



CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE

SHORE FACTS

TM

Election Edition • October 2021

2021 Candidate Forum

As noted in the October 2021 ShoreLine, CBES 2021 Candidate Forum was moved from an in-person event to this special ShoreFacts edition.

For over 20 years, CBES has conducted Candidate Forums for all local (federal, state, and county) elections, to afford citizens on the Shore the opportunity to hear from candidates on key issues, in order to make well-informed decisions when they vote. CBES, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, does not support or oppose any candidate for office.

Candidates for contested seats in the November 2 election – Member, House of Delegates for District 100; Northampton Board of Supervisors, District 1; and Northampton Board of Supervisors, District 2 – are included. Questions were compiled by CBES Board of Directors and our co-sponsors, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Pi Epsilon Omega Chapter; and Accomack-Northampton Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

We hope the candidates' responses will help to guide an informed decision when you vote, early or on November 2.

Meet the Candidates

Member, House of Delegates for District 100

Robert S. Bloxom, Jr. (R)

is a native to the Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) and resides in the Parksley area. Rob and his wife, Lou, are the proud parents of 3 children, Blaire, Madison, and Brant. After high school, Rob went to the University of Richmond to complete his undergraduate degree and returned to the Eastern Shore to take over a third-generation family business.



Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.

Rob is the owner of Shore Tire & Auto in Onley, and 2 NAPA Auto Parts stores, in Onley and Mappsville. He is also the owner/operator of Egret Pointe Seafood Company. He is an active member of Grace United Methodist Church, the Onancock Rotary, the coordinator for ESVA's Habitat of Humanity roofing teams, and a Director of the Economic Development Authority.

Bloxom was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates for the 100th District in February 2014. This area encompasses Accomack and Northampton Counties and a portion of Norfolk. Rob was named the 2015 Legislative Rookie of the Year by the Virginia Education Association, and given the Champion of Economic Development Award in 2019 by the ES Economic Development Authority. In September 2021, he was awarded the NFIB Guardian of Small Business.

Finale Johnson Norton

(D) was born and raised in Exmore. She will be a tireless advocate for working families in the General Assembly because her own family had to work hard to make ends meet. Her mom cleaned homes, earning her cosmetology license later in life; her father shucked clams and laid ground cable.



Finale Johnson Norton

He died after being hit by a truck when Finale was in the 8th grade. In high school, Finale cleaned clam buckets at 6 AM at Willis Wharf, graded tomatoes at Six L's, waitressed, and spent a short week picking crabs at a local crab house. Thanks to public schools, after graduating from Northampton High School, Finale earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University.

For the next 20 years as a Navy wife and businesswoman, she resided in Norfolk, remaining close to family in Norfolk and on the Eastern Shore. Finale began working at Bank of America (FKA) Sovran Bank in 1988. Always advocating for inclusion and equity, she served on Bank of America's Diversity Council and was an executive sponsor for the company's Lead for Women initiative and LGBTQ initiative. During her 26-year tenure at Bank of America, mostly in Norfolk, Finale became an executive responsible for more than 3,500 employees. She then worked at a global consulting company before retiring from corporate America.

Member, House of Delegates for District 100 (cont'd from page 1)

Over the years, Finale has given back to the community through United Way campaigns, Junior Achievement mentorship, Habitat for Humanity builds, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, March of Dimes fundraising, and the Urban League. Her career has been in business, but she has never forgotten her roots. She moved back home to the Eastern Shore to be closer to her family.

Finale never imagined being a candidate for public office, and she is not a career politician. She is running for Delegate in House District 100 because she believes our

community deserves a representative who puts people and working families above profit, a servant leader who will be a champion for everyone throughout District 100, both in Norfolk and on the Eastern Shore. District 100's issues are her issues because she has experienced them first-hand. Her willingness to listen and learn embodies the kind of leadership we need. As your future Delegate, Finale will bring your concerns to the General Assembly.

Finale and her husband, retired Navy Captain Sam Norton, live in Jamesville with their rescue pup, Hershey.

Northampton Board of Supervisors, District 1

John R. Coker is currently on the Northampton County Board of Supervisors. He is Chairman of the ES Tourism Commission, Vice Chairman of the ES Joint County Groundwater Committee, Vice Chairman of Accomack-Northampton



John R. Coker

County Transportation Commission, Chairman of the ES Jail Board, and a member of the Canonic Atlantic Board. John has been part of the ESVA community for over 20 years. He moved here full-time with his wife, Martina, in 2006, spending the next 6 years consulting from his home in Cape Charles. Before retiring, John had over 35 years of valuable Financial Services Information Technology and Operations experience with leading global corporations such as Mellon Bank, Fidelity Investments, Prudential Investments, and ACS, serving in many senior roles and managing operations as large as 3,000 associates and budgets in excess of \$250 million.

John graduated from Emory University with a BA and

MS in mathematics. At both Emory and Pennsylvania State University, John did additional post-graduate work in computer science and business management. John, his wife Martina, and his 2 grown daughters all attended public schools.

Robert W. Stubbs has been a resident of Northampton County since 2001. He has worked for the Town of Cape Charles for 10 years, Northampton County for 4 years, and the Town of Eastville for 4 years. He is a Police Officer and has extensive business experience in Hotel and Restaurant Management. He has served on the Northampton County Parks and Recreation Board for multiple years, and served as a member of the Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company, and as a member of the Eastville Volunteer Fire Company. He has spent his career in the service industry and Public Safety service, and is looking forward to serving the citizens of Northampton County District 1 if elected.



Robert W. Stubbs

Northampton Board of Supervisors, District 2

David W. Fauber was born and raised in Virginia. He attended St. Christopher's School in Richmond and is a 1972 graduate of the University of North Carolina. Dave has been working and living on the Eastern Shore since the early 1980s. He's been married to his wife, Donna, for 30 years and has 2 sons, Battaile and Joe.



David W. Fauber

Dave was the owner of

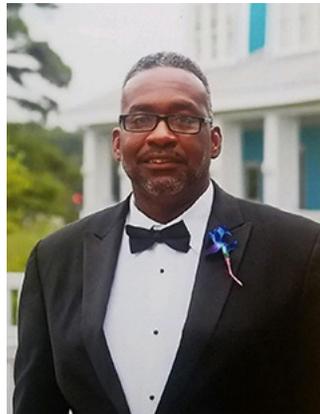
Northampton Builders, a Class A contractor, for 25 years. He then worked as the Director of Public Works for Cape Charles for 15 years.

In addition to being the current District 2 Supervisor, Dave's public service to the County includes a total of 10 years on Northampton County's Planning Commission, being a volunteer with Cape Charles Rescue Squad, a Little League coach, and a soccer coach.

Dave likes spending time on his boat, *Local Honey*. He recently completed a 7-week voyage from the Eastern Shore to Tarpon Springs, FL, via the Intracoastal Waterway.

Northampton Board of Supervisors, District 2 (cont'd from page 2)

Ernest L. Smith, Jr. is seeking the District 2 seat of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors. He was born and raised right here in Northampton County, and graduated from Northampton High School in 1981 and the Virginia Institute of Technology in 1984. He ultimately decided to settle back down on the Shore, and has now



Ernest L. Smith, Jr.

served 36 years with the U.S. Postal Service in Cape Charles. Throughout his career, which began with being the first African-American postal worker in Northampton County, he has received several accolades acknowledging his service, and was nominated as a “Postal Hero” for going above and beyond his duties. Currently, he resides in Cheriton with his lovely wife, Antionette, and his 2 daughters, Bria and Jada. When he is not working or spending time with his family, he enjoys interacting with his community as an active member of African Baptist Church in Cheriton and a member of the Pride of Virginia Lodge #18 in Eastville.

Candidates' Responses

Member, House of Delegates for District 100

TEACHER RETENTION: *What ideas do you have that will assist in the recruitment and retention of certified educators for our public-school systems on the Eastern Shore?*



Robert S. Bloxom, Jr: The Cost of Competing Adjustment that Senator Lewis and I fought to get into the budget is a great step to retain educators in Accomack and

Northampton Counties. This supplement is critical to move our salary scale closer to those of neighboring Maryland schools. The next step is to put that into the Code of Virginia. The 2-year budget trumps the Code of Virginia, but this will disappear when the new budget is adopted.

Finale Johnson Norton: We must raise teacher pay. In addition, we must address quality of life concerns here on the Shore. It’s important that we make housing more affordable so that public school teachers can afford to live on the Eastern Shore. Additionally, we must expand economic opportunity by bringing good-paying remote and in-person jobs to the Eastern Shore so that teachers’ families don’t have to leave the Shore for economic opportunities.

BROADBAND ACCESS: *As the pandemic has highlighted, universal access to broadband is a necessity, not a luxury. The 2 most difficult hurdles to universal coverage on the Shore appear to be 1) coordinating coverage among the for-profit companies and the nonprofit Broadband Authority, and 2) offsetting the sizeable installation costs for some customers. What can the state do to overcome these to get us to 100% coverage?*



Bloxom: The State has appropriated \$750 million to close the digital divide between the haves and the have-nots. Due to labor and supply shortages, it’s possible that we will not be able to deploy all of those funds in 3 years. I am committed to the equitable expansion of broadband and ensuring that the continued investment reaches unserved areas.

We also opened up VATI grants to municipal broadband authorities, which will help provide coverage to the Shore.
Norton: The State can make broadband a utility, and give the State Corporation Commission the appropriate authority to ensure quality and affordable high-speed internet across the board.

COASTAL RESILIENCE: *The state is currently putting together its first Coastal Resilience Master Plan. With grimmer forecasts each year for flooding due to sea level rise and more frequent, more intense storms, what more do you think the state needs to do to get protections in place for homeowners and businesses?*



Bloxom: Norfolk is a leader in this area, and we should learn from their successes and failures. Norfolk is encouraging resilient buildings – for example, raising foundations and actually raising a city block with fill to remove the area out of the flood zone. They are also returning drain basins back to their original natural form where they have been filled in over the years to improve drainage.

Norton: We must approach flooding from both preventative and responsive perspectives. Flooding is already a reality; we must ensure that we have the funding to support flood relief as a response and to invest in resiliency infrastructure. We must additionally work to preserve marshes, wetlands, and strategic green space to prevent flooding and prevent further damage through combating climate change.

REDISTRICTING: *The new bipartisan Redistricting Commission, 8 lawmakers and 8 citizens, is having difficulty reaching agreement on drawing Virginia Legislative Districts after the 2020 Census. The Commission is attempting to limit gerrymandering and preserve voting equity for “communities of interest.”*

Del. Bloxom: *Can you comment on why you voted against the Commission and/or its makeup? What would a plan look like that you would support?*

Bloxom: HJ 615 is the resolution that set up a bipartisan redistricting committee. I actually supported it at every vote. Senator Lewis and I did a public service announcement to promote its passage on the ballot last year. As I have said at previous forums, I never believed you could achieve a nonpartisan commission, so equal representation from both major political parties is about as fair as you can get. I hope their work will result in fair, non-gerrymandered districts.

Ms. Norton: *How would you have voted on the Commission question, and why?*

Norton: Bipartisan redistricting is not the same thing as nonpartisan. Redistricting is politicized by adding any decision-maker from a political party, even if the commission is bipartisan. I would have voted for a Redistricting Commission that is strictly apolitical and nonpartisan. This nonpartisan commission would be committed to limiting gerrymandering, not dividing communities of interest, and ensuring that voters pick their legislators (and not the other way around).



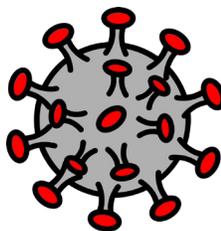
VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS: *Can you state your view on requiring ID to vote in Virginia elections?*

Bloxom: I believe that a valid government-issued photo ID is a basic requirement that would help bring confidence back to our election process. You need a valid ID to purchase alcohol, to pick up stadium tickets, or even attend the Democratic Convention. I don't see any problems with requiring one to vote.

Norton: Virginia's current voting laws, with our current Virginia Voting Rights Act, is the right direction. Voters should not have to pay to get an ID to be able to vote.

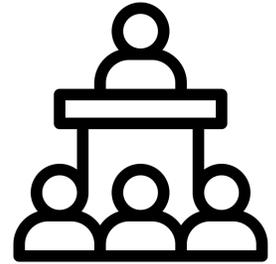
COVID PRECAUTIONS: *What are your views on requiring vaccinations, masks, or both, at public gatherings and in public facilities, both indoor and outdoor?*

Bloxom: The COVID-19 virus has taken on a political life of its own. Research shows the Delta variant is highly contagious and next year's strain will be something else. I am afraid this will be similar to the yearly influenza. Blanket mandates will always bring resistance. I believe incentives, supported by science and neutral sourced data, are more effective in convincing people to sign up for vaccinations and wear masks when appropriate.



Norton: It is critical to follow the science on vaccines and masks. Scientific consensus shows that vaccines work. Unless someone has a specific health concern or religious exemption, vaccines should be required. We should also follow the science on masking.

REGULAR CONSTITUENT MEETINGS: *All candidates at every CBES Candidate Forum are asked this question: If you are elected, will you schedule regular Town Hall meetings with your constituents?*



Bloxom: As I have responded yearly to this question, no, I will not hold regularly scheduled Town Hall meetings. I not only was born and raised on the Eastern Shore, but I stayed here. I work more than one job to provide for my family just like many others on the Shore. I am in the community every day. My door is open, and my phone lines are available. I am in and out of other small businesses on our Shore weekly, and if someone asks me a question, I am available. I also provide a weekly report to the local news sources while I am in Richmond to keep my constituents informed.

Norton: Yes. It is my responsibility to hear from constituents about their everyday concerns. The issues of this district are around-the-clock issues, and our elected officials should dedicate the time to address our community issues.

Northampton Board of Supervisors

WORKFORCE HOUSING: *It has become apparent that the private sector is not interested in building low- to mid-cost, non-subsidized rental housing for the county workforce.*

- *Would you be willing to work with the local housing authority to build rental units priced for low- to mid-level wage-earners?*

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 1

John R. Coker: The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority (A-NRHA), in their words, are "tasked with providing safe, sanitary and affordable housing to low-income residents of the Eastern Shore." Although their purpose is very important and must continue, it needs to be augmented with an effort to create Workforce Housing, which needs to be addressed immediately. There are at least 3 local groups focusing on Workforce Housing, and I am trying to keep up with and help them wherever I can. I have asked the Northampton Economic Development Authority to look into how they can help solve this very important deficiency in our County, and they are actively working on it. This is one of the biggest issues in our County today, and I fully expect to see significant progress toward its resolution in the next 12 months.

Rob Stubbs: This is such an important topic. I welcome the opportunity to work with the A-NRHA to identify solutions for workforce housing. It is a complex problem requiring creative ideas. Therefore, we need to investigate different options when it comes to

affordable housing or workforce housing. When we talk about these terms, we need to better define what we are referencing. These terms sometimes carry a negative connotation, and we need to identify the type of individuals that we need to attract. We need to find affordable, attractive housing options for teachers, nurses, hospitality staff, and tradespersons. These are the core workers that are in need in our area. We must evaluate and always adapt to meet the needs. We must think outside the norm to identify options to address immediate needs and long-term needs. Allowing and incentivizing property owners to build an accessory building that could be a rental apartment is one outside-of-the-box thought. This could address the immediate issue, while we look for a more long-term solution.

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 2

David W. Fauber: Affordable/workforce housing is probably the single most important problem facing our local population. There is a shortage of housing, and many people who do have housing are “cost burdened,” meaning that their housing is unaffordable. This makes people make tough living decisions. So much of our



housing has been bought as second homes, vacation rentals, or speculation that very little is left for locals looking for rental housing. I support any type of housing that we can make available. This includes multi-family units in Town Edge. There are

builders interested in affordable housing projects, but it cannot be done without subsidy money. I currently serve on the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) and the Housing Alliance, and will continue to work for workforce housing.

Ernest L. Smith, Jr.: Yes, I would be willing to collaborate with the A-NRHA to provide sustainable rental housing for low- to mid-level wage earners. As the cost of living and housing increases, we must be willing to take steps together to ensure that our citizens do not fall victim to homelessness or be forced to seek residence elsewhere. It is vital that the Eastern Shore is an accessible and equitable place for all, and fixing the housing crisis is a fundamental step in achieving that reality.

- **Where would you adopt zoning to accommodate these units?**

Coker: The zoning piece of this is simple in my opinion. We need to encourage the building of this type of housing “in and around the towns” because that is where the needed infrastructure exists. The County will need to change its zoning because the multi-family issue needs to be addressed. Finally, the towns and County must work together to development a consistent vision of Town Edge as this new development happens.



Stubbs: I would not pretend to know where the appropriate zoning changes should or would be made without more information. This would be a great question to take to the Planning Commission to start the dialogue on a solution.

Fauber: If you are a developer and can get housing to our constituents for under \$1,000 a month, be it rent or mortgage, I think I speak for the rest of the Board of Supervisors in saying, you tell us where and we’ll make it happen. That said, I think the Town Edge would be the best location for rental units, especially if we are talking multi-family housing.

Town Edge makes sense for a few reasons: It puts the residents close to the stores, shops, restaurants, medical, and other services they need; the zoning is a good fit and easily modified for any residential use; the likelihood of connecting to wastewater and other utilities such as broadband are more likely; our Comprehensive Plan supports higher-density housing located near already-populated areas; and they tend to be upland, which puts development away from flood hazard areas.

There are about a dozen locations the County is considering for our first project. The current Board is committed to make this happen, and a new County position is being created whose job will be affordable housing planning and financing.

Smith: Understanding that transportation is often an issue for low- to mid-level wage earners on the Eastern Shore, I would want to adopt zoning areas to accommodate these rental units within walking distance of grocery stores, medical centers, schools, and other central locations. To further address the transportation inequities and ensure that the residents are connected to the broader Eastern Shore community, I would want to adopt zoning to accommodate these units in an area served by the Shore Transit Bus System.



- **How would you fund the necessary water and sewer infrastructure?**

Coker: Affordable and Workforce Housing, if placed in and around the towns, significantly solves this problem, since most towns already have sewer and water infrastructure. There will be funding required to connect to the existing towns’ infrastructure, but the cost will be much less than the many millions of dollars required to add another sewer system in our County. Cape Charles, Exmore, and Nassawadox all have town sewer and they

are ripe for this type of housing investment, especially with Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSB) significantly upgrading the latter 2 towns' capabilities in the next 2 to 3 years.

Stubbs: This is the multi-million-dollar question! The County and the Towns of Northampton County will have to work together on regional systems. The USDA/Rural Development offers some grants and long-term loans to help with systems, but those are not enough currently to answer the multi-million-dollar question. The funding will have to come from the



federal government and property owners. This is not a popular answer, so more research will have to be done by both the County and the Towns to come to the best possible long-term solution to funding these multi-million-dollar systems.

Fauber: We can find funding from the Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Improvement Fund; the Department of Health's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund; other state or federal grants and low-interest loans; County funds; connection/utility fees; and usage fees. A special tax district covering the service area has been discussed. The pandemic recovery funds that are coming available could also be a source of funds. For all the capital projects started by this Board, we have not had to raise taxes, except for the 1% increase in sales tax to help with a portion of the school funding.

Smith: First and foremost, I do not believe that funding for the necessary water and sewer infrastructure projects should result from direct taxation on citizens. Instead, I plan to seek funding for these projects through state and federal infrastructure grants that prioritize implementing green technology to protect and maintain our local ecosystem. To further promote cost-effectiveness and provide job opportunities for our local citizens, I strive to utilize local resources and collaborate with labor forces to get the job done.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE PROTECTION: *The county's new Comprehensive Plan puts equal emphasis on business development and natural and human resource protection. Can you describe how you would balance the community's top 2 priorities when you evaluate the benefits of a potential project with the protection of community resources? For instance – the amount of increased revenue vs. paving areas of the recharge area; or the lack of a trained county workforce vs. a high-impact industry that would import workers.*

Coker: Business development and natural and human resource protection have always been a priority in Northampton County for this Supervisor. We are finding that growth

is coming from tourism, telecommuters, home building and home improvement, small retailers, and the resurgence of the Cape Charles Harbor and Industrial Park.

This current business growth is not draining our aquifers or polluting our waters. In fact, our test wells are trending higher water levels in the past 10 years in the southern portion of the peninsula, and our clean waters have created one of the best shellfish growing grounds on the east coast of the United States. We absolutely need to continue to watch this as we go forward, but things are going well so I do not think we need a lot more regulation now.

The human resource pool in Northampton County seems to be growing organically and from transplants, albeit slower than we would all like. Our Community College has embraced highly skilled technical education, which is beginning to produce a new labor force for our small technical businesses. The County is also renovating the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Building, adding new capabilities to catch up with the times. Finally, the broadband expansion that I have strongly supported for the past 4 years is currently helping to bring telecommuters to our small county.

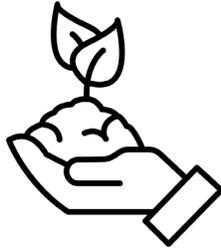
Stubbs: There is a delicate balance that lies between these top 2 priorities. We must change the way we think about development in Northampton County. We need to embrace the nature of our Shore and allow businesses that fit with that thought process. We need to encourage business and reasonable development.



One way we could preserve the nature of the Shore visually is to adopt landscape guidelines that would ensure no matter what was built, it would have a certain look. We could adopt reasonable restrictions and set what the future development would look like. The look of the Shore could be preserved, and businesses would know up-front what would be required. You incentivize the businesses that come, and build within the guidelines to ensure future, long-term financial stability.

Fauber: Natural open space and farmland are valuable resources. To help preserve these resources, the current board reduced the farm equipment tax rate. In the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) State Outdoor Plan from 2013, Chapter 5 begins with a Quote from Aldo Leopold: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." I am going to add this also from Chapter 5 of the 2013 DCR Plan: "Typically, communities carefully plan and fund 'gray' infrastructure — roads, sewers, utilities and buildings — before development occurs. The same level of investment, public involvement, and planning is needed for green infrastructure, to steer development to suitable areas and encourage preservation of natural resources. Conservation planning identifies and

prioritizes vital natural resources in concert with other community needs ...” Development and the natural environment can coexist in our County with good planning, including keeping commercial growth away from Route 13 and allowing it in and around the existing development in the towns.



Growth on 13 can be directed towards those commercial areas that exist such as Exmore, Nassawadox, Machipongo, Eastville, Cheriton/Cape Charles, and Townsend. Bringing wastewater collection to the commercial areas will promote growth like nothing else. The people of Northampton have always wanted growth, but growth that allows us to keep our natural environment without degrading it. I think you could make the case that we are experiencing that now.

Smith: Finding a balance between business development, maintaining the health of our ecosystem, and protecting our county’s workforce is crucial. As we look towards expanding business diversity, we must ensure that we protect 2 of the Eastern Shore’s most vital industries: aquaculture and agriculture. To protect these industries, their workers, and our ecosystem, I want to ensure that all outsourced companies utilize renewable energy, green technology, and clean business practices. Some examples of green technology that I feel would be easily adaptable and beneficial on the Eastern Shore are solar power and wind energy. While I do want to open avenues for outsourced companies that align with the Eastern Shore’s mission to come, I want to focus most of my efforts on helping local businesses expand and adopt environmentally friendly business practices. Additionally, I hope to increase workforce education and training to our county’s workforce to ensure that local jobs continue to be held by local people.



PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: What can Northampton County do to encourage large businesses, with full-time employment with benefits, to come to the Eastern Shore?

Coker: In the past 4 years I have focused on making Northampton County attractive to all businesses large and small. The County has become very business-friendly and welcoming in our County offices, having installed an entirely new County website, and the County has pushed hard to improve our broadband service and its availability to our citizens. We expect close to 70% of the county will be accessible to broadband by the end of this year, and close to 90% within another 2 years. We have also made a huge capital commitment for upgrades and renovations to improve the physical environment in our schools. We have excellent health service with the new Eastern Shore Rural Health Office in Eastville, a new hospital in Onley, and a

first-class, fully staffed professional EMS team. Finally, this Supervisor has strongly supported our Sheriff and law enforcement professionals, who provide us all with a safe place to live. Most importantly, we did all this with no increase to property taxes. I have seen many new businesses start up in the past 4 years and many telecommuters from large and small companies settle here and work from home. We are looking more and more attractive as we upgrade ourselves to attract even more businesses in the future.

Stubbs: Northampton County needs to change the culture of the County Government from the top down. The change that is needed is to become friendly and helpful in all aspects of County Government. This is not an attack on the current employees at all. The Board of Supervisors must lead this charge and change the culture. Rules, code, regulations, and zoning are necessities in a civil society. The way we explain these is the difference I am suggesting. I would like to encourage the County Departments to become the department that says, ”this is what the code says, and this is what it means. Let me help you find a solution to what you are wanting to do or an alternative that does fit.” Those are the things that will encourage growth and future reasonable development here in Northampton County. I say this as Citizens have told me they would never think to build in Northampton County because before they ask the question they know the answer is “No.” This is what we must change. That is the starting point. The follow-up is finding the right incentives to encourage the business and ensure future tax revenues from the entity long-term.



Fauber: The southern half of the County has become a tourist destination, and the rest of the County will benefit from their prosperity. As this trend continues, capital will be generated and utilities, especially wastewater collection and treatment, can be brought to the areas where commercial development is desired. It has been shown time and time again that the areas that have wastewater collection prosper and grow, while those without tend to lag behind. During my service to the County, I have seen that if you don’t make the hard decisions and move forward, it is left for the next generation to make the decisions and pay for the improvements that should have already been completed.

Smith: I believe that there are many steps Northampton County can take to encourage large businesses and corporations to do business on the Shore. First, it is important to continue developing safe, modern infrastructure that attracts businesses and patrons. We can also attract businesses by providing them with fair monetary and social incentives. Lastly, I think it is essential to highlight the many resources that the Eastern Shore has to offer and draw attention to potential partnerships with local businesses that will prove beneficial to all.

REGULAR CONSTITUENT MEETINGS:

All candidates at every CBES Candidate Forum are asked this question: If you are elected, will you schedule regular Town Hall meetings with your constituents?



Coker: This is something I did until the pandemic hit. Dave Fauber and I actually started hosting joint Town Halls in alternating District locations to get more people to attend, solicit more of their input, and to allow them to ask more questions and hear more answers on how our County is doing. I enjoy meeting with my constituents very much, and I truly hope to continue this when times are a little safer to meet in large groups.

Stubbs: This is something I am passionate about. I get very frustrated with politicians that get elected and then move forward in their term with the idea that you elected them to make all the decisions. Elected officials are elected to represent the people. I would strive to ensure I represent my district, bringing their voice and thoughts to the decisions that must be made throughout the length of the term. Regu-

lar constituent meetings, Town Hall-type meetings, phone calls, letters, emails, and talking to District 1 residents would be the foundation of my serving the district. I do understand that there will never be one voice and one answer. I will always listen to all sides that want to be heard and put my District 1 first and work to make the lives of all Citizens of Northampton County better.

Fauber: I attend the monthly meetings of the Cheriton Town Council on a regular basis. I can and do meet with the public there. Or call me at (757) 695-1025.

Smith: Throughout my life, I have seen the Eastern Shore change drastically in ways I could have never imagined. But one thing has remained constant: how much I love and care about the people in my community. Hosting regular Town Hall meetings is my number one priority because I prioritize transparency and strengthening community bonds. It is my duty to represent and advocate on behalf of my constituents. However, I cannot do that job alone. I will need to hear the concerns, suggestions, and needs of all my constituents to make representative, positive change. To maximize community outreach and ensure that everyone’s voice is heard, I plan to hold bimonthly hybrid meetings that allow us to have these important conversations in person and virtually.

Vote by mail or in person, before or on Election Day, November 2

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore
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