

Questionnaire for N.C. State Senate Candidates, Democratic Primary Election, March 5, 2024

(Voters may vote for 1)

Questions

John Coleman

Donna Vanhook

State taxes and spending

1. In general, do you believe North Carolina's taxes are too high, too low, or about right?
- 1a. Please specify which of the following, if any, should be raised or lowered.
- State income tax rates
 - State sales tax rates
 - State corporate tax rates

Education

2. Is North Carolina spending too much, too little, or about right on education?
3. What can be done to improve the quality of North Carolina's public schools? (25 word limit)
4. What is your view of charter schools? (25 word limit)

Business Issues, Incentives

5. Should North Carolina's minimum wage, currently \$7.25 per hour, be raised?
- 5a. If so, by how much? — cents/dollars per hour.
6. Do you support or oppose providing tax-funded incentives for businesses to locate or expand in North Carolina?
- 6a. If support, please outline the principles that would govern your decision on which companies should receive tax-financed incentives and under what circumstances. (50 word limit)

Public Policy Issues

7. Please outline your views on what, if any, restrictions on handgun ownership and use, you would favor at the state level? (50 word limit)
- 7a. In particular, would you support or oppose a ban on assault-style weapons?
- 7b. Would you support or oppose raising the minimum age for gun purchases in North Carolina?
8. North Carolina has long been a "right-to-work" state in which private sector employees are not required to join a union as a condition of their employment. Do you support or oppose maintaining the "right-to-work" status.
9. Over the past decade, the General Assembly moved toward having judicial races revert to partisan status, reversing a trend in which they had become mostly nonpartisan races. Which do you support: Nonpartisan or partisan judicial races?
10. More fundamentally, do you support North Carolina's current system of an elected judiciary, or would you prefer an appointed system?
11. Which, if any, of the following federal holidays do you think North Carolina should also adopt as a paid holiday for state workers?
- a. Washington's Birthday
- b. Juneteenth
- c. Columbus Day
12. Some states have moved toward legalizing marijuana — some for medical purposes, others for small quantities for personal use. Please explain your position on whether North Carolina should legalize marijuana. [25 word limit]
13. In 2015, the General Assembly enacted legislation intended to protect historical monuments — any "object of remembrance" in the parlance of the legislative language — on public property and prohibit their removal. Some legislators and the Governor have sought to change that statute in order to remove certain Confederate-related monuments. Would you support or oppose legislation to allow the removal of Confederate statues?
- 13a. Specifically, what is your view on the Confederate statue on the north side of the Court House in Graham. Would you support or oppose its removal?
14. Do you believe that the current legislative district in which you're running is fairly drawn?
- 14a. If not, in what way(s) should it be changed? [25 word limit]

Social Issues

15. Do you support or oppose legislation extending anti-discrimination protection to homosexuals?
16. In general, do you consider abortion to be a Constitutionally-protected right?
- 16a. Do you support or oppose legislation in North Carolina to ban "partial birth abortions"?
- 16b. Why or why not? [25 word limit]
17. Please explain under what conditions, if any, N.C. tax dollars should be made available to fund abortions? (25 word limit)
18. What single issue do you think is most critical for the state to address? (25 word limit)
19. What action(s) do you think would do the most to improve the economy in North Carolina? (25 word limit)

General Issues

20. Give your campaign's three main issues. (50 word limit)

1. About right.
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- Raised.
2. Too little.
3. Provide a sound, funded, and equitable education for all students.
4. That if we are going to provide state and local dollars, more accountability is needed for special needs students.
5. Yes.
- 5a. \$15.00
6. Support.
- 6a. The reasons to support incentives makes the area more attracting to companies looking to move here. This will boost state and local revenues and bring more jobs to the area.
7. Expanded background checks. Ensuring people that commit domestic violence can't get their hands on them. Also look at 21 years of age min.
- 7a. —
- 7b. Support
8. Oppose.
9. Nonpartisan.
10. Elected.
11. b. Juneteenth.
12. Legalize! It will boost the economy and agriculture sectors. Will also allow more participation in the work force.
13. No response.
- 13a. No response.
14. No.
- 14a. Fairly drawn maps, regardless of the party doing the drawing is essential to elections. We cheat our constituents when we draw crazy maps.
15. Support.
16. Yes.
- 16a. Oppose.
- 16b. Late term abortions are a myth. Statistically proven! However women should be able to decide their healthcare choices without Raleigh politicians.
17. Life of mother. Quality of life of child.
18. State of public education. We've seen the outcome statewide when schools are underfunded.
19. Raising minimum wage. Legalize marijuana to boost agriculture sectors, and keep rates low to appeal more to employers.
20. Public Education — Teacher Pay and retention; school funding. Quality of life — fair wages, high speed broadband, affordable housing. Private healthcare — doctors offices as sacred places for doctors and patients void of Raleigh influence.
1. Too high.
- Lowered
- Lowered
- Raised
2. Too little
3. Fully fund public schools and eliminate private school vouchers. Public schools that practice trauma informed education would serve students better.
4. Charter schools need better oversight or they should be eradicated.
5. Yes.
- 5a. At least to \$15.00
6. Support.
- 6a. Contributions to marginalized communities economic development. No controversial connections with monies used to disenfranchise communities. Does not cause environmental harms to communities.
7. Sensible gun laws to include background checks and a reasonable wait time before ownership. I am a handgun owner and former law enforcement officer.
- 7a. Support.
- 7b. Support
8. No response.
9. No response.
10. Elected.
11. b. Juneteenth.
12. Legalize marijuana for medical purposes and small personal use.
13. Support.
- 13a. Support.
14. No response.
- 14a. —
15. Support.
16. Yes.
- 16a. No response.
- 16b. I believe in a woman's right to choose what happens to her body medically and with regards to medically ending a pregnancy.
17. It is healthcare for women and should be funded as it was prior to legislation to ban abortions.
18. There is more than one issue vulnerable populations face that affects their quality of life.
19. Revitalization of communities adversely affected by poverty, environmental concerns. Incentivizing companies to help improve conditions in those communities. Community centers, community colleges used for entrepreneurship.
20. Fully funding public schools through funding Leandro Plan for a basic sound trauma informed education. Infrastructure improvements including transportation, broadband access, rural development, and agriculture support. Environmental stewardship investments in clean energy, clean water, and healthy soil.