



**Chapel Hill - Carrboro NAACP
2019 Council/Alderman Candidate Questionnaire**

Please type out your responses in full below; take as much space as you need to answer the question in full. We thank you in advance for your participation.

Full Name:	Matthew Patrick Clements
Age/Race/Gender (with preferred pronouns):	46 / Human Being / He / Him
Occupation/Title/Retired:	IT Support
Position sought:	Carrboro Alderman
Headshot Photograph (published with your questionnaire responses):	

Background

1. Please provide an overview of your local civic leadership/organizational affiliations. What specific insights into our local community have you garnered from this service work?

I have extensive experience volunteering with local non-profits (NC Torch Run for Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House, TABLE NC) and been active with the Durham/Orange County Libertarian party and the LPNC Executive Committee

2. What has motivated you to run for the office you seek?

I want to serve the residents and citizens of Carrboro. In particular I want to ensure that government does not pick and choose winners and losers with funding and or licensing laws.

3. Have you attended the Racial Equity Institute (REI) training or any other racial equity trainings in the past three years? (Note: This training is not the same as diversity or cultural competence training.)

No I have not - I had not heard of this training. I would be happy to register and attend.

- If you have, what was the most impactful aspect of the experience?
- If you have not, if elected, do you commit to register and attend this type of training?
- Describe instances or situations in which you have applied racial equity frameworks in your work.

Housing Affordability and Local Taxation

4. What strategies do you support for increasing the supply of affordable housing in Chapel Hill/Carrboro?

Utilize the bond allocations to incentivize construction of affordable, non-public housing. Remove zoning restrictions to allow duplex, condo, apartments, trailer parks, etc.

5. Do you have specific ideas on how to make affordable housing, both rental and owned (and especially housing accessible to transit) available to people who work and provide essential services in our town?

Stop talking about the problem and taking money from developers and actually do something.

6. How can we better engage residents of public housing in municipal governance?

Provide excellent service to public housing residents. The government does a pretty terrible job providing service and support for tenants. Government should not be involved with management of 'public' housing.

7. What initiatives or changes in existing policy would you support to make it possible for seniors to "age in place"? How can the town support more affordable assisted-living options?

Help non-profits to provide services and support for seniors.

8. In what ways would you like to see our town's tax base diversified? How should we move towards that?

Stop relying on 50% of assessed property - diversify the tax base by being more recognisant of business needs and reduce codes and restrictions on business.

9. How should the town address future possible displacement of residents of mobile home parks?

ABBy rezoning other property to allow mobile homes

10. What is your position on the Rosemary Street Vision and its impact on the Northside neighborhood?

Chapel Hill has not fulfilled their promises to the Rogers Road neighborhood and appears to feel the same way about Northside.

11. How can the town address the pressures of rising regional population growth, increased student population, and rising land prices in ways that do not disproportionately negatively impact communities of color and low-income neighborhoods?

Fair and equitable zoning. Realize that 'redlining' effects still exist today.

Transportation, Infrastructure and Environmental Justice

12. What can the town do to make public transportation function better for low-income workers, hourly workers, senior citizens and the disabled?

- Describe your own public transportation usage; in what ways has your use of public transportation informed your perspective on our present system?

Since we subsidize our public transport we should make sure that the schedules, services and quality stay high. I personally use our bus system and bike paths whenever possible.

13. Define “environmental justice” as it relates to our community. Do you see any model environmental justice work being undertaken locally?
- Describe how you believe a racial equity framework should be applied to new sustainable infrastructure or greenway projects?
- All neighborhoods deserve the same level of amenities. No neighborhoods should be written off for pollution or environmental impact.

Policing

14. How would you work to ensure improved relationships between citizens and law enforcement? What suggestions do you have to increase diversity (by race, class and gender) in our police department?

Support community oriented policing. Ensure that ALL citizens are treated fairly and equitably. Ensure that statistics on racially motivated searches or interactions are kept accurate. Eliminate the school to prison pipeline. Remove SRO officers from schools. Law Enforcement is not needed to provide discipline to students.

15. Do you support citizen review of police departments? Why or why not? What is your position on citizen review of the UNC police department?

Yes - citizens should ensure fair public services to all residents. Police unions have too much power to curtail investigations.

16. [If a candidate for Chapel Hill Town Council] What is your present understanding of the co-jurisdictional authority of the Chapel Hill Police and the UNC Police?
- What is your assessment of the current relationship between the two entities?
 - What responsibility should the Town of Chapel Hill ultimately bear for the conduct of UNC-Chapel Hill campus police on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus?
 - Do you feel it is important that the public know the specifics of the co-jurisdictional relationship between the two departments? If so, how do you propose to engage the community on the matter?

17. [If a candidate for Carrboro Board of Alderman] What is your assessment of the town’s response to the racial profiling by the Carrboro Police Department as outlined in the recent Dr. Frank Baumgartner study on race and policing?

I applaud Carrboro for working on ensuring fair and equitable law enforcement. I do not support any violations of citizens 4th or 5th Amendment rights.

Business and Labor

18. What more can our town do within its jurisdictional authority to promote living wages?
- Promote private living wage certification.

19. What do you believe are the main reasons or barriers as to why people of color are not attracted to Chapel Hill/Carrboro to start (or relocate) a business?

Licensing, high taxes, lots of red tape/regulations, high cost of entry.

20. What are the existing governmental policies or programs that harm or promote business development for entrepreneurs and/or people of color?

Government should not pick and choose winners or losers via licensing or any restrictions on business ownership.

Demography and Engagement

21. In what ways can local governance better promote student engagement?

- What are you doing to engage the student community in your campaign?

Reaching out to student groups, op eds in the Daily Tar Heel.

- What should be the role of local elected officials in engaging with student-lead, anti-racist organizing on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus?

Listen and learn. The State Assembly has curtailed any local discussion of removing Confederate memorials - that has to be overturned. The speech from Julian Carr at the unveiling of Silent Sam showcases the fact it was a monument to the 'Lost Cause' during the Jim Crow era.

22. Assess the town's response to shifting demographics in our community. In what ways can the town improve access to services and communication generally with non-native-English-speaking populations?

- How can our town do a better job of welcoming immigrants to our community without creating tensions with other underserved communities?

Treat everyone with the same respect, dignity and fairness.

23. How would you characterize our town's readiness to ensure a full and accurate count in the upcoming census? How can our municipal government increase citizen participation?

Past the first question - how many people reside at the residence I feel that the census does not need any more answers. We need an accurate count of RESIDENTS, not CITIZENS.

Matters of State-Level Jurisdiction

24. How should municipalities like ours express our values or policy positions in matters which are generally the domain of the state legislature (e.g., living wage policy, immigration policy, reproductive rights, etc.)?

By making statements and discussing these topics especially when Raleigh attempts to mandate less local control over many items.