

PA PAC Questionnaire for Durham Board of County Commissioners – 2020

Please return the completed form 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.

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Government and the Public Good

1. Of all the issues confronting Durham County, which single issue is most important to you and why? What would you do about it if you are elected?

I believe the most critical issue facing Durham is gentrification and displacement. In 2016*, 46% of Durham County renters (more than 25,000) and 24.5% of mortgage-holders were cost-burdened. In one census tract in Hayti, 57.8% of renters are cost-burdened, with 241 evictions per square mile**.

As a County Commissioner I would fight to ensure that all residents can share in our prosperity and address the issue in a number of ways.

The first way to protect affordability is to keep our most vulnerable renters and homeowners in place. We can do this by:

- Increasing the support provided by the Department of Social Services for legal assistance to protect against eviction.
- Supporting home repairs to help long-term low-income homeowners stay in place.

- Promoting energy efficiency to bring down utility bills of our most marginalized populations.
- Advocating for state and federal assistance, which have failed to keep pace with rental increases.
- Expanding grants to long-term low-income homeowners to help with property taxes.

Second, we need planning and land use policies that shift from prioritizing single family housing to promoting greater housing supply and density. We need policies that support multi-modal transit, including our most affordable forms of mobility: walking and biking. The Comp Plan process gives us the opportunity to revisit our past policies through an equity lens, while we continue to utilize tools like the County's program to make unused public land available for the construction of affordable housing.

Third, I will push for a joint city-county economic development strategy that addresses inequality by intentionally supporting job creation and business opportunities for Durhamites, particularly residents of color, our youth, and justice-involved individuals. We have some good tactics and the city has a framework, but Durham needs a strategy.

*Latest Durham Compass figures

**Source: Legal Aid NC

2. How can county government use its authority and its resources to direct jobs to those who most need them and to lift the wages of the lowest-paid workers in Durham?

Durham must first come together to develop a joint city-county strategy for economic development that reflects our values of equity and sustainability. My dream is for Durham to have true full employment and be zero waste. No wasted talent, no wasted resources.

What county government can most control are its own jobs. Through contracting and procurement, the county can write bids and procurement guidelines to increase local hiring, pay living wages, and continue to increase utilization of Historically Underutilized Businesses. When incentives are used or other local concessions are required, we should push for local hiring of our most vulnerable residents.

Outside of government, the county should use its bully pulpit to challenge all employers to pay living wages. Durham should partner with anchor institutions like Duke and others to develop intentional strategies with ambitious goals for local hiring and get commitments to do so. What is more, the county can use smart public policy and targeted investments to spur white and blue collar job creation while working to become a zero waste economy. Some examples include:

- Setting new rules on managing construction waste so that we do not drive heavy, valuable materials (180 miles roundtrip) to be buried in the ground. This could spur the creation of jobs in a materials marketplace to make secondary materials available to local builders
- Investing in the capacity of local non-profit developers to make dramatic improvements in residential energy efficiency
- Expanding our use of renewable energy
- Supporting our local food economy by setting ambitious procurement targets
- Repairing critical watersheds

For all sectors and jobs, we should look to DPS Career and Technical Education and Durham Tech to help us prepare our people for the jobs of the future.

3. If elected, how will you guard against the power, access, and influence of wealthy special interests? How can county government hold such interests accountable for their actions?

Sunlight is always the best disinfectant, so the county should always aim to be as transparent as possible in all of its dealings. We must also invite the community in, particularly those who are the most vulnerable and impacted, into decision-making. The Equitable Development Blueprint, which Durham has started to adopt, is a great start.

The light rail comes to mind when I think about power, influence and wealth. We must speak truth to power when a few influential players can end projects that have broad community support. At the same time, we must be agile enough to recognize that Durham needs institutions like Duke and state agencies to achieve other important objectives, so we must also continue to constructively engage and partner, while we hold them accountable.

We also need to realize that for a lot of Durham, government institutions like the county, city, GoTriangle, and DHA are the powerful interests that wield incredible influence over regular people's lives. Therefore, while the county must hold other interests accountable, local government must be held accountable as well.

Another area where we see outsized influence is with developers. There is variety in the development community, with many small, local players who I believe do take the best interests of Durham to heart. At the same time, we have some local and outside firms who view development as an extractive enterprise with little regard for the big picture impact of their projects on our community. We must ensure that their voices do not carry outsized weight – do not drown out the voices of community residents – as we enter into the Comprehensive Plan and UDO updates. Once again, sunlight and community input are important counterbalances.

Educating Our Children

4. What issues do you see with school construction and student school assignment? What role should race equity play with regard to school construction and student assignment?

The issue with school construction will be ensuring that investments in construction are assigned to the schools that need it most. Race equity must play a role in determining these investments.

In terms of student school assignment, with our first major school reassignment since the merger coming up, we will have some important decisions to make. Shifting growth patterns and overall population growth have led to challenges where some schools are overcrowded while others are under-capacity. I agree wholeheartedly with DPS's goals to "increase equity among schools and communities, respond to growth, and strengthen our ability to serve every child." Our children will grow up in a more diverse, more connected - and if we do our jobs right - more equitable world. Integrated schools will be an incredible asset for our children and will help them be more successful team members, workers, employers, and citizens.

We must listen to our parents and our children intently during this process and look to models in other communities to guide our efforts. I believe race equity should play a central role and I believe that schools that best reflect the racial, cultural and socio-economic diversity of Durham are the strongest schools.

Ultimately, what we want is no less than all Durham students attending a healthy, high performing, diverse school at each stage of their public education.

5. What role should charter schools play in public education in Durham County? What are the issues associated with charter schools and what should be done to address them?

I believe that a robust traditional public school system is the best way for us to achieve the most good for our students and our community.

I know as a parent how difficult the decision about where to send your kids to school can be. I believe we need to listen to parents and understand their kids' needs, particularly parents of students of color who face greater barriers to success in all school systems.

However, we must acknowledge that charter schools have made our schools more segregated, have taken public funds out of DPS, and have not on the whole improved school quality. This challenge is exacerbated by the fact that charter schools are not required to offer transportation, meals or provide adequate services for students with learning differences.

All this contributes to the funding issue. When families with greater resources opt out of our public schools, the funding for educating that child goes to the charter school. With this shift, DPS has fewer funds to educate what becomes a student population with greater needs. Tragically, every year students leave (or are asked to leave) charter schools and return to DPS but the funding does not come back for the school to support the needs of that student for the year.

We are limited in terms of what we can do locally, but two things we can and should do are:

1. Use our megaphone to advocate for DPS: why it can serve our students so well and why it is so valuable for our community when our kids go to integrated schools together.
2. Be intentional about addressing the areas where DPS needs to improve.

On the state and federal level, we should push for greater oversight of charters and revisit how per pupil dollars migrate with students.

Housing, Planning, and Neighborhoods

6. What planning policies and priorities do you wish to see emerge from the on-going review and revision of Durham's Comprehensive Plan and Uniform Development Ordinance?

The update to our Comp Plan and UDO offers a powerful opportunity to set new planning policies and priorities that will benefit human health, protect the environment, fight climate change, address historic inequities and promote affordable housing.

We must foster denser, more walkable, bikeable and overall livable neighborhoods, with low or zero emissions public transit that connects our live, work and play areas. We must prioritize moving people around and not cars. We must seek to get cars off the roads to reduce congestion, improve human health and fight climate change.

Green infrastructure must be a priority, including the critical watersheds Durham and our region will need for drinking water as we grow, protected nature areas with public access in the county, and an expanded tree canopy and green space in our urban neighborhoods. We will also need specific policy and investments to address flood prone parts of Durham in the face of climate change.

We must undo racial zoning, which has historically located communities of color close to environmental hazards; has not provided the same tree canopy to clean the air and cool streets and homes in low-income communities of color as in wealthier white neighborhoods; and has enforced restrictive zoning which has limited which families can live in different neighborhoods in Durham. We must take a systemic view to undo the systemic racism of the past and present.

Finally, we must promote more housing options. This can be done by supporting denser developments on smaller lot sizes with missing middle housing. This not only increases the supply of housing but can also take pressure off of down-market neighborhoods that are rapidly gentrifying.

7. What, if anything, should be done to promote meaningful engagement of ordinary residents and neighborhoods in planning and zoning issues in city-county planning?

Durham should build upon and really embed the principles of the Equitable Development Blueprint. This will mean going beyond community meetings attended principally by wealthier white residents. It will mean sometimes hiring local intermediaries to get community input in ways that ensure representative and equitable input. The neighborhood community meetings that were hosted by the planning department for Expanding Housing Choices did more intentional outreach and tracked demographic data for the first time. This is now being applied on the Comprehensive Plan process. These are good steps. Feedback from how impacted communities are experiencing this process remains to be seen, and additional process improvements will no doubt be required.

8. What should Durham County government do to promote housing affordability?

Affordability is multi-faceted and we must approach it as such.

The first way to protect affordability is to keep our most vulnerable renters (and homeowners) in place. Most low-wealth and low-income tenants rent in the private market without subsidy and when a unit turns over the rent goes up. According to Legal Aid NC, it costs approximately \$60,000 per year for one attorney who prevents 85 low-income families from being forced to leave their homes each year. By comparison, one new unit of affordable housing costs over \$75,000 over 20 years. As a result, dramatically increasing the current \$200,000 budget for eviction diversion assistance is a great investment.

In addition to this, Durham County should:

- **Support home repairs to help long-term low-income homeowners stay in place.**
- **Promote energy efficiency to bring down utility bills of our most marginalized populations.**
- **Advocate for state and federal assistance, which have failed to keep pace with rental increases.**
- **Continue to make county land available for the construction of affordable housing.**
- **Expand grants to long-term low-income homeowners who cannot afford increased property taxes.**

We also need land use policies that promote greater housing supply and density, connect our region with transit so people can live in more places and still access jobs, school and other needs.

Finally, jobs are a critically important facet of housing affordability. If more people had decent living wage or better jobs, they would have more agency over where to live. Durham should promote affordability in this vein by pushing more a joint city-county economic development strategy that addresses inequality by intentionally supporting job creation and business opportunities for Durhamites, particularly people of color, our youth, justice-involved individuals, and other people with barriers to employment.

County Finances, Transportation, Incentives, and Services

9. What is the most important thing that is not currently being funded by county? Would you be willing to raise taxes to fund this item?

One critical thing the city, county and DPS need to start doing is invest in renewable energy. To the credit of our city and county elected officials, they passed resolutions to put Durham on a path to 100% renewable energy by 2050, and over the course of the next six months staff will be hiring a consultant to lay out different scenarios to get there. There are barriers to dramatically expanding renewable energy, not the least of which is our dependence on our monopoly utility provider, Duke Energy, whose own goals for shifting their own energy mix towards renewables remain tepid.

To start, the county should be looking at its own facilities for solar installation, in particular with new construction but also with retrofits. Our schools, with our plans for school construction, offer tremendous opportunity. What is more, these investments can be paired with educational and workforce training opportunities for our students.

The county should also look at opportunities to enable more residential solar through a range of federal, state and grant programs. And Durham should use its bully pulpit to press Duke Energy to offer tariff-on bill financing, where energy customers can finance home solar on their utility bill, paying for it out of their energy savings.

Finally, Durham must be vocal - alongside other counties, cities and non-profits like the Sierra Club across North Carolina – and demand more from Duke Energy and our NC Utilities Commission.

And yes, if required, I would be willing to raise taxes. Renewable energy can ultimately save money, which makes it a good financial investment. Even more so, climate change is one of the defining issues of our time and our future quality of life may depend on ambition in this area.

10. What is your position on providing public incentives to private firms to promote economic development in Durham? How can county government use development incentives to promote more widely shared prosperity, including better jobs and higher wages for Durham residents?

I believe that incentives can be a useful tool under limited circumstances. If these subsidies are catalytic, casual, non-redundant and appropriately priced, they can be helpful. We should also ensure that spending our tax base in this way does not have any long-term consequences on our fiscal health or ability to deliver vital services.

Ultimately, I believe few companies actually make location decisions on the basis of subsidies, and the number of jobs being created through the use of incentives is a small fraction of the total economic activity taking place in Durham without them. Instead, companies make choices based on the quality of the workforce, access to supply chains/markets, and the quality of life and schools for their employees and families. We must continually reevaluate whether in the case of FY19, the projected \$2.1M is better spent in incentives or in other community investments that also yield positive results for our economy.

One of the benefits of incentives is that, like rezoning applications, they can give local government more leverage to put additional conditions on companies such as paying living wages or providing community benefits. When incentives do come into play, county government should push for equitable development: living wage jobs, local hiring, Historically Underutilized Business opportunities, affordability, and environmental protection. In the case of developers, we should continue to push for inclusion of affordable units.

In any case, transparency and accountability are paramount with any economic development project. Once again, incentives are just one tool. What we need is a toolbox with many tools and a clear strategy that aligns with our community values for how to use them.

11. What non-traditional programs (such as public banking, community investment trusts, community development venture capital) could Durham County implement to reduce economic inequality in our community?

I believe these types of innovative financial mechanisms have a lot of promise for reducing economic inequality and should be part of a comprehensive economic development strategy for Durham.

One phase of my career was in the community development finance space, including advocating in DC for community development venture capital, tax credits, microfinance and other programs that seek to empower communities and help asset-poor individuals and organizations build equity.

There will never be enough public taxpayer funding to do all the things we need to do as a community. Just as we utilize low-income housing tax credits to finance affordable housing development or tap into philanthropy to promote innovation on drivers' license restoration, there is potential in leveraging funding from other levels of government, foundations, businesses and community residents.

Community investment trusts (CITs) could be a low-risk way for all residents, including low-income residents, to benefit from Durham's growth while supporting local business and community organizations and pushing back against gentrification.

Community development venture capital (CDVC) is more established and has been shown to be an innovative way of growing local businesses. CDCV funds could be raised with goals to employ Durham residents, foster employee ownership, pay living wages, provide good benefits, and offer jobs that are accessible to young people, re-entering individuals or folks with less formal education and training.

Another investment vehicle Durham might explore is social impact bonds and green bonds. Social impact bonds raise investment and promise a return to social impact investors only when the social

outcomes prescribed by the bond are achieved. Green bonds can lower the cost of capital while allowing local governments to invest in energy efficiency, green buildings and more.

12. What should be the principal components of a new public transit plan for Durham County?

After light rail, I feel it is too soon to be declaring the principal components for a new plan. It can be tempting to adopt an attractive technology (there are some good ones) or focus on what seem to be obvious travel markets or populations to serve, but I believe we should take our time to develop a solid long-term strategic plan that will permit us to look out a generation. Two important steps:

1. Update our needs assessment. It is very likely that our growth projections and the needs of people on different routes have changed in the years since the last assessment.
2. Complete a deep community engagement process. We've kicked this off by getting transit input in conjunction with the Engage Durham process for the Comprehensive Plan but have more work to do. Engagement should involve groups like our local PACs and political organizations, the Chamber, the Sierra Club, and the Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit. Most importantly, we must reach out and include the voices of people who will most need and be most impacted by any decisions. We can look to the city's Equitable Development Blueprint for guidance on how to prioritize the voices of historically underrepresented groups and engage local organizations to help do this deep listening.

Instead of principal components I will share some principles: prioritize moving people (not cars); low emissions infrastructure; walkable/bikeable; connect where people live and where they work so that we have options for more affordable living that doesn't require living downtown or immediately next to other employment centers; collaborate regionally; center the voices of people who are most impacted.

In the short-term, our elected officials will need to weigh any immediate needs with the ability to invest in a longer term plan out of our dedicated transit fund.

13. What, if anything, should the county do to distribute the property tax burden with greater equity and fairness?

The county should take action to distribute the property tax burden with greater equity and fairness. There are some tools that are not at our disposal, like differential tax rates. What Durham has been doing and can expand is the issuance of grants to long-term low-income homeowners which can offset property tax payments for those who can least afford them.

Justice and Law Enforcement

14. How do you define community safety? What are the most effective ways for the county to build and preserve community safety throughout all the communities in Durham County?

I define community safety as the freedom from harm and fear. Because there are a number of ways that people experience harm and fear, we must have a range of tools at our disposal to promote safety.

It is our low-income communities of color who face the greatest threats of violence and therefore sometimes need law enforcement, yet can also suffer the greatest adverse impacts from over-policing and an unjust criminal justice system. I believe we must respond by supporting our Sheriff's commitments to "create a community where all people are free from harm and fear, immigrants feel safe and welcome, the jail is safe, and we reduce gun violence." This means continuing initiatives that divert people from the justice system pre-charge and pre-trial while supporting anti-recidivism programs. It means keeping our detained resident safe through community oversight and investments to address mental health and substance use disorder. It means a strong stance against collaboration with ICE, and fight for protections for our LGBTQ+ neighbors. And it means entering into dialogue with the Sheriff to understand his assessment of what will be important to halt the tragedies of gun violence, human trafficking, and other scourges that damage and end human life in Durham, at the same time as he seeks to promote reforms.

Ultimately, I believe the most effective ways for the county to build and preserve community safety is to address the underlying causes of violence like the trauma and toxic stress caused by poverty and unstable housing.

15. Are you satisfied with Sheriff's Office, including its administrative, law enforcement, security, and detention functions? Should county government increase or decrease resources allocated to the Sheriff's Office? Please explain your answer.

No, I am not satisfied, though I am encouraged by Sheriff Birkhead's leadership. I have seen him engaging in extensive community outreach, I celebrate his creation of a community advisory board, and I commend his non-collaboration stance on ICE.

In his budget proposal to the County for the current fiscal year, I saw the Sheriff embracing strategies that minimize the use of force and improve the safety of those detained, such as the five padded cells that we approved. I know the Sheriff has been a supporter of diversion programs to keep people out of the jail, and mental health services for detained residents. In that vein, I believe we must expand the capacity of the Criminal Justice Resource Center to provide mental health services in the jail, pre-trial diversion, misdemeanor diversion, and substance abuse treatment in the jail.

I hope the Sheriff will continue to bring innovative proposals to improve outcomes for those who are detained and to reduce recidivism. The fact that between 2011-2016 over 1,000 people entered our jail more than ten times shows there is a lot of opportunity to serve our detainees and re-entering folks better while saving the county money.

It also looks like the Sheriff requested that the county add 29 FTEs to his department. I don't know the details of the request, but will evaluate future staffing requests with an open mind. I will be particularly interested to consider proposals that add more non-traditional staffing like mental health professionals, peer mentors and violence interrupters.

16. What, if anything, should Durham County do to promote restorative justice?

First, instead of punitive discipline approach that is racially inequitable and can foster a school-to-prison pipeline, we can incorporate restorative justice practices in our schools. These can help students and adults collaborate on finding resolution to school-based challenges, position youth as leaders through peer mediation, and involve more staff such as guidance counselors and social workers whose training is conflict resolution rather than punishment.

Second, we can build on restorative building blocks in our local justice system. For example, our Misdemeanor Diversion Program out of the Criminal Justice Resource Center permits youth who are first-time offenders to do community service (as well as pay fees) in lieu of a criminal charge and jail time. I believe Durham should expand the ages of eligibility beyond 16-17 to include more youth.

However, the community services program only includes the offenders, not the victims, and I believe exploring further restorative practices has merit because these programs have been shown to serve the victims by asking what they need, rather than what the justice system should do to punish offenders. This doesn't mean there won't be a punishment, but it is a paradigm shift in terms of the first question we ask.

Durham is poised to expand a restorative justice program that provides a better alternative to criminal justice because of a receptive DA and staff, and because Restorative Justice Durham and other nonprofits are providing trained volunteers.

To make it work at scale, it will need additional resources and vocal support from County leaders.

Health Care and Social Services

17. How can Durham County improve mental health services in our community?

Mental health is a serious and challenging issue for our society. At the local level, we are able to provide quality crisis services, such as through the Recovery Response Center. Insurance or Medicaid typically can cover severe, persistent mental health challenges. Where the biggest gap lies is in access for people with mental health challenges that are neither a crisis nor a severe, persistent concern – like depression or anxiety. For example, moms-to-be can access Medicaid for prenatal mental health services, but post-partum new moms are not eligible. The County can already give some residents free or low rate mental health sessions by pulling down state dollars and we should explore how to expand these services.

Usage is another challenge, with some eligible populations choosing to not take advantage of services. This can be addressed by training providers to be culturally responsive and sensitive to a variety of needs, such as the needs of immigrants or formerly incarcerated individuals. We should also get more input from people with lived experience to inform the way services are provided by the county.

Ultimately, we need to advocate for Medicaid expansion at the state level in order to provide insurance for more people in need of mental health services. State and philanthropic partnerships can also be valuable.

Civil Rights

18. Name one issue in Durham that directly impacts, or is directly impacted by, race inequity, and explain how the city can incorporate a race equity framework in addressing this issue?

Environmental justice.

In Durham, as is true nationally, communities of color suffer from higher poverty, poorer health, worse educational outcomes and higher crime. What is not often discussed is that Durham's

communities of color disproportionately suffer from environmental injustice, which makes all of the issues above worse. Specifically, Durham communities of color face higher rates of illness and higher housing costs from their heightened exposure to home health hazards (like mold and CO2), air pollution, extreme heat, and flood events. Durham must consider our development and environment preservation laws through a racial equity lens; otherwise we will perpetuate environmental injustice from our past and create new environmental injustice in our future.

In one example, trees are giant air filters and outdoor air conditioners, and without them, people breathe and experience hotter, dirtier air than their neighbors. In Durham, it is communities of color who don't have trees due to racist planting patterns of our past. This means the air surrounding communities of color is up to 10 degrees hotter than wealthier communities, requiring our poorest residents to pay sometimes twice as much in air conditioning bills during the summer as our wealthier ones. And long-term exposure to the heat can be deadly.

The same goes for needed investments in clean energy and transportation, building and maintenance of affordable housing (including issues of mold, lead and CO exposure in public housing), and zoning that anticipates future flooding from more frequent and intense rainfall events due to climate change.

We must ensure that all investments in our environment are made equitably, get community input and always consider the potentially differential impact of any choices we might make. What helps our most marginalized neighbors will benefit even the most privileged, but the reverse is not necessarily true.

19. What is the principal issue facing the Latinx and immigrant communities and how should the county address it?

One critical issue facing the Latinx and immigrant communities is health. This includes the stress and trauma faced by community members who are undocumented, have family members and friends who are, or are already separated from family. The limbo of being away from family, long legalization processes and the fear of being apprehended create terrible uncertainty and toxic stress. This limbo can also make it difficult to secure a stable job, access certain public services and have a sense of place in Durham.

Health challenges are also compounded by concerns about violence and the experience with law enforcement. Some families – including some of those fleeing violence in their countries of origin – may feel a sense of security and protection by local law enforcement, while others may feel threatened by these interactions.

A third facet of health is related to housing conditions. Like other communities of color, many Latinx and immigrant families live in houses that are falling apart, have high levels of humidity and are energy inefficient. This can cause health issues like toxic mold and affordability crises resulting from high energy costs.

The county should address these issues by:

- Standing strong with our Sheriff regarding non-collaboration with ICE
- Ensuring our Sheriff's community advisory group always includes voices from the Latinx community and providing training on cultural responsiveness
- Investing in programs that address home health hazards and promote residential energy

efficiency

A final point I will make is about the importance of helping Latinx and immigrant families integrate in our local community. There is perhaps no better place for families to come together across boundaries than our public schools. The Community Schools model in particular has a lot of promise to hear the voices of Latinx and immigrant communities and help them fulfill their needs and realize their hopes.

20. Do 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? *Please limit your answer to 100 words.*

Absolutely. Because there are no explicit, comprehensive statewide non-discrimination protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender people in North Carolina, such legislation is long overdue. While discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is prohibited in public employment, no such protections exist for private employers. In fact, it is against the law to sue in state courts for such discrimination, leaving victims with no recourse. In addition to these areas of discrimination mentioned, I believe North Carolina needs to pass legislation to allow those in same-sex relationships to access protective orders for domestic violence, as well as an explicit ban on conversion therapy, which is still legal in NC. No state funds may be used for conversion therapy, due to a recent Executive Order by Gov. Cooper, but this only stands as long as Democrats hold the governor's post.

Political

21. 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? *Please limit your answer to 100 words.*

2012 – Barack Obama, Walter Dalton

2016 – Hilary Clinton, Roy Cooper, Deborah Ross

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

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