

Bonita Moos Profile - DA



Bonita Moos, married with four children, has lived in Jeffreys Bay for 23 years, where she has found a purpose in serving others.

She started her professional journey as a waitress. In 2019, she joined Kouga Municipality as a litter picker and this instilled a love for community service. In 2021 she became an assistant in Ward 2.

In her leisure time she serves as a deaconess at AFM Church, and is committed to helping others.

She decided to contest Ward as it is her home, where she has seen daily challenges residents face and where she aims to make a difference.

Her aim is to build stronger connections between communities and improve service delivery. "Real change begins with caring for people," Bonita says.

Her three top priorities if elected are:

- * Prioritise community safety: Problems like gangs and substance abuse must be tackled by working with community structures and government departments to create a safer environment for all residents.

- * Promote health and well-being. Bonita says she will push for improved facilities for the elderly and vulnerable, and address youth unemployment. "Creating opportunities for young people is essential," she says.

- * Protect the environment, the beaches, parks, and open spaces, through community clean-ups, responsible waste management, and environmental education.

She aims to ensure excellent service delivery, keep people informed, and ensure basics like roads, stormwater management, electricity, refuse removal, water, and sanitation are done well enough for the Ward to function efficiently.

Working with the municipality she aims to improve service delivery in the Ward, and to hold service providers accountable.

Ward 2 includes formal and informal areas and to ensure inclusive development, Bonita says.

if she becomes Ward 2 councillor she aims to help residents receive equal service delivery, involve them in decision-making.

She will host community meetings, IDP feedback sessions, ward committees, and communicate through WA updates and newsletters.

To ensure transparent use of ward funds, she will discuss projects will be discussed with the ward committee and report back to residents. She advocates plans to make ward funds to be traceable, and responsibly managed.

To handle community complaints and ensure accountability for municipal officials and contractors, she aims to ensure community complaints are logged, and followed up with municipal departments until fully resolved.

To support local employment and small businesses in the ward she aims to focus on creating opportunities for growth and improve competitiveness, and encourage entrepreneurship.

She advocates: equal access to municipal ward-based projects so local businesses can benefit from contracts and service opportunities;

promoting partnerships between small businesses and large enterprises; and supporting initiatives to give young people the tools and resources to start their own businesses; plus giving small businesses a platform, like markets and expos, to showcase their products and services to residents.

Bonita aims to:

- * Improve access to internships and skills development programmes to prepare young people for meaningful employment.

- * Provide career guidance and mentorship programmes, and help youth choose their education and career paths.

- * Encourage participation in sports, arts, and community initiatives, and foster teamwork, leadership, and personal growth.

- * Engage young people in ward decision-making and community forums.

- * Establish a Ward 2 youth committee, for young people to participate, lead and influence local initiatives.

Bonita says if elected to council she plans to increase these efforts.

A local issue she mentions are the struggles of youth who face poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, and hopelessness. With care, guidance, and opportunities, dignity for young people can be restored, and a brighter, more hopeful future for Ward 2 can be created, she states.

Her message to residents before they vote: "Let's work together to build a ward that is safe, clean, and full of opportunity, where residents feel seen, heard, and valued."

Ward 2 By election candidates' responses to questions

Roelof Pretorius Profile - Cope



My name is Roelof Johannes Pretorius (nickname Roelf) and I am a member and National Executive member of the Congress of the People (COPE).

I am 71 years old. I used to live in Secunda, Mpumalanga, during which time I also served for 15 years as a councillor there. After retiring, I moved to Jeffreys Bay in 2017. In recent years however, I noted that the message of the Congress of the People still very much needs to be heard here in Kouga. This is specifically so in ward 2 and surrounding areas. For the past about 5 years I have been involved with an inter-church upliftment programme in the area, which made me realise how important it is to do something about the moral and family structure, including to solve the problem of drug trafficking and gangs.

In the above section I explained this. Specifically I noted that in some of the areas a narrative of race-based ideology that is based on myths seems to be dominant; COPE does not believe in that, we want to take the lead in burying the issues of the past because it is clear to us that the continued focus on race by political parties is distracting the attention of our people from the real issues that matter.

I have been able to make a bit of a difference in Mpumalanga and I would like to see if I can make a contribution here too.

My first priority as councillor necessarily has to be to be the mouthpiece of the community in the council, especially those issues that the council & officials may not really want to hear; and also to duly give feedback to the community about the response received, as that is why councillors are there. Secondly, as indicated above, I want to engage with the community on this idea that everything is about race, and to show them how different it can become if we forget about that old politics and just simply focus on the practical issues and the solutions to the problems.

Coalition politics can work if it is properly managed; I believe that in Kouga, even if the DA loses this election they still have enough seats to rule on their own, but if I am

wrong and they don't, I shall not take political sides and keep supporting what is the best for the ward residents. However, I shall always caution the ward residents to not let ideology get in the way of plain good old common sense. That is part of the ethos of COPE as I understand my party.

SECTION C:

I'll firstly start on the other end; I'll encourage all residents to, as far as they can, get better qualifications and skills, and I shall do what I can to get the educational institutions to assist. The same with small businesses; if they encourage their employees to improve their skills, it will inevitably lead to better results. We also have to work on the employability of the residents; I'll keep encouraging everyone to have a positive attitude towards every opportunity that they encounter. Nothing plays a better role in getting employment than positive attitudes in my view.

12. The same applies to the youth than in the previous answer; I know that it often is difficult to stay positive, yet those of us that had reasonable success in life always succeeded because we were positive. And I'll always caution against being too ambitious; the most important rule is always to be committed in what you do and always to try to make a positive difference, no matter how much adversity one experiences.

13. I would say education, education, education (and here education includes skills). And one would also include workshops to encourage especially young people to try their hand at working for themselves; starting something for themselves. But to do that, you need education in subjects like arithmetic and hand skills so you have something to sell.

SECTION E:

14. As I explained, the continued distraction of negativity around race is a great concern to me. If I can inspire people to reach out to those who you have not associated with yet, it will make me very happy.

15. First of all, don't let political parties define you. We must keep in mind that the politicians are supposed to work for us, not we for them. And in a democracy it is US who have to see that is happens, so we can't afford to become too committed to one politician or political party. And lastly, we must always remember that each one of us is the one that understands best what is good for ourselves. So we must focus on making our own lives work, instead of listening to those who always want to have somebody to blame.

Robbie Dennis Profile - ANC



Background; Robbie Dennis (African National Congress), is a resident of Jeffreys Bay since 1988. previously a teacher at two schools Pellsrus and Makukhanye primary school. He became mayor of Kouga in 2003 and also a Head of department.

His career started as a teacher at Pellsrus Primary in 1988, and later he served as Head of Department at Makukhanye Primary from 2000-2003. Until 2011 he served as the Mayor of Kouga Municipality. "The municipal team delivered houses, improved financial management, and prioritised local employment."

He then worked at the Provincial Department of Human Settlements from 2012–2018 and then was appointed Acting Principal at Jeffreys Bay Comprehensive school until 2020.

Dennis says he has always remained active in the community, mentoring young people, supporting education initiatives, and promoting unity among residents.

Why do you want to contest Ward2: "Ward 2 is my home. I have lived, worked, and served here most of my life. The challenges facing people such as unemployment, poor service delivery, and growing divisions need a leadership that is experienced, calm, and community-driven.

"I believe I can help restore unity and ensure the municipality once again works for the people, not against them."

If elected as Ward 2 Councillor, the top three priorities he will focus on are: to rebuild unity and trust among residents; to focus on improving service delivery, especially roads, refuse removal, and housing; thirdly he will ensure the ward office becomes a place of service, where people can get help and updates directly.

He will improve service delivery in Ward 2 by improving supervision of contractors, ensuring departments respond in time, and involving the

community in monitoring projects. "Service delivery should be visible, fair, and consistent," he says.

He will push for equal prioritisation in the IDP process so that both formal and informal areas benefit equally. "Every household must have access to water, sanitation, and reliable services. No area should be left behind because of its postal code."

After the election he will involve residents in decision-making and communication. He will hold regular public meetings, share updates through WA groups, and encourage residents to participate in ward committees. "Leadership must be open, and people must always know what is happening in their ward," Dennis says.

To ensure transparent use of ward funds and projects, he will make ward allocations public, and post updates on notice boards and social media. "Transparency is the foundation of trust."

Dealing with complaints: Dennis says every complaint deserves a response. "I will ensure contractors and officials are held accountable, and where there is failure, action will be taken. "The people of Ward 2 deserve respect and honest answers."

To support local employment and small businesses in Ward 2 Dennis says he will fight for local contractors and small businesses to be given fair access to municipal projects. "We must use local talent and empower our own people. Partnerships for training and skills development will be a priority."

Young people need real opportunities, Dennis says. "I will support sports, arts, and mentorship programmes to help them grow and stay active in the community. Their energy can change this ward if guided properly.

We can achieve more by working with NGOs, churches, schools, and private partners that share our goal of uplifting the community. "I believe in practical partnerships to bring skills, housing, and hope.

On local issues he says divisions and hopelessness that have grown in the community deeply concern him. I want to bring people together again, to restore pride and service in Ward 2.

His message to Ward 2 residents before they vote is: "This election is about unity, honesty, and experience.

"Let's move forward together as one community, one purpose, one progress. We have done it before — we can do it again."

Charlene Dicken - PA
(Declined to respond to questions)



Reason for By-Election

The upcoming Ward 2 By-Election in Kouga Municipality, set for 26 November 2025, is shaping up to be one of the most closely watched contests in recent years.

The by-election was triggered after the former DA councillor for Ward 2, who defected to the Patriotic Alliance in August 2025, reducing the DA's representation in Kouga Council from 16 to 15 seats. Before the defection, the 30-seat council was made up as follows: DA– 16 | ANC– 11 | Patriotic Alliance– 1 | VF+– 1 | EFF– 1.

Four parties will now contest Ward 2: the DA, ANC, Patriotic Alliance, and COPE.

For the DA, this by-election is crucial to maintaining its outright majority in council.

For the opposition parties, it represents an opportunity to break what many residents describe as a long-standing political monopoly and to push for a more balanced, coalition-driven council.

Beyond party numbers, the Ward 2 race carries wider importance for Kouga.

It has become a test of whether voters are ready to embrace coalition governance at local level — a growing national trend in response to declining single-party dominance.

Ward 2, which includes parts of Jeffreys Bay and surrounding areas, has long been a political microcosm of Kouga itself: diverse, dynamic, and highly aware of service-delivery realities.

Residents say they want councillors who listen, communicate, and deliver — regardless of colour, party, or position.

The by-election will therefore serve not only to fill a vacant seat, but also to measure public confidence in experience, unity, and accountability at ward level.

Each of the four contesting candidates was asked to respond to the Kouga Chronicle's community questionnaire covering their priorities, leadership vision, and views on service delivery and accountability.

Three candidates submitted answers, but the fourth, the PA candidate did not send us a response.