

My name is Ryan B. Horton Jr. I am from Winston-Salem, NC in Forsyth County. I am a 14 years old freshman at Atkins High School. I will be graduating in the class of 2017. I interviewed County Commissioner, Everette Witherspoon, on Thursday, July 25, 2013 at the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut St., Winston, NC.

A County Commissioner is responsible for the County budget, County policies, County property tax rate, and zoning issues. A county commissioner can stay on the board for four year terms and then can be re-elected. County Commissioners have business meetings twice a month and have briefing meetings every week.

Everette Witherspoon is one out of seven County Commissioners on the Board of Commissioners in Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County. He has served on the Board for three years. The hardest decision he had to face as a County Commissioner was what to give an increase to or what to give a cut to on the budget. To Mr. Witherspoon the biggest issues that citizens ask him about are taxes and education. Some big long term concerns he has about the Forsyth County is the poverty. Some county issues that hold the most importance to him are education and health care.

In Forsyth County we have about thirty schools. The County Commissioners made this happened. But they are not finished. They come together at meetings to talk about what they should expand, what they should cut, or what should be added. When they are done with making those decisions they have to tell the Mayor there decision. After the Mayor has the final say they can put in what they want to be done.

In Forsyth County we have a good taxes rate. The County Commissioners do this so they can have the money to build new jobs, buildings, schools, get new supplies, and new roads. They come together at meetings to talk about what they should add or cut. When they are done with making those decisions they have to tell the Mayor their decision. When the Mayor is done making his decisions they have to hire construction workers to build the new road, buildings, schools, etc.

In Forsyth County the County Commissioners have to decide the budget. They come together to decide what to put an increase to or what to put a cut to.

When they are done with making those decisions they have to tell the Mayor their decision. When the Mayor makes his decision the County Commissioners can put it into place. “Making these types of decisions are the hardest because sometimes even though you don’t want to cut out or increase something you have to because you might be out numbered,” said Everette Witherspoon.

A County Commissioner is a person who keeps up with the education and taxes. Everette Witherspoon is one out of seven County Commissioners in Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County. In Forsyth County, we have about thirty schools. In Forsyth County, we have a good tax rate. In Forsyth County, the County Commissioners have to decide the budget. “Being a County Commissioner is hard work and a BIG responsibility, you have to make sure that you space your time out so you can have time to do what is needed to be done,” said Everette Witherspoon.

After our interview, Mr. Witherspoon took me on a tour of the Forsyth County Government Center. I was able to meet a few other County Commissioners and other professionals in the building. Among some of the other offices that I saw were the Register of Deeds office, the County Tax office, the County Commissioners meeting room, and the Board of Elections office. It was really interesting to see where all the big decisions for our county are made and Mr. Witherspoon explained the responsibilities of each office. I enjoyed this experience and look forward to attending the Board of Commissioners business meeting on Monday, August 12, 2013 at 6:00pm in the County Commissioners meeting room at the Forsyth County Government Center.