

# Bill James

## County Commission

Mecklenburg's Consistent Conservative

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Welcome Steele Creek residents to the newly *expanded* District 6



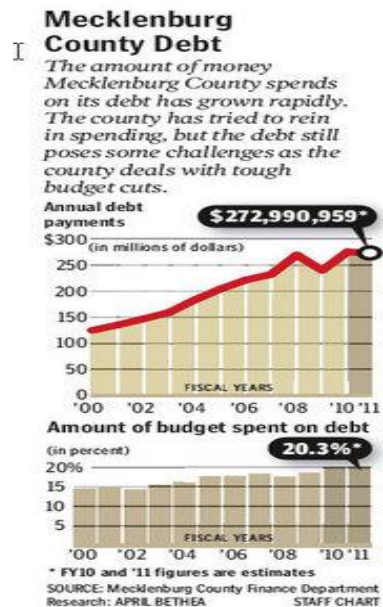
### James to run for a 9th term in 2012

Over the last month, several Commissioners (Roberts and Pendergraph) have indicated they intend to leave the County Commission. While filing doesn't open for a few more months and Christmas approaches ; I just wanted to send you a quick note outlining my intent to run again for re-election because I believe the Commission needs a rock-solid and un-wavering conservative Republican voice representing the people of District 6.

#### Major Accomplishments:

**1. STOPPED THE LANDFILL (for residential garbage):** Over the last few years, I have helped to stop a trash dump (landfill) in District 6 that was approved initially by a 8-1 vote (I was the lone 'no' vote). Even so, with the help of the people of Ballantyne and public pressure on the other Commissioners, this unwise decision was reversed and dump trucks will not be headed down the road near houses in District 6.

**2. COUNTY BOND FUND ESTABLISHED:** Recently I reached one of my long-term goals when the County established a 'Bond Fund'. Back in 1996 when I first mentioned setting limits on capital spending the Democrats scoffed. Later, in 2008, I was forced to send a direct and blunt letter to the rating agencies that led to the 'debt diet'. Finally, after the impact of the Great Recession became known, the board finally adopted a bond fund and set limits on capital spending. Government must live within its means, something that the County has ignored:



**3. OPPOSING REVALUATION SHENANIGANS:** During the last budget cycle I repeatedly highlighted the hidden tax included in the 'revaluation'. While the Democrats claim that the tax rate was lowered, tens of thousands of homeowners ended up with 50% tax increases (or worse) because of shifting values. I was an early and consistent advocate for a 'revenue negative' rate that would have CUT County government spending. As it stands, the adopted budget represents an increase in spending of roughly \$70 million over the previous year. In addition, the process of revaluation requires people to pay taxes up front on challenged values. I would like the opportunity to work with Raleigh to fix these and other revaluation issues that hurt the average homeowners ability to get a fair deal. **People should not have to pay the full amount up-front when their appeals are still pending.**

**4. HELPED PASS NEW LAW TO IMPROVE POLICE PROTECTION & REDUCE POLICE TAX (in unincorporated areas):**

For over a decade the people that live in unincorporated areas in Mecklenburg pay a separate police tax based on a portion of Charlotte's police budget. Besides paying excessively for this service, response times and actual investigations were not much of a priority for the CMPD which normally had more serious criminal acts to investigate. Often, the police would have to travel across or through a town's jurisdiction. Going forward, I hope this will allow the Towns to police and control the areas around them, providing better service to taxpayers at a lower cost. Negotiations are underway between the various towns and the County to finalize this service.

***Other Accomplishments:***

- Worked with the group that successfully sued CMS to bring neighborhood schools to Mecklenburg County and to stop race-based busing.
- Stopped the CIAA ticket give-away to elected and appointed officials at the County.
- Worked to adopt the 287G program that allows the arrest and identification of illegals in the Mecklenburg County jail for all inmates booked (not just those arrested for criminal acts).
- Supported the expansion of Charter Schools and allowing Charter schools to have access to County Capital dollars.
- Helped force disclosure of the 60% + fraud rate from CMS' Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) program.
- Sued the State of NC (James V Bartlett) over partial provisional ballot counting and won at the NC Supreme Court.
- Challenged illegal voter registrations by ACORN and had hundreds of illegal registrations thrown out.
- Founded the County's Audit Review Committee.
- I oppose the expansion of the sales tax base (requested by the Democrats as a 'revenue enhancement') which would force working men and women in trades (plumbers, electricians, etc..) to collect sales taxes on their services.
- Supported and received County Commission approval for an additional \$1.5 million for the DA's office to prosecute crime and improve public safety.
- Helped the folks of the Shanamara subdivision (Matthews/Mint Hill area) to receive a tax refund for an overpayment of property taxes.
- Over the years, I have opposed raising property and sales taxes.
- Pushed and adopted new rules allowing the County's 5,000 employees to have more options than just the ASC and United Way for charitable deductions.
- In favor of voter ID laws (current proposal in Raleigh).
- I oppose County Management and Commissioners from serving on non-profit boards or businesses that get money from the County. The Democrats refused to adopt this common-sense ethical rule.

Next May's primary election (May 8<sup>th</sup>) will include a Constitutional ballot amendment to limit marriage to 'one man-one woman'. I fully support this and hope that you will vote YES.

Bill James

County Commission

District 6

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