

MEDIA ADVISORY

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The Progressive Democrats of Orange County (PDOC) have endorsed the following Orange County candidates for their commitment to Progressive values, including working toward racial equity, environmental justice, the RIGHT to health care, affordable housing, and work and educational opportunity.

“As Progressives, we are lucky to live in Orange County, but there is still much work to be done to meet our goals,” according to Rebecca Cerese, PDOC president.

“We are confident that these candidates will be effective public servants and advocate for the Progressive values that will lead to better lives for our community members,” adds Mark Marcoplos, former Orange County Commissioner.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates, and the Endorsements Team reviewed the answers and made recommendations which were then voted on by the PDOC membership.

Endorsements begin on the following page.

***PDOC is a chapter of the Progressive Caucus of the NC Democratic Party
and an auxiliary of the Orange County Democratic Party.***

PDOC Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

The Progressive Democrats of Orange County are endorsing candidates who share our values of racial and gender equity, climate solutions, affordable housing and educational and work training and opportunities. We feel that the following candidates will be dedicated, effective, and compassionate stewards of our communities. The Endorsement Team recommendations are below the candidates' name; full answers to the questionnaire are below this index.

Carrboro Mayor and Town Council

Damon Seils - Mayor

PDOC strongly endorses Damon Seils for Mayor of Carrboro

- Leader on issues of race, equity, and inclusion
- Local expert on municipal tools to address housing, transit, and land use

Barbara Foushee - Town Council

PDOC strongly endorses Barbara Foushee for Carrboro Town Council

- Tireless advocate for rights and opportunities for marginalized communities
- Unique lived experience and understanding of local cultural and historical contexts

Danny Nowell - Town Council

PDOC strongly endorses Danny Nowell for Carrboro Town Council

- Experience as a grassroots organizer with people-focused approach to policy
- Fresh ideas connecting affordable housing, climate justice, and economic development with an intersectional approach

Chapel Hill Mayor and Town Council

Pam Hemminger - Mayor

PDOC endorses Pam Hemminger for Chapel Hill Mayor

- Understands the importance of smart growth to provide a diversified tax and mitigate climate change with by infill development, bikeways and greenways
- Led efforts including the Affordable Housing Master Plan, the \$10 million affordable housing bond, and making town-owned land available for affordable housing

Karen Stegman - Town Council

PDOC strongly endorses Karen Stegman for Chapel Hill Town Council

- Champion for land use and transit policies that reduce climate impacts, improve public health, and make more housing available
- Top priority is to increase affordable housing options and eliminate systemic barriers that enforced racial segregation and contributed to the gentrification of Chapel Hill

Paris Miller Foushee - Town Council

PDOC strongly endorses Paris Miller-Foushee for Chapel Hill Town Council

- Top priorities are affordable housing and environmental justice, and she advocates for expedited review of projects along transit routes, uncoupled from parking.
- Promotes the importance of the Rural Buffer and situating infill development that creates mixed-use, mixed-income, transit-oriented, and walkable communities

Camille Berry - Town Council

PDOC endorses Camille Berry for Chapel Hill Town Council

- Has worked in the affordable housing sector, has personally experienced the need for an affordable home and is committed to providing diverse housing options
- Understands that job creation is a fundamental strategy for increasing affordability and is supportive of commercial growth that can provide good jobs and revenue

Hillsborough Mayor and Town Commissioner

[Jenn Weaver](#) - Mayor

PDOC strongly endorses Jenn Weaver for Mayor of Hillsborough

- Consistent, thorough, and revolutionary vision around climate change
- Proactive community engagement to mitigate racial justice issues

[Kathleen Ferguson](#) - Commissioner

PDOC strongly endorses Kathleen Ferguson for Hillsborough Town Commissioner

- Consistent commitment to affordable housing and citizen outreach
- Engagement with all communities in Hillsborough, not just the downtown corridor

[Robb English](#) - Commissioner

PDOC endorses Robb English for Hillsborough Town Board

- Speaking to working on improving green space and taking climate action
- We would like to see Mr. English mature into his role in the Town Board and discuss a broader array of issues, such as in-depth housing policies, infrastructure challenges, and more on racial justice

Mebane Mayor and Town Council

[Montreena W. Hadley](#) - Town Council

PDOC endorses Montreena W. Hadley for Mebane Town Board

- Understanding of smart growth and relationship-building with stakeholders, based on 30 years' experience in local government
- Commitment to sustainable land use and climate change mitigation that will not negatively affect communities of color

Chapel Hill/Carrboro Board of Education

All three candidates share a commitment to:

- Teaching honest race history to both support our teaching staff and prepare students for leadership in their community
- School/community partnerships, addressing issues that impact children's lives and learning Supporting teachers and staff, and the importance of all stakeholders being at the table

[Mike Sharp](#)

PDOC endorses Mike Sharp for CHCCS Board

- Asserts that accountability and accurate data are key strategies to removing the racial opportunity gap, as well as maintaining a commitment to training staff

- Believes that staff that are well-trained in restorative practices may be a better approach for school safety than armed School Resource Officers

George Griffin

PDOC strongly endorses George Griffin for CHCCS Board

- Strong commitment to eliminating the racial opportunity gap
- Understands that a key to a successful budget process hinges on active collaboration with the County Commissioners

Riza Jenkins

PDOC endorses **Riza Jenkins** for CHCCS Board

- Committed to working to close the racial opportunity gap by analyzing and assessing the results of policies, programs, and curriculum that have been utilized
- Serves on the Safety Task Force (formerly the SRO Task Force) with a personal focus on defining safety and what are actual impacts of the School Resource Officers.