

**Interview with Swain County Commissioner Interview with Donnie Dixon  
Amy Boston, Swain County**

How long have you served on the Board?

- My first term I served 4 years. This is my second term and I am serving 4 years.

Will you run for re-election when your current term expires?

- Yes

What are your local priorities, or what county issues hold the most importance to you?

- The issue that holds the most importance is the "Road to Nowhere" settlement.  
The Government is holding money promised to Swain County. Swain County is scheduled to receive 12 million dollars in interest but there has not been any payment. Taxes are being increased due to this money being withheld from us.

Are there long-term concerns you have about our county?

- Lack of jobs in Swain County.

What role does the Board of Commissioners play in addressing those concerns?

- It is our job as a board to work together to secure resources for our citizens. We have built a

What are the biggest issues that citizens ask you about?

- Taxes

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

- Learning how to bring resources into the county.  
Our Board of Commissioners is responsible for securing the money to build a technology-training center. This building provides a place where citizens can be trained for job specific duties. We are hoping that the training center will bring companies into the area – it will allow them to have a place to set up specialized or individualized training to meet the needs of the company/industry.  
Special features of the facility are: a robotic arm, meeting rooms, smart board, and up to date technology.

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

- Hardest decision as commissioner is raising taxes. on people because of lack of jobs. Knowing that people on fixed incomes will have a hard time but we have to have money to run the county.