

Jared Ball, Columbia Council Candidate Questionnaire 2025

What would you like to tell the residents about your experience living in Hickory Ridge Village and Columbia that will help them evaluate you as a candidate for the Board? (Topics: introduce your family, what amenities you enjoy, what Hawthorn Center events you have attended, how you may have reached out to neighbors or other residents for social or neighborhood concerns, etc.)

My mother and I moved to Columbia around 1975. I was raised in Long Reach where I lived until joining the US Navy in 1989. My wife of almost 21 years and our two daughters have lived in Columbia and Hickory Ridge since 2007 just before our second daughter was born. Both girls have been raised here where we have made use of and thoroughly enjoyed nearly every aspect of our residency and CA memberships. We all are avid swimmers, walkers, gym enthusiasts (to varying degrees) and love the diversity of our community. We are routinely engaged in our neighborhood listservs, block parties, and have attended numerous events at the Hawthorn center over the years even helping arrange some while I have served on the village board.

What is/are your career area(s) and any other professional experience, and how will that assist you in Board actions and activities? (Topics: prior experience with HOAs, other BODs or other community action groups, any awards or public service recognition, etc.)

I have spent the last two years on our village board and before that have more than 20 years of grassroots community activism to go along with my deep engagement as public intellectual, radio host, and podcaster. I am a Professor of Africana and Media Studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore, a member of the Green Party, where I have previously run for that party's presidential nomination, I am a member of Scholars for Social Justice and a recent recipient of the Freedom Scholars Award from the Casey Foundation. I intend to assist the board by maintaining deeper and more expansive connections with the community and encouraging more of our residents to be involved, aware, and engaged with CA Board activities.

Based on your knowledge of Hickory Ridge Village Board responsibilities, what issues concern you and what ideas would you contribute to Board discussions to address those issues?

Our village desperately needs more engagement with a wider array of the community and to be far more informed of issues involving the CA Board and our residents. The CA Board needs also be more of an advocate for those underrepresented voices or members of our community and be similarly much more involved in informing our residents of decisions being made or considered, especially decisions involving distribution of Columbia resources.

**Are there any other ideas you would like to express to the residents of Hickory Ridge Village?
(Topics: ideas to better our community, how do you see our community in the future or how to
increase resident participation in community life?)**

I would like our residents to be more involved and engaged in the politics of our community and the redistribution of goods and services to which we all contribute. I would like the CA Board to be more involved in assuring that no one lacks access to our wonderful pools, gyms, and events and in assuring that more is done to inform our residents of what is available and possible in our community.