

**PA PAC Questionnaire for
North Carolina Governor/Lieutenant Governor – 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 North Carolina.

Candidate's name: Yvonne Lewis Holley

Office you are running for: ___ Governor Lieutenant Governor

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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?

Aside from the given priorities, which I wholeheartedly support: Education, Medicaid expansion, Affordable healthcare, independent redistricting and protecting voting rights, my priority issue is a program I will champion and lead - I'm calling it The Affordable Living Initiative (ALI).

ALI addresses: attainable housing, access to affordable & healthy food, jobs/workforce development and reliable transportation. Currently, no state

agency comprehensively addresses affordable housing, food security, or transportation in terms of affordability & accessibility. Working with urban & rural organizations, government agencies, non-profits, & businesses to collaborate on these issues; having diverse voices at the table, we'll come up with practical, applicable solutions.

As a State Representative, I have begun working on these issues with some, albeit limited, success. I started a bipartisan workgroup with House and Senate members studying ways to make affordable housing attainable; in both rural & urban communities. This resulted in my Affordable Housing Study Bill passing through the House. I have pushed the issue of food insecurity, and will keep pushing it until every North Carolinian has access to healthy & affordable food. I was able to get passed a Small Retail Program, providing access to healthy foods in corner stores where grocery stores don't exist. I have sponsored bills; to raise the minimum wage to a living wage, worked with commerce and the community college system to prepare our already existing labor force through education and training. By working with my initiative, workforce development should include entrepreneurial and small business training to provide a ready workforce and new business/small business opportunities. People need access to reliable public transportation for work, medical appointments, and daily living. I have supported expanded transportation options like bus rapid and micro transit systems, and light rail systems wherever possible.

ALL efforts of statewide collaboration will be a primary focus in my Lt. Governor's office.

Politics and Voting Rights

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

- 1. Public financing of local judges' races**
- 2. Make judicial races bipartisan again**
- 3. Universal voter registration**
- 4. Expand and improve early voting to include at least one weekend with Sunday voting**
- 5. Eliminate dark money in political campaigns. All money and ads must be exposed for costs and its originators**
- 6. Limit campaign spending.**
- 7. Support overturning Citizens United**

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 **Support** Oppose

b. Affiliated party committees **Support** Oppose

c. Voter ID Support **Oppose**

d. Same-day voter registration **Support** Oppose

e. A convention of states Support **Oppose**

I oppose the convention of states because delegates are not elected by the people and once convened they can make any changes they choose to the Constitution.

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?

In my opinion, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does have the statutory authority to do what is needed, but not enough dedicated resources. Funding is critical to monitor and evaluate our problems of clean water, coal ash, and hog waste. It was great seeing their advocacy help lead the charge in making Duke Energy close down and clean up 80 million tons of coal ash in six NC sites. This makes it the largest clean up in history. The agency’s inability to monitor ongoing polluters like Gen X and hog waste leads to continued dodging and abuse to our environment. DEQ has a backlog in permits and we need adequate funding and staffing in these areas.

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

In most situations - especially day-to-day operations, polluters should NOT be exempt from fines and civil penalties imposed by the state. However, in cases of large unforeseen national disasters - “Acts of God” - where the pollution entity has a proven track record of protecting our water and air quality - and case-by-case review - then I would - support an exemption. The company/organization should have previously complied with or exceeded environmental regulations and laws to become exempt.

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

Climate change largely informs my policy view with regards to the environment, economic development, energy production, and transportation. Climate change mostly affects those that have very limited, little or no resources, and my ALI program addresses how class and climate change intersect. I can say that I fully support Governor Cooper's Executive Order 80, which focuses on clean energy and building a smarter NC. It also helps create clean energy jobs. NC is currently second in the nation in the development of solar energy. The development of NC Climate Change Interagency Council to provide strategic direction in all of these areas is critical for the fight against climate change.

Educating Our Children

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.*

First and foremost - I believe that public money should be used for public schools. It is great that we have private and parochial school options, but we must not and cannot weaken the existing system. Many private schools that are receiving public money have no accountability and can pick and choose which students to serve. All schools who receive public funding should be held to the same standards. I want to bring credibility and fair accountability back.

Teaching is an honored profession. Our students deserve to have qualified teachers in every classroom, teachers paid their value and given professional development opportunities for growth. When non-public schools are allowed to be selective in who can attend, the result tends to be re-segregation. The biggest asset of our public school system is its diversity, which teaches our students not only academics, but exposes students to people from all over the world and prepares them for an open future. We must work to keep racial and economic diversity in our schools.

Taking over of struggling schools should be the responsibility of the State DPI, not sent out to private companies for profit. We need to provide resources, financial and professional, to help up the standards of teaching in our schools.

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, and the roles of managed care organizations, Medicaid, and subsidized healthcare insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

The ACA needs to be strengthened as it offers healthcare to many underserved within existing healthcare services. We still need to work to lower costs. The ACA needs to be strengthened and modified to encourage more people to participate.

Medicaid expansion would cover 600,000 people in NC that are currently without insurance. It would also bring more healthcare jobs to NC and save our communities money. Medicaid expansion will play a crucial part in saving our rural hospitals. A healthy community is crucial to expanding North Carolina's economy. Since being in the NCGA, I have consistently worked toward Medicaid expansion.

My efforts are not just to expand, but also to improve healthcare, by encompassing overall affordable healthcare in NC. Other ways to increase access to healthcare include:

- ***Looking for innovative ways to incorporate telemedicine use***
- ***Working with pharmaceutical companies to lower drug costs***
- ***Saving rural hospitals by helping them be more efficient***
- ***Supporting programs like the SAVE Act, which modernizes healthcare services by expanding nursing capabilities across the state***
- ***Making clinics accessible and affordable so that people will not use the emergency room as primary care is an ongoing challenge and a part of many North Carolinians lives***
- ***Encouraging preventative care and early diagnosis: to keep costs down is something that will benefit us all***
- ***Efficiency in ER wait times and ore staff resources will help us become a healthier place to live and keep costs down***

State and Local Government 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 400 words.

No, the current system of state and local taxation and fees is not fair. It is lopsided and benefits those with substantial financial means. The corporate tax cut has not resulted in high paying jobs as promised. The sales tax and high fee system disproportionately affects people with limited income far more than those with higher incomes. For example, we now pay taxes on services like car repairs and home repairs; services needed most by low-income people with older homes and cars. Yet, services like accountants and financial advisors, which are used by the wealthy, are not taxed.

Another great concern for me is property taxes in areas of gentrification. We need tax legislation to protect long-term residents in gentrified areas. Some jurisdictions have policies in place that may help older citizens, but there isn't anyone addressing existing and long-term property owners' needs. For example, if a family completes the Habitat for Humanity homeownership process and purchases a house. Then the lot next door is sold and a new house is built and sold for a million dollars. This affects the taxes of everyone in the neighborhood. The Habitat house is now taxed like the million dollar house. Now a family's house payment may increase several hundreds of dollars. Placing them in a position of not being able to afford the payment. I will continue to push for creative ways to help bring a solution to this issue.

10. What is your position on the use of public funds for economic incentives for private businesses?

My position on the use of public funds for economic incentives for private businesses is that it has a place and purpose helping our economy. It is a system used in many places we are competing against. In order to get these businesses to come to NC, these funds must be wisely used to level the playing field and spread growth in underserved areas. It is also acceptable to use public funds to build affordable housing and eliminate food deserts through public-private partnerships. These partnerships can also fund infrastructure faster than government alone. They have been extremely helpful in providing needed resources for many communities in both the private and the non-profit sectors.

11. 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, anyone with a government contract should have a living wage requirement based on the individual community standard. There should also be conditions to hire locally as much as possible.

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

I believe that the minimum wage needs to be raised to \$15 an hour, and have co-sponsored legislation that does that. The cost of living varies in different places around NC. Employees should receive a living wage that allows a person to take care of themselves with the basic needs of food, housing, and transportation. It should cover areas except the tipped service workers.

I co-sponsored legislation to raise the tipped minimum wage to \$5 an hour. We also need to comprehensively study eliminating the tipping system and what effects it would have in the restaurant industry and industry workers in NC before making a decision.

Local Government

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

Affordable living options provide long term benefits to the entire community, better health, and better citizens.

I believe this definitely needs more study. Developers should include affordable housing units where possible. The unintended consequences of rent control are less re-investment in property and decreased mobility, both negative. We should incentivize landlords and property owners to provide high quality, affordable rentals.

Inclusionary zoning is illegal in NC, and zoning is a local issue. I would certainly seek input from the citizens and developers to find some workable options. There has to be a way to reach a consensus that will help the entire community. There is a willingness to make something positive work. There has to be a safe place to meet and work through the details. My office will offer opportunities to work together.

Civil Rights

15. 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?

Yes, I would and have supported legislation designed to protect the LGBTQ community from discrimination. The LGBTQ citizens deserve fair access to housing, employment, public accommodations, services, and benefits. I draw on my skills as a community advocate, legislator, and a Black woman to fight against discrimination on all levels. I have a strong, proven record of fighting for civil rights. As one of the first students of desegregation in Wake County, I have lived through many forms of discrimination. I will never forget those who came before me and helped make a path for me to follow. I continue to forge a path for those who follow me.

16. 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?

We should begin by making equity a priority and setting examples. We need to support & elect candidates that reflect our community, and appoint diverse people to boards & commissions.

The state must understand the value in diversity and equity in decision makers. For example, I recently spoke out at a community meeting and convinced a large developer to hire minority consultants and to develop a Community Benefits Agreement that includes working with the existing community to manage and mitigate development negative impact on the community.

Crime, Law Enforcement, and Punishment

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

By providing pathways to self sufficiency as outlined in the ALI program, we establish healthy people and communities. The desperation, pain, and despair that causes people to become violent is should overall reduced.

I support legislation that bans assault weapons and magazines. Require background checks and licencing permits for all firearms. The gun show loophole

needs to be closed. Private to private sells must require the firearm be registered to the new owner (like vehicle registration transfers).

We must remember that in my community, police violence is gun violence. For police, make mandatory specific training which would encompass the areas of special circumstances and cultural diversity that can affect crisis situations. Training should be conducted by instructors that are certified and qualified in these areas. Roleplay and situational exercises will provide real-life experience that can be recalled in a heated moment or altercation.

18. 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? 9 words

The death penalty in North Carolina should be abolished.

19. 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, these are separate law enforcement agencies with different focuses, resources and budgets. The current plan of enforcing laws and policies should include judicial permission. Our local law enforcement are here to serve and protect all people, not to enforce immigration laws. They shouldn't have to inquire about anyone's "legal status" before serving or protecting.

The American Immigration Council stated, "cooperating with 287g leads to racial profiling, civil rights violations, and terrorization of immigrant communities".

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?

In 2012, I voted for Obama and Walter Dalton. In 2016, I voted for Clinton, Ross, and Cooper.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

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