

# 2019 Voters' Guide

## Town of Morrisville



# 2019 Voters' Guide

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5! The Chamber has created a Voters' Guide to help you learn more about the candidates running to represent the Town of Morrisville.

This guide focuses on key issues facing our business community, and all candidates who will represent the Town of Morrisville were asked to participate. The answers of those who responded are compiled in this guide in alphabetical order and have not been altered in any way. We encourage you to not only seek out information regarding the candidates, but to also share this guide with your colleagues, family and friends voting in Morrisville.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information

# Important Dates

- Oct. 11, 2019: 5 pm – Voter Registration Deadline for November Municipal Election
- Oct. 16 - Nov. 4, 2019 – Early Voting
- October 29, 2019: 5:00 pm – Absentee by Mail Request Deadline for November Municipal Election
- Nov. 5, 2019: 6:30 am - 7:30 pm – Election Day

# Other Helpful Voter-Related Information

- Early voting begins on Wednesday, Oct. 16, and ends on Friday, Nov. 1
- Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5 and polls are open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm
- For additional information, please visit the Wake County Board of Elections website for voter tools such as checking your voter registration information, finding your polling location, viewing your sample ballot, or checking the status of your absentee by mail ballot.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information

# Candidate Information

## Morrisville Town Council District 1

- Anne Robotti
- Michael Schlink

## Morrisville Town Council District 2

- Donna Fender
- Matt Joseph
- Kristen Richardson

## Morrisville Town Council District 3

- Liz Johnson

## Morrisville Town Council At-Large

- Satish Garimella

# Anne Robotti

Morrisville Town Council  
District 1

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# Anne Robotti

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 1

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Anne Robotti

**Campaign Website:** [www.annerobotti.com](http://www.annerobotti.com)

**Campaign Email:**

**Campaign Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/annerobotti4morrisville](https://www.facebook.com/annerobotti4morrisville)

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#### Voters' Guide Questions:

Why are you running for office?

Candidate did not provide response

What will be your top priority if elected and how will you go about achieving this priority?

Candidate did not provide response

Besides this elected office, how have you been actively involved in Morrisville community activities?

Candidate did not provide response

Describe your perspective on meeting and/or balancing the needs of the business community with that of residents?

Candidate did not provide response

What is your understanding of the role of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and how would you advocate for the needs of businesses in Morrisville?

Candidate did not provide response

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# Anne Robotti

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 1

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?

Candidate did not provide response

If the Town's current level of funding were to stay in place for the next four years, how would you prioritize spending?

Candidate did not provide response

If elected, how will you engage and build trust with constituents and stakeholders?

Candidate did not provide response

Morrisville is a desirable place for future development. How will you, as an individual and collectively with other council members and town staff, address and support development rights and interests?

Candidate did not provide response

Do you support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment? Why or why not?

Candidate did not provide response

Please rank the following priorities with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important:

- Community Health
- Economic Strength
- Education
- Affordable Housing
- Growth and Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Social and Economic Vitality

Candidate did not provide response

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# Michael Schlink

Morrisville Town Council  
District 1

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Michael Schlink

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 1

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Michael “Mike” Schlink

**Campaign Website:** [www.michaelformorrisville.org](http://www.michaelformorrisville.org)

**Campaign Email:** [mikeformorrisville@gmail.com](mailto:mikeformorrisville@gmail.com)

**Campaign Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/re-elect-michael-schlink-for-morrisville-150048548404641/](https://www.facebook.com/re-elect-michael-schlink-for-morrisville-150048548404641/)

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#### Voters' Guide Questions:

##### Why are you running for office?

Why are you running for office? In our town and in Wake County, it is a time of rapid change and growth, and the issues we are facing are complex and requiring a collaborative approach to solve and manage them both in the short and the long term. I have a history and a track record of doing just that. I am running for reelection to continue to make positive differences in moving Morrisville forward. Service is part of my personal fabric.

##### What will be your top priority if elected and how will you go about achieving this priority?

Since I was first elected in 2011, our town and this region have undergone tremendous growth and we have mostly benefited from it. I will continue to work collaboratively with my colleagues, other local leaders, neighborhoods, and residents to not just to find consensus, but to set consensus. I will continue to bring everyone to the table in a fair and transparent process so even when citizens, neighborhoods, and stakeholders disagree; their voices have been heard, considered and appreciated.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Michael Schlink

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 1

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**Besides this elected office, how have you been actively involved in Morrisville community activities?**

Service is part of my personal fabric. I have been active with the local community & government since we first moved into Cary in 1992, including my more than 20 plus years as small business owner in the triangle, my support and involvement with Wake County Schools and county government.

**Describe your perspective on meeting and/or balancing the needs of the business community with that of residents?**

I have pulled together the town council and public on some bold ideas and visions: i) for the town to receive millions of county sports tourism dollars for our Parks and national sport venues, ii) adding millions of dollars to the town annual revenues through a special census, iii) adding affordable housing in our 2013 Transit district development plans, iv) helping pass a successful 2014 Bond Referendum that included the McCrimmon Extension, and v) in identifying our town's need to take action on a strategic planning document.

**What is your understanding of the role of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and how would you advocate for the needs of businesses in Morrisville?**

Main goal of the Chamber is to promote interest in local business possibilities. I have a history and a track record of doing just that.

**How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?**

As a former small business owner and Army officer, I learned good leadership starts with building and maintaining honest relationships with buy-in from all parties, I will continue to do that. Both the Triangle Apartment Association and Raleigh Regional Association of REALTORS have endorsed my 2019 reelection campaign.

**If the Town's current level of funding were to stay in place for the next four years, how would you prioritize spending?**

Focused and leverage town resources, prioritizing needs over wants, using more open and transparent input. I work to move people towards consensus through getting buy-in to major goals in order to get positive things accomplished.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Michael Schlink

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 1

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**If elected, how will you engage and build trust with constituents and stakeholders?**

I have good working relationships with everyone on the council and have demonstrated that I can work with whoever is on the council and; officials at the county and state levels.

**Morrisville is a desirable place for future development. How will you, as an individual and collectively with other council members and town staff, address and support development rights and interests?**

Please refer to my campaign site; <https://michaelformorrisville.org/>

**Do you support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment? Why or why not?**

Yes, the current town incentives I helped craft and support.

**Please rank the following priorities with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important:**

- Community Health
- Economic Strength
- Education
- Affordable Housing
- Growth and Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Social and Economic Vitality

As stated before; in our town and in Wake County, it is a time of rapid change and growth, and the issues we are facing are complex and requiring a collaborative approach to solve and manage them both in the short and the long term. Prioritization depends on the powers of leveraging state, federal or development funding with our towns, balanced with what is realistically possible. I will continue to move Morrisville and our region forward together, balancing growth, mitigating our traffic congestion and improving on how government meets our citizens' needs.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](https://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Donna Fender

Morrisville Town Council  
District 2

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Donna Fender

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Donna Fender

**Campaign Website:** [www.donnafender.com](http://www.donnafender.com)

**Campaign Email:** [contact@donnafender.com](mailto:contact@donnafender.com)

**Campaign Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/pg/donnafender4morrisville](https://www.facebook.com/pg/donnafender4morrisville)

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#### Voters' Guide Questions:

##### Why are you running for office?

I am running, because I love Morrisville. My son and I have lived here seven years, and we love Morrisville's small-town feel, its diversity, and its parks and greenways that connect our community. Morrisville does have some challenges and I want to ensure that the town's rapid development does not destroy the very qualities that make Morrisville a beautiful place to live. Development needs to be strategic and sustainable without taking away from the town's beauty and quality of life.

##### What will be your top priority if elected and how will you go about achieving this priority?

My top priority is to modify the Unified Development Ordinance to require a larger percentage of trees retained on future developments. In addition, I want to require larger setbacks and buffer along the road for all future developments. Both of these modifications is to enhance the look and feel of the town and thus beautifying the community.

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# Donna Fender

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**Besides this elected office, how have you been actively involved in Morrisville community activities?**

I have volunteered at my son's school, Sterling Montessori through the 9 years he attended including coaching the Middle School Math Counts team. I am chair of the Kitts Creek HOA Landscape Committee which provides guidance to the HOA board on the subdivision's landscaping contract and supports the residents on landscape issues with the goal of beautifying the neighborhood. I have volunteered at our precinct polling location for four years and am the Vice Chair officer for the 05-07 precinct within the Wake Co. Democratic Party.

**Describe your perspective on meeting and/or balancing the needs of the business community with that of residents?**

I understand the needs of the business community and the residents should be balanced for the town to be a growing, vibrant community. It is a symbiotic relationship. Residents need the business community for jobs, services, and amenities. Businesses need educated, diverse residents for employees and customers.

**What is your understanding of the role of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and how would you advocate for the needs of businesses in Morrisville?**

The Morrisville Chamber of Commerce represents the business community, lobbies for federal and state grants, and provides professional development for the business community. I would advocate for the needs of businesses by first, listening to concerns and issues. Then by talking with town staff and doing my own research. I like to have all the facts and understand the big picture before deciding on any issue.

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# Donna Fender

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?**

From attending the Candidate Orientation session, I learned that the business community and I share many of the same concerns with regards to the lack of affordable housing and the need for having a diverse, talented workforce. The town council and the Chamber should partner and look for opportunities where the two can collaborate on these initiatives, as I am sure they already do. I would partner with the Chamber in advocating for adequate funding for school construction and maintenance, teacher pay, more nurses, and additional bus drivers. I would partner with the Chamber in finding the developers willing to work with the town to provide affordable housing whether that be single-family detached housing, apartments, or some other avenue.

**If the Town's current level of funding were to stay in place for the next four years, how would you prioritize spending?**

I would prioritize spending on road infrastructure and creating public transportation options. Morrisville is 20 years behind in providing the roads needed for our town's rapid rate of growth.

**If elected, how will you engage and build trust with constituents and stakeholders?**

I will continue engaging with residents through coffee chats and encourage constituents to reach out through emails or phone calls in order to maintain open dialogue with all stakeholders. As a town council member, it is essential to listen and "to seek first to understand then to be understood." It is especially important to listen to ALL residents and not just residents from one particular neighborhood or socioeconomic status.

**Morrisville is a desirable place for future development. How will you, as an individual and collectively with other council members and town staff, address and support development rights and interests?**

I will carefully review each permit for its value to the community. I will seek the advice of town staff and the perspective of other council members to ensure I understand all sides. Then I will carefully weigh the development's impact to the community and whether it meets the needs and standards of the community.

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# Donna Fender

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

Do you support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment? Why or why not?

Yes. Using economic incentives to create jobs and income for the town is a worthwhile investment to the future of the town. I would like to see additional investment in tech companies providing products, services, or research in the renewable energy sector, particularly energy storage and electric vehicles.

Please rank the following priorities with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important:

Community Health  
Economic Strength  
Education  
Affordable Housing  
Growth and Sustainability  
Public Safety  
Social and Economic Vitality

1. Public Safety should always be priority 1.
2. Community Health is the foundation on which the rest of the community is built. A community cannot grow or sustain itself if its residents do not have access to healthy food or adequate healthcare.
3. Education - Without education the community cannot accomplish the next four priorities. Businesses need a skilled workforce to exist, then to grow.
4. Affordable Housing - A community where no one can afford to live is not a community. It's a transient hub. A vibrant, healthy community needs affordable housing where families and individuals can rest and play, and close locality allows their income to be kept within the community.
5. Economic Strength provides opportunities for entrepreneurship and new businesses which lead to job creation and money being spent within the community.
6. Social and Economic Vitality - A town should monitor their economic growth to ensure that all communities within a town are thriving and that one group is not thriving at the expense of another group.
7. Growth and Sustainability – The town's growth must be balanced with protecting the environment and enhancing residents' quality of life. If growth is not balanced, the town will destroy the very qualities that attract residents and businesses to the town in the first place.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information

# Matt Joseph

Morrisville Town Council  
District 2

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Matt Jospheh

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Matt Joseph

**Campaign Website:** <http://mattformorrisville.org>

**Campaign Email:** [matt@mattformorrisville.org](mailto:matt@mattformorrisville.org)

**Campaign Social Media:** none

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#### Voters' Guide Questions:

##### Why are you running for office?

I am running because I feel that we have allowed party politics to get in the way of addressing the town's issues and I chose not to seek the endorsement of any political party as I feel the same that Mayor McFarlane (article from News & Observer on August 20, 2019) and others feel about party politics only dividing town councils and impeding the focus on the true issues, the local issues

##### What will be your top priority if elected and how will you go about achieving this priority?

Address the density and congestion issues that we struggle through every day by pushing for road infrastructure expansion and development, including revisiting the Crabtree Crossing Parkway Extension.

##### Besides this elected office, how have you been actively involved in Morrisville community activities?

I enjoy attending all the events that our town puts on with my family, including the town's green days where we collect litter from the streets, as well as the East meets West and other activities. I also have volunteered to be a coach for the town's Park and Recreation teams that my children participated in, as well as served as a volunteer Den Master for a local Cub Scout pack.

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# Matt Joseph

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**Describe your perspective on meeting and/or balancing the needs of the business community with that of residents?**

Part of the reason why I love the town so much is because of all the local businesses that we have here in the town, and I know many citizens feel the same way. We do not have to travel far because we have so many amenities here are our front doors, including great companies to work for in the triangle. The community and business are so entwined with one another, that it's crucially important that all decisions take both in to mind.

**What is your understanding of the role of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and how would you advocate for the needs of businesses in Morrisville?**

The chamber serves as a great conduit for the town council to hear the voice of the business community and what their issues and needs are. I believe that a working relationship between the Chamber and the Town Council is important.

**How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?**

I will leverage the help of the Chamber, as well as engage directly business owners that may be affected by an action or proposal that we are considering in the Town Council, the same as I would with my constituent base of residents.

**If the Town's current level of funding were to stay in place for the next four years, how would you prioritize spending?**

First, I would push for completion of transportation projects that we currently have, to get them done quicker to help alleviate our constant congestion, and to get new projects going. I would also ensure that we are doing our part to ensure that we are focusing on educational priorities such as schools and other initiatives like Wake Tech campus.

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# Matt Joseph

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?**

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**If elected, how will you engage and build trust with constituents and stakeholders?**

The best way to engage and build trust is to meet with and talk with constituents and stakeholders, so I would schedule regular meeting or opportunities to get together and talk. I would push for more community engagement in the Town Council meetings and forums.

**Morrisville is a desirable place for future development. How will you, as an individual and collectively with other council members and town staff, address and support development rights and interests?**

We need to address the density issues that we are already stuck in before we allow more high-density living developments to go up.

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# Matt Joseph

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

Do you support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment? Why or why not?

Yes, depending on what incentives and how reasonable they are. These seem to be very effective in attracting businesses. However, I feel that what Amazon did with their HQ2 initiative was not the right way, to get cities pitted against one another and publicizing it like it was the super bowl.

Please rank the following priorities with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important:

- Community Health
- Economic Strength
- Education
- Affordable Housing
- Growth and Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Social and Economic Vitality

Community Health – 2

Economic Strength – 3

Education – 1

Affordable Housing – 7, we already have MANY apartment complexes in Morrisville Town limits

Growth and Sustainability – 6

Public Safety – 4

Social and Economic Vitality – 5

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# Kristen Richardson

Morrisville Town Council  
District 2

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Kristen Richardson

Morrisville Town Council  
District 2

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Kristen Richardson

**Campaign Website:** [www.electkristenrichardson.com](http://www.electkristenrichardson.com)

**Campaign Email:** [kristen@electkristenrichardson.com](mailto:kristen@electkristenrichardson.com)

**Campaign Social Media:** Facebook: [www.facebook.com/electkristenrichardson.com](http://www.facebook.com/electkristenrichardson.com)  
Instagram: @electkristenrichardson

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## Voters' Guide Questions:

### Why are you running for office?

My husband and I moved to Morrisville six years ago. It's been a wonderful place to start our family and I look forward to raising our two kids here. I've seen a lot of changes and growth in Morrisville in the last six years. With significant growth comes lots of opportunity, along with real challenges. With our location at the heart of the Triangle, we are uniquely situated to capitalize on the growth of our town and region. We need strong leaders who can listen to residents and members of our business community, analyze data and information, and make hard decisions to set us up for success. I want to be part of leading our town into the future as one of the best places to live and work in the Triangle, the state, and the country.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information





# Kristen Richardson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

#### What will be your top priority if elected and how will you go about achieving this priority?

Morrisville's rapid growth over the past several years has resulted in some challenges with ensuring that the town's infrastructure can keep up. If elected, my top priority will be to collaborate with other council members to work on this. I would take a forward-looking approach to make sure we are not only addressing what our residents and businesses need today, but what they will need five and ten years in the future. One way I would do this is to be a strong advocate for our community with the Wake County School Board to ensure we have high-quality public schools available as our population continues to expand. I would also work with my fellow council members to prioritize road projects in the town budget. We need to widen roads, like the current Morrisville Carpenter and Aviation projects; analyze opportunities for future road work needed; and start to investigate and lay the groundwork for other transit options.

#### Besides this elected office, how have you been actively involved in Morrisville community activities?

I am currently serving on the Performance Measures Advisory Committee (PMAC) for the Town of Morrisville. The PMAC is a citizen advisory committee that makes suggestions and recommendations to staff on Town Performance Measures, process improvement projects, and benchmarks.

I am also an active member of the Parkside Elementary PTA where my son is a student.

#### Describe your perspective on meeting and/or balancing the needs of the business community with that of residents?

The business community is an important part of what makes Morrisville such a special place. I have already started meeting with business leaders to understand their thoughts about our town. I am eager to meet with many more from the business community and learn more about what their needs are and how they contribute to the overall great quality of life in Morrisville. I would appreciate the input and insight of the Chamber as well during this process as one of the things they do best is advocate for the business community with the town.

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# Kristen Richardson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**What is your understanding of the role of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and how would you advocate for the needs of businesses in Morrisville?**

The role of the Morrisville Chamber, in large part, is to advocate for the business community with the Town Council. Morrisville's tax base is almost evenly split between residents and businesses which means that only 50% of the town's tax base can vote. The Morrisville Chamber is therefore a crucial conduit between the business community and the Town Council to ensure that their voices are being heard and recognized as decisions are being made. I would enjoy the opportunity to develop relationships with the Chamber staff and would lean heavily on them to understand what the business community in Morrisville needs and wants. I would work very hard to make sure I had a good understanding of how decisions would impact the business community and ensure that their voice is heard and accounted.

**How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?**

One of my goals is to ensure that Morrisville continues to be a place that many people want to live, work and play. The business community plays a large role in all these areas – by providing people with exciting job opportunities, which makes them want to live nearby, and encourages them to spend time and money enjoying all the things Morrisville has to offer. I will work with the business community by getting to know them, which I've already started to do. I'll also listen and try to understand what they need to continue to be successful here. A strong business community helps to make a strong town.

**If the Town's current level of funding were to stay in place for the next four years, how would you prioritize spending?**

In talking with residents and members of the business community, it's clear that infrastructure (specifically transportation) is one of the biggest pain points and biggest needs in Morrisville. Residents want to be able to enjoy the town they live in and be able to get to their jobs easily, and those in the business community want employees to be able to get to and from work easily on a consistent basis. There are several very important road projects in the works that will help all stakeholders, and I think it's important to continue to allocate money to address our roads. I would also like to start addressing our overall transit options and evaluating what we want that to look like in the future as our town, and our region, continue to grow.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Kristen Richardson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**If elected, how will you engage and build trust with constituents and stakeholders?**

I believe that one of the most important ways to build trust is to build relationships and to listen. I have enjoyed having the opportunity to start building relationships with residents and members of the business community over the past few months and would make this a priority if elected. In addition, I believe that being consistent and open with regards to decision making is an important part of building trust. If people know what to expect from you, and can understand your reasoning, even if they don't always agree, it is much easier to have reciprocal trust and respect.

**Morrisville is a desirable place for future development. How will you, as an individual and collectively with other council members and town staff, address and support development rights and interests?**

I believe that one of the best things Morrisville can do right now to support future development is to invest in our infrastructure. We need to ensure that we have things like adequate roads and transportation options so that our residents and businesses can get where they need to go. I want to encourage sustainable and balanced growth that works with developers to put the right things in the right places. The McCrimmon Parkway Extension is a great example of land that is now opened for future development. Morrisville does not have much undeveloped land left, but I'd like to leverage the land we have left for the greatest benefit of Town residents and businesses. I'd also like to work with developers, other council members, and town staff on creating and guiding the vision for Morrisville's Town Center. There are some exciting possibilities here and I think this could be a vibrant, walkable, accessible area for people to gather and appreciate the diversity and inclusiveness of our community.

**Do you support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment? Why or why not?**

I do support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment, specifically the performance-based incentives that are used currently. Incentives are necessary to attract desirable employers that will benefit the Town's resident and overall economic health. I would work to ensure that we get the best outcome for all Morrisville stakeholders by attracting and incentivizing those businesses that would be the best fit and provide the best jobs for our town. Attracting quality businesses that are committed to being an integral part of our community would be a priority for me. A healthy and thriving business community contributes to our overall high quality of life.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Kristen Richardson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 2

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

Please rank the following priorities with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important:

- Community Health
- Economic Strength
- Education
- Affordable Housing
- Growth and Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Social and Economic Vitality

Community Health - 6

Economic Strength - 3

Education - 1

Affordable Housing - 7

Growth and Sustainability - 2

Public Safety - 4

Social and Economic Vitality - 5

I do believe that all these items end up working together and feeding off of each other. As one strengthens, so does the next, and the next, so that positive movement in one area leads to positive movement in others.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information

# Liz Johnson

Morrisville Town Council  
District 3

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Liz Johnson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 3

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Liz Johnson

**Campaign Website:** [www.lizjohnson.org](http://www.lizjohnson.org)

**Campaign Email:** [contact@lizjohnson.org](mailto:contact@lizjohnson.org)

**Campaign Social Media:** Facebook: Liz4Morrisville  
Twitter: @Liz\_Johnson\_MSV  
Instagram: Lizjohn85  
LinkedIn: LizJohnson1

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#### Voters' Guide Questions:

##### Why are you running for office?

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Morrisville District 3 Council Member for the last 20 years. As promised, I always strive to be a dedicated representative of all Morrisville citizens. I am running for my sixth term because I have the knowledge, the leadership skills, and the experience to lead our Council as we continue to address the challenges and opportunities facing Morrisville. I am proud of the work we have accomplished together. Over these 20 years I have helped shape Morrisville as the most welcoming, diverse, and inclusive small town in North Carolina. Our success as a great community is no longer a secret. Morrisville consistently receives accolades from *Best Place to Raise a Family* (2019 Niche) to *Best Place to Live in North Carolina* (2019 USA Today). Our accomplishments are driven by thoughtful vision and hard work. While we have much to be proud of, I am keenly aware that there is more work to be done. Morrisville's location in the heart of the Triangle is a blessing and a challenge. As growth in Morrisville, and to a greater extent in the surrounding communities, continues, we need hard working, open-minded, pragmatic leaders who know how to work together and with our partners across the Triangle. I am that leader. I look forward to continuing our partnership for the next four years. Working together we will continue to make Morrisville a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Liz Johnson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 3

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**What will be your top priority if elected and how will you go about achieving this priority?**

One of my top priorities will be to execute Morrisville's adopted plans (Connect Morrisville Strategic Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Town Center, Comprehensive Transportation Plan,...) many of which were recently updated. Each plan was generated with input from our citizens and includes desired improvements and investments in Morrisville.

**Besides this elected office, how have you been actively involved in Morrisville community activities?**

I am a founding member of the Morrisville Community Fund (MCF), the first philanthropic organization in Morrisville, and I currently serve as President of the Board of Directors. MCF was established in 2011 and to date has awarded 20 grants to nonprofits serving Morrisville families.

In 2011 the Town of Morrisville had a 'Year of Healthy Living' theme. To complement this endeavor, I established the Morrisville Walking Club. The Club is now in its eight year. All are invited to join us to walk a 5K on Morrisville greenways on Saturdays at 8:30am. [www.MorrisvilleWalkers.org](http://www.MorrisvilleWalkers.org)

Pancreatic cancer is a disease that has unfortunately affected our citizens and my family. In 2004 my family and I started the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) Raleigh-Durham Affiliate. I have held several leadership positions and am now the Chair of PanCAN RDU. Since inception our Affiliate has raised over \$2 million.

I make attending Morrisville community activities a priority. I attend many HOA, cultural, school and religious services and events. I have volunteered in our schools as a Morrisville Elementary, Lufkin Road Middle and Green Hope High School PTA member and volunteer, and Cedar Fork Elementary Read to Succeed volunteer.

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# Liz Johnson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 3

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**Describe your perspective on meeting and/or balancing the needs of the business community with that of residents?**

As an elected official in the Town of Morrisville it is my responsibility to understand the needs and concerns of all our constituents. I work diligently to keep current on the issues affecting our constituents today and what may affect them into the future.

Balancing and resolving conflicting needs amongst various contingency groups requires collaboration and compromise. I believe compromise comes from a place of strength. In my experience, strong leaders often find that making simple adjustments can lead to satisfactory and accommodating solutions for all.

**What is your understanding of the role of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and how would you advocate for the needs of businesses in Morrisville?**

The Morrisville Chamber of Commerce's role is to advocate for and advance the interests of its members and is dedicated to the continued prosperity of Morrisville. The Chamber drives economic development and drives new business and job growth.

The Morrisville Chamber of Commerce also partners closely with the Town of Morrisville. The Town contracts with the Chamber to provide a strategy that promotes opportunities for continued economic development. Examples include representing Morrisville's interest with Wake County Economic Development and the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

I commit to continuing our successful partnership to advance our common objectives.

**How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?**

Having already established a strong working relationship with the business community, it is important to continue communicating and sharing our vision and goals. I always strive for common ground and shared interests enabling the success of Morrisville constituencies.

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# Liz Johnson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 3

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

*If the Town's current level of funding were to stay in place for the next four years, how would you prioritize spending?*

If the Town of Morrisville revenues remained flat the first priority would be to fund the base budget. The base budget is the funding needed to keep the Town operating current levels of services (Police, Fire, Public Works,...). Every year the budget is presented with the base budget identified.

*If elected, how will you engage and build trust with constituents and stakeholders?*

Building trust requires establishing respectful relationships built on honesty and personal integrity. I have consistently demonstrated the ability to establish effective relationships and I will continue to do so. I work diligently to foster mutual trust and respect with all stakeholders.

I am proud of the relationship I have with the Morrisville Chamber President and staff, as well as the Chamber membership. I am equally proud of the relationships I have with all our constituent groups (residents, faith community, land owners, small businesses, ...).

I consistently seek input from Morrisville citizens as well as all stakeholders. Being accessible and approachable is a priority for me. I attend Morrisville public input and open-house programs where we seek input and feedback from our constituents. I hold several informal discussion times every month that I publicize in my monthly newsletter. I am also available to meet by appointment.

*Morrisville is a desirable place for future development. How will you, as an individual and collectively with other council members and town staff, address and support development rights and interests?*

I will continue to support efforts to engage the development community to understand their interests. The Developers Council is a great example. Our staff works with the development community to incorporate their needs as appropriate. I am respectful of the rights of North Carolina property owners and what they are permitted to do with their property.

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# Liz Johnson

## Morrisville Town Council

### District 3

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

Do you support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment? Why or why not?

Yes, I support economic incentives when they meet the criteria in the Town of Morrisville's Incentive Policy. I was on Council when we created this policy and have voted in favor of incentive packages over the years.

Please rank the following priorities with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important:

- Community Health
- Economic Strength
- Education
- Affordable Housing
- Growth and Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Social and Economic Vitality

- 5 Community Health
- 3 Economic Strength
- 4 Education
- 6 Affordable Housing
- 1 Growth and Sustainability
- 2 Public Safety
- 7 Social and Economic Vitality

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information

# Satish Garimella

Morrisville Town Council  
At-Large

Visit [morrisvillechamber.org](http://morrisvillechamber.org) for more information



# Satish Garimella

## Morrisville Town Council At-Large

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Satish Garimella

**Campaign Website:** [www.satishformorrisville.com](http://www.satishformorrisville.com)

**Campaign Email:** [satish@satishformorrisville.com](mailto:satish@satishformorrisville.com)

**Campaign Social Media:** Facebook: Satish For Morrisville  
Twitter: @satishgarimella

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### Voters' Guide Questions:

#### Why are you running for office?

This may sound self-serving, but I derive enormous gratification helping others, and, while there are countless opportunities to serve Morrisville outside of elective office, serving on the town council is the best melding between my skills, training, and experience, and the network of productive connections that service on the council provides. As a trained engineer and private-sector executive, I was instrumental in our efforts to secure \$300 million in road-construction and traffic-alleviation projects, and I was influential in the more than \$150 million in private sector business-development investments, leading to more than 4,000 new jobs in Morrisville. I've also cultivated strong relationships with leaders at the state, national, and international levels – which has proven enormously beneficial for many Morrisville residents confronting personal challenges. For example, for one family I was able to expedite the return of a visiting relative from India who, sadly, passed away while here – working with embassy and consulate leaders representing both governments. In another instance, I was able to secure expedited approval by the Veterans Administration to relocate, from West Virginia to Colorado, the ailing 86-year-old father of a Morrisville resident who (the father) served honorably during the Korean War – allowing him to receive specialized life-saving medical care. As you can imagine, this type of public service enhances my life enormously – giving it an uncommon richness of meaning.

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# Satish Garimella

## Morrisville Town Council

### At-Large

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

#### What will be your top priority if elected and how will you go about achieving this priority?

Actually, there are two priorities that exceed a much longer list. The first is securing completion of a middle/high school on recently purchased land. Behind the scenes, I was closely involved in the Parkside Elementary effort, followed by the purchase 44 acres for the additional school – which was part of a campaign pledge that I made four years ago. The second priority is continued road construction to alleviate our traffic congestion problems – which was, also, a campaign pledge four years ago. During those four years, I helped Morrisville gain more than \$300 million in road projects targeting traffic congestion and worked with Morrisville businesses to realize millions more in road efforts as zoning adjustments were sought. Today, our traffic challenges are primarily attributable to those ongoing construction projects, with the remainder slated for the next two years. While we should realize improved traffic flow as current projects are completed, the full compliment will be required in order to address projected growth across western Wake County. And all of this will require upgrading and expanding the town's maintenance and operations capabilities for, both, roads and our infrastructure of parks and greenways.

#### Besides this elected office, how have you been actively involved in Morrisville community activities?

Before and during my time on the town council I have been actively involved on an assortment of committees and efforts at my temple, which led to similar efforts with other faith communities in Morrisville, where many focused on fundraising. I serve on the Friends Of The North Carolina Museum of Natural History Board, which is physically outside of Morrisville but benefits the entire state, including our town and K12 schools. I continue to work closely with our K12 schools on initiatives to supply students with volunteer opportunities (designed to meet Public School System requirements), such as the storm-water drainage documentation effort that I led. For many years, I've served on my community's Master HOA Board, which has produced an assortment of benefits for Morrisville and her residents. For example, the HOA Board sought and secured the North West Park by rallying our community and three others, contributing the land and more than \$400 thousand toward Morrisville's most-visited town park, and we effectively contributed HOA land for a portion of the Willingham Road greenway leading to Parkside Elementary. And our community, which accounts for around 15 percent of Morrisville's population, has expanded health and fitness options (especially, for our youth) with a sports and youth club that I created and continue to lead, and the construction of a new \$500+ thousand pool for exercise and competitive swim meets.

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# Satish Garimella

## Morrisville Town Council

### At-Large

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

**Describe your perspective on meeting and/or balancing the needs of the business community with that of residents?**

Over the past four years, it has been a pleasure working with the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce on this very question. Previously, I mentioned the \$150 million in business-development investment, leading to a remarkable expansion of new and existing businesses in Morrisville. As the Chamber recently documented, this promoted more than 4,000 new jobs in Morrisville. Beyond benefiting Morrisville's tax base and contributing significantly toward enhanced town services, our business community benefits the town in ways that many may not recognize. For example, the economic robustness of our complement of businesses and the diversity of professional skills within its workforce promotes Morrisville's economic vibrancy and resiliency. How? By supporting and expanding residential property values, by an assortment of workforce benefits (such as exercise programs and healthcare coverage), and supplying a stream of professional opportunities for our residents when economic downturns and layoffs arrive or a worker seeks the new challenges accompanying a professional promotion. Thus, please consider me to be a friend of business, because business supports and benefits the town and her residents.

**What is your understanding of the role of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and how would you advocate for the needs of businesses in Morrisville?**

As the Chamber is well aware, I greatly value your work and contributions to the town. I especially value the many connections and introductions to industry leaders you have provided to the council, as we worked to realize smart development of commercial land (i.e., not zoned for residential development). I appreciate your contributions toward achieving the right balance of, both, businesses and quality of life enhancements for Morrisville residents – such that Morrisville is now recognized as one of the best towns in North Carolina to live, work, and raise a family. In fact, many may not fully appreciate your efforts in support of parks and greenways and the town center development, as the Chamber supports Morrisville's workers and families. From my perspective on the council, the Chamber is, both, advocate and resource. You represent the needs and perspectives of business, and you provide the council with information we need in order to make intelligent and informed decisions.

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# Satish Garimella

## Morrisville Town Council

### At-Large

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

#### How will you work with the business community to achieve your goals?

Over the past four years, meetings and discussions with business leaders and the Chamber have proven tremendously productive in defining the needs of, both, business and the town (government and residents). Importantly, I've found that Morrisville's businesses are eager to support the town if our initiatives benefit the workers and families living here. Senior business leaders understand the competitive advantages accompanying a healthy, happy, optimistic, motivated, and creative workforce. In fact, from its founding, this has been the hallmark of RTP as a creative research incubator, and it is the reason so many businesses chose to locate here. I look forward to continuing this close collaboration during my next term on the council.

#### If the Town's current level of funding were to stay in place for the next four years, how would you prioritize spending?

While I don't want to be specific about dollar amounts or spending percentages, I am inclined to over-weight spending on the town's operational infrastructure over the next several years. As we've focused on K12 and road construction (in order to address our most glaring challenges), recent expansion has created the need to update our operational capabilities related to police, fire, EMT, and roads. Those needs vary between the different services. For example, we need to upgrade our vehicle maintenance capabilities across the board – but especially for road crews. We will need to move one fire station and build at least two others, necessitated by road widening and traffic alleviation efforts, as well as recent development in, both, southern and western Morrisville. Importantly, I don't want to be more specific about spending targets because it would be wrong to prejudice my perspective prior to considering proposals from the town manager and her staff of capable experts, gaining input from town residents, etc., and, of course, benefiting from the give-and-take deliberations of my peers on the council. On my web page, I've listed a small number of other priorities (in addition to K12, transportation, and town operations), but my gut tells me that operations will represent the most substantial spending adjustment over the next few years.

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# Satish Garimella

## Morrisville Town Council

### At-Large

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

*If elected, how will you engage and build trust with constituents and stakeholders?*

In general, I think all of us on the town council work hard to be available. The town's website lists our personal phone numbers, and we are so often at town and community gatherings that we coordinate who is going to various events, in order to avoid violating the quorum restrictions applied to elected leaders. As for building trust, the persistent and reliable exercise of character over time was the advice that my parents conveyed when I was young, and I have found no reason to alter or amend that wise counsel.

*Morrisville is a desirable place for future development. How will you, as an individual and collectively with other council members and town staff, address and support development rights and interests?*

Personally, I believe in "Smart Development," which is a form of managed development, and, candidly, I believe that, both, residents and business favor some form of managed development – even if disagreeing on specifics. For example, I doubt whether the management of a software development firm would support the building of an exotic entertainment club next door. Thus, we have zoning ordinances that should (and do) guide Morrisville toward the town her elected leaders envision in the decades to come, and part of that is insuring that all of us realize the pluses of beneficial development and avoiding the detriments of poorly planned development. Unmanaged development, after all, was one of the causes for the traffic congestion that prompted the enormous number of road construction projects we are experiencing today. During my first term on the council, we have enjoyed a great deal of beneficial development, leading to over 4,000 new and well-paying jobs, and I am proud of my supporting role in that effort. I am especially pleased with the positive effects accompanying increased clarity in our zoning ordinances, streamlined approval processes, and our improved engineering standards -- with the Chamber's advice and encouragement throughout. Consequently, this is an enormously important question, for which wisdom and judgment are required to achieve the right balance; otherwise, we risk undermining Morrisville's desirability as a great town in which to live, work, raise a family, AND start or expand a business.

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# Satish Garimella

## Morrisville Town Council

### At-Large

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

Do you support the use of economic incentives for business recruitment? Why or why not?

The NC Commerce Department and The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) works very closely to reward the Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) grants. It is an incentive program that provides cash grants directly to a company, when the company creates jobs and invests in the state. So, our Morrisville Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with Wake county partners works very hard to compete and win these grants for Morrisville. I have been very supportive of this initiative as it is a lifeline to create jobs and development in Morrisville. Morrisville has a unique blend of 50% Commercial and Residential which not many towns have.

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# Satish Garimella

## Morrisville Town Council

### At-Large

*(Voters' Guide Responses Continued)*

Please rank the following priorities with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important:

Community Health  
Economic Strength  
Education  
Affordable Housing  
Growth and Sustainability  
Public Safety  
Social and Economic Vitality

7. Community Health
4. Economic Strength
3. Education
6. Affordable Housing
5. Growth and Sustainability
2. Public Safety
1. Social and Economic Vitality

Well, you can't just ask the question without asking "why?" Social and Economic Vitality is first because the other six rely on it – ask Baltimore and Detroit if, in hindsight, the loss of social and economic vitality promoted declines in the other six. Public Safety is second because that is a core function and obligation of government, as the US Constitution recognizes in the Domestic Tranquility clause. Education is third, because it is our best guarantee of an ever-improving future, in which each generation continues to exceed the previous. Fourth is Economic Strength, because affluence makes worthy aspirations affordable. Growth and Sustainability is fifth, because, over time, maintaining the status quo is nearly impossible, and sustainable growth is preferable to the alternative of decline or entropy. Affordable Housing is sixth and more important than my ranking might suggest, because vibrant economies and businesses need reliable and proximate workers regardless of the employee's earnings, and because many Morrisville residents/workers need affordable housing for fixed-income parents during later-year retirements. Community Health is last because we already have some of the best healthcare in the world through two major academic medical centers (UNC and Duke) and an assortment of excellent alternatives. Lastly, I hope my responses have proven sufficiently clear and detailed. I want the readers to know that it has been my great honor to serve them.

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