

North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation  
2010 Questionnaire  
Candidates for North Carolina General Assembly

Please complete and return  
by June 11 Deadline

**SECTION I. Candidate Personal Profile Information**

Name: STEPHEN LAROQUE Office Sought (circle): Senate   House District #: 10  
Party (circle): Democrat   Republican Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: PO BOX 1034 City: KINSTON State: NC Zip: 28503  
County of Residence: LENOIR Length of Residence in County: 40 YEARS  
Home Phone: 252-523-7700 Work Phone: 252-527-3399 Mobile Phone: 252-560-3399  
Email: SLAROQUE@YAHOO.COM Fax: 252-523-8880  
Gender: MALE Race/Ethnicity: CAUCASIAN Religion: PRESBYTERIAN  
Place of Birth (city/state): KINSTON / NC Date of Birth: 8-15-63  
Marital Status (circle):  Married  Single  Divorced  Separated Number of Children: 0  
Occupation: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Employer: SELF  
Military Service: N/A High School: KINSTON HIGH SCHOOL  
Colleges/Universities Attended: EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY  
Degrees: BSBA-FINANCE, MBA  
Previous Elected/Appointed Offices: NC HOUSE 2003-2006

**SECTION II. Candidate Campaign Information**

Name of Campaign Committee: COMMITTEE TO ELECT STEPHEN LAROQUE  
Campaign Email: SLAROQUE@YAHOO.COM Campaign Website: TBA  
Campaign Phone: 252-523-7700 Campaign Fax: 252-523-8880  
Campaign Address: PO BOX 1034 City: KINSTON State: NC Zip: 28503  
Campaign Treasurer: SELF Campaign Treasurer Phone: SAME  
Political Consultants: DEE STEWART

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Considering your personal and professional associations, how likely are you to receive support from each of the following groups?

	Very Likely	Likely	Unknown	Unlikely	Very Unlikely
A. North Carolina Advocates for Justice (formerly the Academy of Trial Lawyers)	1	2	3	4	5
B. Medical Groups (ex. Doctors, Hospital Administrators)	1	2	3	4	5
C. Banking & Finance Industry	1	2	3	4	5
D. Utility/Telecommunications Companies	1	2	3	4	5
E. Real Estate & Construction Industry	1	2	3	4	5
F. Labor Unions	1	2	3	4	5
G. Retail/Wholesale Businesses	1	2	3	4	5
H. State Employees Association of N.C. (SEANC)	1	2	3	4	5
I. Insurance Industry	1	2	3	4	5
J. N.C. Association of Educators (NCAE)	1	2	3	4	5
K. Business Professionals (ex. Architects, Accountants, Engineers)	1	2	3	4	5
L. Transportation Industry	1	2	3	4	5
M. Agri-business Interests	1	2	3	4	5
N. Legislative Leadership Committees	1	2	3	4	5

Are there other groups not listed that you would expect to receive a campaign contribution or endorsement from? (Ex. Lillian's List, Anti-Tax Groups)

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**SECTION III. CANDIDATE ISSUE QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS**

**Instructions:** Please respond to the following questions and statements by circling the response that best represents your position or opinion. You are invited to provide additional comments or explanations for your answers on a separate page. Please be sure to identify which question you are commenting on by noting the appropriate question number with your additional comments.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. For every \$100.00 of sales, about how much profit do you believe the average North Carolina business nets? (Circle one response)

Under \$1      \$1-5      \$5-10      \$10-25      \$25-50      Over \$50

2. The current level of taxes paid by North Carolina businesses is too high, too low, or about right? (Circle one response)

Too high      Too low      About right

3. Have you owned or managed a business? (If so, please describe below.)

Yes      No

I have been self-employed since 1997

I have managed two bank offices & another economic development company

4. Do you believe that environmental laws and regulations in North Carolina are too strict, about right, or too lenient?

Too Strict      About Right      Too Lenient      Undecided

**BUDGET & TAXES**

5. Reducing taxes on businesses in North Carolina will stimulate economic activity resulting in the creation of more jobs and increased tax revenue.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

6. Reducing taxes on businesses in North Carolina will reduce state revenues and cause substantial harm to critical government programs and services.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

7. The growth of state spending from year to year should be limited to a specific growth factor such as the rate of inflation.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

8. Recurring state budget expenditures should only be funded with existing, recurring revenues.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

9. The state sales tax should be expanded to include personal and professional services such as haircuts, automotive repairs, legal services and medical services.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

Only if income tax rates for individuals & businesses are reduced & the Net Effect is NO TAX INCREASE

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10. Dedicated sources of revenue (such as the Highway Trust Fund) should not be transferred to the General Fund as a means of balancing the state budget.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

11. North Carolina's personal income tax should be increased in order to provide more revenue for state programs and services.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

12. The North Carolina General Assembly should make permanent the one-cent sales tax increase that is set to expire on June 30, 2011, in order to secure those revenues for future needs and planning.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

**EMPLOYMENT**

13. North Carolina should remain a "Right to Work" state, meaning that a person cannot be required to join a union in order to get or keep a job.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

14. The North Carolina General Assembly should raise the state's minimum wage above the current level of \$7.25 per hour.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

15. The North Carolina General Assembly should mandate what specific health benefits coverage private-sector employers provide to their employees, even if it raises the cost of premiums.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

16. The North Carolina General Assembly should expand workers' compensation disability payments to workers who suffer from non-physical ailments such as stress and depression, even if it raises the cost of premiums.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

17. Associations representing state and local employees and teachers should be allowed to engage in collective bargaining for wages, benefits and working conditions.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

18. The North Carolina General Assembly should repeal the ability of state employees and teachers to authorize the payroll deduction of association dues (dues check-off).

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

19. Employers in North Carolina should be required to provide paid sick leave to all employees.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

20. State tax dollars should be used as incentives to entice large companies to locate in North Carolina.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

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21. The focus of North Carolina's economic development efforts should be on reducing the corporate income tax rate and improving the overall business climate of the state, rather than providing tax incentives to a limited number of large corporations.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

**ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

22. North Carolina's environmental regulations should be no stricter than applicable federal requirements.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

23. Toll roads are a necessary part of meeting North Carolina's growing transportation needs.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

**CIVIL JUSTICE**

24. It is important for a jury in a civil lawsuit to be informed of health insurance and disability insurance payments already received by a plaintiff before deciding on an award in the case.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

25. If there are multiple defendants in a negligence case and one or more of the defendants is unable to pay their share of the damages, the defendant or defendants who can pay should have to pay for 100 percent of the damages awarded.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

26. The North Carolina General Assembly should repeal the state's "contributory negligence" law (which prohibits an injured person from collecting damages if the person contributed to his or her own injury) and replace it with "comparative fault" (which allows an injured person the potential to collect damages, depending upon the percentage of fault that is attributable to the person).

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

**GOVERNANCE**

27. The state legislature should expand the authority of cities and counties to impose a broader range of taxes and fees at the local level.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

If you agree, which of the following taxes or fees would you favor? (Circle all of those that apply)

local sales tax      local income tax      development impact fees      real estate transfer tax      prepared meals tax

Other taxes or fees (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

28. North Carolina should continue to operate under Dillon's Rule, a legal doctrine providing that municipalities and counties possess only those powers and authorities expressly granted to them by the North Carolina Constitution or the State Legislature.

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

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29. The North Carolina Constitution should be amended to allow voters the ability to add referenda to the statewide ballot after collecting a required minimum number of signatures (i.e., initiative and referendum).

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

30. A nonpartisan redistricting commission should be established to draw North Carolina's congressional and state legislative district maps following the 2010 Census.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

31. The North Carolina Constitution should be amended to establish specific limitations on the length of legislative sessions in North Carolina (session limits).

Agree      Disagree      Undecided

32. State legislative leaders (the President Pro Tempore of the N.C. Senate and the Speaker of the N.C. House) should be limited to serving no more than two consecutive terms at a time.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

33. Judges in North Carolina should be appointed by the Governor instead of elected by the people.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

**EDUCATION**

34. State lawmakers should increase taxes in North Carolina in order to raise teacher pay to the national average.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

35. The N.C. General Assembly should grant local school boards independent taxing authority.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

36. The North Carolina General Assembly should repeal the law requiring public schools to start the school year no earlier than August 25 and instead allow classes to begin in early August even if such a change would negatively impact the state's tourism industry.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

**BANKING & FINANCE**

37. The government should take a greater role in establishing rates and prices for financial products and services.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

38. It is necessary for the North Carolina General Assembly to increase regulations on the financial services industry in order to protect the interests of consumers.

Agree       Disagree      Undecided

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**SECTION IV. OPEN-ENDED QUESTION**

Statewide surveys indicate the top issue on the minds of voters in North Carolina is the economy and jobs. With that in mind, please explain your vision for economic growth and job creation.

I have worked in economic development since 1995. Every election everyone running for office talks about Jobs & Small Business. The NC General Assembly has paid lip service to this and in reality they have done NOTHING to address these issues.

First - Tax Rates should be lowered & any incentives should be broad based and apply to all businesses & jobs regardless of whether those jobs are in manufacturing or not. Incentives should be based on Salary with minimum requirements.

Second - Fees should be charged ONLY if the business benefits from those services. ie Privilege Licenses should be eliminated since there is no benefit to the business. There are many others.

Third - Legal Reform is critical if NC is going to be business friendly

Fourth - Government should not mandate employee wages or benefits

Fifth - Tax Credits for Health Coverage for employers

Sixth - Retail Businesses should be compensated for collecting sales taxes.

Candidate Signature:  
(signature required)



Date: 5-20-10

Please return completed questionnaire: by mail: NCFEF, P.O. Box 12406, Raleigh, NC 27605  
by fax: (919) 896-8349  
by email: info@ncfef.org