

★ East Spencer Board of Aldermen ★

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On the issues...

What is the biggest challenge facing East Spencer?

What would be your top priority if elected?

Why should voters elect you?

Rosa Burris

Age: 53
Address: 113 Shaver St.
Background: Grew up in Charlotte. Former owner of Ma Burris' Soul Food Takeout in Salisbury. Currently a technology analyst for Wachovia, where she has worked for two decades.



High water bills and vacant houses. "I feel we should do something, come up with some type of plan, program or something to actually put into operation for getting these houses sold instead of rented out," she said. "I feel if they would buy the house, they would put more pride in taking care of it."

To help attract more business. She and her husband plan to open a restaurant. She also wants to use her knowledge of technology to help the town's youth.

"I'm willing to get out here and help. Whatever needs to be done, I'm willing to do it. I'm willing to volunteer ... to get out here, and let's fix our community up."

Tammy Corpening

Age: 44
Address: 322 Adams St.
Background: Member of East Spencer Board of Adjustments, Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization. Chaired East Spencer Community Watch Program.



She said town officials must address water bills because "we have to get more people to want to live here, and with the high cost of water bills, I can't imagine how we're going to do that effectively, at least good, solid citizens that are really going to care about how they live and take care of their property."

She wants to find out why residential water bills are so high in East Spencer. Also among her priorities would be to renovate the town's park, build a community center and reopen the town pool.

"One of the things that I've found is that I love where I live. ... I do believe it can be a vibrant and fun and safe place to live."

Phronice Johnson

Incumbent
Age: 57
Address: 1231 Butler St.
Background: Has served eight years on Board of Aldermen. Has an associate degree in business from Forsyth Technical Community College.



High water bills. "Once we got the water system pipes replenished, for some reason I thought water bills were going to do down. That's not happened," she said. "How we're going to conquer it I don't know ... but there's some unanswered questions that we've got to get to the bottom of."

"We are a town who is really struggling financially, and it seems that our budget is always depleted some way or another," she said. "My top priority right now is to work on having money in the general fund and not always spending all of it."

"I feel like I have the experience, and I'm dedicated to the town." She said she was encouraged to run by residents and other town officials who "thought that my voice needed to be heard for another four years."

Titus King

Age: 44
Address: 108 Railroad Ave.
Background: Served on the Board of Aldermen from 2001 to 2005. North Rowan High School graduate.



Getting town officials "to get together regardless of what their differences is and do the right thing for citizens and not do things for their own benefit and deal with the water ... and quit selling folks out,"

Reducing water bills is his highest priority, and he said that if he is elected, he will be one of only two aldermen who feel that way. The other, he said, is Carlton Ellis. "And other aldermen do not want to back him up, none of them."

"If people allow me to do what the Lord has put in me to do, I'll do all I can to help them and not sell them out. There will be no back room deals if I'm elected."

John Rustin

Incumbent
Age: 84
Address: 307 Division Ave.
Background: Served as mayor East Spencer in 1990-91. Has served as alderman since 2001. Former town police chief.



The high cost of water. "We're losing residents because of water bills," he said. "... If I'm elected this time, I'll get to the bottom of the action and know where we're at."

Water and housing. "We're negotiating with Salisbury real close on the water system, on the bills, the price and all that, the rates."

"I've got the town at heart. We've got so many people running, they're running for the wrong reasons. ... I'm not getting out there complaining about the town. I'm running for upgrading the town."