

Youth Summit 2014

My name is Haley Stone and I am from Sampson County. I went to Youth Summit last year and had a really good time. I have recently interviewed Chairman Jefferson Strickland. I was really nervous to interview him at first, but as we started the interview I found that he was very easy to talk to.

Mr. Strickland, as of December, has served a total of 2-terms, which is 8 years as a commissioner in Sampson County. After the end of this term is over Mr. Strickland is planning to retire. I had asked him what he was planning on doing after retirement he said, he was going to take it easy, when he is not helping his son and caring for his needs since he's in a wheelchair.

Some of the county issues that are the most important to him are making sure all needs are addressed. He says that some needs need to be mandated such as Social Services, Health department, and Sheriff's department and many more. Recreation, the library and etc. is something that wouldn't need to be mandated. Some long term concerns that Mr. Strickland had for our county is Employment opportunities, roads, schools, health administration, and other things that would benefit people in the county.

Believe it or not Mr. Strickland gets very little calls from citizens about their biggest issues. When he does get calls, he mostly gets them about animal control or taxing animals because they didn't think they would have to tax their own pets. Some of the hardest decisions Mr. Strickland has had to face as a county commissioner have to raise property tax, every year the concept of raising property tax somehow comes up.

Some of the best things that he has accomplished while being commissioner is completing the Roseboro Park, completing a new jail, help to establish harmony between everyone on the board and in the county. Mr. Strickland told me that becoming a commissioner has impacted his life in so many ways like, about 20 hours a week working as a commissioner, has been attending all meetings and still arrives at least 10 to 15 minutes before the meeting starts. All this means time away from his family.

Since Mr. Strickland is planning on retiring at the end of this term he hopes that the new commissioner will have the ability to bring commissioners together. Mr. Strickland believes that before anyone decides to become a county commissioner they should know the Roberts Rule of Order, which contains rules of order intended to be adopted as a parliamentary authority for use by a deliberative assembly.

I really enjoyed interviewing Mr. Strickland, and it was really nice meeting him. I am really looking forward to talking to him even more at the Youth Summit this year.