

Candidates for 38th District State Rep. Answer Tough Questions

Written by Jessie Williams
Tuesday, October 23, 2012

With early voting for the November 6th State & Federal General Election in full swing, the *Macon County Chronicle* distributed a questionnaire to candidates running for the position of 38th District State Representative.

The elected candidate will represent Macon, Clay, Pickett, Scott and part of Fentress counties.

The following are the answers to those questions submitted by Republican candidate Kelley Keisling and Democratic candidate David Harper.

Candidate: Kelly Keisling (R)

What do you consider your qualifications for serving as State Representative for the 38th District?

Having grown up in the district I know the region and the values that its citizens appreciate, which I believe is why I was elected to my first term in 2010. I have leadership experience prior to my current office as Pickett County Executive and I have also been a proud small business owner in the area since 1985.

If elected, what goals do you hope to accomplish in your district?

If re-elected, I hope to continue to help recruit businesses to our area by showcasing what the Upper Cumberland region has to offer in terms of workforce and infrastructure. My first two years in office were highlighted by pro-business tax cuts and reductions in commerce hampering regulations. I'm excited for the opportunity to build on those successes and continue help the 38th District grow.

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If elected, what goals do you hope to accomplish for Macon County?

After redistricting this past year, I was fortunate to add Macon County to the list of counties I will potentially represent in the Tennessee State House. I see Macon County as a very important part of my newly redrawn district because of the potential for developments and the eagerness for growth expressed by local leaders.

What message would you like to convey to voters?

I feel that I have been a part of the most pro-business and successful General Assembly that the state house has ever seen. We have wonderful leaders that I work closely with to help move Tennessee in the right direction. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the voters of Macon County this summer and I am excited for the chance to represent you in Nashville.

Candidate: David Harper (D)

What do you consider your qualifications for serving as State Representative for the 38th District?

I have a proven record of managing a large southern region for Bayer Corporation with budget responsibility more than 100 million dollars. This included sales, technical support and product development. The team I managed consisted of 12 and served 11 states.

I served in every office and including International President of the Society of Plastic Engineers, an organization of educators and professionals.

I have served the Democratic Party as County Chair, State Executive Committee, Vice Chair Middle Tenn. National Convention Delegate, and Elector for the 6th. District.

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I feel that my record of accomplishment is clear when it comes to listening, understanding and solving problems. I have established agendas, run meetings and accomplished positive results with a multitude of competing interest.

If elected, what goals do you hope to accomplish in your district?

If elected I hope to help education and educators, both active and retired. Improve highways as well access to the main roads. I will also reduce sales tax on food by 3.75% in order to help the people that spend a large part of their income on food. Promote and practice the idea of working on our rural needs rather than being a rubber stamp to D.C. think tanks.

If elected, what goals do you hope to accomplish for Macon County?

If elected I will be like a nagging person about Hwy. 10 and other Macon County issues. While it must be acknowledged this office covers 5 counties having a local that understands local interest is a huge advantage. As a lifelong conservationist, I am interested in protecting our air and water. I feel that we can promote tourism and grow jobs while protecting the beauty of the county. I feel we need to treat our neighbors as we want to be treated.

What message would you like to convey to voters?

I strongly feel that we have the greatest form of government ever. It will not function if we the people do not participate in the process. It is not selfish to vote for your own interest but foolish to stand back and throw rocks at those that try to improve our community.