



2017

Voter Guide

League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

This Voter Guide features answers provided by the candidates. The questions are from the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. All statements are directly from the candidate, not edited by the League.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.

The information also is on the League's website: <http://lwvmcva.org>.

Christiansburg

Mayor

Town Council

(Three Seats Open)

Mayor

D. Michael Barber
(incumbent)

Roger L. Woolwine

Council

Robert Cord Hall
(incumbent - withdrew)

Steve Huppert (incumbent)

Merissa Sachs

Bradford J. "Brad" Stipes
(incumbent)

Jonathan Taylor

Mayor Biographies



D. MICHAEL BARBER — A Lifelong resident of Christiansburg, dedicated family man, graduate of Christiansburg schools, National Business College, UVA and LSU Graduate Schools of Banking. Member of Town Council since 2000, Mayor since 2014. Experienced member of All Committees of within

the Town. Member NRV Passenger Rail Committee, represents the town on 5 other Boards and Commissions. Over 45 years service to this Community.



ROGER L. WOOLWINE — Born and raised in Christiansburg. Graduated Christiansburg High School in 1964.

Worked at Corning for 10 years and while at Corning worked part-time at Wades Supermarket. Became full time and became manager for Wades after leaving Corning. While working at Wades (for 29 yrs) I attended NRCC for business classes. I managed the store and supervised 100 employees. I am currently working at Duncan Ford and have been with the Duncan group for 18 yrs.

Am a member of ST. Paul UMC where I presided over the Wickham Sunday School for class 18 yrs. I am also a member of the Christiansburg Kiwanis Club. I have coached sandlot football, baseball, and basketball.

Biographies

Town Council Candidates



STEVE HUPPERT —
BBA University of Georgia, MEd Virginia Tech
Resident of Christiansburg for 40 years (Both daughters graduated from CHS
Teacher, Coach and guidance counselor MCSS 32 years
Vietnam veteran, combat platoon leader, 101st Airborne Division
Retired LTC Army Reserve
Member of Christiansburg Town Council for three terms
Member, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 40 years.



MERISSA SACHS —
Resident for last 28 years
Worked for small, large and government entities prior to starting my own business in 1998
Graduated: Babson College, Radford University—Business and Accounting
30 years of business experience allows me to bring a diverse talent to the citizens and businesses
Strong dedication to support charity and our first responders.



BRADFORD "BRAD" STIPES —
Blacksburg High School Graduate—1983
Virginia Tech College of Civil Engineering Graduate—1988
Occupation: Licensed Civil Engineer Specializing in Traffic and Transportation System Design, and Land Use
Community involvements:
Christiansburg Town Council—11 years
Christiansburg Planning Commission—7 years
Christiansburg Parks & Recreation Coach—8 years
NRV Regional Commission—10 years
Belmont Christian Church Member—23 years
Christiansburg Bikeway/Walkway Committee
Town Council—Finance and Street Committees of Council

JONATHON TAYLOR

List the three most important priorities that you would like to address if you are elected.

Candidates for Mayor

D. MICHAEL BARBER — Development of North Christiansburg Regional Park. Located off Pepper's Rd., this 55 acre facility has potential for Christiansburg. Multi-purpose athletic fields will draw competitive events in Soccer, Lacrosse and Softball while blending a large passive recreation area for our citizens to enjoy picnics, family outings, walking, all access playground, Splash Park, sand volleyball court, dog parks. We must phase this project wisely.

Satellite Emergency Services Building on Roanoke St. By constructing this smaller facility (two fire trucks and two ambulances) we will be able to access the Interstate and the

top of Christiansburg Mountain quickly and enable access to the Pepper's Ferry Rd. area safer and quicker than using a highly congested Franklin Street.

Work closely with the Town, business owners and citizens in matters that come before Council. Many issues come before Council each year, Zoning, traffic, noise, land use and variances seem to top the list. We must work with all concerned parties to ensure a reasonable and equitable solution is reached as often as possible. In some case we can and in others we can't, but we must continue to try.

ROGER L. WOOLWINE — Revitalize downtown Christiansburg. Work with small business (retail development). We need a variety of business to create a driving force in our community

Education. Create a rapport with the Montgomery County School Board. Several questions are addressed to the town of Christiansburg concerning the schools but they have to be referred to the County. Need a line of communication so they are directed to the correct person.

Expenses. Let community know if there is a grant that helps pay for improvements. Most citizens do not attend the Town Council meetings and do not receive correct information concerning this issue. They always think the "people" are carrying this expense. AGAIN COMMUNICATION!!!

Candidates for Town Council

STEVE HUPPERT — Spending: Will Rogers once said, "It is easy to spend government money." I have found that to be true while I have been on Council. Spending thousands of dollars occurs frequently. As a senior citizen I am aware of the number of citizens in the town who are on limited budgets. Increased taxes can become a financial problem. Council will need to work to control spending on major expenditures.

Growth: Montgomery County is the fastest growing county in Southwest Virginia (faster than Roanoke County). Christiansburg's population will grow from 22,000 to 30,000 by 2030. Growth is wonderful, but it will be the responsibility of the town to maintain the quality of services for citizens as the population continues to increase The services include traffic, sewage, water, police, fire and rescue squad.

Schools: Currently, many of the schools in Christiansburg need to be replaced or upgraded. Even though the town is not involved with the school system it will be important for the town council to remind the board of supervisors, school board and the superintendent that the Christiansburg schools should have high priority when school funding is considered.

MERISSA SACHS — Create a new position, Business Liaison, within the Town to support small business needs to help facilitate growth and jobs. This position will help navigate small business owners through the governmental system and help guide them to proper organizations that can further their growth.

Review of the Stormwater Utility Fee for fairness to local businesses and citizens. The impact of this fee is detrimental to growth in our Town. Some businesses are paying \$600 - \$2000/mo which creates a drastic negative impact on their bottom line. This creates increased prices for the consumer and doesn't facilitate new business.

Responsible spending. As citizens and business owners we have to live within our means and I feel our Town should do the same. Do we need a 32 Million dollar park right now when other areas are falling short of meeting budgets? We need to have responsible spending, new avenues for revenue to facilitate planned growth.

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BRADFORD JAY “BRAD” STIPES — Expansion of Outdoor Recreation
Facilities (Bikeways/Walkways and Town Park)

Continue Enhancement of, and Promotion of Events Within the Town’s Central
Business Districts (Downtown and Cambria)

Stimulate Investment in the Uptown Area of Town (Marketplace/NRV Mall/
Spradlin Farms)—a “Reinvention” of Sorts.

JONATHON TAYLOR —