

Questionnaire for County Commissioner Candidates,
Republican & Democratic Primary Election, March 3, 2026

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

(Voters in Democratic
Primary may may vote for 2)

Questions

Ramona Allen

Sean C. Ewing

Warren L. Parks, Jr.

1. [No response.]

1a. 40.1¢ per \$100.

2. I feel tax monies should be distributed according to the needs of the County. Not getting into wasteful spending. Allotting funds to services that will benefit the residents. Making sure proper consideration to the cost factors before writing a check.

3. [No response.]

3a. I work in subsidized housing on yearly budget, help set that budget. I have to abide by HUD rules plus getting residents what they need.

4. [No response.]

5. [No response.]

5a. Too high: taxes, wasteful spending, lack of transparency.

Too low: Monies allocated for schools, monies for teachers, monies for first responders.

6.

1. f.
2. e.
3. g. affordable housing.

6a. a., f., e., g.

7. They should head this to find ways to expand services, through funding to help those needing transportation to work that may be limited getting transportation.

7a. [No response.]

7b. [No response.]

8. Companies that offer jobs with higher pay, benefits; that promise growth to county and bring revenue and that will draw other companies to help in expansion of County, causing youth to return after college or service to keep our community thriving. They will be vested in community not just invested.

9. Working on infrastructure; making sure those with small businesses are financially stable; seeing if that may be offer small business loans revitalizing buildings around city.

10. [No response.]

10a. All parts of county should experience same zoning, giving chance for expansion and allowing options for taking limitations off businesses about where they may develop.

1. About right.

1a. —

2. Given the \$129 million structural gap facing Alamance County, a disciplined approach is essential. My focus centers on *fiscal efficiency*, prioritizing core mandates like public safety and infrastructure, while utilizing my engineering background to eliminate process waste. We must protect taxpayers by exhausting all efficiency-based “savings” before considering rate increases.

3. Yes.

3a. As an engineer, I prioritize data over rhetoric. My record proves I value fiscal discipline; I’ll demand efficiency-first budgeting before any tax-rate adjustments.

4. For.

5. About right.

5a. Too high: [None listed.]

Too low: Education –ABSS, Public Libraries, Rescue Unit (501c3 support).

6.

1. e.
2. f.
3 d.

6a. —

7. County transit should focus on essential mobility for seniors, veterans, and the disabled, ensuring access to healthcare and employment while maintaining strict fiscal oversight.

7a. Yes.

7b. I support existing partnerships, but oppose additional county funding for LINK expansion without proven, data-driven return on investment and a clear benefit to all taxpayers.

8. Incentives must be performance-based investments, not subsidies. I prioritize companies providing high-wage jobs and significant investment that diversifies our tax base. As an engineer, I demand clear return on investment. Grants should only be paid after verified delivery of promised jobs and infrastructure, ensuring a net-positive gain for Alamance taxpayers.

9. We foster growth by investing in industrial infrastructure, streamlining permitting, and partnering with ACC for workforce training, ensuring Alamance remains a high-value, low-cost destination.

10. [No response.]

10a. I oppose traditional countywide zoning. I favor protecting property rights and rural character through voluntary preservation and incentivized smart-growth tools, not restrictive top-down government mandates.

[Refused to answer.]

1a. [Refused to answer.]

2. [Refused to answer.]

3. [Refused to answer.]

3a. [Refused to answer.]

4. [Refused to answer.]

5. [Refused to answer.]

5a. Too high: [Refused to answer.]

Too low: [Refused to answer.]

6. [Refused to answer.]

6a. [Refused to answer.]

7. [Refused to answer.]

7a. [Refused to answer.]

7b. [Refused to answer.]

8. [Refused to answer.]

9. [Refused to answer.]

10. [Refused to answer.]

10a. [Refused to answer.]

1. In general, do you believe Alamance County government’s property tax rate is too high, too low, or about right?

1a. At about what level do you think the county tax rate, now 49.4¢ per \$100 valuation, should be set?

2. Historically, Alamance County has been considered to have had a relatively low property tax rate, at least compared to more urban areas to the east and west. In recent years, there are some who have urged that maintaining a low tax rate should not be such a high priority, but rather that the county should increase its tax rate in order to fund additional government services and/or spend more in some existing areas. What is your overall philosophy on the proper balance between tax rate and spending for 2026 and beyond? [50 word limit]

3. The county’s next tax revaluation is scheduled for 2027. Do you believe the county’s tax rate after the revaluation should be “revenue neutral” compared to the pre-revaluation level, to accommodate for the expected increase in property values?

3a. If yes, please respond: In the past, some candidates have expressed support for a “revenue neutral” tax rate, but, once elected, did not abide by that commitment when the situation actually arose. How can voters take you at your word that you will, in fact, insist on a “revenue neutral rate” after the next revaluation? [25 word limit]

4. Alamance County’s commissioners have put a ¼-cent local option sales tax referendum on the ballot four previous times, each of which has been turned down by county voters. Supporters of the additional sales tax would help offset the impact of the property tax. Would you vote for or against putting the referendum on the ballot again?

5. In general, do you believe Alamance County government spending is too high, too low, or about right?

5a. Specifically, which areas do you believe are “too high”? and which are “too low”? (Limit of three per category)

Too low: Emergency services.

6. Prioritize your top three spending priorities among these (or other) possible issues for the next 2-4 years:

a. Building new/additional court facilities
b. Establishing a satellite EMS station in Mebane
c. Converting a building already bought by the county for a 9-1-1 center
d. Providing additional pay for county employees
e. Raising the local supplement for ABSS teachers
f. Increasing funding for other aspects of ABSS g./h. (Other - please specify)

6a. Which, if any, of the above is of sufficient urgency or significance that you would be willing to raise property taxes in order to fund them?

County government policies

7. What role, if any, should the county have in public transportation? (25 word limit)

7a. Specifically, do you support continued county funding of Alamance County Transportation Authority (ACTA)?

7b. Specifically, should the county provide any additional funding to Burlington’s LINK transit system to expand routes in other areas of the county? [25 word limit]

8. Please outline the principles that would govern your decision on which companies should receive tax-financed incentives and under what circumstances. [50 word limit]

9. What should the county be doing to foster a strong business climate? [25 word limit]

10. Do you support or oppose countywide zoning? [25 word limit]

10a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]

1. About right.

1a. 49.4¢.

2. While I believe tax increases are sometimes necessary, raising taxes should always be the last option. I do not believe our taxpayers should be burdened with a tax increase two years in a row.

3. No response.

3a. It depends on what the next property tax re-evaluation shows, in regards to property values.

4. For. Sales tax is the only fair tax, period. Let the voters decide.

5. About right.

5a. Too high: [None listed.]

Too low: Emergency services.

6.

1. c.
2. b.
3. g.

6a. None.

7. No response.

7a. Yes.

7b. No response. ACTA provides transportation for mostly older and disabled individuals.

8. I do not believe in taxpayer funded incentives.

9. Balance keeping our tax rate low, while providing necessary services and quality education.

10. Oppose.

10a. I strongly oppose countywide zoning. I am a strong advocate for private property rights.

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

(Voters in Republican Primary may vote for 2)

Kelly Allen

Peter Boykin

Steve Carter

Jeff Throneburg

Henry Vines

1. Too high.

1a. I would work toward a rate closer to 45¢ per \$100 valuation as a goal.

2. County government must prioritize fiscal discipline and accountability. Rather than automatic increases, we should control spending, evaluate programs for efficiency, protect core services like public safety and schools, and only raise revenue when absolutely necessary. Maintaining a competitive tax environment while protecting essential services strengthens our community.

3. Yes.

3a. I pledge to uphold a revenue-neutral rate by holding the line on spending, protecting taxpayers, and resisting pressure for automatic tax increases without justifiable need.

4. Against. County voters have already rejected this proposal multiple times. Repeatedly placing the same tax increase on the ballot disregards voter intent.

5. Too high.

5a. Too high: Administrative overhead and nonessential bureaucracy, consultant contracts and outside services, non-mandated programs that duplicate existing services.

Too low: Public safety including law enforcement and first responders, infrastructure maintenance including roads & county facilities, core services that directly support residents rather than administration.

6.

1. c.
2. b.
3. d.

6a. None.

7. The county should provide limited, targeted transportation focused on seniors, workers, and essential services, while ensuring efficiency, accountability, and clear public benefit.

7a. Yes, with regular performance review, transparency, and a focus on essential transportation needs.

7b. No. Expansion should be demand-driven and locally justified. County taxpayers should not subsidize expansion without clear need, cost controls, and measurable benefits.

8. Tax-financed incentives should be rare, transparent, and performance-based. Any incentive must deliver clear public benefit, long-term local jobs, and measurable return on investment. I support incentives only with clawback provisions, public oversight, and equal treatment of local businesses, ensuring taxpayers are protected and not subsidizing corporate risk.

9. The county should keep taxes reasonable, streamline permitting, invest in infrastructure, support small businesses, and ensure predictable, transparent policies that encourage long-term local investment.

10. Oppose.

10a. I oppose countywide zoning because it reduces local control, burdens property owners, and imposes one-size-fits-all rules that do not reflect diverse community needs.

1. About right.

1a. —

2. My goal always, keep it as low as possible, while providing essential services and maintaining facilities as required by law. We’re the 15th largest county, 13th fastest growing, and the 26th lowest tax rate in NC. If nothing else, that reflects the historically conservative level of management by our commissioners.

3. Yes.

3a. Reality, we set based on need, cost are up. We expect to see an increased tax base, with a goal of revenue neutral, or better.

4. For.

5. About right.

5a. Too high: [None listed.]

Too low: [None listed.]

6.

1. b.
2. c.
3. a.

6a. b.

7. I serve on all the transportation related boards and know that they serve a need. The majority of the funding is federal and state.

7a. Yes.

7b. Yes. Both ACTA and LINK provide for an underserved population in the county. Both get most of their funding from Federal and State grants.

8. Very few.

9. Promoting an expansion of infrastructure, i.e. a southern loop and expanded rail facilities.

10. Oppose.

10a. Most of our citizens don’t want it.

1. Too low. Growth cannot be sustained without additional revenue.

1a. It depends. Fiscal responsibility will ensure lowest rate possible.

2. We are the 13th fastest growing county with the 26th lowest tax rate. The math doesn’t work if we are to ensure our infrastructure keeps up and we are properly funding our emergency services as well as our schools

3. No. We are currently not in the position financially to support revenue neutral.

3a. N.A. Revenue neutral only works if we have a balanced budget with every department properly funded and sufficient reserves.

4. For. It captures revenue from people passing through our county. Removes some of burden from citizens.

5. Too high.

5a. Too high: 1. Unnecessary property acquisitions
2. Proposed courthouse addition
3. Excessive fiscal spending

Too low: 1. Emergency Services. 2. School teacher’s supplement. 3. School building maintenance. We will always be short on quality employees if we do not invest in them.

6.

1. d.
2. e.
3. b.

6a. We must ensure we are fiscally responsible before raising taxes.

7. I only support it to provide services to the elderly or disabled for medical purposes.

7a. Yes.

7b. No, we are facing a \$12 million deficit and this is not a priority currently.

8. I don’t support incentives unless there is a commitment to use local businesses, when possible, long term capital investment in our county, and the tax base outweighs the incentive cost.

9. The two staples of strong economic growth are public safety services and a strong school system. Focus on them and the businesses will come.

10. It depends.

10a. I support town hall meetings where the citizens have a voice to help identify best practices for land development, balance growth, and protect rural communities.

1. Too high.

1a. 47¢.

2. The tax rate should reflect the county’s needs and responsibilities. Spending should be balanced by highest priorities. Programs with long-term needs should be funded gradually each year, rather than requesting large sums at once, which can force unnecessary tax increases.

3. Yes.

3a. I stand by a revenue-neutral approach and will demonstrate it by clearly stating my position and voting accordingly, regardless of how other board members vote.

4. Against.

5. Too high.

5a. Too high: The county is over-staffed in many positions. Paying outside companies to state how much our county should or should not be paying.

Too Low: [None listed.]

6.

1. Preventive maintenance for all county buildings, including schools, facilities, and offices. 2. Ensure we offer competitive salaries that reflect private-sector standards. 3. Converting a building already bought by the county for a 9-1-1 center.

6a. [No response.]

7. The county should not be required to provide assistance at this time, as system is not being used efficiently and should not strain county funding.

7a. [No response.]

7b. The county should not be required to provide assistance at this time, as system is not being used efficiently and should not strain county funding.

8. I do not support providing incentives to individual companies.

9. By maintaining a low property tax rate, we can encourage businesses to relocate to and invest in our county.

10. Support.

10a. I support this because our county is the fastest-growing county in the state, and planned growth will protect all citizens’ rights.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
(Voters in Democratic
Primary may may vote for 2)

Ramona Allen	Sean C. Ewing	Warren L. Parks, Jr.
11.[No response.]	11. Minor.	11. [Refused to answer.]
11a. Unsure.	11a. I prioritize protecting property rights while ensuring public safety. Any regulation must focus on existing noise ordinances, and balanced against our rural heritage.	11a. [Refused to answer.]
12. [No response.] understand what it represents to some and what it represents to others. If moved it should be placed in a museum.	12. [No response.]	12. [Refused to answer.]
13. [No response.]	13. b. Juneteenth.	13. [Refused to answer.]
13b. [No response.]	13b. I support adding Juneteenth to align with state and federal standards. To remain fiscally responsible, I would propose off-set efficiencies to ensure a revenue-neutral implementation.	13b. [Refused to answer.]
14. [No response.]	14. No.	14. [Refused to answer.]
14a. [No response.]	14a. Against.	14a. [Refused to answer.]
15. [No response.]	15. Reducing its cost.	15. [Refused to answer.]
16. [No response.]	16. [No response.]	16. [Refused to answer.]
16a. [No response.]	16a. [No response.]	16a. [Refused to answer.]
17. Make sure working conditions encourage officers; all get same treatment; promotions given on merit not buddy system; jailers have Mental Health days; leadership is diverse.	17. I support competitive frontline pay and performance-based signing bonuses to fill vacancies, ensuring detention safety while demanding strict administrative efficiency to offset recent salary increases.	17. [Refused to answer.]
17. [No response.]	17. Too little.	17. [Refused to answer.]
17a. [No response.]	17a. [No response.]	17a. [Refused to answer.]
18. [No response.]	18. [No response.]	18. [Refused to answer.]
19. Having monthly sessions with school boards to monitor student progress. Once issues identified, devise plan to correct problems; extra tutorial's testing between regular testing to measure progress, digression; contract person to do quarterly inspections; basing how much money needed to ensure safe schools free from mold, any other deficiencies.	19. I will foster a <i>collaborative partnership</i> with the School Board, moving from friction to shared accountability. I propose a <i>joint performance dashboard</i> to align fiscal efficiency with academic outcomes. By prioritizing <i>CTE/apprenticeships</i> and a <i>proactive maintenance plan</i> , we protect taxpayer assets and ensure our students are workforce-ready.	19. [Refused to answer.]
20. [No response.]	20. [No response.]	20. [Refused to answer.]
20a. Only if proper maintenance and upkeep is not done. There is always going to be new technology. We are hoping more of our children will choose to graduate and as our county grows in population there will be needs for up-grades.	20a. I prioritize optimizing current capacity and proactive maintenance to delay new debt. Any bond must be data-driven, transparently managed, and paired with an absolute commitment to protecting the county's credit rating and reserves.	20a. [Refused to answer.]
21. [No response.]	21. [No response.]	21. [Refused to answer.]
22. Raising taxes; being transparent about decisions made in spending taxpayers money; wasteful spending.	22. Alamance-Burlington School System funding was and remains the area of greatest disagreement. So much of an issue that the School System sued the County Commissioners.	22. [Refused to answer.]

Questions
11. How much of a problem are gun ranges or other target shooting in rural areas of the county?
11a. What, if any, additional noise or other county regulation would you favor? [25 word limit]
12. There has been discussion from some residents who have suggested that the Confederate monument on the north side of the Historic Court House should be moved. Would you support or oppose moving the monument? If so, where? [25 word limit]
13. Which, if any, of the following federal holidays should be added as an additional holiday(s) for county employees?
13b. If yes to any, why? [25 word limit]
14. Some North Carolina counties have adopted ordinances that seek to ban discrimination within their jurisdictions based on sexual orientation (i.e., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people) in public accommodations and employment. Does Alamance County need such an ordinance?
14a. Would you vote for or against such an ordinance?
15. There has been some recent discussion among commissioners that the county should reconsider the size and cost of a proposed expansion of the Judge J.B. Allen, Jr. Court House, previously approved at \$37 million. Do you favor moving ahead or reducing its cost.
16. In general, do you believe that the county is providing too much, too little, or about the right amount of funding for the Alamance County sheriff's office? [25 word limit]
16a. If too little, would you be willing to raise property taxes to provide increased funding?
17. The sheriff has reported a rather persistent shortage of jailers in the Alamance County Detention Center. What can the county do to improve recruitment and retention of jail employees? [25 word limit]
Education 17. Does the county budget provide too much, not enough, or about the right level of funding for the Alamance-Burlington School System?
17a. If too little, would you be willing to raise property taxes to provide increased funding?
18. In your view, who is responsible for what some critics describe as the poor condition of the county school system's physical facilities?
19. What specific initiatives or policies would you propose or support to improve the quality of public education in Alamance County? [50 word limit]
20. Alamance County voters approved a \$150 million bond package for ABSS in November 2018 to be used for renovations and construction to increase capacity at the high school level. Do you anticipate the need for another bond referendum for repairs and/or expansions at other grade levels during the next four years?
20a. If yes, please identify where you see the greatest facility needs and why. [50 word limit]
21. In general do you support or oppose the concept of allowing additional charter schools to be developed and started in Alamance County? [25 word limit]
General Comments 22. What is your greatest area of disagreement with action(s) taken by the county commissioners in the past 2-5 years? [25 word limit]

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY
(Voters in Republican Primary may vote for 2)

Kelly Allen	Peter Boykin	Steve Carter	Jeff Throneburg	Henry Vines
11. Minor.	11. Minor.	11. Minor.	11. Major. There should be an amendment to our current regulations to ensure the safety of our citizens.	11. Minor.
11a. While I have been on the board of commissioners, we have had only one gun range complaint. That range is now closed.	11a. I do not support additional county regulations. Existing state laws are sufficient, and rural property owners should not face new restrictions on lawful firearm use.	11a. I don't know of any needed action at this time.	11a. Bullets found in a resident's home constitute a huge safety issue. Regulations need to be implemented not only to protect one's rights but their safety.	11a. I support completing the outdoor range ordinance that previous commissioners promised the citizens.
12. Oppose. The County does not own the Confederate monument. We need to know history, the good and the bad, or it could be repeated.	12. I oppose moving the monument. History should be preserved, not erased, and changes to historic sites should not be driven by political pressure or cultural division.	12. Oppose. It represents our history in Alamance County, plus state law pretty much prohibits it, or limits any options.	12. Oppose.	12. Oppose. The monument is a historical piece, but the county has more pressing financial needs that should take priority.
13. None.	13. None.	13. [None listed.]	13. None.	13. I believe the current holiday schedule is appropriate and should remain as is.
13b. N.A.	13b. I do not support adding new holidays. The county should focus on fair pay, staffing stability, and service delivery rather than increasing paid time off.	13b. I haven't heard of the need, or an ask.	13b. N.A.	13b. –
14. No. Federal Law already bans discrimination. The county has a written policy on discrimination and harassment, as well non-retaliation for filing claims.	14. Yes.	14. No.	14. No.	14. No.
14a. Against.	14a. For. I support ensuring all residents are treated fairly and equally under the law.	14a. Against.	14a. Against.	14a. Against.
15. Reducing its cost. I was not a member of the commissioners when the budget for the Court-house was approved.	15. Reducing its cost. The county should re-evaluate the scope, size, and cost of the project .	15. No response.	15. Against it. It was given the go ahead not knowing the footprint. Poor fiscal responsibility.	15. Reducing its cost.
16. About right.	16. About Right. The sheriff's office is essential to public safety. Funding should remain adequate, carefully reviewed, and focused on staffing, equipment, and effectiveness without unnecessary expansion or waste.	16. About right.	16. About right. We need to ensure the funding is being spent responsibly before deciding to increase or reduce funding.	16. About right.
16a. No.	16a. Not applicable. but the answer is NO.	16a. N.A.	16a. Depends.	16a. No.
17. The commissioners approved using drug forfeiture funds to be used as hiring bonuses.	17. The county should improve recruitment through competitive pay, better scheduling, training support, and retention incentives, while ensuring safe working conditions and respecting taxpayer limits.	17. We've provided for a competitive wage and benefits plan for the ACSO. We don't want to go back to being a training ground for others.	17. It is the Sheriff's responsibility to improve recruitment and retention, the county must advocate for competitive salaries and safe working conditions.	17. The county has supported the sheriff fully, but results are lacking. The sheriff must find new ways to recruit and retain staff.
17. About right.	17. About Right.	17. About right.	17. Depends. We have to ensure that the money is being spent responsibly.	17. About right.
17a. No.	17a. No.	17a. N.A.	17a. Yes, only if the money already allocated was spent responsibly.	17a. No.
18. Other.	18. Other: Shared Responsibility.	18. School board, school administration.	18. County commissioners. School board. School administration.	18. School board.
19. I think we should give the ABSS Superintendent time to correct the issues he inherited.	19. I would support prioritizing safe, well-maintained school facilities, responsible capital planning, and transparent use of education funds. The county should focus resources on core academics, classroom support, and infrastructure while working cooperatively with the school board and respecting local control and taxpayer accountability.	19. I'm not the educator in my family, my wife and daughter are. But essentially what I hear from them, and other professionals, is a return to basics, reading (with phonics), writing (with cursive), math (with memorization), science based on truth, all supported by accurate instruction in history, civics and budgeting.	19. Our commissioners and school board have to work together which has not been the case. Teacher supplements have to be competitive for teacher retention. More attention has to be placed on our aging school buildings to ensure our children have a safe clean learning environment.	19. I would support clear county policies aligned with North Carolina's required curriculum and standards. The county should ensure schools have adequate resources and updated facilities. Transparency and accountability are essential so students receive the education the state mandates and families expect.
20. No.	20. No. The county should first ensure the 2018 bond funds are fully and efficiently used as intended.	20. [No response.]	20. Yes, our rapid growth will be the factor.	20. Unsure.
20a. ABSS has not yet spent all the available funding from the last school bond. The county still has funds to be dispersed from the last school bond.	20a. Although I answered No, if future needs arise, the greatest priorities should be addressing critical safety issues, deferred maintenance, and overcrowding based on verified enrollment data. Any proposal must be data-driven, transparent, and justified by demonstrated need before asking voters to approve additional debt.	20a. I don't know for sure. NCDPI says there is a need for more facilities. The ask in 2018 was \$300M, we went with \$150M. We're also providing improved funding for capital needs each year now. I think we need to evaluate how that's going to work.	20a. With growth we are experiencing I anticipate the need for 2 elementary schools and possibly another middle school. I also see the need for rezoning to equal the occupancy at our high schools.	20a. No. At this time, I do not have clear specifics or sufficient information to support or oppose a new bond. I would need more detailed facility assessments and community input before making a decision.
21. Support.	21. Support, I support allowing additional charter schools when they meet state standards, serve families effectively, and provide responsible educational options without harming existing public schools.	21. Support. My perspective, any opportunity to choose where their child receives their education, that doesn't cost our citizens, is good.	21. Support. Parents should have the opportunity to choose where their child receives their education.	21. Support. I support new charter schools if they expand classroom capacity and staffing, helping to better serve students across Alamance County.
22. I was not on the board when the budget was set for courthouse expansion, however I believe the amount is too high.	22. I disagree with approving large capital projects and spending increases without sufficient cost control, long-term planning, or taxpayer protections.	22. [No response.]	22. Irresponsible spending, inability to balance the budget, and poor public awareness. Now we are facing a \$12.9-million deficit for 2026-2027.	22. My greatest disagreement is approving the courthouse addition and consecutive property tax increases over the past three years, which I believe were unnecessary and burdensome.