

County Voter Guide

ALBEMARLE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Vote on Tuesday November 3

Samuel Miller District



Madison Cummings
Democrat



John Lowry
Independent



Duane Snow
Republican

Rio District



David L. Slutzky
Democrat



Rodney S. Thomas
Republican

Jack Jouett District



Dennis S. Rooker
Independent



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This 2009 Albemarle County Voter Guide has been co-produced by Charlottesville Tomorrow and The Daily Progress. It is intended to help residents make an informed vote on issues related to growth and development in Charlottesville-Albemarle.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website includes complete audio and written transcripts of every candidate forum and our interview with each candidate. The interviews were used in the compilation of the voter guide and each candidate was given an opportunity to review their verbatim responses before publishing.

Charlottesville Tomorrow does not endorse candidates or make contributions to political campaigns at any level. While The Daily Progress endorses candidates on its editorial page, its editorial staff have not been involved in the selection of questions or candidate responses in this voter guide.

Charlottesville Tomorrow is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to informing and engaging the public by providing clear, non-partisan information and research on land use, transportation, and community design issues with the confidence an informed public will make decisions that will protect and build upon distinctive character of the Charlottesville-Albemarle area.

2009 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATE PROFILES

In some cases, the candidates' responses have been abbreviated in this Voter Guide. Their complete responses, as well as answers to additional questions, can be found on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website. Additional topics in our interviews included

-  The creation of a Regional Transit Authority
-  Transportation priorities
-  The Albemarle County budget
-  Population growth
-  Use of the 1908 Lower Ragged Mountain Dam in water supply plan
-  The 1990 Three Party Agreement (transportation)
-  The 1982 revenue sharing agreement with Albemarle County
-  Primary responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)
Incumbent



First elected to the BOS in 2005, David has focused his efforts on protecting our rural areas and environment, finding transportation solutions, providing excellent schools for our children, and promoting economic vitality for our County. In his second term, David plans to concentrate on updating our infrastructure, particularly transportation, and on job creation to jump-start our economy. As a local business owner, an educator, and as a nationally recognized environmental and energy expert, David brings unique skills and insight to the task of balancing the many competing concerns of our community at a time when such experience is urgently needed.

Education: B.A. from the University of Chicago; Juris Doctor in the Program in Environmental and Energy Law of the Chicago-Kent College of Law; completed coursework towards a PhD in Political Philosophy at the University of Chicago

Occupation: President of E² Inc., a local environmental, energy and economic policy consulting firm; Adjunct Professor in the Urban and Environmental Planning Department at UVA; Chairman, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

Age on Election Day: 54

Neighborhood or area of residence: Northfields

Family: Melissa is my wife, and we have three children: Briana, Rebecca, and Isaac. Briana and our son-in-law, Jake blessed us with our first grandchild this April: Phineas Oliver Branham.

Favorite Volunteer Activity: Advising people who are interested in learning about electric vehicles

David Slutzky's website & contact info:

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Rodney Thomas (R)
Challenger



A lifelong resident of Albemarle County, I decided to pursue a career in the print industry after graduation. By 1979 I had served in Vietnam and had two children with my wife Nancy, but was still able to purchase Charlottesville Press, Inc.—a family owned print shop I still operate today. I have served on the board of many local organizations, including helping charter the Boy's and Girl's Club in Charlottesville. I also spent eight years on the Albemarle County Planning Commission for the Rio district from 1998 to 2006.

Education: Lane High School graduate

Occupation: Owner, Charlottesville Press, Inc

Age on Election Day: 65

Neighborhood or area of residence: Carrsbrook

Family: Wife Nancy, son Rod, daughter Ashely, 8 grandchildren

Favorite Volunteer Activity: I enjoy all the nonprofit organizations I voluntarily serve on the board for (presently and formerly) including: Boys and Girls Club, Host Lions Club, Crime Stoppers, CARS, YMCA and the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership—a non-partisan organization dedicated to improving political leadership in Virginia.

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Charlottesville Tomorrow's website (www.cvilletomorrow.org/elections) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate forum transcripts, audio and video recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this Voter Guide. Visit our website for an easy way to identify and contact your current elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Madison Cummings (D)



Born and raised as one of 3 boys in Lexington, Va. Parents- Mary Frances and Russell Cummings. Graduated from Lexington High School in 1961. President of Class of '61 and of Student Government at MCV in 67-68. My family and I have lived in Central Virginia for 39 years, 31 in North Garden. Member of Cove-Garden Ruritan Club for 25 years, President and Treasurer in the 80's. AC School Board Member from 1994-2001. Member of C/A Commission on Children and Families 2002-2008, Chair 2006-2008. AATF Board and CURSP Board member, which fostered closer UVA-Community cooperation. District Chair, Samuel Miller, Democratic Party.

Education: Hampden-Sydney College-BS, Psychology; 1965, Medical College of Virginia(now VCU)-BS, Pharmacy, 1968, numerous post-grad courses in German, Spanish, Art, History, Government.

Occupation: I'm a semi (now, mostly)-retired pharmacist at UVA Medical Center.

Age on Election Day: 66

Neighborhood or area of residence: North Garden

Family: Wife for 40 years-Pat, a semi-retired educator in Albemarle County for 37 years; daughter Kristin, married to Bill Streed-two sons, Owen, Griffin; Daughter Katy, married to Aaron Kloch; Son Josh, unmarried. Josh and Kristin live in AC. Katy will someday...

Favorite Volunteer Activity: My favorite volunteer activities are those that benefit my fellow citizens less fortunate than I (e.g. Ruritan, CCF, Youth Serve Committee, AATF, AC Health Advisory Committee).

Madison Cummings' website & contact info:

www.madison4albemarle.com
patcummings@ntelos.net
Phone: (434) 977-5913 (home)

John Lowry (I)



John Lowry grew up in Williamsburg, VA, graduated from the College of William & Mary and met his wife, Nancy Feil. Moved to Charlottesville in 1970; have three children and four grandchildren. He helped open the Charlottesville Office of Wheat First, Securities. For ten years he taught investments at PVCC. In the 1980s he served the County on the Airport Board, was Chair, when the new airport facility was built. In the late 1990s he began serving on the Economic Development Authority and became branch manager of the brokerage firm. Recently as Chair of the Symphony Board, a \$3 million endowment campaign was completed.

Education: I did not quite finish my MBA at W&M after undergraduate degree although I did recently graduate from Sorensen Institute for political candidates.

Occupation: Retired

Age on Election Day: 62

Neighborhood or area of residence: Red Hill, North Garden

Family: My children are MD, Phd and my daughter, Michaux, is smartest of the three doing her graphics career and music here in Cville.

Favorite Volunteer Activity: Politics

John Lowry's website & contact info:

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Phone: (434) 296-4695

Duane Snow (R)



Born and raised in Charlottesville
Five children-All attended County Schools;
12 Grandchildren
CEO and President of Snow's Garden Center for 35 years. Former Piedmont Virginia Community College instructor in Gardening & Landscaping. Albemarle County Architectural Review Board. 10 Years Virginia State Agricultural Council. Hosted for 35 years the longest running radio gardening show in the nation. Previously served on American Heart Association Board. Boy Scouts of America Committee. Committed church and community leader.

Education: HS Graduate Rock Hill Academy 1963, Bachelor of Science Degree Brigham Young University 1970, Numerous continuing education classes

Occupation: Landscape Designer Snow's Landscape & Garden Center

Age on Election Day: 64

Neighborhood or area of residence: West Leigh

Family: Wife: Rena Millet Snow. Married 42 years, five children, twelve grandchildren

Favorite Volunteer Activity: Working on projects involving youth

Duane Snow's website & contact info:

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JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)
Incumbent



I have lived in Albemarle County for forty years and presently live in Roslyn Ridge with my wife Ann. We have two daughters and three grandchildren. I have a B.A. in Economics and a J.D., both from UVA. I have been a practicing attorney and businessman in this area for 33 years and owned and operated media, real estate and venture capital businesses. I have

served on the Board of Supervisors for 7 years (chair for 2), four years on the Planning Commission (chair for 2), the MPO for 7 years and numerous other boards over the past twenty years.

Education: B.A. in Economics and Juris Doctor from UVA.

Occupation: Dennis S. Rooker, P.C. I also own a media consult-

ing company and two publications, and serve as managing member of a commercial real estate company and a small venture capital firm.

Age on Election Day: 59

Neighborhood or area of residence: Roslyn Ridge

Family: Wife, Ann; two daughters, Elizabeth and Lauren; four

grandchildren, Jared, Dylan, Lottie and Lem.

Favorite Volunteer Activity: In addition to the many government related boards I serve on, my favorite volunteer activities are connected with my church.

Dennis Rooker's contact info:

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Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on the Board of Supervisors?

JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)
Incumbent

Well, I have lived in Albemarle County for 39 years now and I think I have obtained an extensive knowledge about the County over those years. I am a graduate of the University of Virginia, undergraduate and Law Schools. I have owned and operated a number of businesses over the past 25 years in legal media, venture capital and real estate areas. I have been involved in employing over 100 people in those businesses over the years.

I am presently a member of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. I have served for seven years and previously served as chair for two years. I served on the Planning Commission for the County for four years, including a term as chair. I have been on the Metropolitan Planning Organization which is the area's Transportation Planning Board for the past seven years.... I think that body of work over the years gives me the background and experience to be a good Board member and continue to serve the community hopefully.

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)
Incumbent

Well first of all, I have four years of experience on the Board of Supervisors and it turns out that I think that is very valuable. I have gone through quite a learning curve the last four years and I think I am capable of being a much more effective Supervisor as a result of that. But that said I think the most important things for a Supervisor to bring to the table are frankly leadership and an ability to solve problems. I think it's unfortunate when folks just sort of go along for the ride, and that does happen inevitably, but I have tried to be a little bit more proactive than that.

I think I have demonstrated leadership in my efforts to get a Regional Transit Authority up and running and in place as a real solution to a major issue here, transportation. I have done a lot to try and get more jobs and stimulate economic vitality in my first four years on the Board. And I think I have gotten a pretty good reputation from my efforts with respect to protecting the rural areas of the County and to guiding our land use policy decisions. And that's not surprising since I have spent most of my professional life doing environmental issues and I teach in the Urban and Environmental Planning Department at the University [of Virginia] as adjunct faculty.

Rodney Thomas (R)
Challenger

I feel being born and raised in the area, running a successful business, and being on the Planning Commission for 8 years are some of the experiences that equipped me to run for the Board of Supervisors. Having been the Chairman of the Planning commission has prepared me for many of the tasks I would have to do as Supervisor. All the duties will be stemmed from what I learned as a Commissioner, such as running a public meeting, bringing in public comment, and making tough decisions.

My work locally with the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, and the Sorensen Institute and many other organizations has also given me a better sense of the community as a whole. My friends and neighbors have encouraged me to run because they think Rio needs a more responsive Supervisor. I want to bring my 30 years of delivering quality customer service to the Board.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Madison Cummings (D)

We have lived actually in the central Virginia area for 39 years and have lived in the County for 31 years. I have been a member of the School Board from 1994 to 2001. I was a member of the Charlottesville Albemarle Commission on Children and Families from 2002 to 2008 and chair of that group for the last two years. I have been a member of the Cove Garden Ruritan Club for the last 25 years serving as treasurer and as president. I have served on several boards and I know how board mechanics and board psychodynamics work and I know how to prepare a budget with my colleagues, well at that time it was in the range of a little bit over \$100 million.

On the School Board and the Commission of Children and Families I worked with City residents and board members and that will enhance my ability to work with City Council on joint endeavors in the future....Also way back I used to coach soccer and have worked with youth significantly for over 10 or 12 years, soccer and baseball....

So my experience and also the fact that I feel compelled to give back to the County because my family has richly benefited from living in Albemarle County. All three of our children went to school here and finished school here and two still live in the community....

John Lowry (I)

[T]he reason why one runs for Board of Supervisors constantly comes up and past experience is one of the best guides that a voter can use to choose a candidate they would vote for. As to my past experience, I have retired after a 35 year work career in finance and also management. I managed an office of 18 people at one point with \$5 million revenue and I worked in business all my life, so I have experience in the work area that gives me knowledge and skills for a business like the County of Albemarle.

I have volunteer experience. Since I moved to town with my family I have participated in volunteer things in the community beginning with March of Dimes, Boy Scouts and church. I was chair of the board of deacons and started the adult soccer league for SOCA.

And then I have also done government things. I have been on the airport board, the joint airport board and was chair of that board as we moved to a brand new airport in the late 1980s and into 1991. Most recently I have been working with the Economic Development Authority and I am [currently] chair. And so by virtue of these three areas, I believe I do have good experience that qualifies me to be considered in the voters' minds.

Duane Snow (R)

I know Albemarle County and have served in the community all my life. My family has been here for seven generations. My five children attended Albemarle County schools. I have 12 grandchildren that are or will be attending County schools. I served on the Albemarle County Architectural Review Board. I was appointed to the Virginia State Agricultural Council and served for 10 years where I represented Albemarle County and the green industry.

For 35 years I served as CEO and president of a successful business in the County. As a businessman, I learned the importance of listening to customers and employees. As a representative of the County, I would listen to the people and those who work for the County. I know the importance of making tough decisions, if problems do not go away they must be worked through or else they will remain forever a barrier to the growth and development of the community.

The next Board of Supervisors will review the Places29 Master Plan. What do you think are the key ingredients that need to be in that plan to gain your support?

JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)
Incumbent

I have supported and participated in master planning of the County growth areas including the current Places29 plan which emphasized integration of land use and transportation planning. I think our community is at the forefront of what is starting to be required throughout the state, and that is to seriously integrate land use planning with transportation planning in recognition of the fact that we don't have the funds to build our way out of the transportation problems we have. And so we need to plan and build smarter in ways that put less of a strain on the existing transportation infrastructure. The County's neighborhood model provides for mixed use, pedestrian friendly development with interconnected streets and that concept needs to be embodied in the Places29 [plan], and from what I have seen so far it has been embodied in Places29.

I support certain priorities in the 29 corridor which include adding [a southbound] lane on 29 from Hydraulic Road to the Route 250 bypass with an additional ramp [lane] at Best Buy and an extended taper lane [onto the Route 250 bypass]. All the traffic studies indicate that that is probably the single most important improvement at the biggest traffic choke point in the area to move that traffic freely down 29 and up onto the 250 Bypass. I support the completion of the Hillsdale Connector which I alluded to earlier, which would take 8,000 - 10,000 vehicle trips a day off of 29 in the most congested area. I support the widening of 29 from Polo Grounds Road to Hollymead to eliminate the "hour-glass" and to improve safety and capacity in that area and I support the completion of additional parallel roads through-

out that area for local traffic. I support enhanced transit in that area to try to take vehicle trips off of 29.

Eventually I think we will need a grade separated interchange at Route 29 and Hydraulic Road. The traffic studies that have been done over the years in the 29 corridor indicate that through traffic is around 10 percent of the total traffic. A lot of people think that there is a huge volume of through-truck traffic, but that's not really shown by the traffic statistics at all....

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)
Incumbent

I think there are two fundamental issues there that I am going to be paying attention to....Number one is...this parallel road to 29, Berkmar Road Extended, with the bridge as a major element of that road....It is the critical link where we are merging transportation planning and land use planning. If we do not come forward with a Places29 plan that realistically could get that road built, then I think the whole exercise has been folly and a lot of smoke and mirrors. And I have some concern that that's where we are.

For example the bridge [over the South Fork Rivanna] is the most important element of that parallel road, that is the most important element of the transportation scheme for that master plan. The land right by the bridge is currently in the rural area....And if we were to allow for more intensive development in that location, than the Places29 Plan currently calls for, we would likely be able to get private monies, proffer monies, that would fund the lion's share of completing that parallel road and probably a major contribution towards the bridge. If we don't have that swath of land anything other than rural area and neighborhood service use, we don't realistically have a way of funding that parallel road....

The other piece of this is the issue in Places29, which has actually shown up in each of the other master plans that we have done. There is a lot of anticipated infrastructure that each of these master plans imply when they are complete....It's been estimated conservatively by some that it might take upwards of half a billion dollars to fund all of the infrastructure that's reflected in this plan. Now admittedly it's a long term plan and nobody is expecting all that infrastructure to be built next Thursday. But if the plan itself doesn't address the question of how would we fund that infrastructure, then again I think that the exercise is a bit of folly....

Rodney Thomas (R)
Challenger

As I have gone door to door in the Rio District I have asked the people of Rio what they know about Places29. What I have found out is that people know very little about it and those that have heard of it are concerned about committing to a project that will cost between \$300 and \$500 million dollars. Even with all the workshops and meetings the County has already had about Places29, I have found very little public support for the project. I think that for Places29 to go forward it will have to change from something that

planners support to something that the public will support. That might mean a ballot referendum to properly measure public support. In these trying economic times I can't imagine burdening Albemarle taxpayers with such a costly project without greater public support for Places29.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Madison Cummings (D)

[O]ne of the designs of Places29 is to plan transportation as we are planning land use and development. Therefore as developments are made, roads should accommodate them, especially parallel roads like Berkmar to get traffic off [Route] 29 and that's one of the parts of the plan.

The problem with transportation funding [is it] may slow down development, but when it picks up we should have commercial, recreational, jobs near the residential area so that communities are walkable and bikeable. Enhanced public transit should also be part of that plan in an attempt to reduce the local trips and enhance the safety obviously, and [lessen] the congested flow of traffic particularly on 29. We should use whatever makes an alternative means of travel we can employ.

So I think that that's a good plan, it is going to be expensive and I am sure it will be revamped 30 times before the decisions are made but we are not exactly designing the airplane while we are flying it, but I think that there is a significant opposition in the community, for whatever reason, but I believe it's going to go forward....

John Lowry (I)

Places29 is one of four growth areas and each of these growth areas by virtue of the County's thoughtful forward thinking has a master plan associated with it and [they are] periodically reviewed. Places29 is the one that's currently up for review. It's based on the neighborhood model, the neighborhood model [in] our comprehensive plan, the master, master document says that we should have neighborhoods in our growth area, a balance of different services and businesses and living places and transportation through those different growth areas.

So what I would need [in order] to have my support is having the balance of interests properly mixed together. [Places29] is not in the Samuel Miller District, but it is part of the County, so it is very significant. I would offer a couple of specific suggestions to move the discussion on--Places29 is a lot of good planning, but the next step is funding....We could consider, if the state does not fulfill its traditional funding role having a CDA which is a Community Development Authority or we could have a service district. The service district would be unique to the Places29 area. Within that context, then there could be a funding mechanism and this is a long-term solution, but I think we need to take the agenda on from just planning to reality.

Continued on next page

Duane Snow (R)

The key elements of the plan that are important to me are: One, the Hillsdale connector from Hydraulic to Greenbrier Drive; Two, extend the widening of 29 North from its current location just North of the Rivanna River to the Hollymead area; Three, extend Berkmar

Drive to Hollymead Town Centre which would include building a new bridge across the Rivanna River; Four, enlarge the current ramp from 29 North to the 29 250 bypass to two lanes.

The expressway and millions of dollars spent would be for the purpose of accommodating 10% of the traffic headed through the area. It would leave 90% of the traffic wandering around cumbersome traffic patterns to get to their desired locations.

If you could focus on one area for improved partnership with the City of Charlottesville during the next two years, what area would that be?

JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)
Incumbent

I would say completion of the current water supply plan. I think that that is the most pressing issue that is being jointly worked on by the City and County. I think that the drought that we had five years ago indicates that we are today subject to the vagaries of weather, and we need to get a plan in place and implement it that does not expose our community to the threats that drought can bring.

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)
Incumbent

[O]ne of my personal priorities in getting on the Board was rural area protection and as I have said I believe that the purpose for rural area protection is all about protecting ecological systems that provide service value to our community. It turns out that the City of Charlottesville is a major beneficiary of all of those ecological systems in our rural areas. But yet the City of Charlottesville has little or no role in rural area protection. That's the burden of the County, as it turns out, even though the City is a beneficiary....

So an area of cooperation between the City and the County I think would be for us to have an honest discussion about the revenue sharing agreement in specific about the fact that the City is a major beneficiary of the Land Use Tax break that we give rural area land owners and yet they are charging us a punitive amount because we do that. And I would like to see the revenue sharing agreement modified if the City is willing to do it to address that particular issue. And I have had some preliminary conversations with my friends on City Council and I think they are at least open to the discussion, and I think that would be a very important area for improved partnership if you will.

Rodney Thomas (R)
Challenger

It would be the revenue sharing agreement. Albemarle County is about to give the city, again, \$18 million dollars of the taxpayers money and has absolutely no say in how it is used. I would like to designate some of that money for shared services like transportation, [the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center], and other areas we currently cooperate in. I would also work to make sure the City finishes the Meadowcreek Parkway, as they have already promised. There is also much work to be done on sharing of fire services between the County and City.

SAMUEL MILLER
Madison Cummings (D)

Improved partnership with Charlottesville should be several of those projects that have been going on and being discussed for some time. Help them get to the point where they complete the Meadowcreek Parkway with what would be either an efficient grade separated interchange, I guess they probably can't do a roundabout there at McIntire and 250,

but that might be... I like roundabouts, once people get used to them, but they may need to do a grade separated there. So that would be one thing. [S]econd...proceed with vetting, public hearings and trying to use the advantageous bid climate to proceed with the Water Plan....I think the bid climate will be here for a while. I think it's going to take a while for the economy to recover. So let's take advantage of that.

I would love to see schools [in City and County] do more together, I tried to broach the topic of transportation when I was on the School Board and do joint transportation....I think that may save money for both school divisions.

John Lowry (I)

I am going to go right back to the water plan because it is an area that has much discussion right now and what we need really is leadership both in the City and the County to move us forward.

I can see [why] the City, [which] has not grown in population significantly in the 40 years almost that I have been here, can balk at having to pay for a huge new reservoir. The fact of the matter is the County is going to experience the natural growth. I am not saying rapid growth, but it will be growth in the area, even [Advocates for a Sustainable Albemarle Population] would admit that there will be growth in the County...largely in the growth area and [they will require] water and sewer hookups, so what we need is a way to be equitable and I think we can be equitable.

The City and the County have their own separate authorities for water and sewer, thereby they can have their own separate rates. So I think this is the highest priority because 2011 is a drop dead date, we have to not only begin to execute the plan, but the state authorities have the ability to pull the Ragged Mountain Reservoir plug because it is flawed and they might deem it dangerous to stay as it is. We have got a deadline coming. [That is why the water plan is] my first priority.

Duane Snow (R)

I think we need to explore common interest and goals that would help both localities save money and improve the quality of life. For example public transportation and combining certain public services.

In June 2006, the City and County signed off on a 50 year water supply plan that includes a new dam at Ragged Mountain Reservoir and a new pipeline connecting it to the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir. Do you support this plan? Why or why not?

JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)
Incumbent

I do support the plan. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, I voted in favor of the plan. I also sat on a small group that discussed this plan significantly before it went forward for public comment and [the group] was convinced that it was the best plan for the community at that time. We have really had hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of discussions, investigations, meetings and after all that public input, the plan was supported by the [vast] majority of the public who commented on the various plans being looked at. [It] was approved by the four public bodies and every environmental organization in the area at that time.

Obtaining approval for a significant water supply plan from state and federal agencies is a massive undertaking....There seems to be a perception in the community that we could string together any number of other options to create an approvable plan and that's just not the case. Any such plan would have to go through the same process we just went

through, and there is no guarantee that it would be approved by the regulators as we saw with Buck Mountain. To the regulators, the primary competitor for the Ragged Mountain dam plan was a pipeline to the James River - not dredging. And one of the reasons I greatly support the local plan is because it allows us to obtain our water locally. I have a concern about the quality of water that might be piped in from the James, I have a concern about pharmaceuticals and things like that being flushed into the James upstream, and those things are generally not well removed by water treatment....So yes, I support the plan. I think it's gone through a huge level of vetting and it's something that we need to work together as a community to get in place.

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)
Incumbent

We have a water supply plan that's been supported by the City and the County historically and we are in the process of getting the necessary support from the government bodies. That plan in a nutshell is to take the existing Ragged Mountain Dam and replace it with a new dam that is taller, creates a large reservoir of water at Ragged Mountain, and then also it contemplates piping water from the Rivanna Reservoir down to the Ragged Mountain Reservoir. The reason for that is the Ragged Mountain Reservoir has a huge storage capacity with a very small watershed, which means it has very little opportunity for sedimentation. So it is a great holding tank for our water supply.

We have an excellent source of water coming into the community through the Rivanna and if we could take the benefit of that and move that water over to the Ragged Mountain Dam we will have an unusually sustainable and local water supply plan. And that was the vision that went into the ultimate decision to support the current water supply plan....

I strongly support that plan. If the results of the in-stream flow [requirement modeling] were to suggest otherwise I might revisit it but the folks at DEQ didn't give me much hope that would happen. I do however support dredging....[D]redging is something that shouldn't be off the table. It should be something that we examine. I just think it should be sort of separate from the water supply plan moving forward. And I do support the water supply plan absolutely.

Rodney Thomas (R)
Challenger

I do support the 50-year water plan, again, with the new facts that are going to be obtained through the new consulting firm. I would support a sustainable water supply for the area rather than having the mystery of not having enough water for the future. Yes, I would support it.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Madison Cummings (D)

Yes. Actually I have said it in public....[I]t's a good plan. It's from our own watershed, it saves the Mechums and

Moormans rivers. The storage capacity aspect of it is a smart thing....It's a frightening thing when you think of the situation of severe droughts....[M]ost of the pipeline goes on UVA property, so it will impact people. The construction of the dam will impact people. I already have somebody I need to talk to in the Ednam Forest community who is not happy about this and we need as much possible make it with considering what construction does, make it as great a project as it can be.

I attended as I mentioned several of those meetings and discussions and actually spoke out and said that I think that drawing water from the James was not a good idea. So I think it's a great plan and I am fully in support of it. And I think at some future time and probably because we just need to generally, the reservoir has not been dredged and if we are to find a buyer for the dredge or the sludge or whatever you want to call it, then entrepreneurial or PRN dredging should be an option in future. I am not happy about seeing the cost of the study to do the dredging go up and I am hoping that City Council and the Board of Supervisors will try to keep that under control, but they have chosen a firm and so we will see where that goes.

John Lowry (I)

Well, I would be representing Samuel Miller District and the Ragged Mountain Dam is in Samuel Miller District and I am in favor of the plan, the 50 year water supply plan as voted upon by the four Boards in 2006....[T]hat doesn't mean that we can't take into account other things, and those two other things that brings to mind are conservation and dredging. We could use both of those.

The fact of the matter is we are required by the state to have a long term plan, if we come to a period of time or several periods of time in the next 50 years when we have severe ground water depletion, we need to have a reservoir. The best estimate at this time is 18 million [gallons per day] plus and we do not have that capacity with the present South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and conservation and dredging. So, I am in favor of the plan, it doesn't mean that it can't change even up until the time that dam is built, but that dam will be large and it will fill up a big reservoir and the Ragged Mountain is a perfect receptacle for that water.

NOTE: Mr. Lowry's response was taken from a related question on the water supply plan asked during the candidate interview.

Duane Snow (R)

I definitely support the plan. We have been talking about adding to our water supply for 25 years. I am concerned about the water supply for the future, 2002 was the year of the drought and we were down to a 28 day supply or 20 day supply, I have often wondered what would have happened if we it had gone another 28 days. I think that we need to solve the water problem and take it off the table rather than constantly talking about it and spending literally millions of dollars solving a problem that should have been solved five, six or ten years ago.

In what circumstances would you support an expansion of Albemarle County's designated growth areas?

JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)

Incumbent

I would only support an expansion of the growth areas in what I would call special circumstances. I think we had that when the Crozet Master Plan was completed. It indicated that there was an area nearer to Downtown which better fit into the concept of the growth area there. There was an area out along 250 that probably did not fit into the current concepts for master planning for the area and the growth area, and I supported making what I would call a growth area swap. We took some land out and we put some land in that made more sense. When the [National Ground Intelligence Center] (NGIC) expansion was approved, there was a resolution of the board to consider increasing the growth area by about 30 acres, I believe, out in an area that would border the NGIC project, and I supported that resolution. That did not approve an increase in the growth area, it approved looking at an increase in the growth area. I think in that resolution, at the time it was passed, we also discussed that there was property that was off of Route 20 that we thought probably didn't fit into that growth area as well as the property on 29 North. In fact, when the Pantops Master Plan was approved we took some property out of the growth area. So I think half of that concept was achieved at that time.

Generally, as I said, I don't think we need to increase the growth area. We have a growth area of 35 square miles, that's 5% of the County's land but it's about three and a half times the size of the City of Charlottesville. I think that within that growth area we can accomplish most of what needs to be accomplished by way of effectively handling growth over the next 20 years. To continue to expand the growth area every time an idea comes in for a development means that we would basically be legislating sprawl....

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)

Incumbent

There are...limited circumstances under which I would support an expansion. I am a big believer in protecting rural areas...by not letting development occur outside of our growth areas. However the precise boundaries that were drawn in 1980 made sense at that point in time, but as conditions evolve and circumstances change there are sometimes good reasons to either adjust to the existing boundaries or to actually expand the growth area. And while I don't want to expand it just because somebody says well we need to have more land, there may be specific locations like, for example, that little bit of land right along 29 between Hollymead Town Center and the River. That's a place that probably should have been in the growth area all along....

I brought out a proposal a few years ago in my [transfer of development rights] TDR proposal, the purpose of which was to protect 94% of the County's rural areas by shifting all those development rights into a new location so that the land owners could sell the development rights and they could be used in a better place. And my vision said that we needed to increase the size of the growth area by about the equivalent of 1% of the County in order to accommodate all of those rural area development rights in a way that would be fair to the rural area land owners and create a valid market. That was an example of, for a good reason, the County might have chosen to expand the growth area. We haven't resolved that issue once and for all, but certainly there was strong resistance/reluctance to expand the growth area that way. But I think it's healthy for us to explore those options.

Rodney Thomas (R)

Challenger

Considering current economic conditions and with Albemarle's [population] growth rate around 1%, I can see very little, if any, demand for the designated growth area to increase for the next four years. There is very little public support for increasing the growth area. We will first have to have major improvements in transportation and water supply in Albemarle before even considering any expansion of the growth area.

The answer is not the use of Transfer of Development Rights. TDR's are not supported by the majority of the board, and should TDR's be approved, they would hurt the Rio District by adding more growth and traffic than Rio would get without TDR's. This would reduce the quality of life in Rio and I'm against that.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Madison Cummings (D)

If we hope to encourage workable development, like we have just discussed in Places29, and walkable development as well, we really can't expand the growth areas. I would like to keep the rural area as pristine as possible. Multiple Boards of Supervisors over the last 25 years have tried to maintain the rural area, except for by-right development, which is something you can't stop but have tried to focus the smart growth in the urban ring and it's been zoned that way and I think that their decisions have been correct. Frankly I am in favor of perhaps more. Therefore, I am not sympathetic to any expansion in the growth area. I am informed by a member of the Board of Supervisors there's still plenty of areas for development in the already-zoned urban ring and I would like to stay with that. I am a strong advocate of reasonable smart growth. Growth is inevitable but it should be smart and it should be targeted to the urban ring. There's plenty of area to focus on there.

John Lowry (I)

The growth area has been conceived as a way for our county to stay, basically rural in character, but allow for economic activity, only in areas that are deemed appropriate....I don't see any circumstances where that growth area would be expanded. I think it is a matter of policy. The attitude needs to be, it's set up and defined with bright lines. Hypotheticals of how you might change that, I think, are inappropriate. You need to have a policy that is very firmly set...you never say never, but as a matter of policy, [I do not support] expansion of the growth area.

Duane Snow (R)

There is adequate opportunity to serve the community with the existing designated growth areas. That said, I would consider more parks and recreational facilities for our citizens along the edge of the existing growth areas. Parks and recreational areas serve as good buffers between urban and rural lands.

What are your priorities for economic development and workforce development in Albemarle? Do we have sufficient land for office, commercial and industrial development within the designated growth areas?

JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)
Incumbent

I think we need to continue to work with the University of Virginia as it seeks to expand its research facilities in the Fontaine Research Park and the University [North Fork] Research Park. That's the type of growth and development that will be an attractive addition in our community, will provide high paying jobs. With the [National Ground Intelligence Center/Defense Intelligence Agency] expansion at Rivanna Station there will be a significant increase in private government contractors that locate here to be close to that facility....

We are also, I think, the leader in healthcare in the state. With the expansion at UVA Hospital and the new Martha Jefferson hospital campus, many new healthcare jobs will be added. It's important that we continue to plan well for growth that is coming into this area, protect our important environmental and aesthetic features and invest in education and enhancing our citizen's quality of life. Those are the reasons that our community has been recognized as one of the best places in America to do business by nationally recognized services....

[The] second part of the question dealt with do we have sufficient land for commercial and industrial development within the designated growth areas....I think generally the answer to that is yes. We have three million square feet of approved unbuilt commercial [space] in our growth areas today, and that is a stock of available commercial space that will last this community a long time. We have areas that can be re-developed to add commercial space. There is a current expansion as I mentioned earlier being applied for at the University Research Park. Fontaine Research Park is applying for an expansion. Those are already approved developments in the growth area that are going to add land and redevelop in ways that add density....

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)
Incumbent

At a time like this where the economy is in a very tumultuous place, economic vitality is even more important than usual. People need jobs. We need to stimulate the economy to get things going again. To get property values back, to get families with enough money to be comfortable and not worried. So economic development and basically economic vitality has to be a top priority of the governing body.

In my last four years I have actually, as environmentalists go, been fairly consistently supportive of economic growth. I don't want to see growth for growth's sake, but I happen to value economic vitality. And so I have worked hard to concentrate growth in the growth areas, but then encourage it to occur, and I have worked hard to create jobs....I had a lot to do with our successful efforts to get a grant to stimulate an energy efficiency program that has been estimated will create somewhere between 900 and 1,500 new green jobs locally....

So if we were to encourage employers to move into our community and we were to accommodate them it not only creates jobs, it creates economic vitality, but it also would improve our tax ratio and reduce pressure on residential property owners.

Do we have enough land in the growth area to satisfy that potential need? Yes and no. I think it depends upon the business category you are speaking of. The one I am most concerned about is light industrial where I think we have lost a lot of light industrial to more intensive uses in the last few years. And I think we might need to think meaningfully about where we could accommodate light industrial uses here in Albemarle County, and that's going to be one of the challenges going forward.

Rodney Thomas (R)
Challenger

I would like to see the expansion of [the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center] in order to help with workforce development. As I said earlier, for the next 4 years, I see little need for expanding the growth area given Albemarle's low growth rate and current economic conditions. We must keep Albemarle business friendly by keeping taxes low. Higher taxes, crowded roads, and increasing regulations will do little to attract new jobs. I will work to make Albemarle government more business friendly than it is now.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Madison Cummings (D)

Well, I served on the [Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center] board as I mentioned for seven and a half years and CATEC's advisory board of businessmen in the trades helped show the way for workforce development and came to the CATEC board when they saw an opportunity to address some of the issues of availability of more workforce opportunities. [Piedmont Virginia Community College] also does an excellent job in this, both school systems contribute talent to developing curriculum. In some cases design to aid development of workforce....

We should be also encouraging affordable housing for our County workforce and I think we are doing that but we can do a lot more in that area particularly police, fire rescue, and educators.

The land available for office, commercial, and industrial development within the growth areas.... There is available land in the growth areas though not enough land sellers [willing to not] sell it for commercial. They are hoping to find a better deal if they sell it to developers or other entities. The way to encourage this is to take a very strong stand as I just did earlier on not expanding the growth areas boundaries. So once people are convinced that the growth area is going to stay as is, then those areas that are available for commercial will be used.

John Lowry (I)

This question comes right to my uniqueness as a candidate. I am chair of the Economic Development Authority of the County.... We have done \$500 million in bonds in the last six or seven years since I have been chair and those bonds with the County's name on it have created jobs and its capital and it's good for this community. Now the authority is not an economic development office, the County does not have an economic development office, we don't have a listing in the telephone directory, we don't have a website.

Every other City and County, of any consequence in this state has an [economic development] office and we need a director and a small staff. They don't have to be new people, they can be people that are cross-trained, and I can already think who the director would be for the County although that's not my call. But it's someone who is already working for the County and this [office] could create jobs.

So that's the answer really, we need to have economic activity in the growth area and it's a tax base that's waiting to happen. [Albemarle is] a wonderful place to live. [We should] invite businesses here that would provide jobs and revenue....

Duane Snow (R)

Prepare an economic development plan that will encourage business growth, this is the weakest slice of our tax revenues. I have anecdotal evidence that we need more light industrial zone areas, but this needs more investigation.

What is your top priority for action by the Board of Supervisors if you are elected?

JACK JOUETT DISTRICT

Dennis Rooker (I)
Incumbent

My top priority is a general one, I think, and that is to protect the quality of life of our citizens and indeed try to enhance the quality of life of our citizens on a number of fronts. We have a vision for Albemarle County that the Board of Supervisors has adopted. I participated in establishing that vision. We have a strategic plan to try to implement the vision, and we have adopted a number of strategies that are contained within our approach to try to enhance quality of life for our citizens. I think we need to try to deploy what right now are very limited resources in the best ways possible to do that.

I will say that I consider the highest priority to be education and safety. At times of limited resources, when we need to perhaps draw back in other areas, such as the ACE program, which was cut into half this past year, we need to recognize that education and safety are areas where we need to focus our resources to make certain that the delivery of services in those areas is not diminished.

RIO DISTRICT

David Slutzky (D)
Incumbent

I think my personal commitment is to...protecting the long term integrity of our ecological systems, but wearing my hat as a Supervisor, which is not just my hat, but it's the hat of my citizens if you will, I think that a priority in this community is to address our transportation challenges.

We all find education important and there are many other priorities, environmental protection being among them, but I think from most of the constituents I have spoken to, their concern long term that they want the Board to be addressing is transportation. And so my top priority for action, which is the way your question is worded, would be to focus on addressing our transportation needs the way that I have been doing for the last few years.

I would continue to take a leadership role in pushing for a Regional Transit Authority, for expanded bike and pedestrian paths, to get people off of our roads. And I most certainly would continue to promote good alternative road systems like the Berkmar Extended Project and the Meadowcreek Parkway, so that we can ultimately address our transportation needs.

Rodney Thomas (R)
Challenger

The top priority for me would be trying, at least trying, a zero-based budget to try to cut the expenses of the County. I'm not for increasing taxes at all. I'm for keeping our fire and safety, police protection, and education, definitely education, at the top of our list.

SAMUEL MILLER DISTRICT

Madison Cummings (D)

Well except for the water plan I would say education. Obviously being a member of the School Board, my wife is an educator and I think I did some educating over the years with coaching and so forth. It should be the top priority of the community, educating our youth is the most important responsibility of community. It is 60% of the budget and should be and it's been 60% more or less...and that should be our top priority....

John Lowry (I)

My top priorities as I announced my candidacy were quality of life, education and transportation. But my single top priority, would be that we need the creation of an economic development department. The Board of Supervisors and staff work together. Presently what the staff and administration doesn't see from the Supervisors in a mirroring sort of way is direction to create a way to capture economic activity in the County of Albemarle. I think the administration and staff would be very willing to create such a department and have more activity and therefore more tax revenues. But what they are not seeing from the supervisors is the will or desire to have [an economic development office]. So that's my single top priority and I am a natural person to fill that void that needs filling. It means jobs for the County and more business dollars which is really tax revenue which would take the pressure off of raising property taxes.

Duane Snow (R)

Zero based budgeting. I feel like that we have wasteful spending, when you operate without a zero-based budget, as the fiscal year ends, a lot of times there was just catch-up spending that we can have our budget added to the next year. I think we need to look at our budgets realistically and make sure that the money is being applied to the priorities and needs of the citizens.

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County Voter Guide

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