

Penny Rich Bio

Penny Rich was elected to the Orange County Board of Commissioners in November of 2012 representing District 1. She serves on the following committees and boards:

- Orange County Visitors Bureau: Board of Directors
- Triangle Council of Governments
- NACo – Nation Association of County Commissioners Telecommunications and Technology committee
- Swag – Solid Waste Advisory Group
- Intergovernmental Parks Workgroup
- Orange, Durham, Chapel Hill Workgroup
- Communications Task Force/Strategic Plan
 - Penny served on the following in 2014:
- The Community Home Trust: Board of Directors
- Historic Rogers Road Task Force

Penny was elected to the Chapel Hill Town Council in 2009 and served from 2009-2012. She has served on the following committees and boards:

- Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission: Public Art Review Committee for 140 West
- Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission: Public Art Review Committee for Superstreet Project
- Community Design Commission
- Council Committee: Orange Water and Sewer Authority (Interview Committee)
- Council Committee: Sustainability, Energy, and Environment
- Justice in Action Committee
- Mayor's Committee: Campaign Public Financing
- Mayor's Committee: Council Communication
- Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness
- Historic Rogers Road Task Force

She also served on the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) Board of Directors from 2001-2007, where she held the positions of vice chair, secretary of the board, chairperson of the human resources committee, and chairperson of the natural resources committee.

Penny is a former member of the Town of Chapel Hill Technology Advisory Committee, and is an active volunteer for the Inter-Faith Council's Community Kitchen. She served on the nominating committee for the (OCDW) Orange County Democratic Women and is an active member of the (OCDP) Orange County Democratic Party. She is an SEC (State Executive Committee) member for the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Penny owns her own personal chef and catering company. She teaches cooking and healthy eating at local schools and is a food columnist for print and broadcast media. She recently joined the Terra Vita Food and Wine Festival as Community Relations/Engagement Manager. Penny was raised and educated in New York City, where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Pratt Institute and a Master of Arts in Communication Technology at New York University. She lived in Ft Lauderdale and New Orleans before moving to Chapel Hill with her family in 1998.

Penny has been married to Christopher Voorhees since 1992 and they have two sons, Mikko, who attends Appalachian State University and Brody, who attends the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Penny's mother, Jacky Rich, and dog Yumi also reside with the family.