

## 2012 Civitas Candidate Survey

### Candidate Profile Information

**Name**

Nathan Ramsey

**Office sought**

NC House

**District (if applicable)**

115

**Party**

Republican

**Address**

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**County**

Buncombe

**Occupation**

Dairy farmer/attorney

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### Candidate Issue & Policy Questions

**1. Tax rates in North Carolina are**

Too high

**2. North Carolina should raise the state sales tax by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one cent – or 15 percent -- to provide additional resources to public schools.**

Disagree

**3. A nonpartisan redistricting commission should be established to draw North Carolina's Congressional and state legislative district maps.**

Agree

**4. North Carolina should allow offshore and natural gas exploration.**

Agree

**5. In order to address North Carolina's ongoing budget difficulties, state lawmakers should:**

Reduce spending

**6. Marriage between one man and one woman should be the only domestic legal union that is valid in North Carolina.**

Agree

**7. The Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) should be repealed.**

Agree

**8. North Carolina should retain capital punishment as a sentencing option.**

Agree

**9. North Carolina should adopt a constitutional amendment limiting the annual growth rate of state spending to a combination of inflation plus population growth.**

Agree

**10. North Carolina's status as a "Right to Work" state should be written into the state constitution.**

Agree

**11. Teacher pay should be tied to student performance and other factors reflecting teacher quality.**

Agree

**12. The North Carolina legislature should repeal Same-Day Registration.**

Agree

**13. North Carolina should amend the state constitution to ensure that all new issues of state or local debt require voter approval.**

Agree

**14. North Carolina should reinstate the cap on the state gas tax rate.**

Agree

**15. North Carolina should repeal mandated renewable energy quotas on electric companies in order to decrease energy costs.**

Disagree

**16. In terms of state regulation of businesses, which most closely resembles your view?**

The state should eliminate many regulations to allow entrepreneurs more flexibility

**17. The state should continue to fund Planned Parenthood.**

Disagree

**18. When state government spends more money to hire more state workers, it creates jobs and therefore stimulates the economy.**

Disagree

**19. North Carolina should repeal its estate tax.**

Agree

**20. Students should be able to perform at or above grade level before being promoted to the next grade.**

Agree

**21. North Carolina should have term limits for state Senators and Representatives.**

Agree

**22. North Carolina should end the unofficial moratorium on the death penalty.**

Agree

**23. North Carolina should eliminate all targeted tax credits and subsidies for businesses and instead tax all businesses the same.**

Agree

**24. Judges should continue to be elected by the voters.**

Agree

**25. North Carolina should provide tax credits to individuals and businesses that fund scholarships for K-12 students to attend non-public schools.**

Agree

**26. State lawmakers should make more laws requiring employers to provide certain benefits to workers (i.e. paid sick leave, lunch breaks, etc.).**

Disagree

**27. State pensions should be eliminated for elected officials in North Carolina.**

Agree

**28. The federal government should provide healthcare under a single-payer system.**

Disagree

**29. North Carolina should allow collective bargaining for:**

No public employees

**30. The current K-12 teacher tenure system should be retained.**

Disagree

**31. Decisions about how to pay for healthcare services should be determined by:**

The individual

**33. Minimum Wage Laws:**

Undecided

**35. Party labels should be restored to judicial elections.**

Agree

**36. North Carolina should implement a state health insurance exchange to comply with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).**

Disagree

**Additional comments**

#3 Would consider but redistricting commissions are not a panacea as Civitas reporting has indicated.

#11 Important that a fair means to accomplish this be implemented. NC has attempted previous efforts like Career Ladder which injected politics into teacher evaluation.

#12 Unless we can clearly demonstrate same day registration is not susceptible to fraud.

#13 Certificates of participation have been over used but are a critical source of financing for local government, would prohibit at state level.

#15 While RPS can raise electric bills, the standard is reasonable at current levels. Coal will remain the energy source of choice but NC smartly adopted Clean Smokestacks Act.

#19 While current economic conditions are not improving repeal may be several years away to replace lost revenue although very small % of NC budget.

#23 NC must also be competitive with neighboring states so incentives are a necessary tool but the General Assembly should approve those beyond certain threshold.

#25 As long as tax credit/scholarships save state tax dollars.

#27 For the General Assembly, full time executive branch officials should be treated like all other state employees who are full time workers.

#30 Teachers deserve some level of protection that they cannot be fired/demoted for partisan political reasons.

#32 underlined both responses. See answer to #23. Most important is for NC to have the best educational system, worker training, infrastructure, tax + regulatory burden in the Southeast. Incentives should be considered after these matters are addressed.

#33 Do not oppose the current minimum wage laws. Raising minimum wage will only hurt job growth and opportunities.

#34 underline both responses. Don't know, the key is not what NC spends but what outcomes are taxpayers receiving for that investment, need to focus on outcomes not inputs.

#36 But under the US Constitution, if states are mandated to comply with a federal law under the supremacy clause, NC must

comply and seek redress in the Courts.