

NORTH CAROLINIANS FOR FREE AND PROPER ELECTIONS



Your Choice • Their Competition • Your Freedom

NC Senate and House Candidate Survey

You or your staff may submit your
responses by mailing them to:

NCFPE-PAC
2206 Planters Way
Lenoir, NC 28645

Please circle the number on the scale below each statement which correlates to how much you agree or disagree with the statement or how you feel about the issue. Results of the survey, as well as any comments you make, will be posted on our website.

SECTION 1: YOUR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

1. Every citizen has the right to vote their conscience when voting for publicly elected officials regardless of whether they are associated with a political party or running as an unaffiliated candidate.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

2. Every constitutionally qualified citizen has the right to run for public office regardless of whether they are associated with a political party or running as an unaffiliated candidate.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

3. No government can rightfully abridge the right of a citizen to vote their conscience, whether by direct intervention at the polls, indirect coercion or by legal barriers preventing candidates from appearing on the election ballot.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

4. No government can rightfully deny any constitutionally qualified citizen the right to run for public office for any reason, regardless of race, religion, gender or whether the citizen is associated with a political party or running as an unaffiliated candidate. Only those constitutional requirements not met by a candidate can disqualify them from appearing on any election ballot.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

SECTION 2: YOUR VIEW ON NORTH CAROLINA'S BALLOT ACCESS LAW

5. North Carolina's statute requiring a new political party to obtain such an excessive number of signatures (Note 1), a number which increases ever gubernatorial election that vote totals increase, unduly inhibits new political parties and should be reformed to significantly reduce the burden on the new parties.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

6. North Carolina's statute requiring political parties to obtain at least 2% of the vote to retain access to the ballot is an unduly restrictive requirement for third political parties (Note 2), and serves only to ensure third parties waste valuable time and funds on regaining access to the election ballot and that those parties are unable to fund campaign expenditures needed to make people aware of their presence and candidates. The requirement that a party must obtain a certain percentage of the vote to stay on the ballot must be replaced with a less restrictive requirement for ballot retention.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

7. North Carolina's statute requiring individual statewide unaffiliated candidates to obtain such an excessive number of signatures (Note 3), which increases ever gubernatorial election, is overly burdensome to individual candidates and should be reformed to greatly reduce the burden on unaffiliated candidates to obtain a place on the election ballot.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

8. North Carolina's statute requiring individual district unaffiliated candidates to obtain such an excessive number of signatures (Note 4), which increases every year as more people register to vote and is based on a much larger pool of citizens than for statewide candidates, is unequal and over burdensome to individual candidates and should be reformed to greatly reduce the burden on unaffiliated candidates for US Congress and lower district offices for access to the election ballot.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

9. North Carolina's statutes instituting such onerous and restrictive requirements to appear on the ballot for third political parties and independent candidates are inconsistent with the citizen's freedom of speech and self-government. These statutes deny citizens the right to vote their conscience and deny candidates the right to run for public office. They are directly responsible for establishing a harmful duopoly of power and obstruct healthy and essential competition in the North Carolina electoral process.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

SECTION 3: HOW WOULD YOU REFORM NORTH CAROLINA'S BALLOT ACCESS LAW

10. I support amending North Carolina law in §163-96(a)(2) by replacing the percentage based requirement with a set signature count not to exceed 10,000 for ballot access for new political parties.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

11. I support amending North Carolina law in §163-96(a)(1) by replacing the percentage based requirement by setting a condition for political parties to retain ballot access which is more friendly to smaller political parties, by requiring a political party to run at least one candidate for a statewide office to retain ballot access.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

12. I support amending North Carolina law in §163-122 by either reforming the percentage based requirement to require no more than 5,000 signatures for statewide unaffiliated candidates, 2,000 for candidates for US Congress, 750 for NC Senate, 500 for NC House and less for lower offices.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

13. I oppose any attempt to reduce the time in which candidates or political parties have to obtain signatures, and I support giving a greater period of time in which to obtain signatures for ballot access.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

14. I oppose any attempt to put restrictions on who can or cannot help in the gathering of petition signatures and hold doing such as a violation of freedom of speech and political participation. This includes requiring petitioners to be registered voters, 18 or older, of a certain political affiliation, obtain or display state-regulated certification documents, or be a resident of the State of North Carolina.

(Strongly Disagree) 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • 10 (Strongly Agree)

Comments:

You are welcome to attach any additional comments to this questionnaire.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate Name: _____

Office Sought (Circle One): NC Senate / NC House of Representatives **District #:** _____

Seat Status (Circle One): Incumbent / Challenger / Open Seat

Opponent(s): _____

Political Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

Phone: () - **E-Mail:** @

Campaign Manager: _____

I hereby attest that the answers above are mine (the candidates) and do represent my views as accurately and honestly as possible.

Candidate Signature: _____ **Date:** / /

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*"It behooves every man who values
liberty of conscience for himself, to resist
invasions of it in the case of others."*

- Thomas Jefferson -

NOTES – NC Election Law Facts

1. The rule for new political parties to have their candidates appear on the election ballot in North Carolina, found in NCGS §163-96(a)(2), requires that political party to submit signatures equal to 2% of the total number of votes cast in the most recent general election for governor. To attain the ballot access in 2010 or 2012, a party must obtain at least 85,379 signatures, or approximately 67 signatures every day counting weekdays and holidays for a solid 3.5 years. That is twice as restrictive as 38 other states, over 8 ½ times as many signatures as required by South Carolina and twice as many signatures as required by Tennessee; only California requires more signatures than North Carolina.
2. For any political party to retain access to the election ballot in North Carolina, according to NCGS §163-96(a)(1), that party must obtain at least 2% of the total vote cast for governor in the previous election. The Libertarian Party of NC has obtained initial ballot access over 8 times in the past 20, but has lost ballot access 7 times immediately following their first election due to this requirement.
3. For an individual wishing to run for public office elected by the entire state in North Carolina without any formal political affiliation (as an unaffiliated candidate) and have his name appear on the election ballot, according to NCGS §163-122(a)(1), that candidate must obtain signatures equal to 2% of the total number of votes cast in the most recent general election for governor. To attain the ballot in 2010 or 2012, a statewide candidate must obtain at least 85,379 signatures, or approximately 67 signatures every day counting weekdays and holidays for a solid 3 ½ years. That is twice as restrictive as 37 other states, over 8 ½ times as many signatures as required by South Carolina, 310 times as many signatures as required by Tennessee to appear as a presidential candidate and over 3,415 times as many signatures as required by Tennessee to appear on the ballot for any other statewide office; only California requires more signatures than North Carolina.
4. For an individual wishing to run for public office within a district (i.e. US Congress, NC Senate, NC House of Representatives, County Commissioner, etc.) in North Carolina without any formal political affiliation (as an unaffiliated candidate) and have his name appear on the election ballot, according to NCGS §163-122(a)(2-4), that candidate must obtain signatures equal to 4% of the total number of registered voters in that district as of January 1st of the election year in which the candidates name would appear on the ballot. For a candidate for the US Congress to have their name appear on the election ballot in 2010, the candidate must obtain anywhere from 16,165 to 22,544 signatures depending on the district they will be elected by. North Carolina and Georgia, consistently, require a candidate for the US Congress to obtain more signatures to appear on the election ballot than any other state in the Union. Since the implementation of the State Regulated "Australian" Ballot, there *has never been* an unaffiliated candidate to successfully qualify for the election ballot for US Congress in North Carolina. Candidates for NC Senate are required to obtain up to 6,412 signatures and candidates for NC House of Representatives are required to obtain up to 3,456 signatures.