

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

Please complete and return  
by March 19 Deadline

**SECTION I. Candidate Personal Profile Information**

Name: Ruth Samuelson Office Sought (circle): Senate  House  District #: 104  
Party (circle): Democrat  Republican  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 1143 Ardover Rd. City: Charlotte State: NC Zip: 28211  
County of Residence: Mecklenburg Length of Residence in County: 48 years  
Home Phone: 704-366-8748 Work Phone: 919-715-3009 Mobile Phone: 704-277-5221  
Email: ruth@ruthsamuelson.com Fax: 866-884-2996  
Gender: F Race/Ethnicity: W Religion: Protestant  
Place of Birth (city/state): Charleston, SC Date of Birth: 11/4  
Marital Status (circle): Married Single Divorced Separated Number of Children: 4  
Occupation: legislator Employer: NC General Assembly  
Military Service: \_\_\_\_\_ High School: West Charlotte  
Colleges/Universities Attended: UNC-Ch, American College  
Degrees: BA, CLU  
Previous Elected/Appointed Offices: Meck. County Commissioner

**SECTION II. Candidate Campaign Information**

Name of Campaign Committee: Friends of Ruth Samuelson  
Campaign Email: ruth@ruthsamuelson.com Campaign Website: ruthsamuelson.com  
Campaign Phone: (same as above) Campaign Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Campaign Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Campaign Treasurer: Vicki Hafele Campaign Treasurer Phone: 704-846-2380  
Political Consultants: \_\_\_\_\_

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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)

Environmental Groups that recognize  
a need to balance ~~the~~ environmental  
concerns with other community and  
business needs.

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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

Small business advising charitable donors

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

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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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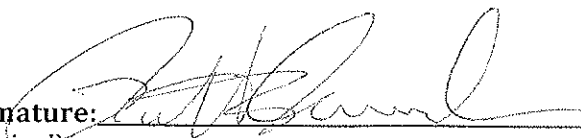
**SECTION IV. OPEN-ENDED QUESTION**

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.

Jobs have always been the top priority. We just were blessed with enough of them before to meet need. Productive work is a basic human need and a foundational element to a healthy society. There are a few things to help us rebuild;

- A certain and stable tax structure.
- Regulatory environment that fosters and permits businesses to be nimble and creative in a global economy.
- Infrastructure that adequately provides a solid foundation for economic development. (Transportation, water/sewer, energy, cable, and cell/phone)
- A 21<sup>st</sup> century education system that rewards hard work and innovation while giving parents and educators more choices to meet their needs.
- A public safety system that is well staffed, well trained, and well funded.

Candidate Signature:  
(signature required)



Date:

3/19/10

#4 It really depends on the particular issue and application. I do have an interest in helping to clarify and simplify the effective regulations while ~~eliminating~~ eliminating those that don't work.

#9 This is one part of a much larger and broader discussion and shouldn't be considered as a stand alone option.

#18 I'm not sure I got the positive and negatives right on this one. I do not want it to be too easy or coercive for associations to assess dues. (If that is what my answer says, you don't need to print this explanation) <sup>otherwise correct it to say what I meant.</sup>

~~#20~~

#23 The federal requirements are not often clear when applied to different geographical regions. While I generally "agree" with the question, there could be exceptions.

#29 Since House and Senate members serve in 2 year terms and both chambers can turn over in each election cycle, voters have an opportunity to make their voices heard on a regular basis.

#30 While I support this in concept, the details of how that commission is formed could dissuade me from supporting it in a particular circumstance.