

Naturalization Ceremony Keynote Speaker - 7/3/2019
Frank Williams

Frank Williams is a small business owner and Brunswick County native who was elected Brunswick County Commissioner from District 5 on November 6, 2012 in his first run for public office. He was elected to a second term on November 8, 2016 and was elected Chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on December 5, 2016. He also currently serves as 2nd Vice President of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners. Frank lives in Leland with his wife, Lori.

Frank grew up in the rural community of Northwest, located ten minutes west of Leland, and is the among the fourth generation of his mother's family to live in the community. His first leadership role came as a teenager, when he served as a Patrol Leader in Leland's Boy Scout Troop 265, and his first job was working as a busboy at the Sandpiper Seafood House in Leland. He also spent two summers working in the summer student program at what was then Federal Paper Board (now International Paper) in Riegelwood.

He graduated from North Brunswick High School in 1988 and earned his undergraduate degree from N.C. State University in 1993.



Frank takes an active leadership role in the community, having served on the boards of directors of Communities in Schools of Brunswick County, the North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Leland Area Rotary Club. He has also served on the Brunswick Community College Small Business Center Advisory Committee, chaired the Boy Scouts' 2010 and 2011 fundraising breakfasts in Leland and served on the executive board of the Cape Fear Council, Boy Scouts of America.

In August 2013, then-Governor Pat McCrory appointed Frank to the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service, a role in which he served until April 2017. He also served as chair of the General Government Steering Committee for the N.C. Association of County Commissioners and on the association's legislative goals committee and board of directors. Frank is a former member of the N.C. Leadership Council for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). He was a member of [Class 14 of the Brunswick Sheriff's Citizens Academy](#) in the Fall of 2013 and is a Spring 1996 Fellow of the N.C. Institute of Political Leadership.

Professionally, Frank is president of Pioneer Strategies, a public relations and strategic communication agency he founded in August 2001. He received both the N.C. State University Communication Alumni Circle's Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award and the *Triangle Business Journal's* "40 Under 40" leadership award in 2006. He self-published his first novel, *After the Republic*, in 2015, and completed the sequel, *Convergence*, in late 2017.

Frank is an avid sports fan (Go Wolfpack!) and enjoys fishing, reading, movies and relaxing on the beach. Frank and Lori attend Northside Baptist Church.