

Brenda Howerton

CANDIDATE FOR: County Commissioner

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA: BrendaHowerton.com

 [@Darmont65](https://twitter.com/Darmont65)  [CommissionerBHowerton](https://www.facebook.com/CommissionerBHowerton)



REASON FOR RUNNING FOR OFFICE

I was first elected as a Durham County Commissioner in 2008, and back then, I was the only African American woman on the Durham Board of Commissioners. I served as the Vice Chair of the Commission from 2012 to 2016. I am currently serving in my third, four-year term.

I grew up on a farm in Caswell County and know all about hard work. I moved to Durham in 1986. I am a member of Union Baptist Church. I raised four children, two of whom graduated from Durham Public Schools. I love being a grandmother to my three wonderful grandchildren. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Business Management, Magna Cum Laude, from Shaw University, in Raleigh, North Carolina. From 2017-2018, I was the President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC). This association represents all 100 of North Carolina's county governments before the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government. I am the first Durham County Commissioner to be elected president of NCACC

My work includes being a voice for everyone who lives in Durham for issues like: public education; early childhood education; public health; workforce development; juvenile justice; planning; business; tourism; and every part about life in Durham. I enjoy public service and take my role seriously to make Durham a better place to live, work, and grow up in. I am an individual who tries to see the good in everyone, but I also understand that there are barriers to equal treatment in our society. We must work hard to talk to each other, love each other, and break down the walls of poverty and discrimination.

TOP 3 PRIORITIES

Crime - There are too many random shootings in our community. Oftentimes, culprits are those who come from impoverished communities and they have few skills that afford them the opportunities to gain meaningful employment. Crime prevention funding is a function of Federal grants and local property taxes.

Job Development - Every day in Durham, there are 21,000 high-tech jobs in the Research Triangle, Treyburn Park and throughout Durham. Every day in Durham, we have over 6,000 people looking for work. They seem to go unfilled by our people. Given the abundance of jobs that exist, the key is to give poor people the skills to obtain a job.

Close the Education Gap - Society will only advance if we educate our people. Working with our General Assembly to adequately fund our public schools and pay teachers, reevaluate funding private and parochial schools with taxpayer money. Return the cap on charter schools. Stop the practice of unfair and uneven discipline in schools as well as work harder to identify students of color who are gifted.