

ELECTION 2007

Hanover

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According to population estimates, Hanover has passed the 100,000 mark. Years ago references to the Metro Area focused on Richmond, Henrico, and Chesterfield. Now they routinely include Hanover. The county's politics reflects its heft.

This year Hanover revised its Comprehensive Plan. Several of the campaigns for seats on the Board of Supervisors feature debate on the growth generally and on the plan specifically. The plan itself strikes a delicate balance between growth and preservation. It is not surprising that critics crowded public sessions regarding the plan. Vocal opponents typically outnumber supporters at such exercises. The election will prove a more accurate referendum.

The Comprehensive Plan is not the only item of major import. Hanover has developed a superb Public Safety Strategic Plan, which describes the strategy and tactics applying to public safety and emergency services relating to natural and man-made disasters. Hurricane Katrina and the California wildfires suggest the necessity for preparation and competence. Hanover intends to be ready. The supervisors directed the plan; the county's professionals produced it.

For those reasons and others,

The Times-Dispatch endorses the re-election of incumbents Bucky Stanley (Beaverdam), Robert Setliff (Chickahominy), Elton Wade (Cold Harbor), Chuck McGhee (Henry), Jack Ward (Mechanicsville), and John Gordon (South Anna). We also support Ed Via for the open seat in the Ashland District. He appears a good match for the incumbents.

Hanover lacks a race for School Board for the simple reason that its board is appointed, not elected. The county's reputation for excellence in the classroom rebukes those who, in response to the summer's celebrated letter regarding Richmond's schools, implicitly likened appointed boards to relics from the Stone Age.

Hanover confronts challenges; funding for roads remains a concern, for instance. Yet on the whole, Hanoverians ought to be content with their county's government. Surely an experienced board deserves much of the credit. A vote for the board translates into a vote of confidence in the county's administration as well. Nov. 6 victories for the candidates listed above will continue a happy winning streak.