

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: _____ Robert T. Reives II _____ District __54__

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Phone: __919-352-3033_____

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? **Generally, The number one priority for any public servant should be to improve the lives of the people they represent, whether that's through robust investment in our education system, promoting legislation that respects the rights and dignity of every citizen, or protecting our green spaces and natural resources like Jordan Lake from pollution and other threats. My voting record reflects these values and will continue to if I'm re-elected. If referring to a specific issue, I'd say it's education. I'd vote to begin investing again in our public education system. Supporting the public education system would be the quickest route to repairing the damages that have been done throughout our state in other areas affecting everyday people.**

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 whole-heartedly a non-partisan commission to handle redistricting for legislative and congressional districts.**

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? **Absolutely. The federal standards have always been intended as a floor. What works in one state may not in another, and vice versa. North Carolina should be able to enact whatever environmental protections and standards it deems suitable.**

4. Has the state created laws and regulations adequate to protect North Carolinians from the potential harmful impacts of fracking? **No. There are simply too many questions and concerns about the safety of fracking and its negative effect on public health for me to support it in any form.**

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? **True scientifically researched and debated alternatives fleshed out through true debate. The number one tool though, would be giving DEQ the resources that it needs to effectively attack these issues itself.**

Educating Our Children

6. What measures, if any, do you believe are necessary to improve public education in North Carolina? **Our budgets should reflect education as a priority, and recent budgets have failed to do so – we should increase teacher and principal pay to the national average, empower local communities to make decisions about what works best for them regarding education, and be wary of attempts to privatize education or divert tax funds away from public schools through unnecessary charter school funding or so-called vouchers.**

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. First, expand Medicaid. There are numerous ways to improve the delivery of healthcare services. I supported the Medicaid expansion – that federal money would have come at no additional cost to North Carolina taxpayers, and I thought rejecting it was irresponsible.**

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. We should stop increasing all of the fees and services that the current leadership has put in place to make up for the money they've lost with their renewed emphasis on shifting the tax burden from those more able to afford it to those least able to afford it. The earned income tax credit should be returned immediately. The corporate tax rate should be at a responsible level that more correctly reflects the relative tax burden that should be in place.**

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? **Incentives should be looked at on a case-by-case basis. The best incentive plans are tied to specific job growth and tax base numbers and benefit the people in a given community as much or more than the companies receiving the incentive.**

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. No one should face discrimination for the color of their skin, their religious beliefs or lack thereof, their sexual orientation, or their gender identity. Using the power of government to protect against this type of discrimination is something I support.**

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? **We can start by expanding background checks, raising the minimum age for the purchase of certain weapons, and banning the sale of items like bumper stocks and high capacity magazines.**

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. Law enforcement has and always should be about the ability of local governments to determine what their relative priorities are and they should be reflective of the communities they serve.**

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 these changes completely. Poverty should not be criminalized.**

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've said in the past that I prefer more elections than less, as I believe more elections encourage more voter participation. That extends to the judicial bench, and while our system of partisan elections isn't perfect, to me, it is the system which most empowers citizens.**

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? **No.**

b. Do you support increased state funding for a crisis pregnancy center? **No**

c. Should North Carolina have a paid sick leave law? **No**

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

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

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

g. Under what circumstances should polluters be exempt from fines and civil penalties imposed by the state? **They shouldn't be.**

h. Should magistrates or other government officials be excused from performing their lawful duties because of their religious beliefs? **No.**

i. Should the death penalty in North Carolina be abolished? **Yes as it is presently administered in NC. The system as it stands is entirely too flawed.**

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

Concerning You

16. Have you ever been convicted of any criminal offense 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 Barack Obama in 2012 and for Hillary Clinton in 2016.**

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