

BURGAW BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS | VOTE FOR THREE

This is a partial list of the candidates. Please see the second page for the rest of the candidates. Of seven total candidates, you can vote for three.

ELECTION 2011

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	<p>1. What do you think is the biggest issue facing Burgaw, and how will you address it if elected?</p>	<p>2. With one of the town's goals being to attract more industrial and commercial development to the area, what ideas or suggestions do you have that could help with this goal?</p>	<p>3. What is an issue that you think the current board of commissioners has failed to address, but you would like to address if elected?</p>	<p>4. What has the current board of commissioners done well, and where do you think it has fallen short?</p>
<p>Name: John W. Wharton Date of birth: Sept. 26, 1950 Political affiliation: Independent Education: Bachelor of Arts, University South Alabama, Mobile; Leadership Certificate, Northwestern University, Chicago; U.S. Army AG officer and related personnel officer curriculum; MBA, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; postgraduate certificate, Georgetown University; Graduate REALTOR Institute Career: U.S. Army (last assignment Army Aide to The White House); pharmaceutical advertising director; REALTOR-broker; business consultant Political experience: Chaired Burgaw BOC Sewer Committee, Economic Development Subcommittee for Burgaw's participation in the N.C. Main Street Program; BOC Finance Committee; Pender County Board of Tourism</p> 	<p>It is difficult limiting to only one of many which include: Timely and cost effective completion of projects we have started; New Regional Sewer connection; HWY 53 Corridor improvements, refurbishing sidewalks to schools and downtown business district, storm water and emergency continuing preparedness. Vigilance for continued fiscal responsibility while retaining sensitivity for residents facing economic challenges.</p>	<p>As noted in this profile, I have chaired an area economic development subcommittee with the state, currently meet with state and regional businesses re: mutual opportunities in Burgaw. Impact fees and tax incentives must be performance based. The goal would be to amortize initial cost that currently discourage new restaurants opening in Burgaw,...</p>	<p>We have failed to motivate the community except for a few active and concerned citizens, and especially for the very successful Blue Berry Festival who's community committee deserves high accolades. I had moved for trial night meetings which many had requested. Unfortunately even on tax initiatives attendance in the evening was sparse. If re-elected should a sufficient number of residents whom I will be willing to survey desired evening meetings, I would again support such an initiative.</p>	<p>Sincere effort has been made to accommodate residents' concerns and needs as evidenced by an open forum at the beginning of every BOC meeting.... The BOC has been supportive, encouraged, and recognized department heads to identify offsetting grant opportunities, with due consideration of citizen cost justifiable needs be brought before the BOC for consideration. I feel some times staff are not given all the credit they deserve, especially when we must prioritize and call for equal sacrifice maintaining a balanced budget....</p>
<p>Name: Karen Harding Date of birth: Sept. 11, 1962 Political affiliation: Democrat Family: Married to Eugene Mulligan. We have one daughter, Kate. Education: Business degree from the University of Massachusetts; master's degree in education administration from UNCW. Career: Manage commercial real estate Political experience: None.</p>	<p>Two issues the town will be addressing in 2012 are the Old Jail and the Highway 53 Corridor Enhancement Project. These two items will affect the core community environment that identifies Burgaw as a unique community with a small town feel and strong historic presence. The town manager and County Commissioners are currently discussing options for the jail. The town manager has suggested it will cost between 200K and 300K to renovate this building. The citizens need to determine if this is a project they want the town to take on. The town is also moving forward with the Highway 53 Corridor Enhancement Project. I believe the cross walk enhancements suggested along Hwy 53 at Dickerson St., Wright St., Cowan St., and the proposed gateway at 117 will positively impact Burgaw. I believe we should start with this. The proposed round about at Timberly Lane addresses traffic flow and safety issues and does not appear to impact any homes, so I would like to see it done next. I do have some reservations about the proposed roundabout at Wilmington St. and Walker St. I do not want to see it detract from the charm and character of the Courthouse Square. The citizens of Burgaw came together in 2006 at the start of this project and it is time we do so again to ensure we get the results we want.</p>	<p>We need to speed up the application process. A business shouldn't have to wait for months to get approval to open their doors for business. Also when a problem is brought to the commissioners, for example the issue of impact fees, they need to address it. It should not take months for them to resolve an issue. Opportunities are lost because of these delays.</p>	<p>Too often, too many boards and committees are comprised of town employees and town commissioners. If elected I will work to improve communication between town government and the citizens of Burgaw and encourage more community involvement in deciding the direction of Burgaw.</p>	<p>Our services in Burgaw are done well: police, fire, public works. We have good employees. The current board has also taken on a lot of debt: ladder truck, depot renovation and sewer line to Wallace. We have to be careful not to take on too much debt.</p>