

In this document are:

- a sample letter to candidates inviting them to participate in the Chapel Hill candidates form and inviting them to respond to questions for a Voters' Guide.
- samples of the questions for the Voters' Guide
- instructions on how to complete the questionnaire
- e-mail cover letter



League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham, and Chatham
Counties

P.O. Box 3397
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3397

July 23, 2009

Mr. Augustus Cho
106 Astor Place
Chapel Hill, 27516

Dear Mr. Cho:

The Orange County Unit of the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a forum for Chapel Hill candidates for mayor and town council on:

**Monday, October 5, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Town Hall, Council Chambers**

The public will be invited, and the event will be recorded to be shown on local access television. We very much hope that you will be able to participate.

Please respond either to me by phone at 919-932-9363 or to my email at sawb.61@mindspring.com.

In addition we will be sending you some questions by e-mail in August. Your responses will be posted on the League's web site (www.lwvdc.org). This web site will be publicized in the local media. We are in discussion with the Chapel Hill News in hopes that they will also print the candidates' responses.

We hope you can participate in both the forum and the candidates' questionnaire and help us inform local citizens about the candidates running for public office.

Sincerely yours,

Susan W. Brewer, Voter Service
Orange County Unit, League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a non partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. It works to increase understanding of major public issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Questions for Chapel Hill Council and Mayoral Candidates

August 14, 2009

We are pleased to report that all of the candidates, except Kevin Wolff, have agreed to appear at the candidate forum on **Monday, October 5, from 7 to 9 p.m.** in the **Town Hall, Council Chambers.**

To provide additional information to voters, the Orange County Unit of the League of Women Voters asks you to respond to the questions below. Responses will be posted as a Voter Guide on our website (www.lwvdc.org) on Sept. 14.

Full Name:

Age:

Occupation:

Years lived in area:

Education:

Experience: (Maximum 50 words)

Please limit each answer to the questions below to 50 words or less.

For Council Candidates:

1. Do you support the current ordinance which provides the option for candidates to use public financing of elections? Explain your position.
2. Should the heavy reliance on residential property taxes be reduced? If so, how can this be achieved??
3. What is your position on encouraging high density along major transit corridors?
4. Should the Chapel Hill Public Library be funded in a different way? Explain your position.

For Mayoral Candidates:

1. Do you support the current ordinance which provides the option for candidates to use public financing of elections? Explain your position.
2. Should the heavy reliance on residential property taxes be reduced? If so, how can this be achieved?
3. Is the town's policy on affordable housing working? What changes would you make?
4. Do you support the current Council's efforts to revitalize downtown by putting tax money into the mixed use development on Lot 5? Explain.



Questions for Chapel Hill Council Candidates

August 14, 2009

Full Name:

Age:

Occupation:

Years lived in area:

Education:

Experience: (Maximum 50 words)

Please limit each answer to 50 words or less.

1. Do you support the current ordinance which provides the option for candidates to use public financing of elections? Explain your position.
2. Should the heavy reliance on residential property taxes be reduced? If so, how can this be achieved??
3. What is your position on encouraging high density along major transit corridors?
4. Should the Chapel Hill Public Library be funded in a different way? Explain your position.



Instructions for Candidate statements

October 7, 2009

One of the missions of our organization is to disseminate information about candidates so that voters can be informed and active participants in government. This fall we will do this by posting your statements on our website, www.lvwodc.org.

We would like your statements sent back to us in **electronic form**. To do this, download the Voter Guide form and insert your statements after each question. Then save your answers and send the document back to the two people listed in the cover message. We will copy what you have written and place it directly on our web site and handout. We will make **no corrections of spelling or grammar**.

There is a **50-word limitation** on the description of your experience and a **200-word limitation** on your campaign statement. If you have more than 50 or 200 words respectively, we will truncate the entry after 50 or 200 words.

Most candidates answer the Experience entry by listing service on town boards, commissions, etc., either locally or elsewhere. Others cite work experience or expertise that voters would consider valuable to have in this office.

If we do not receive your response to these questions, your name will be listed followed by **"No response from candidate."**

The following disclaimer will appear with the answers to the questions:

"This Election Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham, Chatham Counties (LWVODC.) The League is a non-partisan, non-profit volunteer organization which does not endorse, support or oppose individual candidates or political parties.

Except for length, replies from candidates are printed as received. The LWVODC is not responsible for the content. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

No part of this Election Guide may be reproduced without permission of the LWVODC, or used in any way that may be construed to be an endorsement of an individual's candidacy or views by the League of Women Voters."

Text of email to candidates with two attachments: questions and instructions.

To Mayor & Council Candidates (**I have two separate groups since we have separate sets of questions**)

From: Rita Weimer, Cynthia Wertz

Subject: Questions for Chapel Hill Candidates

We are pleased to report that all of the candidates, except Kevin Wolff, have agreed to appear at the candidates forum on **Monday, October 5, from 7 to 9 p.m.** in the **Town Hall, Council Chambers.**

To provide additional information to voters, The Orange County Unit of the League of Women Voters asks you to respond to the questions attached to this email. The second attachment describes how to reply in electronic form. Responses will be posted as a Voter Guide on our website (www.lwvdc.org) on Sept. 14.

Please “Reply” right away to let us know you received this message.

We know it will take some time to answer the questions. Our **deadline** for accepting answers is **Friday, September 11.** We will acknowledge receipt of your answers.

If you have questions, please contact Rita Weimer

Note to League members:

We hope that Kevin Wolff responds by Fri when I am ready to send the information to the candidates.

Cynthia & I discussed whether we should post answers as they come in or put all of them up at the same time. We think the best choice is to post all candidate questionnaires at once for several reasons. Cynthia thinks early responders would have an advantage if they were posted as they come in because the time the information will be up is longer. I am concerned about giving the later responders the advantage of seeing how others have answered before writing their own answers. That may result in people waiting to the last minute to reply. I think we want Cynthia to have enough time to check things carefully before the responses go live on the web site. She says that making 9/11 as the deadline and posting on 9/14 will give her enough time to set things up.