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Balanced growth

Judging from your July 29 front-page article about growth and sprawl in the Triangle, it must be local election time. After all, it would be a shame for those with an anti-sprawl agenda to not have a voice (the local media) to express their dislike for growth.

However, I think that what most residents (voters) will say is that the debate in the upcoming elections should be about encouraging growth, and managing it with proper controls. I would also submit that most voters will want their elected leaders to talk about how they will continue to promote our local economy, attract good-paying jobs to the area and find constructive, practical solutions to easing traffic congestion.

But even more important, I would suggest that the majority of the Triangle's residents want choices -- in terms of how our area grows and develops. That is, people want the ability to choose where they live, whether it's in the suburbs with a one-acre home or downtown in a condo.

And if candidates and elected leaders really listen to what the voters are saying, they would understand that folks don't want to stop growth -- but they want balanced solutions to solving growth challenges. They want growth plans that place equal priority on the environment, community and home affordability -- and the rights and interests of property owners.

Judging from the persons interviewed in your article, it's clear that most Triangle residents are pleased with the fact that our area has done a good job managing growth. Otherwise why would our region still be growing and attracting new residents every year?

Growth is good. Let's not mess it up with agenda-driven plans masquerading as "smart growth" policies that are, by and large, still theoretical and unproven.

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