

ABCPOA Candidate Questionnaire 2020
State House District 17
Candidates:
L. Thomas Simmons(TOM)

Please complete the following questionnaire and return it not later than September 25, 2020
Please limit responses to 200 words

Question 1.

Please define the one clear change that you wish to accomplish and how you intend to build support for this change during your tenure in office if elected”?

Response 1.

Communications and Collaboration between the two parties. I will meet with any member of the GOP who is interested in seeking a compromise to the problems that face our state. There will always be differences in party ideology, but finding common ground and doing what is best for my District and all the citizens of NC should be the goal of the person who represents House District 17 in the General Assembly.

Question 2.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has exposed major deficiencies in the delivery of health care in North Carolina, particularly when viewed from the perspective of overall health and preexisting conditions of the residents of this state. If elected, what would you propose to address this fundamental health care issue?

Response 2.

In North Carolina, 600,000 people are currently uninsured, and 130,000 of the uninsured are children. If elected, I will vote to expand Medicaid. Such an expansion will create new jobs in North Carolina in the healthcare field, and help rural hospitals remain open.

Question3

Revenue shortfalls will likely need to be addressed in the current fiscal year. Where do you see opportunities to reduce expenses? To increase revenues?
Many municipalities of all sizes are struggling to maintain services and support staff in light of revenue shortfalls brought about by the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. What would you propose to help municipalities maintain their service and staff levels

Response 3.

Close existing tax loopholes and require big business to pay its fair share in taxes. This would probably not be welcomed by the legislature, but I would propose a salary cut for state lawmakers. For low wealth counties, support from the state’s rainy day fund may be an option. I will oppose a tax increase; however, state tax policies and rates need to be adjusted.

Question 4.

For years Department of Environmental Quality's budget has been inadequate to enable them to conduct the level of investigation and evaluation of environmental pollutants to 21st century standards. What would you do to improve the overall capabilities of DEQ?

Response 4

Increase funding for the DEQ. Polluters of our air, land and water must be held accountable. The DEQ must have the resources and laws to enforce our environmental regulations.

Question 5

North Carolina is considered a developer friendly state Unfortunately some developers of communities of common interest" fail to maintain storm water, roads and other major infrastructure, creating an untenable situation for the local government of home owners' associations having to bear the cost for bringing deficiencies up to standard.

How would you propose to strengthen existing law to protect the local government or home/property owners' associations in these circumstances?

Response 5.

Local government should have the flexibility to impose an impact fees on developers. This would ensure that infrastructure issues will be maintained by developers, not property owners. When developers are applying for construction permits, there must be plans as to the maintenance and upgrade of infrastructures to standard.

Please save as a pdf file and return to; genevasile708@gmail.com

Thank you for participating in the ABCPOA candidate questionnaire.