

Alexus Jones
Robeson County

Tom Taylor is a Robeson County Commissioner. He represents District 7 and is the Vice Chairman of the County Commissioners. He has served as a commissioner since 2000 or for 13 years and is running for reelection. He hopes to be able to serve at least 20 years as a commissioner if the voters are willing. Commissioner Taylor and his brother also run the family furniture business that his father started called Bargin House. Commissioner Taylor serves on many boards and has a variety of interests in the community. He is part of the Robeson Regional Agricultural Fair Board and has been chief of Allenton Fire Department. He has been a volunteer fire fighter for more than 20 years.

What are the most important issues facing the county?

Commissioner Taylor says the most important issues for the county are bringing in jobs and keeping the tax rates as low as possible. That is because of the poor economy that Robeson County has always been challenged with. As a group the county commissioners work hard to offer incentives to businesses that will create jobs and can help pay taxes that will bring in more money for the county.

What are the long term concerns you have about our county?

Commissioner Taylor says his biggest long term goal is to utilize the old BB&T building for court house departments that need more room and need to be moved so that the courthouse can operate as just a court house. Right now county records, register of deeds, tax department and other departments are housed in the courthouse which is too small for them. The County Commissioners are working on long range goals and trying to obtain funds to renovate the old BB&T building across the street. Commissioner Taylor says administration can be administration in one place while the courthouse can serve the purpose it needs to serve in the building that was built for it.

What are the biggest issues that citizens ask you about?

Citizens call constantly about a variety of issues. All the issues are important to them otherwise they would not call. The issues can range from cleaning ditches to job creation. Every day is a little different.

What are some of the responsibilities for county governments that you were not aware of?

Commissioner Taylor's father was a county commissioner for more than 20 years. He says this made him very aware of his responsibilities and the things he would need to do to be successful. He says there is very little in terms of responsibilities that he did not already know about.

What are the hardest decisions you've faced as a county commissioner?

Commissioner Taylor says that the hardest decisions are always focused in his areas of greatest concern which is job creation and keeping the tax rate low. He says when making a decision he always considers how it will affect those things.

In the news...

Most recently Commissioner Taylor has been in the news for suggesting that the county commissioner give up part of their discretionary funds (county funds that they can allocate without asking anyone). After a recent vote he was instrumental in creating a system that involved less funding per commissioner and more transparency by making all funds being allocated to come before the board for a vote, and then it is part of the public record.