

Kids Voting Election 2011

South Mecklenburg Towns

Grades K-5



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

❖ 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

Town Government

- ❖ A Town is a unit of government
 - Like a city or a village
- ❖ Towns are located within counties
 - 100 counties in N.C.
- ❖ Each level of government has its own elected officials, staff, services, budget
- ❖ Town services
 - Includes police, fire, land use, sidewalks, tourism

❖ **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

❖ South Mecklenburg Towns

- Matthews, Mint Hill, Pineville

❖ Mayor

- Nonpartisan office in the towns (not in Charlotte)
- 2-year terms

❖ Role

- Represents the town, chief spokesperson for the town
- Leads town government meetings
- Works with Town Board
 - To establish community needs, set policy, approve budget and local tax rates, create local laws and other duties

Candidates

Vote for one (1)
candidate in your town

MATTHEWS



James (Jim) Taylor

MINT HILL



Ted Biggers



Jean Bonner

PINEVILLE

George Fowler



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



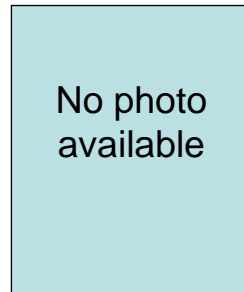
Elyse Dashew



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?

- ❖ Ask your teacher and parents how you can vote 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