

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT-LARGE CANDIDATE THERESA “TERRI” MRAZEK (R)

Theresa “Terri” Mrazek is running for the At Large seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. A self-described “successful businesswoman and a passionate community activist,” Mrazek has not held office before. She ran unsuccessful campaigns for seats on the Board of Commissioners in 2020, 2022, and 2024. Mrazek is the former president of the Forsyth County Republican Women. Prior to her retirement, she worked a variety of sales-oriented jobs, including in sales for Flow Automotive Cos., classified sales for Winston-Salem Journal, and real estate. Mrazek is the mother of five children (one recently deceased) and ten grandchildren. She lives in Belews Creek, NC. Forsyth County [leans Democratic](#); Kamala Harris carried the county [over Trump in 2024](#) by approximately 56% to 43%.

Key Findings:

Mrazek attended the January 6, 2021 insurrection in Washington, DC. In a 2021 news article, Mrazek said she attended the January 6, 2021 insurrection “to show her support for Trump, but didn’t go inside the capitol.” Mrazek argued the vast majority of people at the event were peaceful, and that Trump himself told people to be peaceful in his remarks to the crowd. Mrazek said “I don’t feel our president should be responsible for anyone’s else’s actions,” adding that to her, Trump’s remarks were “calm.” Mrazek said she believed that there were leftist infiltrators at the event who caused trouble, despite a lack of evidence. In 2022, Mrazek claimed she stayed on the bus her group rode from Winston-Salem, rather than attend the insurrection within the Capitol, due to cold weather.

Mrazek has become a perennial candidate for commissioner since 2020, winning her primary election in 2026. Mrazek ran for office for the first time in 2020. She lost her bid for a county commissioner seat, finishing fourth in the primary. In 2022, Mrazek ran for the at-large seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. She was unopposed in the primary but ultimately lost the general election to Democrat Dan Besse by over 10,000 votes. Mrazek again filed to run for a District B seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners in 2024. She finished in fifth place in the primary election. Mrazek again filed to run for the at-large commissioner seat in 2026. Mrazek defeated her Republican opponent, winning the primary with 66% of the votes and setting up a rematch with Democrat Dan Besse.

Mrazek has said her values include “individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility and free markets.” She has expressed a belief that some nonprofits promote a socialistic outlook and won’t help lift people out of poverty and asserted that the county “needs to take a sharper look at how it funds nonprofit groups.” “I feel like our tax dollars should be going toward a majority of taxpayers, for public schools, public parks, things that benefit a majority of the people,” she said in 2022. In previous campaigns, Mrazek has listed among her top priorities “keeping taxes low,” calling the spending of taxpayer dollars “the most critical responsibility of a county commissioner.”

BACKGROUND & BIO

1973: Mrazek graduated from North Hills High School. “Education: North Hills High School, 1973; Dan Moore Real Estate, 1987; Foot Solutions - Pedorthist - Certified 2003.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

Mrazek received a real estate license in 1987. “Education: North Hills High School, 1973; Dan Moore Real Estate, 1987; Foot Solutions - Pedorthist - Certified 2003.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

Mrazek became a certified pedorthist in 2003. “Education: North Hills High School, 1973; Dan Moore Real Estate, 1987; Foot Solutions - Pedorthist - Certified 2003.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

Mrazek has five children. [Deacs Decide, [10/28/22](#)]

- **Mrazek’s son, Nick Peluso, passed away in April 2026 after battling cancer.** “Nicholas Richard ‘Nick’ Peluso, 49, passed away on April 10, 2026, surrounded by his family. He leaves behind a legacy of laughter, resilience, and unwavering love for his family. Nick was born in Pittsburgh, PA on September 15, 1976, but spent most of his life in Kernersville where he built deep roots and even deeper relationships. He is survived by his children, Nicholas Richard Peluso II and Isabella ‘Bella’ May Peluso; his mother, Theresa ‘Terri’ Mrazek; father, Nicholas Peluso; and his siblings, Kristy Peluso, Michelle Peluso Couch (Brian), Thomas Peluso, Jonathan Peluso, and Gianna ‘Gigi’ Peluso. He was also a loving uncle to his nieces and nephews. Nick served as a cadette at Oak Ridge Military Academy. Later, he attended East Forsyth High School where he was in the JROTC and played football, where his team earned the state 4A championship in 1992. After graduating from high school in 1994, he joined the U.S. Army Reserves. After his time in the Army, Nick faced serious back and neck issues yet continued to push forward.” [Kernersville News, 4/15/26]
- **Mrazek has ten grandchildren.** “I am a successful businesswoman and a passionate community activist. But nothing is more important than family. I am a mother of five and a grandmother of ten, and I want my family to have the opportunities that I have had in our community. That is why I am running for the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.” [terriforforsyth.com, accessed [5/26/26](#)]

Mrazek was born in April 1954. [Public Records Search, Nexis, accessed 5/27/26]

Mrazek described herself as a “successful businesswoman and a passionate community activist.” “I am a successful businesswoman and a passionate community activist. But nothing is more important than family. I am a mother of five and a grandmother of ten, and I want my family to have the opportunities that I have had in our community. That is why I am running for the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.” [terriforforsyth.com, accessed [5/26/26](#)]

In 2020, Mrazek described her political and civic experience as “activist.” “Political/civic experience: Activist” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

Mrazek claimed to have managed other Republican campaigns. “Terri Mzarek is a self-described ‘political activist’ who has been a prominent figure in local Republican politics the past five years. In 2020, she ran for a seat on the board of commissioners and finished fourth. She served as president of

the Forsyth County Republican Women in 2021 and has managed other Republican campaigns.” [Triad City Beat, [10/20/22](#)]

As of 2020, Mrazek was retired. “Job: Retired; previously worked in sales for Flow Automotive Cos., as pedorthist for Foot Solutions, in classified sales for Winston-Salem Journal; and as real-estate agent” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

- **Mrazek previously worked in sales for Flow Automotive Cos.** “Job: Retired; previously worked in sales for Flow Automotive Cos., as pedorthist for Foot Solutions, in classified sales for Winston-Salem Journal; and as real-estate agent” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]
- **Mrazek previously worked as a pedorthist for Foot Solutions.** “Job: Retired; previously worked in sales for Flow Automotive Cos., as pedorthist for Foot Solutions, in classified sales for Winston-Salem Journal; and as real-estate agent” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]
- **Mrazek previously worked in classified sales for Winston-Salem Journal.** “Job: Retired; previously worked in sales for Flow Automotive Cos., as pedorthist for Foot Solutions, in classified sales for Winston-Salem Journal; and as real-estate agent” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]
- **Mrazek previously worked as a real-estate agent.** “Job: Retired; previously worked in sales for Flow Automotive Cos., as pedorthist for Foot Solutions, in classified sales for Winston-Salem Journal; and as real-estate agent” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

Mrazek ran for office for the first time in 2020. “Incumbent GOP commissioners Richard Linville, David Plyler and Gloria Whisenhunt filed Monday, as did a newcomer to the contest, Terri Mrazek.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 12/3/19]

- **2020: Mrazek lost her bid for a county commissioner seat.** “Republican Terri Mrazek, a political newcomer, lost her bid for a county commissioner seat, garnering 7,412 votes, or 14.39 percent.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 3/4/20]
- **Mrazek finished fourth in the 2020 primary.** “Mrazek, meanwhile, first ran for a seat on the board of commissioners in 2020, when she entered the primary field alongside three long-term GOP incumbents for the three District B nominations. She finished fourth.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 10/17/22]

2022: Mrazek ran for the at-large seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. “Dan Besse, a Democrat, and Terri Mrazek, a Republican, both filed for the at-large seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, a seat now held by Democrat Ted Kaplan.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 12/7/21]

- **Mrazek was unopposed in the 2022 primary.** “Regina Gardner, a Libertarian, filed for the at-large seat on the Forsyth County board. She will not have to go through a primary to get onto the fall ballot. Nor will GOP at-large contender Terri Mrazek, who filed previously and is the only Republican in that contest.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 3/5/22]
- **2022: Mrazek lost the general election to Democrat Dan Besse by over 10,000 votes.** “Dan Besse, a former Winston-Salem City Council member who has had aspirations for higher office,

won a convincing victory to take the at-large seat over Republican Terri Mrazek, making her second run for office. According to complete but unofficial returns, Besse received 71,892 votes, or 54.9%%, to 59,026 votes for Mrazek, who got 45.1%.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 11/9/22]

2024: Mrazek filed to run for a District B seat on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

“Three Republicans filed Monday to run for the three available District B seats up for election in 2024 on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. They were incumbent Gloria Whisenhunt and non-incumbents Terri Mrazek and Ralf Walters.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 12/5/23]

- **2024: Mrazek finished in fifth place out of 6 in the primary election.** “In the Republican race, Richard V. Linville received 15,331 votes. Gloria Whisenhunt finished second with 14,851 votes. Dave Plyer was not far behind with 12,021. Gray Wilson finished with 10,837 votes (15.86 percent). Terri Mrazek received 9,249 votes (13.54 percent) and Ralf E. Walters received 6,024 votes (8.82 percent).” [Clemmons Courier, 3/5/24]

2026: Mrazek filed to run for Besse’s at-large commissioner seat. “Besse has drawn a primary challenger in Quamekia Shavers, along with Republican candidates Mike Barresi Sr. and Terri Mrazek. Besse defeated Mrazek by a 55.1% to 44.9% margin in 2022.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 12/2/25]

- **2026: Mrazek defeated her Republican opponent, winning the primary with 66% of the votes.** “Republican Terri Mrazek defeated her Republican opponent, Mike Barresi Sr., in the Republican primary for an at-large seat on the commission. Mrazek received 9,174 votes or 66.35% of the ballots while Barresi received 4,653 voters or 33.65% of the ballots.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 3/3/26]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Total Receipts (This Election Cycle)	Operating Expenditures (This Election Cycle)	Cash On Hand (End of Reporting Period)
\$2,161.30	\$0	\$1,273.18

[North Carolina State Board of Elections, Accessed June 2026]

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Terri Mrazek Federal Contributions				
Recipient	Number of Contributions	Dates	Aggregate Amount	Type
North Carolina Republican Party	44	2020 - 2025	\$ 3629.05	Monetary
WinRed	35	2020 - 2025	\$1005.00	Monetary

[FEC.GOV, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

Mrazek’s contributions to WinRed were earmarked for Trump Make America Great Again, Trump Victory, Donald J. Trump For President, NRCC, RNC, North Carolina Republican Party, and Walker 4 NC. [FEC.GOV, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

- **Mrazek made seven contributions, totaling \$245, to WinRed that were earmarked to Trump Make America Great Again, Trump Victory, and Donald J. Trump For President.** [FEC.GOV, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

Terri Mrazek Statewide Contributions				
Recipient	Number of Contributions	Dates	Aggregate Amount	Type
COMMITTEE TO ELECT JEFF ZENGER TO NC STATE HOUSE	2	2023-2025	\$ 175	Monetary
DAVE BOLIEK FOR AUDITOR	1	2024	\$100	Monetary
GUILFORD REC	2	2021-2024	\$175	Monetary
GRAY WILSON FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER	1	2024	\$100	Monetary
FORSYTH RW	66	2019-2025	\$6784.76	Monetary and In-Kind

[FEC Databases, Accessed May 2026]

AFFORDABILITY

In 2020, Mrazek’s top priorities included “employment and training for the homeless.” “Top priority if elected: Improve on the integrity of the citizens of Forsyth County, employment and training for the homeless, doing what is right for citizens, public health and public safety, keeping taxes low” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

2022: Mrazek said she believes some nonprofits that Forsyth County has helped won’t lift people out of poverty and promote a socialistic outlook. “But Mrazek said she believes some nonprofits that the county has helped won't lift people out of poverty and promote a socialistic outlook. Mrazek declined to name any of the groups that she had in mind, be reiterated her support for capitalism.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 10/17/22]

- **Mrazek said she doesn't believe Winston-Salem, especially the more needy parts of town, have been short-changed at all by the county board.** “Mrazek said she doesn't believe Winston-Salem, especially the more needy parts of town, have been short-changed at all by the county board, and pointed out that when the county distributed \$74 million from the American Recovery Plan Act, most of that money was designated for spending in the census tracts with lower income levels, which tend to be in District A in Winston-Salem.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 10/17/22]
- **Mrazek argued that most of the county’s funding from the American Recovery Plan Act was designated for spending in the census tracts with lower income levels, which tend to be in District A in Winston-Salem.** “Mrazek said she doesn't believe Winston-Salem, especially the more needy parts of town, have been short-changed at all by the county board, and pointed out that when the county distributed \$74 million from the American Recovery Plan Act, most of

that money was designated for spending in the census tracts with lower income levels, which tend to be in District A in Winston-Salem.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 10/17/22]

2022: Mrazek said Forsyth County “needs to take a sharper look at how it funds nonprofit groups.” “Mrazek said she is running as a conservative who will carefully watch county spending and try to cut out any waste. The county needs to take a sharper look at how it funds nonprofit groups, she said. As an at-large commissioner, she said she would look to see if groups are working for the good of the whole county, and not a more limited group. She said commissioners who represent districts A and B can take a more focused approach. ‘I feel like our tax dollars should be going toward a majority of taxpayers, for public schools, public parks, things that benefit a majority of the people,’ she said. Mrazek said that since everyone in the county pays county taxes, the top priorities for the board should include public safety, health and keeping children and the environment in good health.” Winston-Salem Journal, 10/17/22]

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2022: Mrazek voiced support for Meals On Wheels, City With Dwellings, and Addiction Recovery Care Association. “Mrazek did voice support for some nonprofits, including Meals on Wheels and City With Dwellings, which works on the problem of homelessness, and she said the Addiction Recovery Care Association (ARCA) is doing a good job.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 10/17/22]

BUDGETS & TAXES

2026: Mrazek’s campaign website said she supports low taxes and a strong economy for Forsyth County. “Low Taxes, Strong Economy Ronald Reagan said it best: ‘Government does not solve our problems, it subsidizes them.’ Terri supports low taxes and a strong economy for Forsyth County. Public assistance should be reserved for those who are in need” [terriforsyth.com, accessed [5/26/26](#)]

In 2020, Mrazek's top priorities included "keeping taxes low." "Top priority if elected: Improve on the integrity of the citizens of Forsyth County, employment and training for the homeless, doing what is right for citizens, public health and public safety, keeping taxes low" [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

2024: Mrazek called the spending of taxpayer dollars "the most critical responsibility of a county commissioner." Calling the spending of taxpayer dollars 'the most critical responsibility of a county commissioner,' Mrazek said she will 'take this responsibility very seriously.'" [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/23/24]

CONTROVERSIES

No findings identified.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No findings identified.

EDUCATION

Mrazek's website claims she is a "firm proponent of school choice." "Parents know what is best for their kids. Terri is a firm proponent of school choice. Our kids should only get the best education." [terriforforsyth.com, accessed [5/26/26](#)]

ELECTIONS & BALLOT ACCESS

No findings identified.

ENVIRONMENT

No findings identified.

ETHICS & GOOD GOVERNMENT

No findings identified.

HEALTHCARE

Mrazek called opioid addiction a major concern for the county, noting that drug addiction "does not just happen in the inner city, and it does not discriminate against anybody." "In public health, Mrazek called opioid addiction a major concern for the county. 'Drug addiction does not just happen in the inner city, and it does not discriminate against anybody,' she said. She said the county could help groups such as Tealdrops that work on the concern." [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/23/24]

- **Mrazek suggested Forsyth County could help groups such as Tealdrops that work on addiction.** "In public health, Mrazek called opioid addiction a major concern for the county. 'Drug addiction does not just happen in the inner city, and it does not discriminate against anybody,' she said. She said the county could help groups such as Tealdrops that work on the concern." [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/23/24]

HOUSING

No findings identified.

INFRASTRUCTURE

No findings identified.

PHILOSOPHY & IDEOLOGY

Mrazek attended the January 6, 2021 insurrection “to show her support for Trump, but didn’t go inside the capitol.” “Terri Mrazek, the president of Forsyth County Republican Women, went to Washington on Jan. 6 to show her support for Trump, but didn't go inside the capitol. Mrazek said the vast majority of people at the event were peaceful, and that Trump himself told people to be peaceful in his remarks to the crowd.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 7/14/21]

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- **Mrazek: “I don't feel our president should be responsible for anyone's else's actions,” adding that to her, Trump's remarks were “calm.”** “‘I don't feel our president should be responsible for anyone's else's actions,’ Mrazek said, adding that to her, Trump's remarks were ‘calm.’ Mrazek, like many other in the GOP, believes that there were leftist infiltrators at the event who caused trouble. Federal investigators say they have no evidence that was the case.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 7/14/21]
- **Mrazek believed that there were leftist infiltrators at the event who caused trouble, despite a lack of evidence.** “‘I don't feel our president should be responsible for anyone's else's actions,’ Mrazek said, adding that to her, Trump's remarks were ‘calm.’ Mrazek, like many other in the GOP, believes that there were leftist infiltrators at the event who caused trouble. Federal investigators say they have no evidence that was the case.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 7/14/21]
- **2022: Mzarek claimed she stayed on the bus her group rode from Winston-Salem, rather than attend the insurrection within the Capitol, due to cold weather.** “An avid supporter of former President Donald Trump, Mrazek was in Washington, DC on Jan. 6 but said she opted to stay on the bus her group rode from Winston-Salem rather than attend the insurrection within the Capitol, due to the cold weather.” [Triad City Beat, [10/20/22](#)]

Mrazek said her values include “individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility and free markets.” “Mrazek said her values, include ‘individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility and free markets.’ She said she will work to ‘restore accountability and protect what we value most,’ if elected.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/23/24]

Mrazek shared a Facebook post that argued “No Kings” protests were insulting to Trump voters who support Trump and ICE. “The way I see ‘No Kings’ protests: If you’re out protesting Trump as your president, you’re not telling him that. You’re not insulting him. You’re insulting your neighbors, family members and friends that voted for him. You’re telling us that you refuse to accept our choice. You’re showing us that you have no respect for the majority of Americans who voted for this president. When you’re out protesting ICE and demanding that entire departments be eliminated, you’re trying to make decisions without us that affect everyone. Who gave you the right to make demands for all of us? I don’t want ICE defunded. I don’t want our police defunded. I live here, I pay my taxes, I’m an equal partner in the community of this State and Country and yet nobody asked me if these demands were ok. They’re not. I don’t agree. Before you go demanding things of our elected officials and leaders, maybe you should be asking your neighbors if this is something we all want. Stop trying to go over our heads and cut us out of the decisions that affect everyone’s life and family. You’re not gaining any ground and you’re pissing the rest of us off. I voted for Trump. I want ICE enforcing our immigration laws. I want Police protecting my community. I want to exercise my right to bear arms. I want you to treat my choices in the same way you expect me to treat yours. Stop trying to subvert what the majority of voting U.S. citizens asked for?” [Facebook, [3/29/26](#)]

2022: North Carolina State Rep. Kyle Hall referred to Mzarek as a “friend” in a caption of a photo of Hall, Mrazek, and Sarah Abshere posted on Instagram. “Great to be at the Walkertown Fall Festival with my friends Terri Mrazek and Sarah Absher! Terri is running for Forsyth County Commissioner and Sarah is running for Forsyth County School Board this November. Forsyth County voters, go out and vote for Terri, Sarah and the Republican team!” [Instagram, [10/15/22](#)]

2021: Mrazek was the president of Forsyth County Republican Women. “Terri Mrazek, the president of Forsyth County Republican Women, went to Washington on Jan. 6 to show her support for Trump, but didn’t go inside the capitol.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 7/14/21]

PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2020, Mrazek’s top priorities included “public health and public safety.” “Top priority if elected: Improve on the integrity of the citizens of Forsyth County, employment and training for the homeless, doing what is right for citizens, public health and public safety, keeping taxes low” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/9/20]

In 2024, Mrazek said her main priorities would be public safety and public health. “As a commissioner, Mrazek said her main priorities would be public safety and public health. ‘I have spent a lot of time talking to the county sheriff and deputies to realize what they face and what their needs are,’ she said.” [Winston-Salem Journal, 2/23/24]

LINKS

1. [LinkedIn](#)
2. [Personal Facebook](#)
3. [Personal Facebook](#)
4. [Personal Facebook](#)
5. [Campaign Facebook](#)
6. [Personal X Account](#) (possible – unconfirmed)