



Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire! Your answers will be shared with our members and posted on our website for public review. When answering each question, please describe specific proposals and/or policies that you will seek to implement if elected/re-elected. To read our 10K Strong campaign manifesto, from which these questions are informed, visit: www.durhamforall.org/10kstrong.

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1. Durham For All believes that everyone has the right to live in a safe and affordable home. Because of years of inadequate investment, many of our city’s public housing units are slated for demolition and/or redevelopment. What steps can the city and the community take to ensure the best outcomes for current and future residents in this redevelopment process?

Redevelopment of public housing often means displacement and relocation without participation or consent from current residents. At any housing community where redevelopment is being considered, the city should foremost incorporate a resident-led steering committee to work with DHA to develop a recommended course of action. That

action plan should be brought before City Council as the resident recommendation plan. Once before City Council, discussion and voting should be made during public hearings so that the Durham community can hold their elected officials accountable for the decisions made for or against residents' recommendations.

As a general principle, I believe the city needs to safeguard access to public housing in desirable locations like downtown, especially for senior housing. The location efficiencies of being near many services and activities provide a significant benefit to residents.

2. Durham For All believes that all people have the right to a high-quality public education that fully develops their potential. What do you believe are the barriers to achieving this in Durham? What is the role of charter schools and voucher programs in enabling or limiting this right? What role should the city government play in providing educational opportunities to residents, and what types of city programs could help our public school system develop the potential of all Durham's youth?

Access to high-quality public education in Durham is being undermined by many factors. First of all, school performance does not happen in a vacuum as achievement has been shown to relate directly to poverty. The prevalence of poverty and hunger in our community threaten the access and success some families have to an effective and high-quality public education for our kids. Further, over-policing of our communities and of our schools themselves hinders the educational experience and disrupts the home life of many students and disproportionately students of color.

Charter schools, though initially intended to bring a degree of innovation to public education, have expanded as outright replacements to public schools. State laws have allowed charter schools to siphon off funding from public schools, which deepens the erosion of the public school system. Vouchers achieve the same end with even greater inequity and lack of transparency. Both charter schools and the voucher program tend to promote participation from families that already have more wealth and access, which leads to a more stratified education system in Durham. Stratification is division, and division weakens our community. Durham is experiencing this division perhaps more than any other school district in the state.

To curb the rise of store-front schools that cheat students of a holistic educational experience, the city should also review the Unified Development Ordinance to assure that any new schools that are opened in the community provide amenities that children deserve such as dedicated open space, access to on-site athletic facilities and adequate transportation accommodations.

Though the city does not play nearly as active a role as the county on matters of education, knowing that student achievement and poverty run hand-in-hand, the city needs to make much bolder investments to reduce poverty and offer opportunities to families. Durham has seen an era where the city has invested millions in luxury buildings to revitalize downtown via subsidy after subsidy to developers, all the while the poverty rate in our city has increased. That strategy does more to make the strong even stronger than to make our *community* stronger. Now is the time to end that era and shift our focus to making Durham as a whole stronger, which means investing in our people and our communities that have been overlooked for too long. Focusing on child development is the key to building a stronger future. Promoting pre-K education opportunities, supporting at-risk students through supplemental school programming and empowering students to pursue higher education opportunities are some programs the city could support.

3. Durham For All believes that everyone has the right to the resources they need to sustain themselves and their families and to live on a healthy planet. What is your economic development philosophy? If elected, what will you do to help transform Durham's economy into one that promotes cooperation and community investment to meet the needs of working people?

My philosophy is that small businesses are the engines of success in our city, and new businesses are the top source of job growth. Small, local businesses are much more likely to pay a living wage than corporations from outside Durham.

One of Durham's recent success stories is that downtown has housed a vibrant startup community that typically lures highly-skilled talent to high-wage jobs. Investment networks have been established within that community to propel that ecosystem into becoming an economic machine. That same spirit of innovation and entrepreneurialism exists elsewhere in our community, and I support boosting our assistance programs to residents who start their own ventures, especially those interested in opening businesses in economically distressed areas. I do not support economic incentives (subsidies) to corporations to locate to or expand in Durham. Many studies show those deals pan out well for the corporation with little community benefit. I support homegrown economic activity. Cooperatives and worker-owned ventures are additional models of homegrown economic growth potential.

4. Durham For All believes that everyone deserves to feel safe and secure in their bodies, homes, and communities. Federal guidelines around immigration and refugee resettlement, as well as a growing national awareness of the police violence experienced by communities of color, have many people in Durham feeling deeply

concerned. What should the role of local law enforcement be in Durham, and how should officers interact with and remain accountable to residents? How should the city of Durham interact with federal agencies such as ICE? In what ways do current city policies reflect your standard of transparency and accountability for law enforcement and belonging for refugees and immigrants in Durham, and in what ways are they lacking?

The role of law enforcement in Durham should be to protect and serve the community without harassing, profiling, over-policing or otherwise abusing any of our residents. Currently, law enforcement has extensive and broad powers because we have turned to them to resolve a wide assortment of the failures of our social system, a system that should be providing opportunities for people. Law enforcement has not adopted many alternatives to traditional marshalling: strap a gun to your side, intimidate those you are asked to serve and coerce anyone you deem to be a threat into obeying your commands. This aggressive model of policing is not how other nations conduct policing, and I believe we can do better. The city currently spends over \$60-million per year of its \$189-million general fund budget on policing. This is a massive share of our budget spent on mostly punitive services. I want to see Durham choose to invest in the potential of our people and neighborhoods rather than in their punishment.

The city itself does not have as many opportunities to interact with ICE as the Sheriff's Office does. The Sheriff has repeatedly told conflicting stories to the community about his office's collaboration with ICE and has continued the controversial usage of checkpoints within our community. Given this history and a pervasive lack of accountability of the Sheriff, I will strive to bring all county-wide patrol duties under Durham Police Department as a contracted service that the city can provide the county, much like how the city performs planning and building inspection duties. This can add transparency, accountability and efficiency to our local law enforcement practices.

As for ICE involvement in Durham, as a member of the City Council I will strongly push the Sheriff to give report to the city on his activities with ICE. Many federal courts have named ICE detainer requests as unconstitutional, but our Sheriff still honors them and is actively deporting residents of Durham. This needs to end, and if the County Commissioners choose to forfeit their ability to oversee the Sheriff, the City Council should step in and increase the pressure on the growing list of his offenses against Durhamites: deaths in the jail, video visitation, collaboration with ICE, illegal usage of checkpoints, and overzealous and excessive criminal charges for activists.

As for the activities of the Durham Police Department, there are still reform measures left to fully implement from the 2014 Human Relations Commission report that identified 44 specific recommendations to address community concerns. Though some progress has been made, the Manager has sidestepped full implementation of many of the recommendations so the City Council should ask the HRC to review that progress.

5. Durham For All believes that Durham belongs to all who live here and that we need all residents' voices at the table to create a Durham that works for everyone. If elected, what will you do to expand democratic participation in the City's electoral process? What will you do to create more mechanisms for democratic engagement in how the city is run on a day-to-day basis?

Local government should be accessible, transparent and responsive to the community. One of the least accessible aspects of our current City Council structure is the difficulty for residents to provide general comment at public meetings. Those desiring to give general public comment are required to sign up with 10 days of notice before the scheduled meeting. In addition, general public comment is only received by the City Council on their Thursday afternoon business meetings that begin at 1pm. This disenfranchises many working class people and significantly stunts public discussion of urgent or timely matters. I would be interested in changing those practices to make Council meetings more accessible to the public.

The work that has been taking place around incorporating a more participatory budgeting process has been a step in the right direction for adding democratic engagement in influencing day-to-day operations of the city. Under my affordable housing financing plan that utilizes [Tax Increment Financing](#) (TIF), capital can be raised by what amount to area-specific bonds that can be drawn over downtown and future light rail stops. In most cases where a TIF is implemented, there is a redevelopment authority that acts as a quasi-public entity to guide expenditures of TIF revenues. Rather than allowing developers or other exclusively business-minded people to have full control over TIF funding, I would support appointing community members to any board that oversees TIF projects so that the community's desires can be clearly articulated on how TIF funds should be allocated towards community needs. Power comes from the purse—so anywhere that more democratic engagement can be inserted into financial decisions will add power over day-to-day operations.

Please email your responses to info@durhamforall.org or mail to Durham For All, 1803 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite C. Durham, NC 27707. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 919-727-9428. We look forward to hearing from you!