

2010 RAVEN SOCIETY CANDIDATE POSITION SURVEY

Please feel free to attach as many pages as are necessary to include your complete answers.

1. **Linda Jo Dees** **Phone: 995-0023**
589 Disco Loop Road
Friendsville
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2. Website: **None**

3. For which office are you running? **County Commission – 7B**

4. What is your professional background and current occupation?

RN, taught college nursing, have been a substitute teacher, U.S. Army

5. Please list high school(s) attended and any higher education with degrees earned, if any.

**Oak Ridge H.S. 1968 BSN & MSW 74 & 75 Medical College of Ga
Ed.D 2005 Curriculum & Instruction, Higher Education**

6. List professional, governmental, community service or other relevant organizational affiliations you have maintained within the past 10 years. List approximate dates of service.

I have been active in the American Association of University Women. I have been a volunteer for the Adult Education Center. I was a major with several years in progressive leadership roles.

7. Please comment on how your own background and skills would assist you as an officeholder.

My nursing and military experience have enabled me to make informed decisions, maintain my leadership abilities while never compromising my ethics.

8. The Raven Society Mission Statement is at the top of this page. Do you support this mission? Why or why not? If elected, what will you do in support of this mission?

Ensure that development is focused on maintaining Blount as a beautiful rural area. Request impact statement for new development.

9. What do you see as the three most critical issues facing Blount County? Being as specific as possible, please tell us how you will address each of these issues.

Homelessness – address whether caused by chronic homelessness or due to the economy. Assess the possibility of using abandoned buildings for temporary homeless families, as most shelters cannot accommodate families. Provide job training and case management for homeless families.

Jobs – look at bringing in companies that provide “green jobs” offer tax break for 1 year while company gets established.

Education – preventing high school dropouts – work closely with school board officials to develop means to prevent teens from dropping out of school. Combine school with real life job training, already available in limited form.

10. Rapid development in Blount County has implications for the County budget, as well as for our air and water quality, scenic heritage and community character. If elected, what principles would guide your decisions regarding growth and development?

Air and water quality need to be priority in any development and ensure that individual property rights are maintained unless safety is an issue.

11. Do you support the extension of the Pellissippi Parkway (PPE) from Old Knoxville Highway (SR 33) to US 321?

a. **No.**

b. Please explain *why* you support or oppose the extension, including any statistics or studies you may know of which support your opinion.

I believe it displaces families who have had the land for years, destroys the rural atmosphere, and will increase pollution problems, water and air.

12. If the PPE is eventually built, how will you address the development pressures this potential new road will bring, including impacts on Blount County's secondary roads, schools, public services, air and water quality?

I have full hope it will not be built. Try to minimize secondary roads. Try to preserve as much green space as possible.

13. Which, if any, of the proposals presented by the Growth Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) would you recommend using to raise funds to purchase and preserve green space in the rural parts of the county?

Follow the recommendations of the Blount County Health Initiative and continue addressing air quality, water quality and land use.

14. If elected, please describe how you would incorporate the Five Guiding Policies of the county's Policies Plan into your own decision-making process.

I will focus on the first policy – new developments and subdivisions should ensure that green space with tree and parks be incorporated into the construction. Use a “hamlet” design for smaller developments.

15. What is your vision for Blount County in 20 years?

Incorporate more “green” businesses. Use the “hamlet” design for new development. Improve both water and air quality by developing public transportation.