

allows the business to re-invest in themselves and increase the overall chance for them to become a local powerhouse.

Politics and Voting Rights

2. Do you support or oppose placing state legislative and U. S. Congressional redistricting in the hands of a non-partisan commission?

Gerrymandering is an evil in our political society. When politicians can choose their voters over voters choosing their politicians every one loses. I absolutely support a fully non partisan commission to draw all voting districts in the future with no ability to access race voter party designation or any other information that would allow benefit for politicians in the future.

The Environment

3. Should state agencies charged with the management and protection of our environment have the authority to make standards and rules which exceed federal standards?

The negative impacts on people and personal property through pollution must be legally enforceable to the strictest standard. If states believe that the current federal guidelines are not enough it should be up to the state or responsible authority to increase those standards for the protection of the citizenry and personal property.

4. Has the state created laws and regulations adequate to protect North Carolinians from the potential harmful impacts of fracking?

The possible negative impacts from fracking are not sufficiently covered by the laws of North Carolina in my opinion and new and tougher guidelines should be in place to protect people and property from negative environmental impact.

5. What tools would you support in the clean up of GenX, coal ash, and other pollutants in the state's streams, lakes, estuaries and sounds, and water supplies?

There should be no protection of the corporations or entities that have created the problems with GenX, Coal Ash or any pollutants to the natural resources of North Carolina. These corporations and entities must be 100% liable for the destruction they have caused willfully or un-willfully. They also should not receive any state funding in any capacity until all damage has been satisfactorily remunerated or otherwise resolved.

Educating Our Children

6. What measures, if any, do you believe are necessary to improve public education in North Carolina?

Our education system in North Carolina is broken to put it simply. We have the number 1 ranked teachers in the nation looking at education and certification. However, our students are ranked 40th in the nation. We have tied our teachers' hands in test preparation, we must unshackle our teachers and allow them to share their passion for knowledge with the children. We must re-invigorate our education

system by moving to a true 21st century education system and ditching archaic education models that are born in 19th century thinking. One in which we pay our teachers a salary that is fitting with their education and experience. We must look out into the world and study Estonia, Austria, New Zealand where they pay per student what we pay today; however they reap rewards with quality of education that we can only dream of.

Healthcare

7. Are you satisfied with the current system of providing healthcare to North Carolina residents? Explain. If you are not satisfied, what changes would you make?

Healthcare is also broken, not only in North Carolina but throughout the nation. Our politicians are focusing on Health Insurance and not the true cost of Health Care. We must make the Hippocratic Oath legally binding again in North Carolina. The Hippocratic Oath in 450BC made medicine a right and it is a right of all humans to access medicine. We must also have real tort reform as this will have a profound effect on the accessibility of medicine by all.

State Revenues

8. Is the current system of state and local taxes and fees fair and adequate to meet the needs of North Carolina residents? What changes should be made, if any? Please cite specific examples.

In short no, the system of taxes and fees are not fair or adequate to meet the needs of North Carolina Citizens. We have an income tax system that punishes every citizen and penalizes individuals. We need to return to Luxury taxes, excise taxes, a sales tax that does not punish the poor and underprivileged utilizing categories of products and services. We have a business tax system that rewards corporations and holds down small and private business. I am not saying that there is an easy answer, in fact I am saying quite the opposite, to make a taxation system that is fair for residents and small business that inspires economic growth and social upward movement while being blind to minority plight and economic under-privilege has to be a topic of discussion that needs to be started. A great example of fees that need to be re-evaluated is processed agricultural products. In this state as only one example of a myriad of examples is the right to produce pickles requires a course and license of \$400. A small family owned farm that wants to produce pickles has to pay this \$400 while a corporation such as Mt. Olive needs to pay the same \$400. This needs to have a \$0 cost for the small home farm while an increasing scale based on the increasing scale of production.

9. State and local governments provide substantial economic incentives for corporations to relocate to North Carolina or to expand their operations in the state. What is your position on the use of economic incentives for private business?

Major corporations such as Amazon do not need or deserve financial assistance from the state. However, small business does need a helping hand in establishing a strong base which can be done through tax breaks. As stated before small business is the business that makes North Carolina strong. Small business employs their family and neighbors, pays a living wage, and serves the real needs of the communities they are founded in.

Civil Rights

10. Would you support legislation designed to protect gay, lesbian, and transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, and access to government benefits and services?

As a gay man any discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, adoption, reproductive rights, and access to any benefit or service is an abomination. All of our neighbors regardless of their Race, Creed, Sex, Sexual preference, Age are equal. There is no one that should ever be singled out because of who they are and be made to be less of an individual; our rights are exactly that, our rights.

Crime, Law Enforcement, Courts and Racial Justice

11. What, if anything, should be done about gun violence and the proliferation of guns in North Carolina?

Gun Violence is a problem but all violent crime is on the rise in North Carolina. First we need to fully enact the gun legislation that is already on the books and too many fall through the cracks of background checks. With seeing that gun violence in North Carolina is rising at the same rate as Rape, Burglary, Assault, Spousal Abuse, Child Abuse, and Animal Abuse, we need to identify why society is becoming more violent over all. We as a society need to break down our barriers between each other and become communities again. This can be done with community programs through our police departments and enable the police to protect and serve our communities and not the court system or local governments.

12. Should state and local government law enforcement agencies have the discretion to decide the extent to which they cooperate with U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement with regard to detainers and programs such as Secure Communities and the 287(g) program?

Absolutely! I am a first generation here in the United States my father a Refugee and Immigrant from the former Soviet Union. I believe that immigration and refugees make this nation better. Growth can be painful and change uneasy but this does not mean that it should not be done. All of the United States and even more so North Carolina is a melting pot. On my block alone we have Asian, Latin, African, Indian, and Caucasian, we are 6 out of 7 continents on my block. We must give our courts the power to make the hard decision Lady Justice must be blind but fair to all that appear before her.

13. Do you support or oppose the recent statutory changes that discourage North Carolina judges from waiving court fines and fees for indigent defendants? Why or why not?

Amendment 8 of the Constitution in the Bill of Rights clearly states. "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." This is within a judges purview to reduce or waive a fee from the court or legal system if the fee is judged to be excessive or cruel. Our judges represent a full 1/3 of the power of the government of this nation and of this state. If the Legislature makes the judges beholden to a policy or restricts their ability in any way, this can only be taken as an infringement of power.

14. At times, both political parties have suggested moving from the election of judges to some form of “merit selection”. What do you believe is the best way to select independent and qualified judges?

This is a very difficult question because both systems have plusses and minuses. However, it is my belief that regardless of the minuses of the system the best system of selecting judges is through the electorate. Again judges are 1/3 of the power of our governmental system and in the end they are beholden to the citizens of North Carolina. There is no one better or more fair to choose our judges than the citizens of North Carolina.

Yes or No

15. Please answer the following questions by circling (or underlining) YES or NO. You may explain or qualify your answer to any question, but *please use no more than 40 words.*

a. Should North Carolina voters have to present some sort of identification in order to vote?

YES or NO

There should be no impedance to the ability to vote and any such law should be construed as a violation of a right of the citizenry of North Carolina.

b. Do you support increased state funding for a crisis pregnancy center?

YES or NO

This should be required of all hospitals and medical centers to provide and one of the reasons that I believe that the Hippocratic Oath needs to be returned as a legally binding oath.

c. Should North Carolina have a paid sick leave law?

YES or NO

I do not believe in mandated sick leave pay as this may hurt the small business that I am so diligently trying to foster and grow in this state.

d. Should cities and counties have the authority to use inclusionary zoning to promote affordable housing?

YES or NO

Absolutely, it is well within the right of a city and county to determine where and how they will grow and can be used as a tool to ensure that the rights of the people can be maintained.

e. Should cities and counties have the authority to control rents to promote affordable housing?

YES or NO

Rent control is not an effective answer however zoning control can be and it is this methodology that I support.

f. Do you support or oppose requiring a supermajority city council vote in re-zoning cases when qualified neighbors file a protest petition?

SUPPORT or OPPOSE

The presence of a neighbor protest if the petition has sufficient signatures to be credible should be able to force a supermajority as this is the will of the people.

g. Under what circumstances should polluters be exempt from fines and civil penalties imposed by the state?

YES or NO

If destruction or damage to land resource or people has occurred the offending party must be 100% liable for all costs and indemnities to restore or sufficiently remunerate the offended party.

h. Should magistrates or other government officials be excused from performing their lawful duties because of their religious beliefs?

YES or NO

Magistrates and government officials are in their position to faithfully execute the will of the state. If they decline on behalf of religious belief they are unable to execute this will and should be excused from their position.

i. Should the death penalty in North Carolina be abolished?

YES or NO

No person or entity including the State has a right to ever take a life no matter if justified this can be excused in cases of self defense.

j. Do you support the Jordan Lake and Falls Lake rules?

YES or NO

As no one person owns the entirety of Jordan Lake or Falls Lake and these lakes are part of the Aquifer system of the Triangle area, the local government is well within the rights to establish and enforce these rules.

Concerning You

16. Have you ever been convicted of any criminal offence other than a minor traffic offense? Have you ever been charged with a felony (without regard to the disposition of the charge)? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, please describe the charge or charges, the circumstances, and the outcome.

I pled guilty to a DWI Misdemeanor in May 2015. This was a learning experience for me and have had no other offenses of any kind before or since.

17. For whom did you vote in the 2012 and 2016 general presidential elections?

As a Libertarian I voted in both elections for Gary Johnson.

Thank you and please don't forget to send us your resume or biographical statement.

I have lived in North Carolina now for 10 years. I moved here from New York looking for a better life and I have found it. The community of Durham has been the greatest find for me personally and professionally. I am the son of a refugee and immigrant from the former Soviet Union. I am a proud member of the LGBTQ community and have been with my partner David Smith for over 2 years. I am a successful small business owner right here in Durham. The greatest joy is to serve my community through my work as a Home Inspector. Now I am looking not only to do that but also for you to send me to Raleigh and represent you. I look forward to showing that Durham has common sense in a world that seems to have less and less of it. I look forward to showing that Durham has the initiative to show North Carolina the way forward, not only for us, but our children, and even as an example to the rest of the Nation. I have been involved in politics since I was 16 in one volunteer capacity or another and later on in a paid capacity. I have worked on NYS Assembly races all the way up to US Senate races. I have been involved in the community, two of the many organizations that I have done fundraising for or direct help that bring me great pride would be the Durham APS as well as Bull City United.