

Questionnaire for Candidates for District Court Judge, General Election, November 5, 2024

SEAT # 1 - PARTIAL TERM		Questions	SEAT # 3		SEAT # 5	
R. Bryan Norris, Jr.	Bryan Ray		Doug Green	Craig Turner	Meredith Tuck Edwards	Natalie R. Jones
1. Yes, when required by law or statute (<i>i.e.</i> commitment cases). Without addressing any potential fact pattern that might come before me, closure is otherwise lawful <i>only</i> when: (1) it's <i>necessary</i> to support a compelling governmental interest; (2) there's <i>no</i> less restrictive means available; (3) the closure is <i>narrowly</i> tailored. 2. a. I've presided as a trial judge in every criminal district courtroom in the county. As an appellate judicial law clerk for 7 years, I helped judges and justices at the NC Court of Appeals and Supreme Court decide every kind of criminal case, from misdemeanors to death penalty cases. b. I've presided over every type of civil district court case in Alamance. I've reviewed and helped appellate judges and justices decide civil cases of every stripe, including major constitutional law cases. And I've been a civil litigator in civil superior court statewide, the NC Business Court, and federal district court. 3. As a judge, I strive in every case to follow the law as written and ensure that it's fairly and equally applied to all persons, regardless of circumstances. I endeavor to exercise the responsibilities of the office in way that minimizes the harm in our communities while also maximizing the help available in our courtrooms. And I work diligently to resolve each case expeditiously, because justice delayed is justice denied for litigants and victims alike.	1. The only circumstances that justify closing the courts are when natural disasters such as ice, storms, or other phenomenon cause the risk of physical injury to parties outweigh the benefit of having court. 2. a. A portion of my practice since passing the bar has been in criminal defense. I have experience defending everything from simple traffic violations through serious sex offenses. In 2015, I successfully argued that a Burlington City Code allowing police to search hotel registries was facially unconstitutional. b. The majority of my practice over the last 11 years has been in family law. I have represented individuals all over the state in cases ranging from simple divorce and child custody to multimillion dollar divorces and cases involving significant child abuse. 3. The biggest qualification that I possess as a candidate is experience. Throughout my career, I have tried virtually every type of case a District Court Judge presides over. This experience has allowed me to represent people coming from all walks of life. This gives me a unique perspective to understand not only the complexity of these issues, but the people involved and will allow me to render justice accordingly.	1. Article I, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides that "all courts shall be open." Are there any circumstances you can envision that would cause you to close a courtroom without violating this constitutional provision? [50 word limit] 2. Please outline your courtroom experience in the following areas: a. Criminal Court [50 word limit]: b. Civil Court [50 word limit]: 3. Please provide a statement of no more than 75 words on your judicial philosophy and qualifications.	1. There are limited circumstances in which a Judge has the discretion to close the courtroom. Closing a courtroom occurs only when it is necessary to serve a compelling interest and there are no other alternatives to protect that interest. 2. a. From 2017 to 2020, I was a prosecutor with the district attorney's office. I practiced in both district and superior court. From 2020 to 2023, I represented criminal defendants in district and superior court with several bench trials in both courtrooms. I currently preside as judge in criminal district court. b. Since beginning my career in 1998, I have been primarily a civil litigator. I have represented both civil plaintiffs and civil defendants. I have had over 20 civil jury trials; I have participated in many hearings, mediations, and depositions and have argued in front of an appellate court. 3. Follow the law in ALL circumstances, be transparent, fair and impartial and allow everyone to be heard. I have over 25 years of courtroom litigation experience. For the past eight months, I have had the pleasure of serving the citizens of Alamance County as district court judge. I am well versed in the areas of the law that are necessary to carry out my duties as district court judge.	1. Both the First Amendment to the Constitution and N.C. law require courtrooms to be open to the public except in rare cases, because open access ensures transparency and promotes public confidence. I will not close the courtroom except as required by law. 2. a. I previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in Alamance County, prosecuting cases ranging from drug offenses to murder. I am now assigned as a court-appointed criminal defense attorney for criminal and juvenile cases in Alamance County District Court. b. The bulk of my practice since 2010 has been litigating complex civil cases. I have argued motions and tried cases for fourteen years in courts ranging from small claims court, to federal court, to the N.C. Business Court, where I also served as a law clerk to two judges. 3. Justice Southerland of the U.S. Supreme Court once wrote: "the twofold aim of [the law] is that guilt shall not escape or innocence suffer." As a former prosecutor, I know that tough and fair judges are important to maintaining law and order. I will promote justice by adhering to the law, not trying to make it. I will be tough, but professional, courteous, and fair.	1. During COVID, judicial leadership prioritized keeping courts open. Under limited circumstances courts have been closed because of emergency circumstances: lack of a courtroom, clerks were sick, no bailiffs or weather. In Alamance County these decisions are made collaboratively by the judicial leadership team. 2. a. As clerk, I am the record keeper for criminal courts and I served as an assistant district attorney for 11 years. As an ADA, I worked in both district and superior courts handling all levels of misdemeanor and felony cases and I also prosecuted both adult and juvenile cases. b. As the clerk of court, I am the record keeper for civil courts and I have the honor to preside over a variety of civil matters: probate and contested estate proceedings, adoptions, incompetency and guardianship cases, special proceeding real estate cases and specific civil cases before the clerk. 3. As clerk, I prioritize providing knowledgeable, efficient, compassionate service to citizens. I will have the same priorities inside the courtroom: knowing and following the law, understanding the limited resource of time to resolve cases, and appreciating the impact of decisions on the lives before me. I have lived these priorities for 17 years as a public servant to Alamance County. I remain committed to using these priorities to restore public confidence in our judicial system. 3a. My experiences both as an ADA and as the clerk have given me a unique opportunity to examine and understand the judicial system from a variety of perspectives. I understand both the macro and the micro views of the court system which gives me an advantage to improve both levels. 4. Having presided over 100s of cases as clerk, I have been thanked many times for listening to litigants' concerns while applying the law as written. 4a. Ms. Jones and I are colleagues and will remain colleagues after this election. She is the best person to tell about her strengths and abilities. 5. As stated in #3, knowledge of the law, efficiently managing court dockets and treating litigants with compassion are the most important qualities of a judge. 6. Judges Abernathy, Lambeth, and Roberson, each with their own strengths, had significant impacts on me as a prosecutor trying cases in district and superior courts. 7. The legislature provides parameters to judges and prosecutors so that defendants charged with the same crime receive relatively the same sentence statewide. The sentencing structure allows recognition for mitigating or aggravating circumstances while maintaining predictability. Predictability helps both victims and defendants set expectations and understand the range of possible outcomes.	1. Yes, if there is a direct threat to court personnel or; infectious disease outbreak; inclement weather that would impede safe travel for court personnel and the citizens of our county. 2. a. 22 years of daily, active courtroom experience, working as a defense attorney, serving our most vulnerable citizens, those citizens who are not able to hire private counsel due to income restraints. My role as an indigent defense attorney has allowed me to participate in many bench trials and jury trials. b. I have represented defendants and plaintiffs in civil court, as well, I have diligently and effectively represented parents in Abuse Neglect and Dependency Court. 3. My judicial philosophy is to follow the law that has been codified by our legislators. If the law allows for judicial discretion, I will use that discretion based on the case before me.
3a. First, I've presided as a judge in Alamance County District Court. Second, I have a wider range of experience and knowledge; I've tried cases, but I've also worked in the chambers of appellate judges on hundreds of civil and criminal appeals—including every kind of case heard in district court. 4. I hope I have a reputation as a judge who is respectful but authoritative, stern but compassionate, intelligent but humble, and thoughtful but swift. 4a. I'm required to be recused from all cases in which he's involved because he's my opponent, so I cannot speak to his work as a lawyer.	3a. I believe my experience in both criminal and civil court matters. When the local attorneys of Alamance County voted to recommend who should fill this judicial seat, I was honored to be the top vote recipient. 4. I believe they would say I am levelheaded and calm. 4a. I have not had the opportunity to work with him professionally. However, from our personal interactions, he seems to be a nice guy.	3a. Specifically, what about your background or experience makes you <i>more</i> qualified to serve than your opponent? [50 word limit] 4. How would those who know you well describe your "judicial temperament" to serve as a district court judge? [25 word limit] 4a. How would you assess the legal ability and judicial temperament of your opponent? [25 word limit]	3a. First, I have been a district court judge for the past eight months. I have conducted myself with integrity, professionalism and courtesy to those who have come into my courtroom. Additionally, I have over 25 years of courtroom litigation experience, that includes several jury trials. 4. I have an easy, calm demeanor that does not escalate a situation, and the ability to speak to those before me in a respectful, unoffending manner. 4a. I have worked with him for about a year and a half while in the district attorney's office. He was a very capable and competent attorney. 5. Knowledge of the legal procedures and the law; the ability to listen and the ability to learn; the ability to be humble. 6. Jim Roberson and Tom Lambeth. Both were great jurists, with knowledge of the law, a calm presence, and a humble attitude.	3a. I've lived in Alamance County my whole life (except when serving in the Navy). I graduated first in my class at Elon Law. I have extensive experience as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and civil litigator. In fourteen years, I've been lead counsel in hundreds of cases with varying complexity. 4. I will be courteous, civil, and professional and insist that others act in kind. I will treat everyone in the courtroom with dignity and respect. 4a. It is improper for a judicial candidate to comment on a judge's credentials. But, my opponent is a devoted public servant and upstanding community member. 5. Integrity, active-listener, and mastery of the law. 6. Judge Jim Roberson. He was thoughtful, approachable, and firm in his decisions. He expected attorneys to act with civility and propriety.	3a. [50 word limit] I have far more trial experience than my opponent, who has only been part of one jury trial in her 11 years in the prosecutor's office, opposed to my 20+ jury trials. She has zero experience in defense work. I have practiced in every area of law in district court, my opponent has not. 4. Ms. Jones will get the job done, she will be present, reliable and available. 4a. My opponent is currently not serving as a judge, and has no judicial experience.	5. Ability to understand and follow the law. A desire to do what is fair and proper based on the situation before her. Ability to be compassionate. 6. This question is left blank by the candidate.
5. Humility; (2) dedication—to the law and the service of others; and (3) fairness to everyone that appears before them in the courtroom. 6. Wayne Abernathy: for evenhandedness; Tom Lambeth: for humility; Brad Allen: for his years of dedicated service; Larry Brown: for faithfulness; Katie Overby: for her leadership.	5. Consistency, knowledge of the law, professionalism 6. Judge Overby, Judge Brown, and Judge Messick have all made a huge impact on me not only as an attorney, but as a person and a father.	5. What do you believe are the three most important qualities a judge must have to be an effective jurist? [25 word limit] 6. Which local judge(s), past or present, that you have known or appeared before, do you most admire – and why? [25 word limit]	7. The NC General Assembly passed sentencing guidelines, that gives judges guidance as to the range in which certain classifications of crimes can be sentenced. Judges have the discretion to sentence within those guidelines.	7. More flexibility. A judge should have the wisdom to sentence in a way that fits the crime and the criminal. It is important to vote for judges who demonstrate such ability and who will keep with community values.	7. The legislature provides parameters to judges and prosecutors so that defendants charged with the same crime receive relatively the same sentence statewide. The sentencing structure allows recognition for mitigating or aggravating circumstances while maintaining predictability. Predictability helps both victims and defendants set expectations and understand the range of possible outcomes.	7. I am currently not serving as a judge. From a defense attorney perspective, there could be situations where more flexibility would be needed to deal with various situations and circumstances. Regardless of a judge's personal views, that judge is expected to, and should always follow the law.

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8. I'll defer to the policy-making branches. But I'm well aware ensuring appropriate bonds are set and that cases are handled quickly both have substantial impact on jail population.	8. I believe drug court as a diversion program would help reduce the amount of nonviolent offenders in our jail and would help prevent recidivism.	8. Do you have any suggestions with respect to reducing the county jail population, to relieve overcrowding? [25 word limit]	8. In my discretion, I have the duty to sentence defendants, whose crimes have been proven, to jail, not predicated on whether there is jail overcrowding.	8. Hundreds of low-level felonies may now be prosecuted in district court, rather than superior. Making these cases a scheduling priority will reduce the jail population.	8. Leadership has adopted policies to affect housing: encouraging citation instead of arrest policies, conducting misdemeanor first appearances earlier than required, and supporting the diversion center.	8. An encouragement to move cases to final disposition as quickly as possible. The judge to be present on the bench and available to move cases along.
8a. Judges – myself included – defense attorneys, and prosecutors need to make sure <i>no one</i> spends more time incarcerated than is lawful, just, and appropriate.	8a. I do not believe this is an issue in Alamance County.	8a. In particular, what can be done to ensure that inmates awaiting trial are not kept in jail (awaiting trial) longer than the sentence they might receive if ultimately convicted of the charges pending against them? [25 word limit]	8a. Our bond policy has limits on the dollar amount of bonds in certain criminal classifications. Bonds should be provided to ensure a criminal defendant's presence in court.	8a. We should implement regular in-court status updates for detained defendants awaiting trial and establish reasonable deadlines for case disposition.	8a. Currently we utilize the sheriff's jail liaison, pre-trial release program coordinators, and defense attorneys to identify these cases and talk with defendants about possible solutions.	8a. An encouragement to move cases to final disposition as quickly as possible. The judge to be present on the bench and available to move cases along.
9. What supplemental collection procedures are available is up to the policy-making branches. But I will order restitution where appropriate and allowed by law.	9. I believe all restitution should be paid before any defendant shall be allowed off probation.	9. What, if anything, can be done to improve the collection of, and distribution of, actual restitution when it is ordered as a part of a sentence? [25 word limit]	9. I have ability to order restitution. But, pursuant to NC law, failure to pay can only result in civil judgments in some circumstances.	9. Rather than putting the burden on victims to collect on these rulings in civil court, issue contempt orders against violators in appropriate cases.	9. Judges can consider waiving probation supervision fees and other fines to prioritize that all monetary payments are applied to satisfy restitution obligations in criminal judgments.	9. A judge can order restitution, and use contempt powers to encourage payments as necessary.
10. The policy-making branches – not the judiciary – establish collection procedures and penalties for nonpayment. I strive to enter a fair and just judgment within these parameters.	10. Child support enforcement does a fantastic job, but they don't have resources to hire private investigators or forensic accountants that private attorneys sometimes use.	10. What, if anything, can be done to improve the collection of child support payments in the court system? [25 word limit]	10. As a district court judge, I have ability to order child support. If support is not paid, NC law provides punishment that can include jail time.	10. Zero tolerance for able-bodied, deficient parents.	10. While ECourts has a detrimentally impacted docket sizes and speed in these courts, handling more cases per session would have a positive impact on collection.	10. A judge can order child support payments, and use contempt powers to encourage payments.
11. I don't think so – at least at present – given our county's current size and the addition of a fifth district court judge.	11. No. I think Alamance County is one of the more efficient counties in the state as it pertains to moving cases in a timely manner.	11. Is "night court" a concept that would have any benefit for Alamance County courts? (25 word limit)	11. With the presence of a 5 th district court judge, this should be adequate at this time to handle criminal and civil matters in Alamance County.	11. We do not have sufficient clerks, bailiffs, DAs, and court-appointed defense attorneys to staff night court. Should that change, I would hold court at night.	11. No. In its current structure, the Alamance County judicial system could not conduct night court without considerable financial resource allocations from state and county leaders.	11. Night court would require additional staff and court personnel, which would not be a decision under my purview.
12. The reestablishment of drug recovery court is an incredibly heartening development in Alamance County, but additional mental health and addiction resources – as well as supporting those county and non-profit resources that already exist here – are sorely needed. Robust reentry programs for those exiting incarceration are likewise vital to reducing recidivism.	12. I believe that a post separation support and alimony calculator (similar to child support) would make these issues more predictable and easier to settle for our local family law bar.	12. What areas within the judiciary/law enforcement do you feel most need improvement, and what suggestions do you have? [50 word limit]	12. We'll be receiving a recovery court, which, hopefully, will be utilized to help those defendants who have addictions and decrease recidivism. RHA has added a mental health office so that those with mental health issues can be transported to receive help instead of going to jail. Alamance County needs more resources dedicated to victims of domestic violence.	12. We need to continue to encourage the retention, training, and recruitment of Alamance County detention officers, bailiffs, patrol officers, and clerks to ensure courts run safely and efficiently.	12. I am a strong believer in trauma-informed approaches and recovery courts, particularly in district courts. I am excited to see the impact of future recovery courts on litigants in Alamance County and am hopeful for future training to expand trauma informed approaches from the bench.	12. Effective use of court time.
13. As a sitting judge, and because there are outstanding collateral issues still being litigated in the bond policy lawsuit brought against the County, I'm not at liberty to address this particular issue.	13. I do not believe judicial candidates are allowed to comment on this.	13. What is your assessment of the current bond policy. How, if at all, would you recommend it be changed? [50 word limit]	13. This is a question which I cannot comment because Alamance County has a lawsuit against it regarding the administration of bonds in criminal cases.	13. The current bond policy for Alamance County is controlled by an Order of Judge Tilley of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, entered on May 8, 2020. I will follow the requirements of Judge Tilley's Order unless and until it is altered.	13. This litigation is still pending. In my position as the elected clerk I am affected by the rulings of this federal court, so I refrain from commenting at this time.	13. The bond policy is designed to guarantee a defendants return to court. In cases when a bond is set too high for a defendant to obtain, our current judges have the ability to review that bond based on the defendant's existing circumstances.
14. Again, the policy making branches establish the procedures for administration of juvenile justice. But the <i>first</i> responsibility for reducing juvenile delinquency doesn't lie with the government: <i>it lies with parents</i> . Beyond that, supporting programs like Teen Court and AJOB go a long way towards helping – and reducing – juvenile offenders/reoffenders.	14. I truly believe we have a great Teen Court Program in this county and any increase in funding would greatly benefit our youth.	14. What suggestions, if any, do you have with respect to improving the administration of the juvenile justice system? [50 word limit]	14. There can be more resources to help with juveniles to make them aware there are other avenues and opportunities than committing criminal acts.	14. Give discretion to district court judges to determine when a juvenile should be eligible for indictment as an adult.	14. Significant changes to juvenile delinquency law will take effect December 1, 2024. As a community, we cannot yet understand the impact of these statutory changes and how they will impact the status of our juvenile justice system. The current administration cannot be thoroughly examined until these changes are implemented.	14. None currently, I trust the General Assembly to take all matters into consideration when establishing laws.
14a. As a sitting judge, I can't speak to whether this is wise policy.	14a. Yes.	14a. In particular, do you consider the state's training schools an adequate and appropriate rehabilitative setting for juvenile offenders?	14a. I am unaware of statistics that indicate whether juveniles that enter training schools re-offend or not.	14a. Yes, in many cases.	14a. Yes.	14a. In some circumstances it is appropriate. Juveniles with low level crimes should be given the opportunity for rehabilitation.
15. Again, as a sitting judge, I cannot express an opinion on their adequacy or appropriateness.	15. Yes.	15. Are existing provisions adequate to guarantee safe and effective implementation of protective orders? (25 word limit)	15. Domestic violence often has accompanying criminal charges issuing restrictions and conditions on protective orders helps gives victims the tools to contact law enforcement.	15. Yes, but it is important that judges tailor restrictions in protective orders to meet the particulars of individual cases.	15. Yes.	15. Yes.
16. Again, as a sitting judge, I cannot speak to the wisdom of the decisions of the policy-making branches, as I must administer justice in accordance with the law however enacted by the legislature and executive branches.	16. I believe it is the role of the courts to enforce the law, and important not to comment on the formation of or changes to the law.	16. Are there any areas in which you think the General Assembly needs to make changes to improve the administration of justice in the district court system? [50 word limit]	16. As a district court judge, my duties are to follow the laws as enacted by the NC General Assembly.	16. As Alamance County continues to grow, we will need additional court staff, including prosecutors, public defenders, and court personnel.	16. Obviously any additional allocation of judicial resources, whether judges, prosecutors, clerks or public defenders would be helpful to a more efficient administration of justice, particularly in counties with quickly growing populations, like Alamance.	16. Not currently, but I will trust the General Assembly to take all matters into consideration when establishing laws.
17. No.	17. No.	17. Have you ever been the subject of a complaint to the North Carolina State Bar or the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission?	17. No.	17. No.	17. Yes.	17. No.
17a. N.A. I have received no bar or judicial standards complaints.	17a. N.A.	17a. If yes, please briefly explain the circumstances and the outcome. [50 word limit, per complaint]	17a. N.A.	17a. N.A.	17a. I recall responding to a Bar Complaint a number of years ago when I was in the DA's office. This is not unusual as rarely are a prosecutor's actions without disappointment to someone. Nothing came of this incident, and I do not recall any specifics about this circumstance.	17a. N.A.

SEAT # 1 - PARTIAL TERM

**R. Bryan
Norris, Jr.**

**Bryan
Ray**

Questions

18. I will and do follow recusal requirements set forth by North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct; N.C.G.S. § 15A-1223; any relevant statute; state/federal constitutional case-law.

19. I am required by law to weigh/consider the factors set forth in the relevant statutes, N.C.G.S. §§ 90-21.8(d) & (e). I will follow the law.

20. Elective.

20a. There's no perfect system for selecting judges, but I appreciate the accountability offered by popular election.

21. It's indicative of nothing. Politics has no role to play in my courtroom or my decision-making; I'm a public servant, not a politician. And I owe my obedience to the law, not any political party or ideology.

22. At present, yes. But we are an increasingly growing county, and we'll need a sixth judge much sooner than we needed a fifth one.

23. I want to help people: (1) to help children live in safe and stable homes and help parents provide those homes to children; (2) to help victims by keeping them safe; and (3) to help the public by treating the accused fairly while also holding them to account if convicted.

18. Anyone that I have a personal relationship with or have represented.

19. Due to the sensitivity of this issue, I would need to hear the facts of the case and make an appropriate decision.

20. Elective.

20a. I believe judges are an important part of our society, and our voters deserve to have a voice.

21. I am a conservative at heart and will use my experience and values to ensure justice is administered fairly.

22. For right now yes, but we are a growing community and will likely need a sixth judge in the future.

23. For the last eleven years I have represented the citizens of this county in both criminal and family law court. Throughout that time, I have employed three principles: honesty, understanding, and dedication. I hope to apply those to Alamance County District Court Seat 01.

18. If elected, what type of circumstances might prompt you to recuse yourself from hearing a case? [25 word limit]

19. Under North Carolina law, a minor may petition a district court judge to obtain permission for an abortion – in the event she cannot obtain permission from a parent or guardian, or does not want to seek parental permission. What principles would govern your consideration about when and under what circumstances to approve a minor's request for an abortion without parental consent? [25 word limit]

20. Do you support the current elective system for district court judges, or would you favor an appointive system?

20a. Why? [25 word limit]

21. What, if anything, about your party affiliation is indicative of how you will carry out your district court duties, as opposed to someone from the opposite party? [50 word limit]

22. Are the (soon to be) five district court judges sufficient to handle the caseload in Alamance County district court? Why or why not? [25 word limit]

23. Give your campaign's three main issues. [50 word limit]

SEAT # 3

**Doug
Green**

**Craig
Turner**

18. I will follow the laws of recusal as set forth by the NC Case law and the NC General Assembly.

19. I will follow the laws of NC as set forth by NC Case law and the NC General Assembly.

20. The NC General Statutes indicate as that district court judges are to be elected. I will abide by these laws. 20a.

21. What, if anything, about your party affiliation is indicative of how you will carry out your district court duties, as opposed to someone from the opposite party? [50 word limit] Nothing.

22. As we get into that process beginning in January 2025, we will be in a better position to assess whether 5 district court judges are adequate.

23. Our judicial system should be free from influences, and the law should be followed in all circumstances; The people that come into my courtroom will be heard, treated with respect, and will know the reasons as to why I ruled a particular way. A judge that stands for justice does more than just sit on the bench.

18. Upon motion or on the judge's initiative, whenever "impartiality may reasonably be questioned." N.C. Code of Judicial Conduct and N.C.G.S. Section 15A-1223 provided amplifying information.

19. As a father, I cannot imagine being barred from this. But as judge, I am bound by law to consider health, rape/incest, and other requirements.

20. Elective.

20a. Citizens should have the power to determine which community leaders they want to decide sobering issues regarding their property, custody, parental rights, and individual liberty.

21. Government's primary duty is to protect citizens' natural rights, an idea embodied in the Constitution. Judges should be restrained in their legal interpretations and mindful of their duty to safeguard individuals' life, liberty, and property in order to hold accountable violators of such rights and to protect against government overreach.

22. Yes. If all five judges adopt a strong work ethic and work efficiently (which I will do), five district court judges can handle the load.

23. I am the most qualified candidate for Alamance County's District Court Seat 3. I have significant courtroom experience in civil and criminal law. I will serve with the work ethic of a military officer. I will treat everyone with dignity and respect, like I have as a Commissioner.

SEAT # 5

**Meredith
Tuck Edwards**

**Natalie R.
Jones**

18. I would recuse myself if there were any circumstance under which it might give even the appearance that I might not be fair and impartial.

19. These cases are rare and this law is specific. I would consider all admissible evidence and, in my best judgment, apply the law as written.

20. Elective.

20a. Appointments provide accountability to the person or group making the appointment. Elections provide accountability to the community as a whole.

21. Courts function to apply and interpret the law and are an essential function of government. While my Republican values are important to me. I will conduct my courtroom such that justice is blind and my decisions are based on the evidence before me and are not reflective of any agenda.

22. With this 5th position, additional courts will be added to accommodate caseload. As county population increases, a 6th district court judge will soon be needed.

23. I support current efforts to add Recovery Courts to support defendants with substance abuse. I encourage adopting trauma-informed practices and seeking trauma-informed training for how judges address litigants. I will collaborate with judges and court leaders to develop processes that promote and restore the public's trust of the judiciary.

18. If I have a direct relation to the person before me.

19. I will follow the law and use the statute and the individual's circumstance and situation.

20. Elective.

20a. Elections are fair and it allows the citizens of Alamance County to be heard.

21. I will be fair and impartial regardless of my party affiliation. When an individual is before the court I will not inquire of or take into consideration the individual's party affiliation.

22. There is an immediate need for a 5th judge. As the cases grow there may soon be a need for additional personnel and judge(s).

23. I will be available to deal with as many cases as possible during the court day; I will use the court time wisely, and I will be respectful to the attorneys and citizens of Alamance County!