

# Morrell says she will join mayoral election

*Former longtime Zoning Board leader to announce second attempt at Orange's top position next week*

By John Zucal  
Managing Editor

Janice Morrell, a former longtime member of the city's Zoning Board, will announce her intention to seek the mayor's position in the May election.

In a statement released Monday, Morrell, who served much of her board tenure as its chairwoman, said she will begin her campaign Wednesday night during an event in an Orange restaurant.

Morrell will become the fourth candidate for mayor in the May 8 election. City Councilman Edward Marable and Legislative Research Officer Dwayne Warren also will challenge first-term Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. She will run under the banner, "It's About Orange ... It's About You."

The campaign will be Morrell's second attempt for the mayoral post. She placed fourth among six candidates in 2008, an election in which the neophyte Hawkins was victorious.

Morrell, who also has served on Citizens Budget

Advisory Committee, said her campaign will focus on improving economic development, which may permit the city to increase city services to residents.

"Like many Orange residents, I remain concerned about property taxes, public safety, and economic development, diminished essential city services and an overall decline in the quality of life in our city," said Morrell. "My background as an administrator, a manager, a passionate advocate, and a concerned citizen are the impetus behind my candidacy."

Morrell is retired from a position as director of minority affairs at Rutgers University.

Morrell, who has lived in Orange for nearly 40 years, said she believed it was necessary to make another attempt at the mayor's position.

"You must be willing to roll up your sleeves and get to work," said Morrell. "If you are committed to positive change and being a part of a better future for yourself and others, join my campaign."



File photo

Janice Morrell, shown during a mayoral debate in 2008, is expected to announce her candidacy for mayor next week.