

**newsobserver.com**

Raleigh · Durham · Cary · Chapel Hill

 [Subscribe to print edition](#)[Edit Search](#)[Help](#)[Home](#)**Subscription until: 12/14/2015 11:59 PM****Record 1 of 1**[E-Mail](#)[Text Only Display](#)[List](#)**News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)**

June 25, 2005

Column: Triangle Politics

**Kekas kicks off her run**

Author: Josh Shaffer  
Toby Coleman  
T. Keung Hui  
Matt Dees; Staff Writers

Edition: Final  
Section: News  
Page: B3

*Index Terms:*  
Joyce Kekas

Estimated printed pages: 2

## Article Text:

Joyce Kekas starts her run for a full term on the Raleigh City Council on Wednesday, having gotten her feet wet by filling a vacant seat five months ago. Her campaign kicks off at the home of Rep. Brad Miller, the Raleigh congressman, and includes well-known sponsors from the city's political circles: former Mayor Smedes York, hoteliers Dicky Walia and Sanjay Mundra, former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Burley Mitchell and his civic activist wife, Lou. The event at 2306 Beechridge Road costs \$45 per guest.

Kekas, who lives in northwest Raleigh and served on the city's Planning Commission, will be seeking one of the council's two at-large seats. The top two vote-getters in the October election take those seats, as long as they both have 25 percent of the total plus one vote. The filing period starts July 1.

Another candidate has already started his at-large campaign. Russ Stephenson, a Raleigh architect and also a Planning Commission veteran, launched his run in May.

**NO LAUGHING MATTER:** Don't laugh in Cary Town Hall, at least not when council member Jennifer Robinson is speaking.

Robinson scolded some out-of-towners Thursday after they giggled while she spoke. "This is a professional meeting," she said. "Do not speak out."

Robinson's lecture did not amuse the laughers.

"I thought it was unprofessional," said Carolyn Sink, a New Hill resident who went to oppose the town's plan to

condemn land for a sewage plant in her unincorporated village in southwestern Wake County. "It was completely arrogant and rude."

What did Sink find so funny?

Robinson's suggestion that New Hill residents could see "a benefit" from the sewage plant. Robinson later said that she was only talking about the plan to put the proposed sewage plant on more than 200 acres of land.

"That land will help buffer," Robinson said. "I think it's a good thing, not a bad thing."

She added that voting to condemn the land was a difficult decision. "I wish you guys would respect that," she told the gigglers.

**PENCILS TRUMP TUTORS:** Wake County students' behinds and central-office pencils won out over full funding for tutoring programs at this week's school board meeting.

The school board voted against cutting central office supplies by \$288,445 when it finalized the budget for the coming fiscal year Tuesday. Those supplies cover items less than \$5,000, such as pencils and computers that are not used in the classroom.

The board also rejected cutting \$100,000 from the amount used to replace classroom furniture. The majority said they didn't want students using old furniture that could give them splinters.

Both cuts had been unsuccessfully backed by Ron Margiotta, Carol Parker and Amy White.

The money would have gone toward two tutoring programs, which were cut by \$188,445,

#### POLITICAL TRAIL

- THE WESTERN WAKE REPUBLICAN CLUB will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday at Delightful Inspirations, 5511 Avent Ferry Road. Dinner, for \$12, is 6 to 7 p.m. The speaker will be Micah Martello, state director for Americans for Fair Taxation. See [www.westernwakegop.org](http://www.westernwakegop.org) or call Vinnie DeBenedetto at 363-1967.

Caption:

Robinson

Copyright 2005 by The News & Observer Pub. Co.

Record Number: iimp5089

[Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Parental Consent](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#)

© Copyright 2004, The News & Observer Publishing Company,  
a subsidiary of The McClatchy Company 