

Penny Rich Bio

Penny Rich was elected to her second term on the Orange County Board of Commissioners in November of 2016 representing District 1. She serves on the following committees and boards:

- Orange County Visitors Bureau: Board of Directors
- Triangle J Council of Governments: Executive Committee
- Nation Association of County Commissioners (NACo): Telecommunications and Technology committee
- Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG)
- Intergovernmental Parks Workgroup
- DCHC MPO Alternate
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Past board service; Orange, Durham, Chapel Hill Workgroup - Communications Task Force/Strategic Plan - 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, Complete Streets – Community Design Commission - Orange Water and Sewer Authority (Interview 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. She is an active member of the Orange County Democratic Party (OCDP), the Orange-Durham-Chatham League of Women Voters (LWV), and serves on the SEC (State Executive Committee) as a member for the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Penny is a small business owner of a Personal Chef/Catering Company. She teaches cooking and healthy eating classes at local schools and is a frequent guest lecturer for the UNC Food Studies program. She is a food columnist for print, blog and broadcast media. Penny was raised and educated in New Jersey/New York City, receiving a BFA from Pratt Institute and a MA in Communications Technology from New York University.

Penny has two sons, Mikko, who graduated Appalachian State University 2017 and Brody, who attends the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, class of 2019. Penny’s mother, Jacky Rich resides with the family.