

2012 Civitas Candidate Survey

Candidate Profile Information

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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

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

Disagree

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.

Disagree

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

Disagree

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

Disagree

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

17. The state should continue to fund Planned Parenthood.

Agree

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

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.

Disagree

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

Disagree

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.

Disagree

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

Disagree

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

By the state government

33. Minimum Wage Laws:

Are necessary to protect workers, should be higher, and have little or no impact on employment opportunities for low-skilled workers

34. North Carolina currently spends about \$8,400 per K-12 public school student. This is about the right amount of spending.

Disagree

35. Party labels should be restored to judicial elections.

Disagree

Additional comments

2. Though I disagree with the policy question as posed, I believe it's imperative that North Carolina re-assess its resources and do whatever it can to ensure that our public schools are well-funded, and meet the state constitutional requirement that its public schools be provided as freely as possible to its citizens. A well-educated public is vital to both economic and personal successes, and to the general welfare of the citizenry.

4. ... so long as there are appropriate checks and balances to ensure necessary environmental protection and that a

significant part of the monies be used to benefit the economy of eastern North Carolina.

5. Instead, I support a fifth option: North Carolina should reduce spending, and modernize its tax structure (modernization which has been long-needed) so as not to increase the tax burden on individuals or businesses but reflect our 21st century economy.

7. Because the current law is so interconnected with other laws at the state and federal levels, and because so many businesses (especially medical providers and insurance companies) have already adapted to some of that current law and have invested many millions of dollars in the process, a straight repeal is not an option. The law should be surgically changed with the focus on preserving (a) freedoms for individuals and businesses, and (b) those necessary consumer protections that are constitutional and have broad-based, bipartisan popular support. I am a fervent advocate for State-based insurance regulation and have fought and will continue to fight federal encroachment on North Carolina's sovereignty. My position is a significant reason why former U.S. Congressman Barry Goldwater, Jr. has endorsed my campaign for re-election as NC Insurance Commissioner and that I have other significant bipartisan support.

9. ...so long as there is a "safety valve" for true national and state emergencies.

10. Constitution should be amended infrequently. We already have a State law regarding this topic.

11. I am concerned about the "unintended" consequences of this proposal, as written and without further facts or qualifiers: What about its effects on teachers of disabled students or teacher in historically low-performing schools where there is high poverty? What incentives would there be for teachers to work or stay there? My concerns, in part, are about recruitment and retention. I certainly believe we should have teachers of the highest quality and caliber teach our children.

15. I do not have enough information. In principle, I certainly want lower energy costs for families and business consumers. More details on the renewable energy quotas are needed before I am able to answer this question.

16. I believe state regulations should be regularly reviewed and unnecessary regulations eliminated. I believe that consumers suffer if over-regulation stunts North Carolina's vibrant business culture; similarly, businesses suffer if there is insufficient regulatory structure that fails to provide an opportunity for business development.

18. My strong personal preference is for private-sector job creation to stimulate the economy.

19. In principle I agree with this, but I need more information on the effects of this repeal on the State's ability to balance its budget before I'm able to answer this question.

22. I've always been and continue to support capital punishment (see my answer to #8, above). When we administer ultimate justice, it must be done with an even hand.

23. At its face value, this proposal as written would raise taxes on some businesses if all businesses are taxed the same. That is why I disagree or oppose the proposal.

27. The existence of a State pension provides opportunities for people of lesser means to consider participation in the electoral process. Also, please keep in mind that most elected officials in North Carolina do not have a State pension because of the vesting and other requirements. Elected officials convicted of certain specified crimes should be ineligible for a State pension.

29. I believe this question is too broad and requires additional information and definitions. North Carolina has been able to create a solid business culture while advancing solutions to many employee concerns. Employers and employees should be free to discuss their concerns. It is important to hear all voices on matters of public concern.

30. I do not have the most current studies on this given that is clearly outside my scope as state Insurance Commissioner.

31. *Candidate marked both: State and Individual* Note that I marked two answers for this question. My reason is that, ultimately, individuals should decide how to pay for their healthcare services; if an individual does not have that option for any number of reasons (including infirmity, age, economic status, etc.) , then this issue should be decided by the State government and not the federal government.

32. I personally do not like this practice; however, given the fact that we need jobs and that other states are relying heavily on targeted tax credits and subsidies to recruit businesses to their States, I believe we should keep this option as potential ammunition in our economic development arsenal.

34. Appropriate investment in K-12 public education is a foundation for North Carolina's business growth and recruitment. The John Locke Foundation's John Hood suggested just last year that \$8,700 or more is what North Carolina spends per K-12 student (and not \$8,400 as posited by the question) and he did not suggest reducing it below \$8,700. So, he and I would certainly agree that lesser amount of \$8,400 is not the right amount of spending.

http://johnlocke.org/news_columns/display_jhcolumns.html?id=7819

36. I am a fervent advocate for State-based insurance regulation and have fought – and will continue to fight – against federal

encroachment on North Carolina's sovereignty. If the North Carolina General Assembly fails to create a state health insurance exchange, then by law the federal government will step in and create one for North Carolina. That result is of grave concern and should be of grave concern to the North Carolina General Assembly. I will continue to fight for North Carolinians to regulate North Carolina health policy. State insurance exchanges have been recommended by The Heritage Foundation for many years. We must prevent a federal insurance exchange.