

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

Please complete and return
by March 19 Deadline

Mailed 2/23/10
H

SECTION I. Candidate Personal Profile Information

Name: Hugh Blackwell Office Sought (circle): Senate House District #: 86
Party (circle): Democrat Republican Other: _____
Address: 321 MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE SE City: VALDESE State: NC Zip: 28690
County of Residence: BURKE Length of Residence in County: 37 yrs
Home Phone: (828) 879-8454 Work Phone: (828) 874-2271 Mobile Phone: _____
Email: hughblackwellforncHOUSE@yahoo.com Fax: (828) 879-1623
Gender: M Race/Ethnicity: CAUCASIAN Religion: PROTESTANT
Place of Birth (city/state): NORFOLK / VA Date of Birth: 7-15-44
Marital Status (circle): Married Single Divorced Separated Number of Children: 4
Occupation: ATTORNEY Employer: MITCHELL, BLACKWELL & MITCHELL, PA
Military Service: 6 YRS / NAT. GUARD / RESERVES High School: ROANOKE RAPIDS H.S.
Colleges/Universities Attended: UNC-CHAPEL HILL - HARVARD LAW
Degrees: A.B. w/ Highest Honors in Economics J.D.
Previous Elected/Appointed Offices: BURKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD - 8 YEARS

SECTION II. Candidate Campaign Information

Name of Campaign Committee: Hugh Blackwell for NC House
Campaign Email: hughblackwellforncHOUSE@yahoo.com Campaign Website: hughblackwellforncHOUSE
Campaign Phone: (828) 879-8454 Campaign Fax: (828) 879-1623
Campaign Address: 321 MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE SE City: VALDESE State: NC Zip: 28690
Campaign Treasurer: TOM COX Campaign Treasurer Phone: ~~(828) 879-2271~~
Political Consultants: NOT YET SET

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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

But see Supplement.

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

See Supplement.

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

See Supplement.

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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

As federal laws now exist.

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

*Depends on facts of the case
In particular, who paid for benefits*

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

SEE separate page.

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

See Supplement.

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

See Supplement.

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.

Entrepreneurs and business people are best at making
judgments about how to grow & succeed in their
respective businesses & investments. The state should
provide an economic, regulatory & educational
environment that is conducive to attracting and
retaining business investment. This means that
taxes need to be lower and stable. Regulation
must be reasonable and cost-effective. Education
must be successful in graduating competent students
from both high school & college levels.

Candidate Signature:
(signature required)

W. G. Blalock

Date:

3-23-10

SUPPLEMENT To NC FreeEnterprise Foundation 2010 Questionnaire

4. Questions of environmental laws and regulations would need to be addressed on more of a case-by-case basis to assess the specific law or regulation's cost versus benefit factors. Separately, there is also the need to assess particular agencies' practices in working with business and individual on interpretations, enforcement and implementation. Needed and justifiable rules should be equitably applied and penalties should be reserved for more egregious cases

8. However, I would consider a 'temporary' funding source if clearly agreed alternatives were identified for subsequent funding or reduction/elimination of program if recurring funds were not then identified.

10. The transfer should not be made to balance the budget per se. However, I would not rule out the possibility that in some instance an expenditure in the General Budget should properly be paid from the "dedicated" source. The better practice would be to provide a process in which the "appropriate" expenditure be paid directly from the dedicated source rather than by transfer. I don't think of an existing situation that would justify such a transfer but I am reluctant to make a blanket statement that I would never consider something. I would prefer to have the particulars to apply to a specific situation.

16. The current worker's compensation system, as I understand it, allows payment for emotional/mental complications of covered injuries and conditions. I believe it is appropriate as now being handled and see no need to expand coverage further in the area.

20. Jobs and economic growth are essential, as they always have been. The best incentives would be stable low taxation and fair regulatory burdens combined with good infrastructure and education quality. All businesses would like to prosper and I have a difficulty with the concept that governmental officials should decide to pass out significant tax breaks and financial incentives to a handful of high-profile businesses, perhaps with good political connections, at the expenses of other businesses and the workers across the state who pay taxes. I would prefer to see our cooperation and recruitment focus in other ways that are fair to all concerned.

HAB 3-23-10

25. If each defendant in question is fully liable for all the damages, then, if someone must lose economically as a result of insolvency or economic insufficiency of one or more defendants to pay a share, then the remaining defendants should appropriately share the total owing by them and pursue collection from the defendant paying less than his or her share. This assumes we stick with our present contributory negligence defense in NC.

35. I would need to see the particulars of the enabling legislation on such a proposal. I would especially want to see how current tax rates would be divided, for example, between county and school board and what kind of limitations might be included to protect the public from excessive overall tax rates.

36. I would allow local school boards the option of deciding on start and end dates for their respective systems.

HAB 3-23-10