

Questionnaire for Candidates for General Assembly, General Election, November 3, 2026

STATE SENATE		Questions	STATE HOUSE - DISTRICT # 63		STATE HOUSE - DISTRICT # 64	
Southey Blanton	Amy Scott Galey		Ian Baltutis	Ryan Moffitt	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? 2. North Carolina's statewide sales tax on food was phased out between 1996 to 1999. However, local (2 percent) sales taxes, still apply to food purchases. Should the General Assembly also phase out, and eliminate, the applicability of <i>local</i> sales taxes to food purchases, as well? 2a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	1. About right.	1. Too high.	1. About right.	1. Too high.
2. No.	2. Yes.		2. Yes.	2. Yes.	2. No.	2. Yes.
2a. Cutting an additional source of revenue counties rely on will only lead to higher property taxes or reduced funding for schools, EMS, and fire departments.	2a. People should not be taxed on the food they need to eat/stay alive, whether at local or state level.		2a. Families deserve relief at the grocery store, and I'll support repeal when Raleigh replaces every dollar. As a former mayor, I know local governments depend on this revenue. Raleigh must guarantee repeal never shortchanges police, fire, EMS, or schools, and never forces higher property taxes.	2a. Groceries are essential for basic sustenance. Every penny spent by an individual on the purchase of food should carry maximum purchasing power, particularly where consumers have little choice but to bear high grocery prices during inflationary periods like the present.	2a. I oppose eliminating local sales taxes on food. Families deserve relief from rising grocery costs, but local revenue also supports schools, public safety, and essential services. I believe the better approach is to reduce costs for working families while ensuring corporations contribute their fair share toward the communities, infrastructure, and services they rely on.	2a. Off-the-shelf food purchases should not be taxed.
3. Oppose.	3. Support.	3. Current law provides a phased reduction and ultimate elimination of North Carolina's corporate income tax, reaching 0 in 2030. Do you support or oppose this planned reduction/elimination of the corporate income tax? 3a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	3. Oppose.	3. Support.	3. Oppose.	3. Support.
3a. There is no reason Amazon or Duke Energy should ever pay less in taxes than you or I when that corporation benefits from the hard work of North Carolinians.	3a. Elimination of the corporate tax attracts new business, contributing to the growth in our economy and ultimately leading to more revenue from other sources.		3a. My first priority is keeping more money in Alamance residents' pockets. That means cutting the tax on groceries, not zeroing out taxes on corporations. Eliminating corporate taxes drains revenue for schools and public safety, and families pay for it twice, through weaker services and higher local property taxes.	3a. Corporate income tax discourages investment and disproportionately and adversely impacts small businesses.	3a. I oppose eliminating corporate income tax. Families are already feeling the pressure of rising costs while schools, roads, and public services need investment. Giving corporations another tax break risks shifting more responsibility onto working families. Alamance deserves a tax system where corporations contribute fairly to the community they depend on.	3a. But would rather the priority for tax reduction to be the individual income tax at this time.
4. Oppose.	4. Support.	4. A constitutional amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot proposes to keep the state's income tax rate from being raised higher than 3½ percent. Do you support or oppose this constitutional amendment with the 3½ percent ceiling on personal income taxes? 4a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	4. Oppose.	4. Support.	4. Oppose.	4. Support.
4a. The individual income tax rate is already set to be 3.49% in 2027, meaning this amendment doesn't lower your taxes, it simply blocks us from ever raising taxes on millionaires.	4a. We know that Republicans will not raise taxes. However, if the Democrats regain control of the General Assembly, they are guaranteed to raise taxes probably back to at least 6 - 7.5% from 2010. We need constitutional guardrails to protect from future tax increases.		4a. I want Alamance residents to keep more of their money, but this amendment doesn't cut anyone's taxes. The rate has already dropped to 3.49% next year. The cap ties Raleigh's hands after a hurricane or recession, exactly when Alamance communities need the state's help most.	4a. North Carolinians are hard-working people and deserve to retain as much of the fruit of their labor as possible. This State has demonstrated over the last decade that it is capable of producing revenue surpluses while also reducing income tax rates.	4a. I oppose the 3.5% cap. A flat tax means millionaires and billionaires pay same rate as hourly workers, placing more pressure on working families. My opponent supports this amendment; Alamance needs leadership protecting resources for schools, infrastructure, and services—not shifting costs onto working families or risking future economic growth.	4a. State government needs to have clear boundaries and tax limitations.
5. Oppose.	5. Support.	5. Another constitutional amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot proposes to require limits on property tax increases by local governments – although no specific parameters are included in the proposed amendment. Do you support or oppose this constitutional amendment? 5a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	5. Oppose.	5. Support.	5. Oppose.	5. Support.
5a. A vague amendment added to the state constitution means the General Assembly can make their own parameters or exemptions about what your county collects and spends without your county's input.	5a. While the local governments in Senate District 25 have been responsible with property taxes, the same cannot be said of other places. Taxpayers in NC need protection from poor local government decision making and bad priorities.		5a. I want property taxes kept low, but this amendment asks voters to approve limits nobody has written. As a former mayor, I know local governments, closest to the people, must act urgently in a crisis. They shouldn't be left hoping Raleigh grants an exception while neighbors wait.	5a. Similar to the State government's successful record of revenue management while reducing income tax, limitations on property taxes will ease the burden of property owners across the State, incentivize investment in real property, and, ultimately, contribute to growth in tax base and revenue.	5a. I will not support an amendment that has no specific limits and could restrict Alamance County's ability to fund schools, roads, emergency services, and infrastructure as we grow. Local leaders understand our needs best. We shouldn't force Alamance to wait on Raleigh insiders for decisions about funding essential local services.	5a. The current property tax has proven to be problematic. It is time for a thorough review of our property tax policies around the state.
5b. The General Assembly should not be in the business of taking over responsibilities of county governments. They should instead be working as a teammate, collaborating and communicating to make sure each county has what it needs.	5b. I would support a limit in the percent the property tax can be raised in one year or within another defined time frame.	5b. If this amendment were to be adopted by the North Carolina electorate, what limits or parameters on property tax increases by local governments do you believe would be reasonable for the General Assembly to adopt? [50 word limit]	5b. Any limit must exempt disaster recovery and public safety, account for growth and inflation, honor voter-approved bonds, and let local voters override it. Most important, Raleigh must stop shifting costs onto cities and counties, which pushes property taxes up.	5b. Examples of limits or parameters could include scrutiny of year-over-year increases, consideration for rate of inflation, costs associated with certain essential services or specific investments. Likewise, exceptions should be established for cases of emergency, debt service of voter-approved bond projects, and other reasonable and justified circumstances.	5b. This amendment would give Raleigh greater control over Alamance, with potential loopholes for corporations to receive greater tax breaks. We should not be shifting this tax burden onto families living paycheck to paycheck. We need flexibility to invest in local essential services and opportunities that help families get ahead.	5b. Generally property tax increases should be tied to population growth and inflation. Also the "Ridgcrest" language needs to be reworked and more attention paid to those negatively impacted by the homestead/veterans current policy.
6. Too little.	6. About right.	Education 6. Is North Carolina spending too much, too little, or about right on education? 7. What can be done to improve the quality of North Carolina's public schools? (25 word limit)	6. Too little.	6. Too little.	6. Too little.	6. About right.
7. Fully funding them and paying teachers and staff a wage that allows them to only work one job is step number one.	7. Math education/curriculum; address discipline and chronic absenteeism issues; implement the Science of Reading.		7. Public schools should be our first investment. End vouchers and fix the education lottery now, so Alamance property taxpayers stop covering Raleigh's shortfall.	7. Administrative efficiency. There is immense capacity at the State level for investing more effectively in public schools than what has been demonstrated to date.	7. Stop siphoning our taxpayer dollars out of our public schools to give to private schools, and pay the teachers and faculty an actual livable wage.	7. Talking to educators, one of the most frequent concerns expressed is that of school safety - particularly in the upper grades. A safe workplace is a must!
8. Charter schools are where new concepts and curriculum can be explored to help public schools continue innovating.	8. Important part of education choice landscape. Not every school is a great fit for every child. Parents should have options.	8. What is your view of charter schools? (25 word limit)	8. Charter schools are part of public education, and families deserve options. But charters should meet the same accountability standards as traditional public schools.	8. I am not categorically opposed to charter schools. If a charter school demonstrates efficiency and desirable student outcomes, it should be supported.	8. I support charter schools, but want funding loopholes closed and stronger accountability standards, ensuring they don't divert resources from traditional public schools or communities.	8. Support.
9. Oppose.	9. Support.	9. 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?	9. Oppose.	9. Support.	9. Oppose.	9. Support.

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9a. If a private school immediately raises their tuition by the amount of a voucher, or requires attendees who already could afford tuition to apply for a voucher, then they aren't helping a single student. They are subsidizing unaccountable schools with taxpayer funds.	9a. No response.	9a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	9a. Parents have every right to choose private school, but public dollars belong in public schools. I would end these vouchers, which go even to families who could already afford tuition, and return that money to classrooms so Alamance property taxpayers stop covering the gap.	9a. I generally support facilitating and funding choice in K-12 education because in today's world and even more so in the future, education cannot be seen as one-size-fits-all. I believe Opportunity Scholarship funding needs to be carefully administered and focused on need.	9a. I don't support the act of subsidizing private schools by taxpayers in the form of vouchers that end up primarily in the hands of families who can already afford to send their children to these schools. One pathway to quality education should not come at the expense of another.	9a. A good education begins in the home. Parental choice, where the money follows the child, is an extension of that parental right.
10. The average pay raise is 8% because new teachers were given a large increase. To offer such a large increase to new teachers speaks to how hard it is to recruit teachers because they see that from year 15 to 25 their pay will never change.	10. All children should have the ability to attend the school that best meets their needs, regardless of family's ability to pay. Opportunity should not be determined by neighborhood/zip code.	10. The most recent state budget adopted by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Josh Stein provides an average 8% pay raise for public school teachers, featuring the largest starting pay increase in nearly 50 years. What is your view on the adequacy/inadequacy of current teacher pay, as established in the most recent budget? [50 word limit]	10. This raise is real progress, and teachers earned it. But North Carolina ranked near last in average teacher pay before it. Next: raise veteran pay, restore master's pay, and fund healthcare, retirement, and cost-of-living adjustments. That commitment is why NCAE, ABAE, and SEANC endorsed me.	10. The teacher pay raise provided in the most recent budget is a laudable step in the right direction. I will build on those improvements to ensure our great teachers are supported commensurate with their performance and service.	10. Calling this a historic raise ignores years of inflation that have erased much of its value. Educators are struggling to afford housing, groceries, childcare, and basic necessities, forcing many to work multiple jobs. North Carolina needs salaries that provide financial stability, retain experienced teachers, and attract the next generation of educators.	10. Currently adequate.
11. Yes.	11. No.	Business Issues, Incentives 11. Should North Carolina's minimum wage, currently \$7.25 per hour, be raised?	11. Yes.	11. No.	11. Yes.	11. No.
11a. Increase to \$22 per hour. 12. Support.	11a. — 12. Support.	11a. If so, by how much? — cents/dollars per hour. 12. Do you support or oppose providing tax-funded incentives for businesses to locate or expand in North Carolina? 12a. 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)	11a. Phased up to \$15.00/hour. 12. Support.	11a. N.A. 12. Support.	11a. \$12.75 per hour (\$20 total per hour). 12. Oppose.	11a. N.A. 12. Oppose, in general.
12a. Incentives attract business, but there need to be requirements based on median salary and how many actual jobs the business will create. The less actual job creation and pay, the less incentive, and there should be increased penalties for corporations that don't meet their goals.	12a. Require large financial investment in tax base and create large number of jobs. Incentives well done are investments in future and greater community.		12a. Incentives should be earned, not given. Pay only after companies deliver promised jobs and investment, require wages above the county average, claw back money when promises are broken, and prioritize local hiring. As a former mayor, I know deals must return more to taxpayers than they cost.	12a. Limited taxation and regulation, sound infrastructure and educational opportunities are preferred for business recruitment, however, I am open to supporting tax incentives for commercial and/or industrial investment under circumstances where incentives are pegged to the recipient's fulfillment of strict capital investment, hiring/retention, salary and other appropriate benchmarks.	12a. Companies that construct data centers should not be allowed to build without our communities enjoying any of the potential tax benefits, as well as minimizing health risks. My priority is supporting the local businesses that are already here who face difficulties due to corporations taking up their essential resources.	12a. A strong economy with low taxes, in a competitive environment of regulatory reform and a healthy workforce - well trained that makes our state one of the best states in which to do business can substitute for business incentives.
13. Discourage.	13. Discourage.	13. In particular, should the General Assembly encourage or discourage the location of so-called data centers in the state, such as with the current sales tax exemption for certain equipment? 13a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	13. Discourage.	13. No response.	13. Discourage.	13. No response.
13a. Data center build out is being pushed by a small group of gigantic corporations that are raising revenue and funding purely on the promise of a theoretical technological breakthrough. I'm not going to sell out voters, their land and quality of life for a speculative bubble.	13a. Data centers should definitely not get tax breaks. Where they should be located is a local decision like other land use issues.		13a. Data centers bring few permanent jobs but enormous demands on power and water. Families shouldn't subsidize them through tax breaks or higher electric bills. Raleigh ended the electricity exemption this year; the equipment exemption should go next. And local communities, not Raleigh, should decide where these facilities belong.	13a. Potential data center investments in North Carolina should be fiercely scrutinized on a case-by-case basis. The potential impacts of data center development must be accounted for and contained in a manner that does not adversely affect citizens.	13a. Data centers have already led to an increase in our Duke Energy bills, which my opponent voted for. Companies that wish to build these centers here must prove that they will provide minimum risk and maximum benefits to our communities. Unregulated data center development will only lead to trouble.	13a. Data centers should <i>not</i> be subsidized by local or state government. No exemptions, no tax shifts, no eminent domain, no waiving of noise ordinances, etc.
14. I grew up in a home with guns and learned from an early age to respect them. Required training demonstrating responsible ownership should be the bare minimum for gun ownership.	14. Current guns laws are adequate. "Assault style" is an ambiguous and ever-changing term.	Public Policy Issues 14. Please outline your views on what, if any, restrictions on handgun ownership and use, you would favor at the state level? (50 word limit)	14. As an Eagle Scout and NRA Sharpshooter award holder, I know common sense gun laws keep our community safe. I support background checks on every handgun sale, permits and training for concealed carry, safe storage protecting children, and due-process orders keeping guns from people in crisis.	14. I support the vigorous enforcement of current state laws related to handgun ownership and use.	14. As a registered handgun owner myself, I am a firm believer in the Second Amendment. I also believe that just like we do with planes, trains and automobiles, the right to use handguns should be fairly regulated to ensure the safety of our communities, such as universal background checks.	14. The 2nd Amendment is pretty clear. I support the restriction on felons and individuals determined guilty of domestic violence.
14a. Support.	14a. Oppose.	14a. In particular, would you support or oppose a ban on assault-style weapons?	14a. Support.	14a. Oppose.	14a. Support.	14a. Oppose.
14b. Oppose.	14b. Oppose.	14b. Would you support or oppose raising the minimum age for gun purchases in North Carolina?	14b. Oppose.	14b. Oppose.	14b. Support.	14b. Support, raising to age 21.
15. Oppose.	15. Support.	15. 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?	15. Oppose.	15. Support.	15. Oppose.	15. Support.
16. Nonpartisan.	16. Partisan.	16. 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?	16. Nonpartisan.	16. Partisan.	16. Nonpartisan.	16. Partisan.
16a. Elected.	16a. Elected.	16a. More fundamentally, do you support North Carolina's current system of an elected judiciary, or would you prefer an appointed system?	16a. Elected.	16a. Elected.	16a. Elected.	16a. Elected.
17. 1. Juneteenth. 2. Election Day.	17. None- current state holidays are adequate.	17. 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	17. 1. Juneteenth 2. Washington's Birthday 3. Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day	17. No response.	17. Yes to Juneteenth and Washington's Birthday. I am indifferent towards Columbus Day as a national holiday.	17. No response.
18. North Carolina has always innovated and exploring marijuana's use for PTSD and exploring legalization to generate revenue can benefit us all.	18. Medical marijuana can be medicine that helps hurting people. Oppose recreational marijuana.	18. 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]	18. Legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana for adults, starting with medical use. The revenue should fund schools and public safety instead of enriching illegal dealers.	18. No response.	18. If alcohol and tobacco are legalized and regulated commodities, there is no reason that marijuana should be illegal if used and sold responsibly by NC businesses.	18. I oppose legislation in general with a tightly wrapped provision for only medical use — very restricted.
19. Support.	19. Oppose.	19. 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?	19. Support. This is a local decision: communities, not Raleigh, should decide what stands on public property.	19. Oppose.	19. Support.	19. Oppose.
19a. Support.	19a. Oppose.	19a. 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?	19a. Support. Alamance residents and their local elected leaders, not Raleigh, should be free to decide this.	19a. No response.	19a. Support.	19a. Oppose.

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20. No.	20. Yes.	20. Do you believe that the current legislative district in which you're running is fairly drawn? 20a. If not, in what way(s) should it be changed? [25 word limit]	20. No.	20. Yes.	20. No.	20. Yes.
20a. North Carolina's districts and maps should be drawn so they reflect their electorate and so voters pick their elected leaders instead of mapmakers.	20a. Anybody who thinks Senate District 25 is unfairly drawn fundamentally does not understand redistricting.		20a. This district has been redrawn so often voters can't keep track. A nonpartisan commission should draw fair lines that last the full decade.	20a. N.A.	20a. I inherently oppose any map that is intended to benefit one party or another. My opponent disagrees as he voted for the current maps.	20a. N.A.
21. Oppose.	21. Support.	21. A constitutional amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot proposes to require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting. Do you support or oppose this constitutional amendment? 21a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	21. Oppose.	21. Support.	21. Oppose.	21. Support.
21a. Adding additional steps to voting is a recipe for votes not being counted. We should be implementing policies that bring in new voters and simplify the system, not adding additional hurdles.	21a. We have to present photo ID every day for dozens of purposes. It's ridiculous to say people do not have access to photo ID in 2026 and there's no evidence that it keeps anybody from voting. It's important to be sure that every vote cast is a valid vote.		21a. Voter fraud is extremely rare here. North Carolina's best-known case, in 2018, was run by a Republican campaign's operative, not voters. State law already requires photo ID in person and by mail. This amendment distracts from the real work: protecting every eligible citizen's right to vote.	21a. No response.	21a. We already have laws on the books that require voter ID, and all this will do is complicate the mail-in voting process, potentially discouraging seniors, students, disabled people and rural voters. I am proudly working to make it easier for folks to participate in choosing their government, not harder.	21a. Photo I.D. requirement is constitutional for everyone.
22. Rolled back.	22. Continued. Big tax revenue source that helps universities support athletic programs.	22. The General Assembly opened the door to sports betting (for professional, collegiate, and amateur games and horse racing) in 2023 (effective in 2024). Should this legalization be continued or rolled back?	22. Rolled back.	22. Continued.	22. Continued.	22. Rolled back.
23. Oppose.	23. Support. Criminals must be deported.	23. North Carolina law now requires state and local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with ICE (the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency), and specifically to honor detainers placed by ICE on individual illegal aliens. Do you support or oppose these requirements?	23. Oppose. Cooperate on violent offenders, yes. But Raleigh shouldn't dictate priorities to local sheriffs and police.	23. Support.	23. Oppose.	23. Support.
24. Support.	24. Oppose. Federal laws adequate.	Social Issues 24. Do you support or oppose state legislation extending anti-discrimination protection to homosexuals?	24. Support. No neighbor deserves to be fired, evicted, or harmed because of who they are.	24. No response.	24. Support.	24. Oppose.
25. Oppose.	25. Support. I ran the bill in the Senate.	25. North Carolina's Parents' Bill of Rights prohibits any classroom instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality in public schools from kindergarten through the fourth grade. Do you support or oppose this limitation?	25. Oppose. Parents and teachers, not politicians, should decide what's age-appropriate. Every child deserves a supportive classroom.	25. Support.	25. Oppose.	25. Support.
26. Oppose.	26. Support 100%.	26. State law prohibits the state Medicaid program from covering or allocating public funds for transition-related care for minors, such as puberty-delaying medication, hormone therapy, or surgery. Do you support or oppose this limitation?	26. Oppose. These are medical decisions for families and their doctors, not politicians in Raleigh.	26. Support.	26. Oppose.	26. Support.
27. Yes.	27. No.	27. In general, do you consider abortion to be a Constitutionally-protected right?	27. Yes.	27. No.	27. Yes.	27. No.
27a. Oppose.	27a. Support.	27a. Do you support or oppose legislation in North Carolina to ban "partial birth abortions"?	27a. Oppose.	27a. Support.	27a. Oppose.	27a. Support.
27b. Ectopic pregnancy deaths have nearly doubled in states that have increased abortion restrictions, I'm not interested in increasing that statistic.	27b. Barbaric and grisly practice of allowing a baby to be partially born, then crushing its skull and killing it.	27b. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	27b. Federal law has banned this procedure since 2003. It's a political term, not a medical one. Families facing heartbreaking complications need doctors, not politicians.	27b. I support the current state of the law.	27b. As a proud husband and girl dad, it is not my job to restrict reproductive care and legislate on decisions that should be made between a woman and her doctor.	27b. No response.
28. If a North Carolinian receives healthcare with tax funds, and they choose with their doctor that care, it should be covered.	28. Only if the life of the mother is at risk.	28. Please explain under what conditions, if any, N.C. tax dollars should be made available to fund abortions? (25 word limit)	28. When a woman's life or health is at risk, and in cases of rape or incest. No one should face those crises without care.	28. Emergencies threatening the life of the mother.	28. States that have either restricted or outlawed access to abortions have higher maternal death rates. Because of that, I firmly believe in increased access to reproductive care.	28. To protect the life of the mother and in the case of fetal abnormality, verifying the child will not live, rape or incest.
29. Fully funding our public schools.	29. Affordability especially in healthcare, energy/motor fuels, and housing.	General Issues 29. What single issue do you think is most critical for the state to address? (25 word limit)	29. Affordability. Alamance families should keep more of their money. When corporations pay their fair share, residents aren't left holding the bag.	29. K-12 Education.	29. Ending the runaway increases to costs and utilities, such as rising Duke Energy bills.	29. Answering this question when it comes to the state budget: 1) who should pay for it, 2) how much should they pay? 3) Why?!!
30. Pushing back on Duke Energy rate increases so residents can work and put money into their local economy, not shareholder pockets.	30. Strengthen quality of K-12 education so graduates are prepared for jobs; lower cost and increase healthcare access.	30. What action(s) do you think would do the most to improve the economy in North Carolina? (25 word limit)	30. Make government work for people, not corporations. When corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share, we get better schools, services, and affordable communities.	30. Improvement in K-12 education, responsible state government tax and spend policy, all with the mission of creating economic opportunity for citizens.	30. Raising the long-outdated minimum wage to insure more money in consumers' pockets, and investing further into public education, one of the primary economic engines of our state.	30. Continue to follow the policies of the past few years: 1) low taxes, 2) regulatory reform, 3) work force development.
32. No.	32. Yes.	32. Is the General Assembly being transparent enough in the way it transacts the public's business?	32. No.	32. Yes.	32. No.	32. Yes.
32a. The NC Senate does not have a live video feed of their chamber. Allowing video and archival access means holding us accountable.	32a. —	32a. If not, what can be done to improve it? [25 word limit]	32a. End closed-door meetings. Require full disclosure of lobbyist contacts and campaign donations, close campaign finance loopholes, and make legislators responsive to constituents.	32a. N.A.	32a. No more bills presented at the last minute for approval, and my opponent should reopen his public email inbox.	32a. N.A.
33. Super majorities mean one party gets to write rules and set calendars. Gerrymandered maps lead to super majorities. Fair maps, means mixed chambers, which then means actual work legislating has to happen.	33. Conflict is a feature of a republic not a drawback. Through conflict more opinions are heard and a better result is reached. As Tim Sutton has said, "If everybody's agreeing, people aren't thinking." Rigorous discussion leads to better outcomes. We can all work on being more kind and respectful.	33. 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]	33. The system isn't working. As mayor, I had Raleigh leaders who wouldn't return my calls. We need a new generation of leaders who keep the doors open, work across party lines, and make Raleigh work for residents, not special interests. That's how I've always governed: grassroots community first.	33. Political and civil discourse in America—both within government and in the public square—is in desperate need of improvement. Improvement will only happen through a good faith commitment to honest and respectful dialogue between participants from both parties. I am firmly committed to that effort.	33. Gerrymandering has only deepened partisan divides at the NCGA. I have many disagreements with my opponent, but if elected, my job is to represent him and everyone in my district to the best of my ability. We must work to achieve bipartisan results for our district, because it's the job that Alamance voters ask of us.	33. On some issues we are not in agreement; on others we can work together and have [agreement] – nevertheless the business of the state carries on. Peacefully hashing out issues amongst a group of people with differing opinions is how our representative government works.
34. I am searching for one still, but it will eventually happen because NC is a big state with lots of needs.	34. I support better management of our coastal fisheries and think all options should be seriously considered.	34. 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]	34. Zoning and local ordinances. Some in my party would let Raleigh override local decisions. Those choices belong to the governments closest to the people.	34. I do not form my views around either party's position on any particular issue, however, they do generally align with those of the Republican party.	34. I'll champion Alamance's needs first, even when that means diverging from my party. I welcome healthy discussion with constituents and local leaders.	34. Gambling issues – it is a sneaky way to raise taxes.