

GATTEN

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PRESIDENT

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Florence Gatten Files to Run for an At Large Seat on the Greensboro City Council

Greensboro, NC – Current Greensboro City Councilmember Florence Gatten who represents District #4, filed today to run for one of the three at large seats on the Greensboro City Council. Gatten, first elected to the City Council in 2001 had pledged to only run in that district for two terms before moving on to let other interested citizens have the opportunity to serve. When asked about this decision to leave the relative safety of a district seat, Gatten laughed and remarked “change was good for Greensboro; in the past many people have stayed too long in office and kept other citizens from having the opportunity to serve.”

Gatten listed six major issues that are of pressing importance for the next two years.

- Hiring the new city manager and guiding the transition
- Budget and taxes – “There is a pressing need to do zero-based budgeting. If re-elected to the council I will encourage the council to empanel a task force of budget experts from our business community to help us look at the budget, department-by-department, line-by-line. This work needs to begin in December of 2005.”
- Translation of the Comprehensive Plan into the Land Development Ordinance – “This is where the grand vision of the Comp Plan becomes the law of the land. It is here that I have real concerns about the ability to protect the integrity of neighborhoods. The issue of neighborhood compatibility is key to me.”
- Support for job creation and continuation of affordable housing initiatives.
- Provision of basic services – police, fire, water, sewer, libraries, parks
- Being a positive advocate for the city and the citizens – “All cities have areas of concern, what is needed is the ability to address issues straightforwardly without hand wringing, endless meetings, or flailing about casting blame.” In depth discussion of these issues will be the major themes of Gatten’s campaign in the next three months.

When asked why she is running at large, Gatten replied: “I would like to represent all of Greensboro, not just the 20% who live in District #4. Interestingly, in the past two campaigns, 80% of those who have helped with the campaign or provided contributions have not lived in District #4 or been able to vote for me. They urged me to run at large. The reality is that people from all over the city call me to ask for help. They call because they know I will answer their calls, respond to their faxes or emails, and will follow up. I would like to represent the people I have been serving.”

“Our city is in an important state of transition,” concluded Gatten. “I would like the opportunity to keep us on the path of progress as the economy recovers and a new city manager is brought on board.”

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