

Contact: Karthik Shyam
Phone: (919) 218-2091
Campaign Email: info@jessformayor.com

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CHAPEL HILL - Jess Anderson has entered the race for mayor of Chapel Hill.

Anderson, 44, was elected to the Chapel Hill Town Council in 2015 and re-elected in 2019, both times as the leading vote-getter. She served as Chapel Hill's Mayor pro tem from 2017-2019, and currently chairs the Council Committee on Economic Sustainability.

In addition to a 15-year career as a policy analyst, Anderson possesses a graduate degree in public policy from Duke University. She currently works as a professor of public policy at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she serves as interim director of the Master of Public Policy program.

As an experienced policy analyst raising two school-aged children in Chapel Hill, Anderson says she's eager to bring a fresh perspective – and new expertise – to the mayor's office.

"Chapel Hill is an amazing place. To keep it that way, we need to address the realities of 2023 and beyond," she said. "As mayor, I'll work hard at shaping our policy agenda so we prioritize meaningful solutions that last. My record as a council member reflects this commitment to moving us forward."

Anderson cites significant expansion of the town's commercial tax base, historic investments in affordable housing, creation of the town's first climate action plan, acquisition of 27 acres of parkland on Legion Road, and a planned North-South bus rapid transit line as key accomplishments since taking office.

Last year, Anderson drove adoption of the Complete Community framework – an approach to future growth that would move Chapel Hill toward more cohesive planning based on community needs. The framework has already helped the town secure \$1 million in Federal funding to plan for a town-wide "everywhere to everywhere" greenway network.

"Our vision is that everyone in Chapel Hill – through a network of greenways – will be able to walk, bike or access transit to reach parks, schools, jobs, and shopping," explained Anderson. "As mayor, I'll make sure this vision for an inclusive, sustainable and economically-vibrant future becomes reality. I'm excited to embrace this opportunity to move forward together."

Mayor Pam Hemminger, who announced she would not be seeking re-election this November, voiced her support for Anderson's mayoral bid.

“Jess possesses a unique combination of personal passion, professional skills, and past experience that makes her the best choice for Chapel Hill's mayor,” said Hemminger. “In our work together, I've found Jess to be a fierce advocate, practical problem solver, and effective policymaker who consistently acts with integrity. Even when we didn't agree, she worked collaboratively with me and others to get the best outcomes for our entire community, which is why she has my full support.”

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