

## Reasons Why We Need To Elect Our Buncombe County Commissioners by School District Boundaries.

- Buncombe County has outgrown any one person's ability to represent the entire county.
- Representative government is the most responsive to people's needs.
- While the cost of a campaign built around radio, TV, and newspapers won't be reduced, the emphasis can be shifted to community campaigning: i.e. church functions, civic functions, handshaking in the local shops and gathering places, door to door visits and neighborhood phone calls.
- The county is not well served when the commissioners live just a few neighborhoods. During each election cycle for the last 30 or more years the Buncombe County Commissioners have lived in the city of Asheville or a municipality and most districts have NEVER had a commissioner. In other words, the city runs the county.
- Different districts have different needs. One cannot understand these needs unless they spend time in a particular district.
- District elections would reduce voter apathy and enhance community spirit and feelings of belonging.
- New blood could AFFORD to come into the political realm.
- District elections decrease the response time in addressing the citizens' complaints and issues. (The solution is as close as your neighbor.)
- With at-large elections, the political parties have failed in providing new ideas to our current problems.

- Our legislators, who are elected by districts, pass many laws and spend large amounts of tax dollars. It works for them and it will work for Buncombe County Commissioners.

The February 2002 issue of *Governing*, the magazine of states, cities, and counties, rated the 40 best-governed units of government in the United States. Thirty six of them held some form of election by district. Mecklenburg County was one of the forty rated. At this time, there are NO COUNTIES WEST OF MECKLINBURG that have district elections. Isn't it time the western part of our state comes into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

(Interview in the Mountain Express, April 26, 2000)

Democrats For County Commission

Candidates compete for primary votes

By Margaret Williams | [mwilliams@mountainx.com](mailto:mwilliams@mountainx.com)

The county “may need to think seriously about district elections” says Commissioner Bill Stanley, “to better represent rural voters. I was opposed to it at one time: When (former State Sen.) Jess Ledbetter (a republican) proposed it, we’d have had just one Democrat Commissioner, the way he drew the districts. But it could work, if the Board of Commissioners were enlarged. Right now, you only have to “count to three” to get something done.”