

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 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: MaryAnn E. Black District 29

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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 single issue that is most important to me is Medicaid expansion. There are 390,000 people who need access to health insurance in North Carolina.

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 support having a non-partisan commission draw the maps.

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?

Yes, as a county commissioner I voted to have Durham County use watershed rules that were better than the state rules to protect the drinking water.

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

No

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?

I would increase the funding for the Department of Environmental Quality to make sure the department is staffed with the correct number of specialists, scientists, engineers, etc. so that all of the permitting processes are followed and the correct rules are in place to protect our water and air. Money for Sampling and analysis activities associated with discharge of GenX and other contaminants was placed in HB 189. We must have the oversight to be sure that companies are not polluting the air and water, and that companies stay in compliance.

Educating Our Children

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

We must provide additional funding for the teachers and for supplies. Also, funding for additional teacher assistants, counselors, school nurses, and school social workers. These services will take some of the pressure off teachers who should not need to deal with student health and emotional problems. Equally important is to have more involvement from all parents. Also, we should evaluate the number of charter schools allowed and the standards under which they operate.

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. Over 390,000 NC need healthcare. I am working to expand Carolina Cares which is North Carolina's answer to Medicaid expansion.

[See my op-ed in the Durham Herald-Sun dated February 5, 2018.]

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.

No. I would re-instate the earned income tax credit. Although difficult to do, I would like to have a fiscal assessment done to evaluate the financial loss to the state if we remove tax from prescription drugs and necessary food. The ability to buy medicine and food tax free would be a huge benefit to many people.

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?

As county commissioner, I supported some economic incentives. However, I do not agree with giving large incentives that work against the people. Any plan should be well evaluated.

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?

Yes. I voted against the compromise bill. I cannot support discrimination.

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?

I am on the committee to address gun violence. I have met with Duke experts in this field and I am studying best practices. Limits should be placed on who can purchase a gun, and the type of guns sold to the public.

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, ICE dictates the law. It is inhumane to split families apart and to have so many people afraid in America about being deported. Some of the people are here because businesses recruited and/or hired them. The federal government must now design a compassionate plan to help.

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?

The judges should have the authority to waive court fines.

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?

Judges should be elected by the people and should run in the areas where they will serve.

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**

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 *Some states have a law that allows 40 hours of paid sick leave. N.C. law mandates that State employees be granted a minimum of 10 days sick leave per year prorated monthly and may be carried over. When crafting the law, we will need to have special provisions for small businesses as the wrong policy could bankrupt a small business.*

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

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 *I have dealt with this issue in the past.*

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

YES or NO *I would think, never. However, if the polluting is not the fault of the company, then I might be open to hearing why no penalty should be imposed. Even when there is a national disaster, a company should have insurance that will help to pay for fines and civil penalties.*

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

YES or **NO** *If you are employed by the government, you must carry-out your duties.*

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

YES or NO

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

YES or NO *I support the Jordan and Fall Lake rules. On the local level I voted to protect the lakes. However, both are listed on the N.C. 303d list for impaired water. The 2017 report showed that Jordan Lake failed to meet the quality control criteria in 2017. The rules and enforcement should be stronger.*

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

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

I voted for President Obama in 2012 and for Hillary Clinton in 2016.

*Thank you and please don't forget to send us your resume or biographical statement.
[See last page of this file.]*

Representative MaryAnn Black

Rep. Black was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the N.C. House of Representatives on February 15, 2017. She represents District 29 in Durham County and currently sits on the Appropriations; Appropriations—Health and Human Services; Education—Community Colleges; Homelessness, Foster Care and Dependency; and State Personnel committees.

Prior to becoming a legislator, Rep. Black served as a Durham County Commissioner from 1990-2002, and she was the Chair for six years. Her other leadership roles include the President of the Durham Downtown Rotary and the first female Chair of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce Board. Rep. Black has served on numerous boards and committees, including the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission and Durham Technical Community College's Board of Trustees.

Rep. Black is currently the Associate Vice President for Community Relations at Duke University Health System. In this role, she works to establish partnerships with the City of Durham, Durham County and other agencies and organizations that support the health and human services needs of Durham's citizens. Rep. Black has also initiated many strategies to enhance the Health System's relationships across the diverse sectors of the community.

For more than 30 years, Rep. Black worked as a clinical social worker providing professional services to Durham families. In 1994, Rep. Black was named *Social Worker of the Year* by the State of North Carolina and by the National Association of Social Workers. Rep. Black holds a Masters in Social Work degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Benedict College in Columbia, S.C.

Rep. Black's goal as a legislator is to serve her district and the people of North Carolina.