



2026 Elections Candidate Questions

All candidates:

1. In your opinion, what is the role and value of a public education system in a democracy?
2. What will it take to ensure that North Carolina's public education system thrives?
3. What are your top priorities for improving PreK-12 education in NC?
4. How will you support effective public schools and improve academic outcomes for all students?
5. What is your assessment of current public education funding, including funding for economically disadvantaged students, English language learners, and students with disabilities?
6. Given North Carolina's low national ranking in public education funding, how can communities work with the state and local officials to meet the changing needs of a diverse student body?

NC Senate and House:

In addition to the questions above:

1. Having an effective teacher in every classroom is essential to student success. What is your plan for recruiting and retaining effective teachers?
2. How will you direct additional resources to students who need them, including economically disadvantaged students, English language learners, and students with disabilities?
3. How should the school finance system be modified to provide stable and predictable funding that accounts for changing costs?
4. Do you believe tax rates and property tax limits should be established in the state constitution or through legislation? Why?
5. How would the proposed constitutional amendment establishing a 3.5% state income-tax cap affect future funding for public education?
6. As state income-tax rates decline, how would you ensure sufficient revenue to meet North Carolina's public education and other public-service needs?
7. How will the overall tax burden on North Carolinians change when considering income, sales and property tax, and user fees?

8. How would you improve accountability and transparency for state tax dollars used for Opportunity Scholarships?

Board of County Commissioners:

In addition to the questions for all candidates:

1. What is your vision for public education in this county?
2. What do you see as the greatest strengths of public schools in this county?
3. What do you see as the greatest challenges facing PreK-12 education in this county?
4. What can the Board of County Commissioners do to provide stable and predictable funding for public schools that accounts for changing costs?
5. How can the county, municipalities and school district collaborate to address the needs of public schools?
6. How would the proposed Property Tax Levy Limit constitutional amendment affect the county's ability to provide services? How should the county plan for potential property-tax limits or economic downturn?
7. Which county services would be most vulnerable to funding reductions resulting from property-tax levy limits?

School Board

In addition to the questions for all candidates:

1. Given North Carolina's low national ranking in public education funding, how can the school board and community work together to meet the needs of a diverse and changing student body?
2. What do you see as the appropriate roles of the school the board and superintendent in developing and implementing district policy?
3. What should the school board do to help recruit and retain an effective teacher in every classroom?
4. What actions do you believe are most important for improving student achievement?