

# PA PAC Questionnaire for N. C. General Assembly Candidates - 2018

Please return this completed form along with your resume or a brief biographical statement describing your education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by **March 9**, at the latest.

You may e-mail your responses to Tom Miller at [tom-miller1@nc.rr.com](mailto:tom-miller1@nc.rr.com) or you may send a printed copy of your responses to Durham PA-PAC c/o Tom Miller, 1110 Virginia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

Please note that following the March 9 deadline, the Durham People's Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your willingness to serve the people of Durham.

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Jared Erickson \_\_\_\_\_ District 20

Address: 223 N Elizabeth St \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: JforNC@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*When responding to this questionnaire, type your answers in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your answers from the questions. Please do not use colors. You may explain your answer to every question, but please be concise. If possible, limit your answer to each question to no more than 350 words. If you use words or ideas from another person, please attribute your source.*

## Why You Are Running

1. Of all the issues confronting the State of North Carolina which single issue is most important to you and why? What would you do about it if you are elected?

*The most important issue for the State of North Carolina is affordable healthcare. The federal government has done its best to make our healthcare system unaffordable and unsustainable. The state can remove certificate of need laws and reduce regulations and licensing restrictions to allow for more innovation and more choices, which brings more value to the patient.*

## 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?

*I do support truly non-partisan redistricting.*

### **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 state should be able to make standards and rules exceeding federal standards, but agencies outside the General Assembly should not be setting fines and enforceable regulations.*

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

*I do not think the state adequately regulates fracking. Anyone that uses fracking needs to be held accountable for any harm it causes.*

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?

*Those that pollute are responsible for fixing the problem.*

### **Educating Our Children**

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

*The state should allow for more choice in education for students and their families. They know much better than politicians what environment is right for the student.*

### **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?

*No, residents should have more choices so they can have better outcomes. Government regulation and bureaucracy fueled by politics have distorted the incentives for the healthcare industry to do what is best for the patient.*

### **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.

*The current tax system is not completely fair. Sales tax on necessities, including food, clothing, and essential hygiene/medical products, should be completely removed. They hurt those that can least afford it the most, and they shouldn't be taxed to live. There are also fees that affect small businesses or*

*potential new businesses that should be changed to no longer give established corporations an advantage in the market.*

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?

*Governments should not be picking winners and losers in business. There should not be any subsidies or tax breaks for any particular business. Of course it is fine to decrease business taxes across the board to improve the business environment for everyone.*

### **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?

*I would support legislation protecting gay, lesbian, and transgender people from discrimination in access to any opportunities, goods, or services provided by the government.*

### **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?

*There are many underlying issues that are best dealt with in communities and with cultural changes, but the government can take some steps to not take away opportunities from people which cause them to turn to violence. I support ending the war on drugs and ending mass incarceration. Making people afraid of the police and giving nonviolent offenders criminal records and prison time where they are surrounded by violent people are part of the problem.*

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?

*Yes. The federal government has failed to fix the legal immigration process.*

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?

*I oppose such changes. Going through the court system has become unreasonably expensive. There should be ways to help those hurt most by it.*

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?

*I would oppose forms of “merit selection” where decisions are made only by those in office. This takes power away from people that identify with other political parties (yes, there are more than two) or no party. I believe the best way to select judges is to use a non-partisan, ranked choice general election.*

**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

*I think voter suppression is a bigger problem than voter fraud at this time.*

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

YES or NO

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

YES or NO

*Employees and employers should be able to negotiate their terms of employment.*

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

YES or NO

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

YES or NO

*Rent control decreases the housing supply and discourages building improvements. It also violates the owner’s property rights.*

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

YES or NO

*Support*

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

YES or NO

*Only when fines and penalties are unjust*

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

YES or NO

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

YES or NO

*It is a cruel punishment and there are too many wrongful convictions.*

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

YES or NO

### **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.

*No*

*No*

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

*Gary Johnson for both*

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

**Biographical Statement:**

*This is my second year living in Durham. I now live on the northern side of district 20, after living on the southern side last year and Raleigh before that. I have been a software developer for five years. I earned my BS in mathematics from Valparaiso University and my MS and PhD in industrial engineering and management sciences from Northwestern University.*