

Jillian Riley

Soil & Water Supervisor Candidate



Social Media:

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What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I'm an environmental justice activist who began taking a stand on environmental issues when I was 15 years old. Since then I've been fighting against corporate pollution in order to protect clean water, air, and fight for renewable energy. As an activist I understand the importance of having an advocate on the local level, I'm running to be that advocate.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Sustainability in Schools

A stormwater restoration project was completed at Southern High School. The water runoff from Southern High School property leads into the Chunky Pipe Creek which flows into the Little Lick Creek, leading into Falls Lake. Through the Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan, water reuse ponds were built on the Southern High School property. These ponds provide a natural water source, reducing the dependency on potable water and saves the school \$15,000 per year. Currently, the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District is beginning a similar project at Riverside High School. I will actively support the completion of this project, that puts money back into schools while conserving our natural resources.

Innovation in Agriculture

Currently, industrial hemp farms are leading the nation in economic opportunities and environmental conservation. Hemp is used in food, as CBD oil, and the hemp fibers for clothing. Recent studies show that hemp can help prevent soil erosion and absorb Co2 emission, therefore improving the overall health of air, water, and soil quality. As a Board Supervisor, I will work to support current and new industrial hemp farmers. In particular, I will bring more attention to the racial discrimination that is currently preventing farmers of color from accessing hemp licensures. This is an innovative economic opportunity and I'll make sure that all farmers have the tools and resources needed to start their new business venture.

Protect Clean Water

Clean water is a basic human right that needs to be protected. The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District has the duty of making sure all residents in Durham have clean water for drinking, cooking, showering, and yard or agricultural use. I have worked with communities all across the state of North Carolina to advocate for clean water, fighting corporate pollution, and holding companies accountable for their actions. I did this through protests, petitions, town halls, and speaking at statewide meetings held by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Utilities Commission. Dominion Energy had [proposed a pipeline](#) that would have gone through the American Tobacco Trails in Durham, they have now receded that plan. I [submitted an op-ed](#) in opposition to the proposed pipeline and will continue fighting any proposed projects by the fossil fuel industry for both environmental justice and conservation concerns.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

During quarantine, I've enjoyed spending time outside planting in my flower beds and going on walks. I've also been experimenting with making my own ice cream! So far, I've made strawberry, peach, banana, and cherry flavored ice cream. My family all has their favorite flavor. Lastly, I curl up on the couch with my trouble-making cat named Booger.