

PA PAC Questionnaire for
North Carolina General Assembly – 2020

Please return the completed questionnaire along with your resume or biographical statement describing education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by January 5 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 PA PAC c/o Tom Miller 1110 Virginia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705-3262

Please note that following the January 5 deadline, the People's Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.

When answering this questionnaire, please repeat the questions in your response document with each question numbered and organized as it appears here. Type your responses in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your responses from the questions. Do not use colors or shading.

Please try to confine your responses to no more than 300 words unless another word limit is indicated. Do not feel obliged to exhaust the limit for each question.

If you use words or ideas from another person, please attribute your source.

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

Candidate's name: **Pierce Freelon**

Seat you are running for: **North Carolina State Senate District 20**

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Why Are You 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?

Black feminist poet and movement worker Stacey Ann Chin said, "All Oppression is Connected." Poverty, education, health, public safety, housing and environment *are all important* and are related to intersecting systems of oppression. If I had to choose one it would be: Health.

The reason is personal. This summer, my father Phil Freelon passed away from a debilitating neurodegenerative disease called ALS. In our struggle with the disease, my family got to know many members of the ALS community. I learned two things: 1. Durham has one of the best ALS clinics in the world. 2. I realized the extent of my father's privilege. Because he had healthcare, we had access to a variety of options that helped him transition with dignity. Many folks in the ALS community don't have access to this privilege. I can't imagine what we would have done without his insurance-provided electric wheelchair, hospital bed and myriad of treatments that helped enhance his quality of life. Over the summer I was one of my dad's primary caregivers, and

though his body was deteriorating, his brilliant mind remained active and engaged. We had many conversations about systemic injustice in our healthcare system. My father's thoughts on the issue are engraved on Durham's Human Services Complex building, which he designed:

"Durham's vitality is built upon the health of our residents and the capacity of our community to foster and enhance the wellbeing of every citizen." -Phil Freelon

I'm running for State Senate to fulfill the promise of this quote: to enhance the wellbeing of every resident in our state. If elected, I will work to expand Medicaid. This is the best ethical and economic choice. Medicaid Expansion will provide healthcare for over 600,000 North Carolinians, it will create jobs, and bolster our booming tech and medical industry.

Politics and Voting Rights

2. What changes would you make to North Carolina's election and campaign finance laws and why?

Citizens United delivered a devastating blow to our democracy when it opened up the coffers of anonymous donors to pour unlimited dark money into American elections. It further privileged the super wealthy, creating an almost plutocratic society which has disenfranchised many poor and working class North Carolinians. In North Carolina voter suppression has taken the form of gerrymandered districts which have been cut to "target African Americans with almost surgical precision"¹ and voter ID laws which risk disenfranchising rural and elderly voters of color. Students of color particularly have been demographically targeted for gerrymandering by the GOP. According to files publicly disclosed in 2019, Republican strategist Thomas Hofeller compiled race based data for that purpose, including maps aggregated by critical mass of voting-age African Americans at North Carolina A&T State University. Is it by design or coincidence that across the nation, non-white representation of the electorate has declined? During Congressional hearings, federal-level experts note that residents in Indian Country and mobile homes are regularly denied their democratic right to vote; the outcome of *Shelby County v Holder* led to the introduction of H.R. 4617, the Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy (SHIELD) Act by Senator Patrick Leahy in 2019. Overall, disconcerting patterns of race and class-privilege emerge from Republican-majority caucuses. As a North Carolina State Senator, I will fight to expand opportunities for those whose voices have been silenced by taking the following actions:

- Re-enfranchise the formerly incarcerated
- Automatically register voters at age 18
- Demand that all candidates and elected officials in the state report the identity of each individual contribution, even from PACs
- Demand fair districting in the new 2020 maps
- Remove laws that limit democratic participation such as the ID laws

3. Support or Oppose – Please indicate whether you support or oppose the following. *If necessary, you may explain each of your answers with no more than 100 words.*

a. Establishing a non-partisan redistricting commission for congressional and state legislative districts
X Support ___ Oppose

¹<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/05/15/528457693/supreme-court-declines-republican-bid-to-revive-north-carolina-voter-id-law>

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| b. Affiliated party committees | X Support | X Oppose |
| c. Voter ID | ___Support | X Oppose |
| d. Same-day voter registration | X Support | ___Oppose |
| e. A convention of states | ___Support | X Oppose |

The Environment

4. Do state agencies have the authority they need to protect the state's natural resources from sources of pollution such as GenX, coal ash, fracking, and hog waste? What changes would you make, if any?

I don't believe state agencies fully leverage the authority they have to protect our natural resources. We see around the country that corporate interest, in fracking for example, winning out over state regulation.²

Throughout the state of North Carolina, communities of color *in 2020* are breathing in toxic feces--from hog farms, landfills, and expired public housing plumbing--and corporations aren't doing their part to clean up the dirty byproducts of our energy systems, as I elaborate in response to question 12. But, as surely as state agencies represent the power of *the people*, I will be vigilant in pursuing a policy agenda that ensures a safe and healthy environment for generations to come.

I will work with Floyd McKissick to ensure that the Utilities Commission is holding Duke Energy to the highest standards. I will fight to incentivize green, clean energy and advocate for the compensation of the vulnerable when an unclean environment yields adverse health effects. Unfortunately, the state is still needed for oversight of contractual loopholes and blindspots that cause people problems or exacerbate climate change. Climate change is real and has very real implications for the daily lives of North Carolinians. It influences the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil we grow our food in.

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

None. *Go planet!* Essentially, remedy should always apply when pollution results from human activity. This should be the case with oil spill (into oceans and waterways, and into territories along pipelines) as well as GenX into sources of drinking water. As I reference in response to question 12, civil suits filed are not necessarily civil suits won. Without state protection, residents' complaints may even be dismissed as nuisance complaint which--applies juridically but--does nothing to restore their compromised health and life quality or decreased property value. For District 20, where the influence of Duke Energy is economically profound, we must closely monitor the location and ramification of coal ash disposal and other operations that do or could affect public health.

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<https://www.cpr.org/2019/10/31/anti-frackers-didnt-pause-the-permits-in-court-but-theyre-still-claiming-victory/>

“The utility reduced its carbon footprint from 2005 to 2017 by shuttering old coal plants, but by 2033, it plans to build 9,534 MW of gas capacity in the Carolinas alone, according to UtilityDive. Duke will add only 3,671 MW of solar capacity in the Carolinas across the same timeline.”³

Preferably, NCGA will lend energy companies an incentivizing hand on our 21st-century, global path to “coal retirement.”⁴ This must include state regulation of decreased CO2 emissions. And, since Duke Energy operates in Florida, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, our ability to be green-forward at the state and local level will benefit the nation too.

6. How does climate inform your policy view with regard to the environment, economic development, energy production, and transportation?

Environment is at the center of my platform because so much of health and equity radiates from public and private use--and exploitation--of natural resources. North Carolina is second in solar production across the state and we need to build on that foundation. We need green energy solutions across the board. The most environmentally vulnerable communities in the state, the communities covered in feces, the communities who are low-lying and constantly flooded by the ever increasing intense storm seasons, the communities who are in close proximity to landfills and have contaminated water from fracking are overwhelmingly black, indigenous, poor and rural. We need legislators ready to stand in solidarity with these communities as they rebuild from past and prepare to survive--but hopefully avoid--future climate crises.

What I Will Do:

- **Support an inclusive agenda that increases access to community solar, electric vehicles, and other forms of clean energy for *all* North Carolina households.**
- **Produce a statewide food action plan in partnership with communities from across the state, both rural and urban.**
- **Support policies that improve environmental settings for all communities with regenerative agriculture and other practices that rebuild our state’s environmental conditions while addressing community needs.**

What This Means for North Carolinians:

- **Solar power could save North Carolinians \$500 in annual energy costs. It would also make the state competitive nationally for installed solar⁵ and will promote job creation.**
- **Increased green space for all communities and more community connectedness, as a result.**
- **Improved health and environmental outcomes, including reduced carbon emissions, reduced rates of asthma and other environmental diseases, and increased work productivity.⁶**

Educating Our Children

³ <https://www.energyandpolicy.org/utility-carbon-targets/>

⁴ <https://gridlab.org/duke-irp/>

⁵ <https://www.solarreviews.com/going-solar-with-duke-energy-nc#average-solar-savings-first-month>
<https://www.stratasolar.com/solar-solutions/services/development>

⁶ Emissions Reductions, Monetized Benefits, and Mortality and Morbidity Benefits over 2015–2050 (p. 23, Table 1) <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65628.pdf>

7. What measures, if any, do you believe are necessary to improve public education in North Carolina? In your answer please address teacher qualifications, compensation, and retention; the role of charter schools and vouchers; re-segregation; and takeovers of struggling schools. *Please limit your answer to no more than 450 words.*⁷

We need to hear the parents who are calling for Universal Early Education and equity in per-pupil spending. The quality of our children’s education should not be determined by zip code. Education is how families climb out of generational poverty. An equitable distribution of resources to meet cognitive and basic needs now means higher statewide creativity and productivity later.

We also need to hear our teachers. Brilliant ones leave⁸ teaching despite commitment because the field is unsustainable when under-resourced. As of 2017, North Carolina ranked 47th out of 50 states in teacher pay⁹—only Mississippi, Oklahoma and South Dakota pay less. And, teachers deserve relief from punitive practices framed by corporate curricular choices and assessment instruments delivered from NCGA to classroom despite the critique of stakeholders.

We should listen to students who’re asking for curricula that excite and prepare them for 21st-century jobs and entrepreneurship. This means green workforce development, coding, and apprenticeships with private industry and the nonprofit sector so their awareness of different professions and pipelines happens early. My father became an architect because he was introduced to the profession at a young age and was able to create a competitive portfolio while he was still in high school. As a businessman, he made it his priority to connect with HBCUs and bring as many young blacks into the profession as possible. But in absence of the resources or pipelines towards a variety of job opportunities for our kids, his profession is still less than 2% black. It takes a system to integrate opportunities for professional development throughout the curriculum across the state.

The 21st century curriculum, finally, requires the arts. Investing in education and the arts will help ready our youth for adulthood in our technical, arts-centric state. As a former board member of the North Carolina Arts Council, I will be a strong advocate for the arts in North Carolina. A recent study showed that Durham’s arts and culture industry generates \$154,170,023 in annual economic activity in Durham County.

“(The arts) support 5,722 full-time equivalent jobs and generating \$13,357,000 in local and state government revenues. Durham outperformed the national medians and similar-study regional medians in every study category.”¹⁰

I also support the initiatives of Senator Bernie Sanders who proposes funding HBCUs and other public institutions to allow folks to earn undergraduate degrees for free. I champion in-state tuition for our undocumented youth and programs such as NC Promise which lowers tuition at competitive schools such as UNC Pembroke, Elizabeth City State and Western Carolina substantially so students only pay \$500 per semester for the higher education they seek. These types of programs help make college affordable and sustainable for working families.

⁷ School choice and funding priorities are a significant issue within Durham Public Schools and our city surely; here, I attempt to respect the word limit and broach the topic of social justice Ed statewide.

⁸ Huge exodus in 2014, 15 when NCGA dismantled career status tenure, partially reinstated/grandfathered some contracts back in around 2016.

⁹ Education Week: “Which States Pay Teachers the Least?”
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2017/02/which_states_pay_teachers_the_.html?

¹⁰ *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 National Economic Impact Study*

Healthcare

8. Are you satisfied with the current system of providing healthcare to North Carolina residents? In your answer please address health care costs, the availability and distribution of healthcare services, Certificate of Need laws, and the roles of managed care organizations, Medicaid, and subsidized healthcare insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Our district contains some of the most prominent health facilities in the country yet, NC has America's second worst health system.¹¹ As your District 20 State Senator, I will represent Durham's passion for treating health and access to healthcare as a human right. I'll work with communities, other policymakers, medical professionals and the private sector to drive policies that reimagine our healthcare system as one that establishes and maintains the conditions of good health rather than only treating disease. I will be a vocal proponent of the Affordable Care Act. I believe that healthcare is a human right. As the Durham City Council mentioned in their resolution:

"Medicare for All Act of 2019 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services primary and preventive care, emergency services, women's reproductive care, dental and vision care, long-term care, without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of doctors."

As a state senator I would fight for Healthcare for All, tooth and nail!

Medicaid Expansion, in addition to providing healthcare for over 600k people, has the potential to bring 37,200 more jobs into the state, including over 4000 more jobs for our District alone¹². It's a win-win. North Carolina Medicaid Expansion is the long overdue, healthy option backed by health care providers at Duke University School of Medicine and the leadership of Dan Blue and Mike Woodard in the NCGA. It is my honor to continue lending voice and muscle to this fight.

Economic Welfare and State and Local Finances

9. Is the current system of state and local taxation and fees fair and adequate to meet the needs of North Carolina residents? What changes should be made, if any? Please cite specific examples. *Please limit your answer to no more than 400 words.*

I don't believe our current tax system is adequate. I believe we need a progressive tax which takes a larger fee from wealthier earners. This will address the income inequality in our state. *Durham has the highest income inequality in the entire state of North Carolina.* Progressive taxation is a useful tool for addressing gentrification¹³ which is displacing many folks who have been in Durham for a long time but can no longer afford to stick around. As of right now, local taxation is preempted, preventing municipalities from instituting progressive property taxes. I support municipal autonomy and the ability for cities to be self-determining. If elected I will defend cities' rights.

¹¹ <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-health-care/23457/>

¹² <https://www.conehealthfoundation.com/foundation/nc-medicaid-expansion-update/>

¹³ <http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2018/08/22/new-report-details-racial-inequality-poverty-and-gentrification-in-durham/>

10. Should state and local governments be allowed to condition government contracts and incentives on local hiring and rates of compensation and workplace benefits and safeguards which exceed state minimums?

Yes, state and local governments should be allowed to demand things: diversity, local hiring, living wages, among them. These are usually things unions would organize for, but since collective bargaining for public employees is prohibited by state law, cities can mandate certain practices to make sure government contracts reflect the values of taking care of workers and increasing and incentivising diversity and investing in the local workforce. These are all things that benefit the city and the state. The NAACP considers union organizing restrictions to be one of the last vestiges of Jim Crow laws. I have been vocal in my efforts to change laws that constrict the rights and empowerment of workers-- and of cities to create more equitable systems in which to operate. I am encouraged by the organizing power of Duke University's contingent faculty in reaching a historic union contract with the university to defend workers' rights, and its success in their fight for \$15 minimum wages for all Duke employees in 2018. I will support all efforts to build on this foundation.

11. What should be the minimum wage in North Carolina and what workers should it cover?

I'm a soldier in the Fight for a 15 dollar minimum wage and believe it should cover all workers, even folks in the "tip" industries.

Local Government

12. Do state laws authorizing local zoning and land use regulation properly balance the rights, interests, and expectations of developers, local governments, and ordinary residents?

Not always. In fact, the state's economic development belies the struggle to account for the rights of "ordinary residents" as well as commercial interests. What this still looks like in Bladen County, for example, is a food industry that compromises both environment and life quality of African-American landowners who have not had the wealth or political capital to stop the encroach of animal land use-- specifically, the leech of the Smithfield hog waste into the ecosystem:

"On the witness stand, McKoy [age 14] recounted the things she couldn't do outdoors: practice her flute, ride her bike, and sit on her grandmother's porch and read. (At the time, she was enjoying a novel about a werewolf.) Recently, she said, she invited a classmate over, and they got off the school bus to an awful stench. 'Where is that smell coming from?' her friend asked. 'Is it coming from your house?'"¹⁴

Should Development be completely corporate, an end to itself, or should it be accountable to the people (and their labor, taxes, and human rights) that zoning, land use, and city planning is supposed to center? To say nothing of our responsibility to respect the charge of ethical land stewardship? District 20, like Alamance County, is situated on land that was formerly home to the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.¹⁵

¹⁴

<https://thefern.org/2019/12/rural-north-carolinians-won-multimillion-dollar-judgments-against-the-worlds-largest-hog-producer-will-those-cases-now-be-overturned/>

¹⁵ <https://obsn.org/homeland-preservation-project/>

I will bring an eco-conscious mindset to the North Carolina General Assembly to insist on planning for Smart Growth that is supportive of disaster resilience and recovery in rural counties and equitable development in our cities. Aligned with EPA Smart Growth principles, I aim to propose and support sustainable use of land resources that includes the location of green building (urban and rural); urban walkability; and multimodal, rural transportation; with livability that innovates local and statewide food security.

13. Should local governments have the authority to control rents and to compel developers to include affordable housing as a part of their projects?

Yes, rent control is a tool that keeps gentrification from spiraling out of control. Housing is a Human Right and it's not fair that the folks who have been living in Durham for generations are being priced out and pushed to the margins. We can do better by our community. Developers may not develop altruistic projects on their own; we need as many tools as are available, to compel, incentivise, and partner (with developers, non-profits, philanthropic institutions and community organizers) to identify growth measures that do not violently displace the middle-class, underemployed, and vulnerable members of our community. Market forces alone do nothing to protect *the people within* the built environment.

People's Alliance rightly pointed out last summer that Durham's oldest public housing community deserved some redevelopment attention from Durham's 2019 Housing Bond Referendum but was asked "to wait until market conditions improve before prioritizing McDougald Terrace."¹⁶ Since then, the housing complex continued to be plagued by structural problems with public health and safety consequences--from toxic, broken plumbing lines in 2019 to lethal ventilation in 2020. More government flexibility and control could help prevent the distortion of our community beyond recognition.

Civil Rights and Race Equity

14. Would you support legislation designed to protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, and access to government benefits and services? What consideration will you give LGBTQ people when evaluating the impacts of legislation generally? What skills and resources will you draw on to inform your position?

None of us are free until all of us are free. All humans have the right to live full lives unhindered by systems of structural repression. So, yes - I will absolutely support protecting LGBTQ folks from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation and access to government benefits and services, and I will be a leading voice on this issue. I would rely upon the skills of Durham's LGBTQ community and follow their lead as an ally with access.

In 2019 I was invited to speak at my alma mater, Immaculata Catholic School, for their African American Heritage celebration. After learning that the theme was Women in Leadership, I respectfully declined and recommended that they reach out to some of the amazing women in Durham, who were eminently more qualified to speak than I was. The committee chose my friend, Durham City Councilwoman Vernetta Alston as a speaker, but rescinded it after her marriage to a woman was deemed "problematic." I was enraged! I jumped on a text thread with a few other Black alums, and we co-authored an open letter to Pastor VanHaight about his troubling actions. We published the letter on Valentine's Day, a holiday named after a Christian Saint who was martyred for ministering to, and performing weddings for, Christians which was against Roman

¹⁶ https://www.durhampa.org/durham_2019_housing_bond_referendum

law at the time. Please click the following link to read the letter:

<https://www.facebook.com/piercefrelon/posts/1842615195842671>

As state senator I will continue to use my privilege as a cis, heterosexual, male public figure to address patriarchy, homophobia and discrimination and stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

15. What should the state do to promote racial equity and diversity, such as increasing opportunities for under-represented and under-served people of color? Can you provide an example of your advocacy for race-equity and diversity?

I foresee two-fold racial equity policy: 1. A Jobs Guarantee and 2. Reparations.

The blueprint for *Jobs For All* came straight from two Durhamites: Dr. William Darity, Jr. and Duke professor Mark Paul who was an economic advisor for both Bernie Sanders and the Pierce Freelon for Mayor campaign. This is one of the reasons why I love Durham: we don't have to look to national politics to find innovative ideas. While ideas like a Jobs Guarantee and Universal Basic Income sounded radical when we proposed them in 2017, they became mainstream by 2018, showing up in the platforms of U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Presidential candidate Andrew Yang. The Green New Deal, which calls for a federal Jobs Guarantee, has since earned the support of a diverse slate of political leaders: Kamala Harris, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and North Carolina Representatives David Price and Alma Adams.

A Jobs Guarantee starts from the premise that economic rights are human rights and unemployment is a public health and safety crisis with a high social cost. A Jobs Guarantee is anchored in the work of civil rights leaders such as A Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Reverend William Barber who all advocated for poverty reduction through social justice.

Also framed by social justice are instruments of reparations. The aforementioned Dr. Darity, and A. Kirsten Mullen, are working on a book titled *Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century* which will be published in 2020—just in time for us to create a plan going into the 2021 legislative session.

As your State Senator, I will bring bold, visionary leadership to the General Assembly. It's time we start thinking outside of the box and leading with unapologetic and creative ideas.

The Courts, Law Enforcement, and Punishment

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

Southern community has a long history of elders who deer hunted, fished, and foraged (in addition to home gardening) to provide for their households. Some still do. Licensed and legally permitted to own, store, and carry their firearms, these gun owners operated within the laws of common sense gun safety.

We need more of that today, so I propose policy that makes sure folks with firearms have proper documentation and licencing. We need to prohibit folks with a history of violence or criminal activity from being able to obtain a firearm. This does not infringe upon our Second Amendment rights—it is a necessary *public health* regulation (to prevent mass shootings and violence) that the American College of Physicians, surgeons and ER personnel around the country have been begging us to address on the policy level. Limiting multi-magazine clips will make it more difficult for those who want to cause harm from being able to inflict maximum damage in tragedy like the domestic terrorism of recent years.

Study after study shows that states with stronger gun control laws have lower rates of gun-related deaths. If we want to address gun violence in America, we have to start with common sense gun safety laws, such as requiring a background check before someone is allowed to purchase a gun, requiring guns to be stored securely within the home, and eliminating the sale of assault style weapons with high capacity magazines. Gun ownership and public accountability should be more more--not less--provisional than earning the learner's permit that precedes solo operation of a motor vehicle.

17. Should the death penalty in North Carolina be abolished? If you believe it should be retained, would you change the way in which it is applied and administered?

I am against the death penalty. There have been too many instances where folks who were on death row were exonerated because of DNA evidence. Death is not something you can come back from if the courts get it wrong - which happens all too often. Furthermore, there is evidence that shows the death sentence is pursued more often with Black folks than with white folks who have similar profiles and charges. If we know racial discrimination, implicit bias, and exonarations are commonplace in death row cases, how can we condone continuing to experiment with peoples lives knowing the unfair damage it's wielded especially within the Black community? Furthermore, it's not cost effective. Keeping someone on death row through decades of appeals is more expensive than imprisoning them for life. Capital punishment is simply discriminatory, racist, expensive, and wrong.

18. Should state and local government law enforcement agencies have the discretion to decide whether to cooperate with the federal government in enforcing immigration laws and policy?

Yes. I hope the practice of state-sponsored abductions will soon come to an end. I fully support the bold Sheriffs that have stood up against ICE and will support their ability to continue to do so. There are a number of problems with forcing North Carolina Sheriffs to act as an extension of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These ICE detainees precede criminal prosecution which means a violation of detainees' Constitutional rights.¹⁷ By the spring of 2019, only four North Carolina counties were still formally participating in this practice--Henderson, Nash, Cabarrus, and Gaston--down from eight MOAs in 2009.¹⁸ As Senator, I would push for zero since policy like 287(g)/HB 370 is not only inhumane but drains the budget. Mecklenburg and Alamance County participation alone cost over \$10M.¹⁹ Let's make District 20 an example of equity and leadership on this issue.

19. What, if anything, should the State of North Carolina do to promote restorative justice?

¹⁷ <https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/local-communities-face-high-costs-of-federal-immigration-enforcement/>

¹⁸ <https://law.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/287gpolicyreview.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://americasvoice.org/blog/immigration-101-287g/>

We can invite groups that do restorative and transformative justice, such as Durham's own Spirithouse, to co-create some legislation around dreaming and re-imagining our justice system. I would also seek out partners such as Deanna Van Buren, an architect who laid out a blueprint for restorative justice and economic development through participatory budgeting and divesting from the prison industrial complex and detention industry.

Audre Lorde said, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House." If we want to create a world where people feel safe, we need to invest in solutions that treat the root causes of violence and not just the symptoms. Policing is not the same thing as public safety. To make our public safe, we need to address: poverty, unemployment, underemployment, affordable housing, education, healthcare, the environment, discriminatory law enforcement. I think restorative justice as an alternative will help us manifest a better future.

Political

20. For whom did you vote for in the 2012 and 2016 presidential and gubernatorial elections? For whom did you vote in the 2016 U. S. Senate election?

2012: Barack Obama / Walter Dalton 2014: Kay Hagan 2016: Bernie Sanders (Primary), Hillary Clinton (General) / Roy Cooper, Deborah Ross

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please do not forget to provide us with your resume or biographical statement.