

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 3**

Questionnaire Received

**Melissa Link**

4/3/2018 23:51:35

**Tony Eubanks**

4/4/2018 6:43:19

Are you a Democrat?

Yes

Yes

If elected, will you work to enact the ACCDC platform?

Yes

Yes

Have you ever been a member of the ACCDC? If you have, please indicate your years of service and describe your work with the ACCDC

Been a member these past 3-4 years

No

Please list all campaigns you have worked on, regardless of party affiliation, in either a volunteer or staff member capacity, on either the federal, state, or local level, and briefly describe your work on each.

While in college at East Carolina University, I campaigned for Harvey Gantt for NC Senator 1990 (vs Jesse Helms); Since living in Athens, I've campaigned for Obama 2008, 2012; Jared Bailey for ACC Commission 2010; Spencer Frye for ACC Mayor 2010; Spencer Frye for GA 118 2012; Jason Carter, Michelle Nunn, + Dem Statewide ticket 2014; Bernie Sanders 2016; Jim Barksdale 2016; Deborah Gonzalez 2017--I canvass for Democratic candidates every election season primarily focusing on low-information & low turnout neighborhoods in my commission district. My goal is to educate citizens & encourage them to vote in every election. I also try to register voters along the way--particularly former felons who have not been informed that their right to vote is restored once they've served their time & paid their fines. I feel that this active support for fellow Democrats is not only part of my duty as an elected official, but also helps to fulfill my responsibility to engage in regular community outreach among my constituents.

Gwen O'Looney and Heidi Davison for ACC mayor - canvassing  
Doug Haines for State Senate - special events  
David Lynn for ACC Commission - canvassing

Please describe any work you have done in your community, either in Athens-Clarke County or elsewhere, in support of progressive causes.

Athens Human Rights Fest, GA Climate Change Coalition, Boulevard Neighborhood Association, Athens Area Arts Council, AthFest, Athens Cultural Affairs Commission; Partners for a Prosperous Athens affordable housing input sessions; People For A Better Athens; Athens For Everyone; Athens Land Trust; Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation; People's Climate March NYC Sept. 2014 & Washington DC April 2017

<http://www.tonyeubanksathens.com/bio/>

Please list organizations and/or causes you have been involved with in any kind of substantial way.

United Campus Workers of GA; NAACP; Sierra Club

**Affordable Housing**--Insist upon a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to meeting the housing needs of Athens' diverse community not only to create new affordable housing in Athens, but to preserve our existing working-class neighborhoods via specialized overlay zones, home rehabilitation programs, & legacy funding opportunities to enable greater access to homeownership--especially for African American & Latinx families. In addition to inclusionary zoning, infrastructure investment, tax freezes, & tax allocation districts, we need new zoning & design guidelines to target appropriate locations for a diversity of housing opportunities & enable a variety of housing types including accessory dwellings, tiny homes, cottage courts, multiplexes & small apartment complexes in suitable locations throughout our community. We must commit to addressing gentrification & preventing displacement, especially as Firefly & Greenway trails run through low-income & working class neighborhoods to inevitably elevate property values & attract massive growth. As ACC moves forward with the adoption of our Comprehensive Plan, I will insist that we prioritize new zoning policies as a first step toward a comprehensive affordable housing plan. I have already brought this up in early FY19 budget meetings, requesting that funds be allocated to begin to address comp plan recommendations.

**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**--Invite & include residents of all racial, cultural, & economic background to participate in all governmental & social initiatives.

**Economic Justice**--Pursue economic retribution through fair wages, equitable development, taxation, housing, transportation, and racial & criminal justice reforms. My constant advocacy for this has led to the Anti Discrimination ordinance & the Mayor's Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion

If elected, what will be your policy priorities? Please describe 3 - 5 priorities.

Most recently I've served at Mayor Denson's pleasure on the ACC Bike/Ped Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee and as founder and Steering Committee member of Complete Streets Athens. A more complete listing can be found on my website. <http://www.tonyebanksathens.com/bio/>

Please list three to five important issues or challenges facing Athens-Clarke County and briefly explain how you intend to solve them. My goal as commissioner is to create an environment that allows all Athenians to live full, rich lives; where the opportunities available to one are available to all. I believe that by addressing transportation, affordable housing, and improving our mechanisms for public participation in the political process, we can make substantial progress towards minimizing inequalities among the citizens of Athens-Clarke County (A-CC). I would also like to improve transparency with regards to SPLOST funds and, while the horse has pretty much left the barn, we need to talk about the proliferation of high-end rental housing downtown.

**Affordable Housing:** The lack of affordable housing options ultimately affects us all. For children, a lack of housing stability has been shown to negatively affect student performance, creating problems with long-lasting consequences. When our public employees can't afford to live in the town they serve, we lose an important aspect of community. Cities all over the US face many of the same issues and there is no easy fix. But we must get everyone engaged to find workable solutions. I propose a housing task force comprised of commissioners, staff, real estate and development professionals, affordable housing advocates and residents to address the affordable housing issue. Everybody must be represented at the table, with no preconceived notions of "the" solution.

**Public Participation:** Currently, there are limited opportunities for public comment before the commission, and most come late in the process. By this point, the time and effort already invested by commissioners and staff leaves the

(I regularly communicate with members of this task force for updates). I worked with local activists in encouraging & participating in the first march against discrimination in Downtown Athens & advised Anti-Discrimination Movement leaders all along the way. I regularly reach out to African American & Latinx leaders & constituents to share information directly & encourage participation in government initiatives. When the Comprehensive Planning Process proposed an updated Land Use Plan that featured an "upzoning" of business corridors through African American neighborhoods (W Broad, Hawthorne, Baxter, & Oak/Oconee), I informed a long list of African American community members, met with them in small groups at the Planning Dept & explained the new map & the likely detrimental impacts it would have on these neighborhoods. They turned out en masse to the public input session, the changes were reversed to maintain the neighborhood-friendly "Main St Business" designation, the Comp Plan was edited to clarify equity issues, and Planning Commission members of the steering committee engaged in unprecedented conversation about the importance of equity in planning decisions & committed to a more proactive role in making recommendations regarding such to the Mayor & Commission. Open Communication & Government Transparency--Insist that ACC entities pursue multiple outlets for reaching all members of the community with important info. All public meeting recordings, agendas, & minutes should be easily accessible. Encourage openly & democratically selected citizen committees to develop policy & recommendations. My constant advocacy for this has led to weekly public managerial reports; ACC website improvements including a more accessible meeting calendar, agendas, & documents; greater use of social media

among ACC depts; & video recorded work sessions. I strive for constant open communication & transparency with my constituents via regular Facebook updates, postings to neighborhood listservs, & direct communication with community leaders.

commission less receptive to ideas they may not have considered and the public less trusting that they were actually heard. The key to building trust and inclusiveness between our local government and its citizens is a transparent process which allows opportunity for all who are interested to share their perspective publicly before commissioners have settled on a position. For the past 18 months, I have had the opportunity to play a major role in bringing a level of trust, transparency and consensus to what could be a transformative process for Athens-Clarke County - Athens in Motion - the Bike/Ped Master Plan.

Does your campaign have a platform? If so, please include a link here.

<http://melissalinkathens.com/>

<http://www.tonyebanksathens.com/platform/>

Do you support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour?

Yes

No

Do you support making it easier for workers to organize and join unions?

Yes

Yes

Will you support policies aimed at increasing the stock of affordable housing in in-town neighborhoods and making home-ownership more possible for ACC's low-income residents?

Yes

Yes

Would you support initiatives to help keep longtime Athens residents in their homes -- people who are in danger of being pushed out of their neighborhoods by gentrification and rising taxes?

Yes

Yes

Do you support equal pay for equal work for women?

Yes

Yes

Should marijuana be removed from the list of "Schedule 1" federal controlled substances?

Yes

Yes

Should local law enforcement agencies be required to assist federal immigration law enforcement agencies with deportations?

No

No

Should military-style weapons be accessible to civilians?

No

No

Do you support repealing the Campus Carry law?	Yes	Yes
Do you support incentivizing investments in clean energy and ending tax breaks and other perks for fossil fuel companies?	Yes	Yes
Do you support increasing protections for wetlands buffers to help keep our waterways uncontaminated?	Yes	Yes
Do you support comprehensive non-discrimination legislation in ACC?	Yes	Yes
Should it be illegal for public businesses and institutions to discriminate against LGBTQ people?	Yes	Yes
Do you support the expansion of Medicaid in Georgia?	Yes	Yes
Do you support the goal of Universal healthcare – healthcare as a fundamental human right for every American?	Yes	Yes
Should all state education funds should be directed to public schools?	Yes	Yes

What are your thoughts about how to secure safe schools for all students?

Gun control first--ban assault weapons, mandatory firearms licensing & training, mandatory background checks, prohibit gun ownership for domestic violence offenders & those with a history of dangerous mental health conditions. Remove the stigma of mental illness, encourage outreach, enable access to counseling & treatment

arming teachers is certainly the worst idea ever.

Do you support the current  
Teacher Retirement System of  
Georgia?

Yes

Yes

Should legislation requiring  
electoral districts be drawn by an  
independent, nonpartisan  
redistricting commission?

Yes

Yes

Do you support restoring the full  
protections of the Voters Rights  
Act?

Yes

Yes