

North Carolina FreeEnterprise Foundation

2010 Questionnaire

Candidates for North Carolina Appellate Courts

**SECTION I. Candidate Personal Profile Information**

Name: Robert C. (Bob) Hunter

Party: (Non-Partisan Race)

Office Sought: NC Supreme Court

Address: 441 Forest Heights Drive

City: Marion

State: NC

Zip: 28752

County of Residence: McDowell

Length of Residence in County: life

Home Phone: 828.652.4297

Work Phone: 919.831.3730

Mobile Phone: 828.442.7220

Email: bob.hunter@judgebobhunter.org

Fax: n/a

Gender: Male

Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian

Religion: Baptist

Place of Birth (city/state): Marion, NC

Date of Birth: 1/14/44

Marital Status: Married

Number of Children: 2

Occupation: Judge, Court of Appeals

Employer: State of NC, Admin. Office of the Courts

Military Service: none  
School

High School: McDowell High

Colleges/Universities Attended: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Law Degree Received From: UNC-CH School of Law

Previous Elected/Appointed Offices: NC House (9 terms), NC Court of Appeals (appointed 1998, elected 1998, re-elected 2006)

**SECTION II. Candidate Campaign Information**

Name of Campaign Committee: Judge Bob Hunter for Supreme Court (2010)

Campaign Email: info@judgebobhunter.org

Campaign Website: www.judgebobhunter.org

Campaign Phone: 919.360.5949

Campaign Fax: n/a

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 26914

City: Raleigh State: NC

Zip Code: 27611

Campaign Treasurer: Gray Styers

Campaign Treasurer Phone: 919.737.8114

Political Consultant: "3 Kids + Partners"

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Do you plan to participate in the North Carolina public financing program? Yes

Considering your personal and professional associations, how likely are you to receive support from each of the following groups? (1=Very Likely, 5=Very Unlikely)

A. North Carolina Advocates for Justice	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
B. Medical Groups (ex: Doctors, Hospital Administrators)	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
C. Banking & Finance Industry	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
D. Utility/Telecommunications Companies	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
E. Real Estate & Construction Industry	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
F. Labor Unions	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
G. Retail/Wholesale Business	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
H. State Employees Association of NC (SEANC)	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
I. Insurance Industry	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
J. NC Association of Educators (NCAE)	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
K. Business Professionals (ex: Architects, Accountants, Engineers)		<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5
L. Transportation Industry	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
M. Agri-Business Interests	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	
N. Legislative Leadership Committees	(I do not accept contributions from legislators)					

Are there other groups not listed that you would expect to receive a campaign contribution or endorsement from?

North Carolina Troopers Association, North Carolina Home Builders Association, North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys

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**SECTION III. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS**

1. Of the justices currently serving on the United States Supreme Court, whose judicial philosophy most closely reflects your own?

*As a judge, I do not pattern my judicial philosophy after other judges, persons, or organizations. I am my own person and make decisions that are faithful to the United States and North Carolina Constitutions. The only judicial philosophy I have is to be a fair and independent judge who decides cases based on the facts of that case and the law to be applied in that case.*

2. Do you believe the words and meaning of the Constitution should be interpreted in the context of our present culture or as closely to the intent of the original authors as possible?

*I believe in rendering decisions that are faithful to the Constitution as the framers wrote it. We should not overlook the importance of our North Carolina Constitution, which I also take an oath to uphold. It is the duty of the legislature to make the laws. It is the courts' duty to interpret the laws as written.*

3. Do you believe judges in North Carolina should be appointed by the Governor instead of elected by the people?

*I am opposed to any judicial selection process that appoints judges for life, like the federal system. I believe this state's current system, as it was amended this decade, instituting both non-partisan and publicly financed elections, is a good system. North Carolina led the way with these changes and can be proud of them, and others are looking to follow our lead. If we went to a merit system of appointment, we should have a vote of the people before that judge could serve another term. As long as we elect judges, I support non-partisan elections with public funding and strict restrictions on fundraising, as is the case in North Carolina. That is why I have always voluntarily accepted the constraints of public funding in my own judicial races.*

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

*Yes. I was co-owner, Vice-President, and Secretary of McDowell Builders Supply, Inc. I sold my interest in the company to my brother after I became a judge. I was also the co-owner and manager of my law firm, Hunter & Evans PA, from 1970 to 1998. I am a Rotarian and have served as club president. As a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, I was a co-sponsor of the bill that allowed the creation of Limited Liability Companies in the state. Further, I worked extensively to improve the business climate in McDowell County and across North Carolina as a legislator, a County Attorney, and as a member of several business organizations (including the McDowell County Chamber of Commerce and the McDowell County Economic Development Association). After co-managing two businesses of my own, I realize the hard work required to run*

*a successful business. From first-hand experience, I know that a good business environment helps the entire community.*

5. For every \$100.00 of sales, about how much profit do you believe the average North Carolina business nets?

*\$1-\$5. As a former small business owner, I can appreciate how difficult it is to manage a business. I have experienced firsthand the frustrations of making a business successful when it is so easy to fail. As I mentioned, after co-managing a builder's supply company and a law firm, I know firsthand the hard work that goes into a successful business- which usually makes only a small profit.*

6. Do you believe the current level of taxes paid by North Carolina businesses is too high, too low, or about right?

*The level of taxes is an issue of public policy determined by the legislature and not by the courts. As a judge, it would be inappropriate for me to comment, regardless of my personal opinions. The legislature makes the law. The courts interpret the law.*

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**SECTION IV. OPEN-ENDED QUESTION**

Please describe your judicial philosophy.

*I believe a judge's most important responsibility is to be fair, independent, and faithful to the United States Constitution and the North Carolina Constitution. What the founders wrote into our Constitutions is the basis of law in our society and requires a faithful interpretation of what they intended. It is not appropriate for politics to have any influence in the courtroom. It is the law that should form the basis of judicial opinions and political considerations should have no place in deciding cases. In 11+ years sitting on the Court of Appeals, I know that there is no substitute for faithful adherence to the Constitution when deciding a case. A judge must be independent when making decisions, relying solely on the relevant law and applying that law to the facts of the case. When a judge is independent and fairly decides cases based upon faithful adherence to the Constitution and its application to the facts, a just result occurs. In my time on the Court of Appeals, I have decided over 3500 appellate cases and personally written over 1100 opinions. My record as a judge demonstrates that I am fair, independent, and faithful to the law. I will continue my commitment to fairness, judicial independence, and a faithful interpretation of the United States and North Carolina Constitutions as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court.*



**Candidate Signature:** Robert C. "Bob" Spuntz **Date:** June 11, 2010