budget and city tax rates, create local laws and other duties

- ❖ Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville also have mayors

Candidates

Vote for one (1) candidate



Anthony Foxx (D)



Scott Stone (R)

- ❖ Mayor and council in each city and town
- ❖ Council-manager form of government
 - Professional City Manager administers policies and manages city government
 - Elected council and mayor
 - Nonpartisan election every 2 years
- ❖ Role
 - Prioritize community needs, set policy, approve budget, levy taxes, create ordinances

At-Large = Represents entire city
4 seats available

❖ Candidates

- Patrick Cannon (D)
- Claire Fallon (D)
- David Howard (D)
- Beth Pickering (D)
- Christopher Hailey (R)
- Mohamed Moustafa (R)
- Edwin Peacock (R)
- Curtis Watkins (R)
- Alexander Vuchnich (L)

Districts

❖ District 1

- Patsy Kinsey (D)
- David Michael Rice (R)

❖ District 2

- James Mitchell (D)

❖ District 3

- LaWana Mayfield (D)
- Ed Toney (R)

❖ District

- Michael Barnes (D)
- Larry Shannon (R)

❖ District 5

- John Autry (D)
- Dennis Peterson (R)

❖ District 6

- Andy Dulin (R)

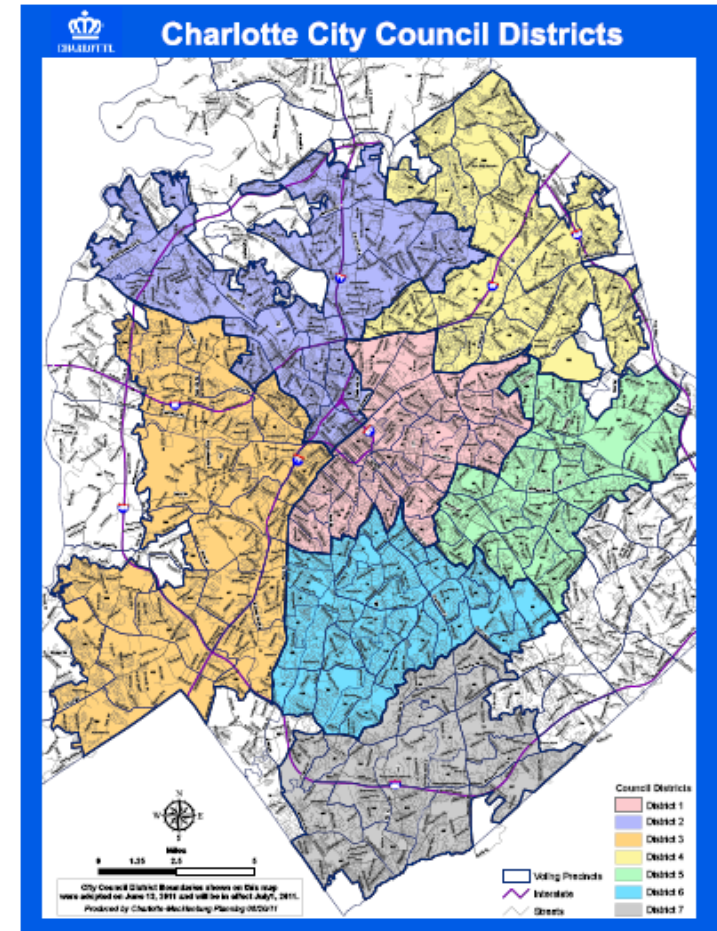
❖ District 7

- Warren Cooksey (R)

Districts

❖ Approximate locations

- 1: Central Charlotte
- 2: NW Charlotte
- 3: West Charlotte
- 4: NE Charlotte
- 5: E Charlotte
- 6: S Charlotte
 - Southpark, north of Hwy 51
- 7: S Charlotte
 - Ballantyne, south of Hwy 51



School Board

- ❖ Vote for up to three (3) At-Large Seats
 - At-Large: candidate represents whole county
- ❖ Nonpartisan office, 4-year terms
- ❖ 9 total seats on school board
 - 3 At-Large and 6 district seats
 - District seats: officials represent just one part of the community (on the ballot in 2013)
- ❖ School board = Board of Education

Role of school board

- ❖ Hire/fire superintendent
- ❖ Establish school district policy
- ❖ Review and approve budgets
 - Annual operating and capital (construction)
- ❖ Approve student assignment boundaries
- ❖ Oversee the management of school system's major systems
 - Includes curriculum, teachers, transportation

School Board Candidates



Larry Bumgarner



Elyse Dashew



Ericka Ellis-Stewart



Keith Hurley



DeShauna McLamb



Mary McCray



Tim Morgan

School Board Candidates



Ken Nelson



Hans Plotseneder



Aaron Pomis



Darrin Rankin



Lloyd Scher



Jeff Wise

Read, think, decide

1. Learn about the candidates
2. Think about the information
3. Choose candidates you like best
4. Vote
5. After the election, keep track of the candidates & their promises and actions

Read and learn

- ❖ Helpful place to start: pick an issue you care about
 - Education, environment, safety, transportation, economy/jobs, children, neighborhoods, teachers
- ❖ Find information about the candidates
 - Civic Learning Center www.kidsvotingcharlotte.org
 - Charlotte Observer www.charlotteobserver.com
 - NC Voter Guide www.ncvoter.guide.org /Charlotte or town name
 - Candidate websites
 - Video interviews and debates
 - Other sources?

- ❖ Does this **information help me?**
- ❖ Is it from a **good, truthful source?**
- ❖ Does it **fit with other facts** I know?
- ❖ How does it **make me feel?**
- ❖ Do I **know enough to make a decision?**
 - If not, learn and read more
 - Tip: Focus on the individual candidates, their ideas and solutions instead of political parties

Choose a candidate

❖ Review

- What did each candidate say? Did they...
 - Have ideas or solutions?
 - Complain a lot?
 - Ask questions?

❖ Decide

- Which one do you agree with the most?
- Based on the information you know, do you think the candidate will do a good job?

- ❖ Make your voice heard in Election 2011
- ❖ At home: online www.kidsvoting.org
- ❖ At school
 - Many schools will set up student voting
- ❖ At voting sites
 - Kids Voting Days: special dates/times and sites during early voting and Election Day
- ❖ Visit www.kidsvoting.org to learn more

After the election

❖ Look for official election results

- Adult vote: www.meckboe.org
- Student vote: www.kidsvoting.org
 - Did students elect different candidates?

❖ Keep track of the winning candidates

- Do they keep their campaign promises?
- Do they make good decisions?

❖ Stay involved

- Watch or attend government meetings, write letters or email officials