

Questionnaire for Candidates for Haw River Town Council (voters may select two)

| Questions | Cathy Bellamy Dickens | Lee Lovette | Shawn Riggan | Kristin Smith |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| Haw River taxes and spending (general) | | | | |
| 1. Is Haw River's tax rate too high, too low, or about right? | 1. About right. | 1. About right. | 1. About right. | 1. [Refused to respond.] |
| 2. At what level (cents per \$100 valuation) should the town's tax rate be set? | 2. I would leave it the same. | 2. n/a | 2. 63 cents. | 2. [Refused to respond.] |
| 3. What area(s) of town spending do you feel should be increased or decreased? [50 word limit] | 3. Increased: The police department, the fire department, and parks and recreation. Decreased: the light bill. | 3. No increases or decreases. | 3. Increase: Infrastructure. If we can build that up, we attract more people and more industry. Decrease: You really can't. We don't have that option. It's either sink or swim. | 3. [Refused to respond.] |
| Board member salaries and benefits | | | | |
| 4. Are current salaries for the mayor and members of the town council adequate and fair? | 4. No response. | 4. Yes. | 4. Yes. | 4. [Refused to respond.] |
| 4a. Would you vote to increase the amounts during your term or keep them the same? | 4a. Keep the same. | 4a. Keep same | 4a. Keep the same. | 4a. [Refused to respond.] |
| 4b. If raise, by how much, or to what level? | b. Leave it the same. | 4b. No raise. | 4b. N/A | 4b. [Refused to respond.] |
| Town Departments | | | | |
| 5. Some jurisdictions have begun considering whether their employees should be required to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Would you support or oppose such a requirement for municipal employees in the town of Haw River? | 5. No response. | 5. Oppose. | 5. Oppose. | 5. [Refused to respond.] |
| 5a. Other areas have begun to consider "incentives" (cash bonuses, time off, etc.) to entice their municipality's employees to get vaccinated. Would you support or oppose such "incentives"? | 5a. Support. | 5a. Oppose. | 5a. Support. | 5a. [Refused to respond.] |
| 5b. Do you have a particular incentives approach you favor? [25 word limit] | 5b. No response. | 5b. No. | 5b. I strongly believe that it is the person's choice to be vaccinated. | 5b. [Refused to respond.] |
| 5c. Are you, yourself, vaccinated against COVID-19? | 5c. No, but I am getting vaccinated. | 5c. Yes. | 5c. Yes. | 5c. [Refused to respond.] |
| 6. With regard to each of the departments below, do you believe they are adequately funded, need more funding, or need less funding. | | | | |
| a. Police | 6a. More. | 6a. Adequately funded. | 6a. More. | 6a. [Refused to respond.] |
| b. Fire | 6b. More. | 6b. Adequately funded. | 6b. More. | 6b. [Refused to respond.] |
| c. Public Works | 6c. Adequately Funded/Less. | 6c. Adequately funded. | 6c. More. | 6c. [Refused to respond.] |
| d. Parks & Recreation | d. No response. | 6d. Adequately funded. | 6d. More. | 6d. [Refused to respond.] |
| 7. If more, would you be willing to raise property taxes, if necessary to provide additional spending for the department(s). | | | | |
| a. Police | 7a. Yes. | 7a. No. | 7a. No. | 7a. [Refused to respond.] |
| b. Fire | 7b. Yes. | 7b. No. | 7b. No. | 7b. [Refused to respond.] |
| c. Public Works | 7c. No. | 7c. No. | 7c. No. | 7c. [Refused to respond.] |
| d. Parks & Recreation | 7d. Yes. | 7d. No. | 7d. No. | 7d. [Refused to respond.] |
| Miscellaneous policies/issues | | | | |
| 8. Haw River lost population over the past decade, according to Census data released earlier this year. The town lost 2 percent of its population, down from 2,298 in 2010 to 2,252 in 2020. How can the town grow? [50 word limit] | 8. We can hold more family and friends events and show the outside world that Haw River is a fantastic place to raise children and everyone is friendly and the town is quiet. | 8. Town can grow by attracting industry that provides good jobs. Also need housing and apartment complexes like neighboring cities. | (If more people live in the town, you'd get more revenue without a tax increase). 8. We need to promote how great a place to live Haw River really is. We're between Mebane and Burlington. We have the Haw River trail, and it's become very popular. Nobody else in the county can say they have something like it. Bringing more business in can attract more people. | 8. [Refused to respond.] |
| 8a. In particular, where do you see the greatest potential for residential growth? [50 word limit] | 8a. Everyone coming together when there is a crisis such as the pandemic. | 8a. Area along Trollingwood Road, Graham Hopedale Road and Highway 49 north. | 8a. Off of Trollingwood Road. It's convenient to the interstate, and people love that. | 8a. [Refused to respond.] |
| 9. What, if anything, can be done to improve the town's tax base by the recruitment of more industry? [50 word limit] | 9. Have to come back to this one because it's a lot. | 9. We need to work closely with Alamance County and the state to attract more industry. | 9. We'll just have to go case by case. Every business is unique, and we'll have to play it by ear. | 9. [Refused to respond.] |
| 10. What is your greatest area of disagreement with action(s) taken by the town council in the past 2-5 years? [25 word limit] | 10. Have to come back to this one. | 10. I have not had any major disagreements with my fellow council members. We work well as a board. | 10. None. Every town has had to deal with financial disparities. We're all trying to navigate through this COVID era. They've tried to do it as best as they can. | 10. [Refused to respond.] |
| 11. In your view, what are the three main issues facing Haw River during the next five years? [50 word limit] | 11. The pandemic, the schools, and people getting vaccinated. That could make everyone safe and everything can get back to normal. | 11. a. aging infrastructure; b. traffic congestion; c. rising cost of operating a town. | 11. We have to build up infrastructure to attract more homes, people, and businesses. Preserve small town charm while incentivizing businesses and new residents to relocate. We also need to conserve nature. If we lose what we're best known for, we lose our identity. | 11. [Refused to respond.] |