

Kim Bost
Candidate NC HD 96

1. North Carolina is constantly having to invest in infrastructure, whether it be roads, schools, affordable housing, or other needs. What do you think are most pressing for the state right now, and how do you propose to fund these needs?

I believe public education is the backbone of a strong society. We attract talented young families to our state, train the workforce for the 21st century, encourage research and innovation, and build a foundation for a better life. Educated populations make healthier choices and are more engaged citizens. My first priority when I get to Raleigh will be to increase the Department of Public Instruction's budget so we can bring education funding back to levels seen back in 2013.

The 2013 tax bill radically changed our tax structure. It offset a significant reduction in income tax by levying them on services and implementing drastic cuts to state departmental budgets. I believe we need to return to a more equitable tax plan that will adequately fund our state's agencies and services.

2. Much has been made of the state's tax rate, and the complexities between cutting rates for citizens and businesses versus funding critical needs like education, healthcare, and transportation. How well do you think the state is striking the balance, and what would you modify to make it better?

North Carolina is currently experiencing one of the lowest tax rates in our modern history. This decrease in revenue is having a deleterious effect on our state's ability to provide quality services to its citizens. Our current leadership is not seeking to strike a balance at all but instead is putting its finger on the scale in favor of corporations and high-wealth individuals.

One thing that we need to do immediately is vote against the constitutional amendment that would set a cap on our state's highest tax percentage. NC income

tax currently sits at about 5%. The state constitution currently sets the cap at 10%. The GOP proposed constitutional amendment would reduce that cap to 7%. This type of short-sighted change will hamstring future lawmakers from being able to react to the economic challenges they will face.

Beyond that, I believe it is imperative for the incoming legislators to assess how well our state agencies are performing. I believe in using evidence-based measures to better understand the areas of improvement. I will work to allocate the appropriate amount of funding to ensure all state agencies are serving our citizens.

3. Almost 98% of REALTORS are independent contractors. Under current health care laws in NC, this requires us to buy health insurance from the ACA individual market. Unfortunately, as premiums have risen dramatically in the last three years, many of our members are choosing to go uninsured. The federal government recently passed legislation allowing trade associations to self-fund healthcare plans for independent contractors, such as REALTORS, allowing them greater access to affordable healthcare. However, North Carolina still prevents us from offering an association healthcare plan because of how they define the word "employer." Would you support legislation that will allow our more than 43,000 members to have access to affordable plans?

I support any and all measures that expand affordable access to healthcare. I believe that in the current market structure, allowing members of trade associations to join a single pool is an excellent way for independent contractors to pool benefits and reduce the costs of premiums. It makes infinitely more sense for REALTORS to take advantage of this legislation than to change the way all real estate agents do their taxes. Local and regional REALTOR Associations already collect dues for services from their members. They have an office support staff who could be trained to manage such a healthcare plan. The NCAR could oversee this program. I would be happy to see the NCAR begin to use its weight to advocate for greater access to affordable healthcare for more North Carolinians.

CANDIDATE NAME Rep. Jeffrey Elmore, District 94

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CVAR-Catawba Valley Association of REALTORS Questionnaire

Attention: Regina Jenkins, Chair, CVAR Legislative Committee

1. The most pressing needs for infrastructure currently in NC are
 - Roads and connectivity to urban centers
 - Rural road maintenance
 - New school construction in high growth areas
 - Existing school improvements in rural areas

We have taken steps in the General Assembly to address all of these needs in different ways. First, we enacted the STIP structure for DOT funding to make road construction decisions data driven, not political. The structure also empowers more local decision making. The Build NC Bond Act was part of our budget this year. It authorizes DOT to issue bonds for roads with some flexibility. This will dramatically speed up projects in the STIP plan. Although school construction is primarily a local county commissioner and local school board function, the General Assembly has helped in this area. We have authorized flexibility in leasing statues for local governments. The General Assembly also created a grant fund for our Tier 1 counties. I am a supporter of a state wide bond for local school construction.

2. Our tax reform efforts have helped stimulate the job market, business climate, real estate sales, and wage growth. Our tax reform efforts were used as the model for the federal tax reforms. We are at a great balance now as we continue to achieve surpluses in state revenues. Future efforts in tax reform need to continue and be discussed.
3. I support association healthcare plans.

CANDIDATE NAME

RIC VANDETT

1. North Carolina is constantly having to invest in infrastructure, whether that be roads, schools, affordable housing, or other needs. What do you think are most pressing for the state right now, and how do you propose to fund these needs?

AN INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS IS ESSENTIAL, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS CREATED A CHAOTIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BY TAKING TAXPAYER DOLLARS FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ITS EFFORT TO PRIVATIZE EDUCATION. INVESTING IN ROADS IS VERY IMPORTANT, AND A LOT OF MONEY IS BEING WASTED ON THE I-77 PROJECT. NC HAS FUNDS TO INVEST IN SCHOOLS AND ROADS. THE LEGISLATURE JUST HAS TO MAKE SCHOOLS AND ROADS A PRIORITY.

2. Much has been made of the state's tax rate, and the complexities between cutting rates for citizens and businesses versus funding critical needs like education, healthcare, and transportation. How well do you think the state is striking that balance, and what would you modify to make it better?

THERE IS NOT A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN TAX CUTS AND FUNDING THE STATE'S MOST PRESSING NEEDS. MANY PEOPLE ARE STILL STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET. THE TAX CUTS HAVE NOT TRICKLED DOWN TO THE PEOPLE WHO COULD USE THE EXTRA INCOME TO PURCHASE HOMES, SAVE, AND INVEST. I WOULD WORK WITH TAX EXPERTS TO SEE HOW EXISTING TAX LAWS COULD BE USED TO HELP THE MIDDLE CLASS AND WHETHER RATES NEED TO BE RESTRICTED.

3. Almost 98% of REALTORS are independent contractors. Under current health care laws in NC, this requires us to buy health insurance from the ACA individual market.

Unfortunately, as premiums have risen dramatically in the last three years, many of our members are choosing to go uninsured. The federal government recently passed legislation allowing trade associations to self-fund healthcare plans for independent contractors such as REALTORS®, allowing them greater access to affordable healthcare. However, North Carolina still prevents us from offering an association healthcare plan because of how they define the word "employer". Would you support legislation that will allow our more than 43,000 members to have access to affordable these plans?

YES

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1. North Carolina is constantly having to invest in infrastructure, whether that be roads, schools, affordable housing, or other needs. What do you think are most pressing for the state right now, and how do you propose to fund these needs?
- Education – primary, secondary, community college and university. Without education, there is no opportunity. Without opportunity, our best and brightest leave the state.
 - Transportation – North Carolina was once known as the “good roads state.” This is a quality of life issue. We must plan transportation, especially in our urban areas, carefully.
 - Protecting the environment – Poor public health and polluted rivers, air and land are not conducive to an appropriate quality of life.

Fund by raising taxes on corporations and high earners.

2. Much has been made of the state's tax rate, and the complexities between cutting rates for citizens and businesses versus funding critical needs like education, healthcare, and transportation. How well do you think the state is striking that balance, and what would you modify to make it better?

The state is doing a poor job of striking the balance. The tax burdens for low income individuals in North Carolina is quite high. The fact that the state can extend tax incentives to companies like Google and Apple demonstrate beyond any doubt that the cash to fund basic needs is available, so long as it is not diverted for corporate welfare.

3. Almost 98% of REALTORS are independent contractors. Under current health care laws in NC, this requires us to buy health insurance from the ACA individual market. Unfortunately, as premiums have risen dramatically in the last three years, many of our members are choosing to go uninsured. The federal government recently passed legislation allowing trade associations to self-fund healthcare plans for independent contractors such as REALTORS®, allowing them greater access to affordable healthcare. However, North Carolina still prevents us from offering an association healthcare plan because of how they define the word "employer". Would you support legislation that will allow our more than 43,000 members to have access to affordable these plans?

Certainly. If and until there is a “Medicare-for-all” health insurance system in the United States, individuals should not be restricted from who they purchase health insurance.



August 31, 2018

CANDIDATE NAME Greg Crawford Democratic Candidate
NC House District 89

1. North Carolina is constantly having to invest in infrastructure, whether that be roads, schools, affordable housing, or other needs. What do you think are most pressing for the state right now, and how do you propose to fund these needs?

Funding should come from higher taxes on big corporations and wealthy individuals.

2. Much has been made of the state's tax rate, and the complexities between cutting rates for citizens and businesses versus funding critical needs like education, healthcare, and transportation. How well do you think the state is striking that balance, and what would you modify to make it better?

Tax cuts for the wealthy hurt.
Progressive taxation is needed.

3. Almost 98% of REALTORS are independent contractors. Under current health care laws in NC, this requires us to buy health insurance from the ACA individual market. Unfortunately, as premiums have risen dramatically in the last three years, many of our members are choosing to go uninsured. The federal government recently passed legislation allowing trade associations to self-fund healthcare plans for independent contractors such as REALTORS®, allowing them greater access to affordable healthcare. However, North Carolina still prevents us from offering an association healthcare plan because of how they define the word "employer". Would you support legislation that will allow our more than 43,000 members to have access to affordable these plans?

I favor Medicare for All.

I realize my answers may not be pro-realtor but I am running to give voters a progressive choice. Thanks for your interest.
Greg Crawford