

Travis Day is a good leader

Atlantic Beach, NC

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TO THE EDITOR:

There is no fame or fortune in local government. Elected leaders at the local level basically volunteer their time to work hard for communities they love. We are fortunate in Carteret County to have talented leaders—on both municipal and county boards—who are doing great things for our community. I applaud all the candidates who are on the ballot for posts this election cycle. Their willingness to serve is admirable.

I have been involved in local government for over a decade. During this time, I have had the pleasure of working with and learning from many of the talented local elected leaders serving in our state. I have learned that there are certain traits that are shared by many of our best leaders.

Good leaders do their homework. They dig deep to understand the facts and examine issues from multiple points of view. They trust their staffs, but do not hesitate to question them and do their own research. They solicit input from their constituents and make the decisions they think are best for the community as a whole. Travis Day does his homework.

Good leaders are careful with taxpayers' money. Unlike the Federal government, local governments can't print money. Local governments must balance their

budgets. This means stretching each dollar of taxpayer money as far as it can go. Travis Day takes a detail-oriented, business-like approach to budgeting. He is careful with the taxes we pay.

Good leaders make hard decisions. In the process of balancing budgets and keeping taxes low, good leaders must make hard decisions. Elected officials are often faced with a small group of citizens who are passionate about a special interest. Many politicians will tell these passionate groups what they want to hear, even if it is not in the best interest of the community as a whole. On the contrary, good leaders don't just say what we want to hear, they tell us what we need to know. And, they explain how their decisions impact the entire community. You may not agree with every decision a good leader makes. But, when it comes to Travis Day, you can be sure that he makes decisions based on having done the homework, understanding the fiscal implications, and the impact on our school system as a whole.

I applaud all the candidates who are currently running and the local leaders now serving. We have a lot of good leaders in our County. Travis Day is one of our best. I'll be voting for his re-election to the Board of Education and I urge you to do the same.

MAYOR A.B. "TRACE"
COOPER, III