

Questionnaire for Candidates for General Assembly,
General Election, November 5, 2024

STATE SENATE		Questions	STATE HOUSE - DISTRICT # 63		STATE HOUSE - DISTRICT # 64	
Amy Scott Galey	Donna Vanhook		Stephen Ross	Robin Wintringham	LeVon Barnes	Dennis Riddell
1. About right.	1. About right.	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	1. About right.	1. About right.	1. About right.	1. About right.
1a. There is a plan in place to continue to lower taxes. Lowered. Lowered. Lowered.	1a. — — Raised.	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)	1a. — — —	1a. Lowered. Lowered. Raised.	1. — — Raised.	1a. — — —
2. Too little.	2. No response.		2. About right.	2. Too little.	2. Too little.	2. About right.
3. Math education; continue implementation of Advanced Teaching Roles; continue to increase teacher pay; address discipline and chronic absenteeism issues.	3. Fund the Leandro Plan, trauma informed education, increase teacher pay for hiring and retention, repeal Parents Bill of Rights.		3. Continue to improve safety so educators, students can learn in safe environment. ...continue to fund needed programs and supplies....continued salary increases for all educators, staff.	3. Increase teacher pay so that we can attract and keep quality teachers.	3. Public tax dollars belong in public schools period. Improve NC public education by raising teacher salaries, reducing class sizes, funding resources, and expanding childhood education.	3. Discipline that is consistent and meaningful that establishes a safe environment for students, teachers, and staff.
4. Important part of education choice landscape. Not every school is a great fit for every child. Parents should have options.	4. There is little oversight when compared to traditional public schools.	4. What is your view of charter schools? (25 word limit)	4. Support.	4. While I do not object to charter schools, parents should bear the burden of paying for the charter school expenses.	4. I believe in school choice; while some charter models are excellent, until public schools receive full funding as required by constitution, I can't support charter expansion.	4. Support – no cap.
5. Support.	5. Oppose.	5. Do you support or oppose the concept of state-funded "opportunity scholarships" to provide funding toward allowing parents to send their children to private schools? 5a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	5. Support.	5. Oppose.	5. Oppose.	5. Support.
5a. Absolutely – All children should have the ability to attend the school that best meets their needs, regardless of family of origin's ability to pay. 6. No.	5a. "Opportunity scholarships" are a systematic attempt to defund traditional public education by diverting millions of dollars to private religious schools. 6. Yes.	Business Issues, Incentives 6. Should North Carolina's minimum wage, currently \$7.25 per hour, be raised? 6a. If so, by how much? — cents/dollars per hour.	5a. — 6. No.	5a. I do not support opportunity scholarships. Parents should pay the costs of private schools themselves or seek cost reduction from the intended private school. 6. Yes.	5a. Nobody's tax dollars, not mine nor yours should go towards any private school vouchers until all state funded public schools are fully funded. 6. Yes.	5a. No response. 6. No.
6a. —	6a. To at least \$15.		6a. We have a current market driven minimum wage that averages much higher.	6a. Raised to \$12-\$15 an hour.	6a. No response.	6a. —
7. Support.	7. Oppose.	7. Do you support or oppose providing tax-funded incentives for businesses to locate or expand in North Carolina? 7a. 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)	7. Support.	7. Support.	7. Support.	7. Oppose generally.
7a. Should be a large financial investment in tax base and a large number of jobs. Toyota got incentives but returned \$13 billion in investment and over 2000 jobs. Incentives done well are investments in future and greater community.	7a. N.A.		7a. Public money for incentives should only be used with certain guarantees in place. These include no upfront funding and payment only after certain capital requirements and job creation are met.	7a. Tax incentives bring new industries/companies to Alamance. New companies bring new citizens and their families to Alamance County. New families and citizens bring more residents to Alamance County. More residents means a more vibrant economy.	7a. I support tax incentives for businesses that uphold strong labor protections, offer internships and apprenticeships for students, pay living wages, and prioritize environmental sustainability. These incentives ensure that businesses contribute to the well-being of workers, provide opportunities for youth, and promote long-term community and environmental health in North Carolina.	7a. —
8. Current gun laws are adequate. "Assault style" is an ambiguous and ever-changing term.	8. As a former law enforcement and gun owner, I support universal background checks, red flags for domestic violence abusers and bans on assault rifles.	Public Policy Issues 8. Please outline your views on what, if any, restrictions on handgun ownership and use, you would favor at the state level? (50 word limit)	8. Current law is sufficient.	8. Hand guns should be sold only to those 25 years and older, after providing required information to the governing party.	8. As a licensed concealed carry gun owner, I support red flag laws because they strike a balance between protecting public safety and upholding responsible gun ownership. These laws help prevent tragedies by removing firearms from those who pose a danger, while ensuring due process and safeguarding the rights of lawful owners.	8. Current law is sufficient.
8a. Oppose.	8a. Support.	8a. In particular, would you support or oppose a ban on assault-style weapons?	8a. Oppose.	8a. Support.	8a. Support.	8a. Oppose.
8b. Oppose.	8b. No response.	8b. Would you support or oppose raising the minimum age for gun purchases in North Carolina?	8b. Current law is sufficient.	8b. Support.	8b. Oppose	8b. Current law is sufficient.
9. Support.	9. Oppose.	9. 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. Support.	9. I am equivocal on this matter.	9. Oppose.	9. Support.
10. Partisan.	10. Nonpartisan.	10. 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. Partisan.	10. Nonpartisan.	10. Nonpartisan.	10. Partisan.
10a. Elected.	10a. Appointed.	10a. More fundamentally, do you support North Carolina's current system of an elected judiciary, or would you prefer an appointed system?	10a. Elected.	10a. Elected.	10a. Elected.	10a. Elected.
11. None – current holidays are adequate.	11. Washington's Birthday.	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	11. Support all three.	11. No opinion.	11. b. a. c.	11.No response.
12. I voted for medical marijuana because it can help terminally ill and suffering people. Oppose recreational marijuana.	12. Legalizing marijuana could bring revenue to the state and help improve the quality of life for persons with chronic health conditions.	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 and for what purpose(s) North Carolina should legalize marijuana. [25 word limit]	12. Medical only with a qualified doctor's prescription.	12. NC already has a medical marijuana law (limited). NC should legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. Small quantities of recreational marijuana could be legalized.	12. I support legalization and decriminalization of either recreational or medical marijuana for adults 21 years old and up. I would sign onto HB 626.	12. One should freely choose one's own medical care – if medical marijuana is legalized must be tightly controlled, not to the disadvantage of other emerging treatments...
13. Oppose.	13. Support.	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?	13. Current law is sufficient.	13. Support.	13. Support.	13. Current law is sufficient.
13a. Oppose.	13a. Support.	13a. Specifically, what is your view on the Confederate statute on the north side of the Court House in Graham. Would you support or oppose its removal?	13a. —	13a. Support. Removed to the Alamance Battleground where it could be seen as part of county's history.	13a. Support.	13a. No response.

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14. Yes.	14. No.	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]	14. Yes.	14. Yes	14. No.	14. Yes.
14a. Anybody who thinks Senate District 25 is unfairly drawn fundamentally does not understand redistricting.	14a. The district encompasses two counties with far reaching cities like Archdale and gives an advantage to Republican candidates. Why is the district not only Alamance County?	Social Issues	14a. —	14a. N.A.	14a. Gerrymandering erodes trust in our electoral process. Non-partisan or independent mapmakers should draw state maps for fair elections, and this should be a constitutional amendment.	14a. —
15. Oppose. Current laws are adequate.	15. Support.	15. Do you support or oppose legislation extending anti-discrimination protection to homosexuals?	15. Current laws are sufficient.	15. Support.	15. Support.	15. Current law is sufficient.
16. No.	16.No response.	16. In general, do you consider abortion to be a Constitutionally-protected right?	16. No.	16. Yes.	16. Yes.	16. No.
16a. Support.	16a. Oppose.	16a. Do you support or oppose legislation in North Carolina to ban "partial birth abortions"?	16a. Support.	16a. No response.	16a. No response.	16a. Support.
16b. Allowing a baby to be partially born, actually part way out of the mother, then crushing its skull and killing it, is barbaric.	16b. Freedom to decide reproductive health should not be a legislative matter. It is an individual's medical decision between them and their doctor.	16b. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	16b. —	16b. Currently, abortions are banned after 12 th week of pregnancy in most situations. I believe that women's healthcare should be between her, her physician, her God.	16b. Partial-birth abortion is banned under federal law with limited exceptions. Women's healthcare decisions should be made by them, their doctors, faith leaders, and family; not the government.	16b. —
17. None.	17. No response.	17. Please explain under what conditions, if any, N.C. tax dollars should be made available to fund abortions? (25 word limit)	17. Current law allows for rape, incest, or health of the mother.	17. NC tax dollars should be made available to fund abortions for women who cannot afford to pay for an abortion.	17. The Hyde Amendment prohibits Medicaid from funding abortions. Restricting healthcare access harms women and mothers. I will always support funding crucial healthcare systems in our state.	17. —
18. Affordable housing, especially since the recent storm has destroyed existing homes and displaced many people.	18. No single issue is over and above others to address the holistic needs of North Carolinians.	General Issues 18. What single issue do you think is most critical for the state to address? (25 word limit)	18. Currently we are dealing with the massive destruction in western NC... We also have an affordable housing crisis that will take many years to overcome.	18. Equal rights under the law. Women have been downgraded over the past years. We need to take back our rights and help NC move forward.	18. North Carolina ranks #1 in business, yet #38 in teacher pay and #49 in public education funding. It's time to fully fund our public schools.	18. Currently, destruction of western part of state. In general what is good for families is good for state, bad for families is bad for state.
19. The economy of Alamance County and the central Piedmont is excellent. Need to continue to improve education and "spread the wealth" to less prosperous counties.	19. Raise minimum wage, child care access and affordability, broadband to address digital divide, affordable housing are intersectional factors to improve the NC economy.	19. What action(s) do you think would do the most to improve the economy in North Carolina? (25 word limit)	19. We began major policy shifts...to change tax policy, reduce regulatory environment, improve education, and improve state's infrastructure – making NC a top destination for citizens, business.	19. Equity for women, higher pay for teachers, welcoming approach to new citizens, more diverse citizenry.	19. NC corporate tax cuts fueled growth but at a cost to working families. I support a tax structure where the wealthy pay their share, easing burdens on small businesses.	19. Lower tax burden, reduced regulatory costs, work force development and balanced budget have been the keys to North Carolina's continued success as a destination state.
20. Improve economy and provide jobs. Innovate and invest in public education. Provide resources to fight crime and increase public safety.	20. Fully fund traditional public education. Reproductive freedom to decide and healthcare access. Rural infrastructure development and agriculture.	20. Give your campaign's three main issues. (50 word limit)	20. Education Reform, Public Safety, Affordable Housing.	20. I will support policies that increase the availability of affordable housing. Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen/improve public schools. Women's healthcare should be without political interference and between her, her physician, and her God.	20. Saving public schools is crucial for Alamance County's future. We must fully fund education to improve conditions and teacher pay. I will also advocate for raising the minimum wage, ensuring all hardworking citizens thrive, regardless of their background. Protecting women's reproductive freedom is essential for equitable healthcare access.	20. Safe communities; quality educational opportunities for all.
20. Yes.	20. No.	20. Is the General Assembly being transparent enough in the way it transacts the public's business?	20. Yes.	20. No.	20 No.	20. Yes.
20a. —	20a. Closed door policy making can be deceptive and misleading to the general public.	20a. If not, what can be done to improve it? [25 word limit]	20a. —	20a. A more evenly balanced General Assembly would result in better decision-making, more equitable decision-making, and better outcomes for our citizens.	20a. The General Assembly must remember it works for the people. Voting on privatizing state-provided emails creates distrust. Elected officials serve by voters' choice, not entitlement.	20a. —
21. Partisanship has always been part of the political process and always will be. As steel sharpens steel, rigorous discussion leads to better outcomes. People should not take disagreement personally. However, we could all work on being more kind and respectful.	21. Personal biases can impede progress. Legislators could ideally cooperate for the best interests of the people.	21. There is much debate about the degree to which partisanship in Raleigh (whether within the General Assembly, or between legislators and the Governor) impedes improving public policy-making in the state. What is your view on the status of cooperation between the parties and whether it can/should be changed? [50 word limit]	21. We have a system set up at the beginning in our Constitution that creates 3 branches of government – legislative, administrative and judicial – which must all remain separate as a system of checks and balances. Each has a separate role and must remain as it was designed.	21. A more balanced government should lead to a better government. Partisan politics only helps one party. Manipulating boundaries by gerrymandering should be abolished. All citizens should have the right to be heard.	21. There will never be a perfect government, but we can achieve a balanced one. North Carolinians want civil discourse, not blame and division. As an educator, I work with students and families from all perspectives, and I believe in fostering open dialogue. Extremism must go. I will be approachable, present, and listen actively to all citizens in Alamance, ensuring respectful and productive conversations that help North Carolina move forward.	21. Our matchless constitutions (U.S. and N.C.) as amended establish 3 separate branches of government and divide power in government at every level be checked and balanced by the other two branches. It is a very good system. Disagreements should be expected.
22. School calendar law – would like to find a way to provide some flexibility while addressing concerns of travel and tourism industry.	22. No response. Raised.	22. On what, if any, state issue(s) do you diverge from the general consensus (or majority view) on that issue/those issues within your party? [25 word limit]	22. —	22. None.	22. I'll always approach decisions with an open mind and thorough research, prioritizing what's best for Alamance County. I'll include input from all sides whenever possible.	22. If that were the case I would have to find another party!