

Rockingham County Government: Commissioner Duncan

By: Emily Holmes

I got selected to represent my county at this year's Youth Summit. In order to learn more about my county government I interviewed Rockingham County Commissioner Duncan. Commissioner Duncan has been a commissioner for 15 years. He decided to run for a county commissioner spot for a variety of reasons. His father was a Rockingham County Commissioner, so he was raised in government. Commissioner Duncan was born and raised here in Rockingham County and truly cares about the county and its people. The tasks he performs as a commissioner include setting the budget, aiding in the advancement of education, expanding economic development, and improving the quality of life for the people in Rockingham County. Commissioner Duncan is a very big supporter of education. Commissioner Richardson and Duncan are lobbying to get the money back, which the state has wrongly pulled out, from the Education Lottery. Only 19 of the 40% of the money that is supposed to go to education actually ends up going to education. Commissioners Duncan and Richardson are trying to fix that and get the money back for our school system. Commissioner Duncan has many new ideas to increase the amount of economic development in Rockingham County. One idea that he and the other commissioners have planned out involves the old buildings we have an abundance of here in Rockingham County. The plan is to take the old buildings that are under the county control and tear them down. Most companies that are coming to Rockingham County want their warehouses to have ceilings at a height of at least 30 feet. The old buildings would be replaced with new warehouses meeting the standards of today's companies. The county has many buildings all over it that already have utilities, so Commissioner Duncan says they could pick and choose the best sights. Another idea that is in the works right now is to put up a hotel in the western part of the county for the people that come in to visit and work at the existing companies here. There are several companies that are currently here and doing well, but when all their employees and business associates come to town they have to stay in Greensboro. This hotel would allow them to be closer to the companies. The commissioners think it is a great idea and I do to! The commissioners also want to put in some more recreation for people to here. People would have more options here and wouldn't need to go to Greensboro or Danville for as many activities and businesses. This in turn would bring more money to the businesses here in Rockingham County, boosting our county's economic standing. I learned so much about my county's government through my research and interview. I am really excited to see if Commissioner Duncan's plans for economic development really work and I am excited to continue learning about government at Youth Summit this year.