

Board of Supervisors Benjamin “Benny” T. Pitts, Biography

Benjamin “Benny” T. Pitts was elected to the Board of Supervisors in November 1995, representing the Battlefield District. He was re-elected in November 1999 and completed his second term in office on December 31, 2003. Benny won re-election to his third term in office in November 2007 with over 50% of the vote in a three-way race. In 2007 Benny’s campaign received endorsements from; (1) The Spotsylvania County Career Firefighters Association, (2) The Committee of 500, (3) The Rappahannock Group of the Sierra Club.

Benny has placed a high priority on adequately funding the needs for public safety, education and has worked to find alternative funding sources to address our transportation needs. He realizes the important connection between land use decisions and the effects those decisions have on our transportation network. Benny believes that **“the land we use today is being borrowed from our children and our children’s children. Therefore we should be guided by the principle that communities need to make good long-term decisions about where, when and how they should grow.”**

Benny also believes that growth should pay its share of the cost associated with that growth. That impact fees should be updated regularly to meet the cost of growth. Growth is not our enemy, however, growth needs to be managed to prevent any future negative effects on the “quality of life” that we now enjoy.

Benny represents Spotsylvania County as a member on the following board and commissions:

- (1) Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Administration of Government Steering Committee. (designed to address issues of governance on a statewide level).
- (2) National Association of Counties (NACo) Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee (designed to address issues of justice and public safety on a national level).
- (3) George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) (designed as a regional planning organization).
- (4) Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Organization (FAMPO) (designed as a regional transportation planning organization).
- (5) Spotsylvania County’s Minority Affairs Committee (designed to address issues of minority equality within county government)

Benny is also an active member of the following organizations:

- (1) Rappahannock Area Lodge Fraternal Order of Police
- (2) Local Government Commission: a non-profit, non-partisan organization that “provides practical, tested ideas and programs that foster a sustainable

- environment, strong economy and social equity, as well as meaningful civic involvement.
- (3) Virginia Chapter, American Planning Association: a professional association organized to advance the art and science of planning and to foster the activity of planning.
 - (4) Smart Growth Network: (a) works to raise public awareness of how growth can improve community quality of life, (b) promoting smart growth best practices, (c) developing and sharing of information, innovative policies, tools and ideas, (d) cultivating strategies to address barriers to and advance opportunities for smart growth.
 - (5) National Trust Forum – National Trust for Historic Preservation: provides the knowledge, tools, and resources to help save historic resources and preserve the sense of place that is so important to the next generation.
 - (6) Friends of the Rappahannock: an organization designed to promote the conservation, protection, and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and historical values of the Rappahannock River and its tributaries.

Since January 2008 Benny has worked to address vital issues such as, (1) the support of additional funding to assist us in meeting our transportation demands, (2) addressing the issue of needed affordable housing, (3) the creation of a task force to address the issue of child sexual exploitation, (4) developing a budget that provides for the basic services needed within our community, including public safety and education, (5) managing growth, while supporting smart growth development.

In the months ahead, Benny wants to work towards the county's efforts (1) to maintain our public/private partnerships to improve roads, (2) open space preservation, (3) the development of technology and tourism zones, (4) developing a budget that places priorities based on direction from the "citizen satisfaction survey."

Benny strongly believes that it is an "honor" to have the opportunity to serve the community in which he lives and has called home for over 50 years. Retiring on July 01, 2007 after 28 years in the law-enforcement field, Benny considers his job as supervisor his "full-time" responsibility to the citizens of the Battlefield District.

Benny is married to Janice and resides near the Four-Mile Fork area of the county. They have three children and six grandchildren.