

NCACC Youth Summit Report  
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Johnston County  
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A Report On Commissioner Cookie Pope  
By Austin Little Johnston County

My name is Austin Little, I represent Johnston County in 4-H the 2015 NCACC Youth Summit this year. For my report I interviewed County Commissioner Cookie Pope about her ambitions and goals for the present and future. She is a Commissioner on the board of Commissioners for Johnston County, North Carolina.

Commissioner Cookie Pope is the Johnston County Commissioner for District 5 and has been since she was elected in December of 1994, serving as the first Johnston County female Commissioner. At the end of this term she will have served a total of 24 years when she originally planned to serve 8. However, being as she is an easy-going person and really pleasant to speak with, it has never failed that when she talks of stopping being a Commissioner, the people say they love her and tell her not to go. Mrs. Pope has several things that she feels that are important to community. Firstly there is the job market and she feels that a strong job market can and will lead to an improved community with a better economic state for the county. Next, schools and the education of people, for if people have the knowledge to do things that will allow them to be more successful. Then there is the health care system and hospitals. A healthy community is a good one. Finally the police department, so the county stays safe. She also believes that agriculture is an important factor in Johnston County. This is because she grew up on a farm, worked on a farm and still lives on a farm.

When she was first elected one of her main reasons for running was to have representation for her district. She felt that there was insufficient representation for her district. Because that time was an era of progress and development with the economy and the communities. When she began her office, she discovered a lack in the job market, schooling and health care systems, therefor she wanted to fix them. However there were some major obstacles she had to over come, namely the fact of be a female Commissioner and the only conservative Republican on the board. They thought the other Commissioners would not listen to her in a place which was predominantly Democrat. Yet, they did listen to her and acquired the funding for new school buildings to be constructed. She also pushed for new jobs to be opened so young people could work and had the hospital in Clayton to have more specialized treatment methods available.

Among other achievements she has accomplished, this past July of 2015 she was awarded the outstanding citizen award from 4-H. This award congratulates her on all her effort over the years that she a done to the community, Johnston County and North Carolina as a whole.

In all of the 24 years that Mrs. Pope was and is a Commissioner of Johnston, she has made a lasting impact in the lives and well-beings of the people of Johnston county. From education to agriculture and health care to safety. Commissioner Cookie Pope says she has had a wonderful time working towards the betterment of Johnston and NC.