

County board incumbents win

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RUTHERFORDTON
— Three Rutherford

County commissioners who are now serving their fourth years of their current terms of office, chose to seek re-election.

Board Chairman Bryan King had no opposition at all. Two of his colleagues, Vice Chairman Alan Toney and Commissioner Michael Benfield both handily defeated primary challengers on Tuesday, and have no Democrat opposition. All three will serve another four-year term after completing the current term.

According to unofficial results, Michael Benfield defeated Jason Toney, 4,408 to 3,085; while Alan Toney defeated his challenger Julie Hartzog, 5,341 to 2,325.

Alan Toney says he did the typical campaign tasks, of putting out some signs across the county, and tried to explain to the citizens some of the things the current county commissioners are doing.

“I participated in all three of the candidate forums that were held here,” Alan Toney said Wednesday. “I thought it was important to do that, to talk directly to groups of people.”

He believes that, in general, the public is satisfied with the current county commissioners.

Having served during the difficulties of the recent Covid-19 pandemic, Alan Toney believes the public appreciates steady leadership.

“I appreciate the support the people have shown,” he continued. “I’m looking forward to continuing to work for the people, to make Rutherford County the best it can be for all of us.”

King said he, too, is thankful for the support the public has shown.

“I am grateful for the confidence our county citizens have placed with this Board of Commissioners,” he said. “Serving our community in a professional, diplomatic manner helps provide for the highest level of public trust in our governing board. Public trust is our

greatest asset as elected representatives, which has to be protected and preserved for the benefit of our county and our elected offices.”

Though the commissioners don’t have to be concerned with election changes come November, King says the board has much work to do.

“You can’t sit on your laurels. The citizens want us to continue doing our work,” he continued. “Serving as a commissioner in rural North Carolina can be challenging at times, but this board has a very good, positive working relationship. This board will continue to work responsibly and with integrity.”

Efforts to reach Benfield before Wednesday’s deadline were unsuccessful.



Bryan King



Michael Benfield



Alan Toney