

Hello, my name is Holly Pennell and I am a sixteen year old 4-Her from Cabarrus County. I met June sixteenth with the Chairman of the Cabarrus County Commissioners, Elizabeth Poole. This was her fifth year serving on the board of county commissioners, but in the past has served ten years on the county school board. As chairman her main focuses includes work force development, water and sewer, transportation, and ect. Throughout her terms as county commissioner, she states that one thing she didn't know about her responsibilities was how the counties work differently from the cities. She knew much about many of the other responsibilities of the role of chairman because of her time on the county school board. This year local priorities that held of great importance in the local area were funding for the building of a Kannapolis middle school, Mt. Pleasant middle school, and a Royal Oaks elementary school. Also, she wants to have a merit raise for school employees and county staff. Some long term concerns she mentioned include the growth of the student population, funding for school buildings, and funding for other capital buildings. Citizens have also mentioned tax rates and services provided as local concerns to them. Through her position on the board she can help to address these concerns by raising funding and setting tax rates to fund activities that take place in the community. One of the hardest decisions Mrs. Poole has faced during her time on board has been to reduce employment due to recession. I hope that through this trip to Youth Summit I can learn more about how the government functions overall.