

Anna Pierce

Jackson County

Interview of Mr. Charles Elders for the NCACC

Today I interviewed my County Commissioner, Charles Elders. I learned through discussion with him that he is serving his second term but overall is in his sixth year. Though he runs a local gas station and convenience store, he believes that he will run for another term.

One of the main county issues that is most important to him is jobs and the unemployment rate. He stated that this is also a national issue but one he takes very seriously. He is working with his fellow colleagues to bring good jobs back to our area. The New Economic Board has been reestablished and hopefully that will help improve our county's unemployment rate. Another issue is the walk and bikeways that are being constructed throughout this area. The trails are very beneficial because they provide people with means of getting exercise and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Of the many long term concerns that county commissioners face, taxes lies at the top of Mr. Elders' list. The money generated from taxes is necessary yet the commissioners are striving to hold taxes where they are. I was delighted to hear from Mr. Elders that the budget written for this calendar year shows no increase in county taxes. Though it is hard, keeping the taxes down while still generating enough money to run our town is one of their missions.

When asked what some of the responsibilities he was not aware of before running, Mr. Elders stated that he was pretty knowledgeable on the subject. Mr.

Elders had ran for office several years before but after running this time noticed that the mane difference was that the costs had risen significantly between his terms.

Some of the hardest decisions Mr. Elders has had to make involve spending money in needed areas and appointing the right people to boards. Often times it is difficult to know if the right people were appointed for the right job and as a county commissioner, Mr. Elders struggles with this issue. Also, some areas have more need then others financially in the community. Education, for example, is always in need of funds and it is hard to make sure that there is enough to go around for everyone. In summary, I feel that Mr. Elders is doing everything possible to better our community and represent the populous as a whole along with his fellow commissioners.