

From: The Oconee Enterprise

Hendrix faces Daniell for chair

By [Caitlin Farmer](#) | March 20, 2024 | [0](#)



Local Attorney Pam Hendrix qualified to run for the Oconee County Board of Commissioners Chair as a Republican and will face Incumbent BOC Chair John Daniell, who also qualified as a Republican, on the May 21 General Primary ballot.

Hendrix said her main campaign platform consists of a refusal to accept the full-time BOC Chair salary of \$130,607.16 and “radical transparency” of county financial information.

Hendrix said she believes in having choices on the ballot and decided to qualify once she realized no one would pay the \$3,161 qualifying fee, based on the position’s salary, to run against Daniell. “I used my own money to pay that qualifying fee because this is how strongly I feel that I want Oconee residents to have a choice and be able to make some changes,” Hendrix said. “And I’ve tried going and asking for the changes in the meetings; it hasn’t worked, so here I am.”

Hendrix is a 15-year resident of Oconee County but grew up in nearby Morgan County. She is the mother of two adult sons and said she moved her family to the county in 2009 because her youngest son needed a school change and enrolled at Westminster Christian Academy.

Hendrix is an active member of the Oconee County Republican Party and has previously served on the Library Board, the Board of Tax Equalization and the Board of Elections. She was president of the Watkinsville Garden Club, regent of The Rev. John Andrew Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and on the board of Ashford Memorial Methodist Church.

Hendrix graduated from Morgan County High School in 1984, received a history and political Science degree from Wesleyan College, studied abroad for a year in Japan and attended Duke University School of Law.

In 1991, Hendrix was admitted to the bar and moved back to Morgan County to practice law at Lambert & Roffman for two years, where she did “a little bit of everything,” including criminal defense.

“That’s what you have to do in a small town,” Hendrix said.

Hendrix spent four and a half years practicing mostly real estate law with a local law firm. She stopped real estate law in 2006, as she sensed the 2008 housing market crash was impending after elements of a closing seemed fraudulent. Since then, Hendrix has primarily been self-employed and handles mostly wills, estates and “elder orphans,” which she said is a new term for people who outlive their families, usually women who were only children and married but never had children.

Hendrix said she doesn’t practice full-time, as she manages seven rental houses in Oconee, Athens-Clarke, Barrow and Morgan Counties, as well as a farm.

Founder of the Morgan County GOP and former treasurer of the Oconee County Republican Party, Hendrix said she’s running as a Republican because she’s a fiscal conservative who wants limited government and strong families.

Hendrix said she’d raised concerns at BOC meetings and Town Halls about the lack of monthly financial reports at meetings and the need to submit an open records request to see how taxpayers’ money is spent.

Hendrix said the budget has “ballooned,” leading to a property tax increase. “I’m trying to represent the taxpayers,” she said, “and keep property taxes low. And therefore, we’ve got to look for savings.”

Hendrix said with the addition of County Administrator Justin Kirouac, who makes a \$144,999.92 salary according to her open records request, the BOC and chair should serve as oversight. “I think we can almost cut the management of the county in half,” she said. “We can just have a full-time County Administrator. We can have a board that oversees that administrator and sets the policy for that administrator.”

According to her open records request, Hendrix said the current commissioners make a yearly salary of \$36,200 to \$37,800, and she would accept a similar amount but would like to study similar-sized counties’ BOC salaries if elected.

Hendrix said she enjoys the quarterly BOC Town Hall meetings and would like to continue them as she feels it’s important to give people a chance to share their thoughts.

If elected, Hendrix said she would consider serving a maximum of two terms to allow others a chance.

She said that as someone who is self-employed, she doesn't support subsidizing corporations to come into the county.

"We help the big corporations, and yet the local restaurant owned by someone who lives in Oconee County gets no help," Hendrix said, "and their taxes go up because anytime you subsidize one person, everybody else pays more."

Hendrix also added that she believes in fewer zoning exceptions and wants to "hold the line on zoning" to allow for controlled and careful growth. "It's sort of becoming apparent to me, in my 30 years of law practice, that normal people know the zoning and abide by the zoning," Hendrix said. "Developers buy a piece of property and spend a lot of money to change the zoning."

Hendrix stressed that she will be accessible if elected.

FacebookTwitterShare

Posted in Election 2024, News