



2011 Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Candidate Interview September 2011

Candidate: Kenneth C. Boyd (R)

On November 8, 2011, voters in the Rivanna Magisterial District go to the polls to elect their representative on the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. This recording is Brian Wheeler's September 27, 2011 interview with Ken Boyd (R). Boyd's opponent is Cynthia Neff (D).

*The audio of this interview is available online in the
Charlottesville Tomorrow News Center*

http://cvilletomorrow.typepad.com/charlottesville_tomorrow_/2011/10/boyd.html

*Complete election coverage is available on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website
<http://www.cvilletomorrow.org/elections>*

INTERVIEW

Mr. Boyd, thank you for participating in this interview with Charlottesville Tomorrow. The complete audio and written transcript for this interview will be available online.

Information from this interview will be used in the compilation of the non-partisan voter guide being co-produced by Charlottesville Tomorrow and The Daily Progress. Charlottesville Tomorrow does not endorse any candidates and our goal is to provide information to the public so they can make an informed vote on issues primarily related to land use, transportation and community design.

As you are aware, candidates been provided in advance only the general topics for these questions. All Supervisor candidates will be asked the same questions. We ask that you keep these questions confidential until all candidates have been interviewed.

Each candidate will be provided an opportunity to review the excerpts selected for the voter guide before its publication. Are you ready to start?

1. Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on Albemarle Board of Supervisors.?

I am a 30-year resident of Albemarle County who is a husband, father, and grandfather. All four of my children were educated in Albemarle County Public Schools, and I have been active in this community for all of those 30-years as a neighborhood leader, a youth coach, an education advocate, parent council member, PTO president, and on community service boards.

I was elected in the Rivanna district as a representative on the school board and spent four years in that position. For the last eight years I've been a member of the board of supervisors. My formal education includes both a BBA and an MBA. I spent 23-years as a corporate executive in the banking business before starting my own small financial planning company 20-years ago.

These local, life, education, business and civic experiences are what position me to be the most qualified person to continue representing the Rivanna district.

2. What is your transportation agenda for the county? Does it require more money? How will you fund AND implement it?

Multi-modal transportation is important to our community and the board has committed to providing opportunities when fiscally feasible—and that's important—where fiscally feasible. We participate in the city with mass transit routes, and we put bike lanes on all new and expanded roads, we promote Rideshare, we contribute heavily to JAUNT and we advocate for mixed-use neighborhood model [development] where citizens can work, live and shop within walking distance.

I will continue to support all of these initiatives, but the key to it is we must be fiscally responsible in doing this. Transportation efforts can be expensive, and I think we need to do it in a responsible way.

[Brian Wheeler] And did you want to say at all how you would fund things that you want to do? Do you want t follow up at all?

I think what we have to do is look at the budget and we have to allocate the funds appropriately for our transportation along with the other things there. It would be difficult to say how I would change what we are doing today.

3. How should the city, county and the University of Virginia work together to enhance our community's unique character and economic vitality?

The county, the city and the university have a long history of collaborative discussions and actions. We have a very different scenario from many regional communities in the commonwealth where the cities and counties don't even try to work together. These efforts, in such a diverse community, will inevitably lead to differences of opinion, but we deserve kudos for continuing the discussion.

I represented the board for several years on the county, city and UVA joint [Planning and Coordination Council] (PACC) committee and I have participated in countless discussions with both the city and the university. These efforts have led to many collaborative ventures, including [the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center] (CATEC), and the Ivy Creek School, courts and jail authority, mass transportation, water, sewer, and solid waste, recycling, and many other joint ventures. I expect we will continue to move in the same direction.

4. Should the board consider boundary adjustments for Albemarle County's designated growth areas to create new locations for business on land currently zoned as rural areas? Does it matter if the land is in the watershed of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir?

Well, to the first question, since my joining the board the designated growth area has actually [been] reduced by legislative process and by our master planning efforts. Additionally, a large section of the growth area has been rendered unusable for growth when the state took over the Biscuit Run property as a park.

We are currently updating our comprehensive plan and studying land use needs, particularly as it relates to the economic vitality action plan and light industrial zoning. These changing opportunities and needs are why I believe that we need to have an open mind regarding the growth and boundaries and not treat the growth area as something that is absolutely sacrosanct.

[Brian Wheeler] And the last question, does it matter if the land is in the watershed of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir?

I think it does matter. We have already taken efforts to protect our watersheds with the setbacks, so we certainly would have to take a very close look at that.

5. What role should local government play to stimulate economic vitality? Do you support Albemarle's economic vitality plan and are there areas you recommend for improvement?

Well, I'll address the second question first. Of course I do support the economic vitality plan, it was an initiative that I put forward to begin with. I think the only thing that bothers me is that it's moving a little slowly. That's what I would like to see, the process moving a little faster.

I've been a proponent of that in this community since coming on the board. As I mentioned, I initiated the discussions with the Chamber of Commerce, with the Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development [and it was] was eventually approved by a majority vote.

Now I proposed the establishing and funding of an economic opportunity fund which was instrumental in keeping over 100 high-paying jobs at MicroAire in our local community under a contract, and people will have to understand it was a contract, which will return our investment in under five years.

The current Economic Vitality Action Plan was started with a motion by me [to get] jobs that are a high priority in our community. I have worked with the county's large and small employers to ensure their success by not overburdening them with excessive government regulation.

6. What is the top priority in your personal strategic plan for action by the board of supervisors if you are elected?

First of all my top priority...well let's address the first question first. I've been on the board of supervisors since the early stages of a formal strategic planning process and I continue to support this effort as a high priority.

The plan is built around the values of integrity, innovation, stewardship, and learning. There are five specific goals which are measured outcomes in the two-budget cycle plan. They are future capital needs, communication between general government and the school system, our economic vitality action plan, future library structuring, and solid waste disposal. Now I was part of crafting this strategic plan and it was a unanimous vote to support it, so I am supporting it.

This year in our strategic plan work session, I proposed that we challenge staff with coming up with suggestions about how we might encourage a return to a culture of individual responsibility and self-reliance. That's what my priority item would be at this point.

7. Do you believe the Western Bypass project is consistent with the character of our community and the public's vision for transportation in Albemarle County?

Well, despite the shortcomings of the proposed Western Bypass, it would be irresponsible for us as a board to turn down the amount of infrastructure investment in our community. We were not really given an option from the state to spend this money on any other road, so I think trying to compare it to whether it fits in the nature of our roads may not be something we can do.

We were able to include in the deal funding for one of our highest priority projects, which is widening of [U.S. Route] 29 from Polo Grounds to Hollymead Town Center, and I think that is certainly a coup for us, that we were able to get the money to do that as well.

Keeping with the character of the community? Yeah, I think this road can be built in such a way that it will keep in character with the community. You've got to remember it was the byproduct of years of study, while it might have been some time ago, and I think that this will be just the first leg of what I hope will be a much longer bypass in the future.

8. In recent budgets, the board of supervisors has chosen not to raise taxes to provide additional funds for capital budget needs such that the current capital budget primarily supports only maintenance projects. How will you address capital funding needs as part of the next county budget?

The problem with capital "needs," is who defines what these "needs" are. I fully support the needed infrastructure as well as maintenance of our capital assets. We do have to be diligent in our spending relative to the state of the economy and the impact on our citizens.

I would not support borrowing more money that we don't have the existing capacity to pay back. Meaning that if we don't have the operating funds to pay back the loans, then we can't borrow the money. That's what they do in Washington, D.C. and that's what's gotten them in so much trouble this time.

Sometimes you have to kind of keep the late model car rather than buying the new one if you can't afford to buy a new one. That should apply to government as well as in our individual lives.

9. How will you support preserving the rich agrarian tradition and texture of our rural areas?

Protection of our rural areas is very much a priority with all of our citizens here. I have, and I still do, support the [Acquisition of Conservation Easements] (ACE) program during times when the local economic engine is humming, so to speak, and when there's money in the coffers to support it. In recent economic times my emphasis has been based upon support of our agribusiness and our improved ordinances allowing for more farm markets, local food sales, and success of our wineries. All very positive, free-market means of maintaining a vibrant rural economy. Protecting our rural areas will continue to be a high priority of mine, along with protecting personal property rights.

10. Will you consider raising the real estate property tax rate in the next county budget to invest in capital funding priorities? Why or why not?

I will consider raising the property taxes if there is a dire need for us to do so but I think it has to be a dire need. We have to make sure that we are aware of what is going on with our citizens, as I mentioned in the economic vitality question. I will not raise taxes if I think it's going to be a burden on the people who are on fixed incomes or those people who are land rich and dollar poor. We have to keep our capital infrastructure in place for sure, but raising taxes is not on my horizon as a way to do that, I think reducing expenses is probably at the top of my list.

11. Should the board of supervisors support moving the Rivanna Sewer Pump Station from its current location in Woolen Mills even if it will cost city and county ratepayers an additional \$15 million to \$18 million to do so?

We have let our infrastructure go for such a long time on water and sewer, and it really has been something that has bothered me since being on the board, and since joining the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority [board] it's even more acute because I am seeing first-hand the amount of money.

People don't realize that 70 percent of our capital budget—you know we talk about the dam, and that's getting all the winds in the sails—but the real expense coming up is the infrastructure having to do with our water and sewer—the pumping stations, the water treatment plants, and the [sewer] interceptor lines—a huge amount of money is being spent on all of that.

Moving the pumping station is something that I have not decided yet. I want to see all the facts before I do. I think that some amount of money, I'm not sure whether \$15 million is the tipping point or not, is worth establishing a

quality of life for the people in Woolen Mills, but we'll just have to see how that shakes out before we can make a final decision on it.

Ken Boyd, thank you for participating in this interview with Charlottesville Tomorrow.