

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: Jeffrey C. Elmore Office Sought (circle) Senate House District #: 45
Party (circle): Democrat Republican Other: _____
Address: 404 D Street City: N. Wilkesboro State: NC Zip: 28659
County of Residence: Wilkes Length of Residence in County: life long
Home Phone: (336) 903-1405 Work Phone: (336) 696-2724 Mobile Phone: (336) 984-0423
Email: jeffelmor78@gmail.com Fax: _____
Gender: male Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian Religion: Christian
Place of Birth (city/state): Winston-Salem / NC Date of Birth: 1/17/78
Marital Status (circle): Married Single Divorced Separated Number of Children: 2
Occupation: Teacher Employer: Wilkes County Schools
Military Service: N/A High School: Wilkes Central High School
Colleges/Universities Attended: Appalachian State University
Degrees: B.S. in Art Education
Previous Elected/Appointed Offices: Commissioner for Town of North Wilkesboro,
Chair of N.W. Board of Adjustments, N.W. Planning Board Member

SECTION II. Candidate Campaign Information

Name of Campaign Committee: Elmore for NC Senate
Campaign Email: elmoreforncsenate@gmail.com Campaign Website: www.elmoreforncsenate.com
Campaign Phone: (336) 984-0423 Campaign Fax: _____
Campaign Address: 404 D Street City: N. Wilkesboro State: NC Zip: 28659
Campaign Treasurer: T. Minton Campaign Treasurer Phone: (336) 667-9005
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)

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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

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. *or other measures*

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. *Not Now*

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

I do not have enough knowledge with this issue to answer

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

Not now, but raising teacher pay should be a long term goal

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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Additional Comments Jeffrey Elmore, NC Senate District 45

6. A reduction in taxes does simulate the economy, but at the same time there are services that the state conducts that are necessary and cannot be neglected because of there affect to the economy (schools, roads, etc.). To get the state out of the finical trouble it is in we need to look at true tax reform. We must ask the question, "What tax revenues are the most stable and what taxes can be reduced to generate business investment and employee growth?" As a state, we can look to models like Tennessee which is more sales taxed based and other states that have a more streamend lined tax structure. The state is currently on the path that the only solution is tax hikes across all sectors and this is not acceptable.

11. and 12. The tax structure in the state currently generates most of it revenues from personal income tax (46%) and state sales tax (27%). Almost 18% comes from the corporate, "other taxes" and fees. This 18% of the tax base is what needs to be examined. These are the taxes that are affecting business growth. Without business growth the largest part of our tax base, income and sales taxes, are dramatically affected. I would love to see tax cuts across the board but this is not realistic. We need a tax structure that is focused on stabilizing revenues and business/job growth.

27. As a Town Commissioner in North Wilkesboro I am a huge believer in more control at the local level. Local leaders across the state are held more accountable to their citizens than any other elected office. For example, we have had a sales tax referendum fail in Wilkes County. These type fees that you mention I personal do not feel would help business in my area but in a different area their leaders may feel it is important. This is why it is so important that business leaders and local level officials work together to meet the needs for their individual community.

29. There are some issues that the voters in NC feel are not being addressed by their elected leaders. A referendum sounds very attractive for this. At the same time we can not be like California where their lack of a stable government because of referendums causes the revenue chaos and the loss of confidence from their citizens.

38. I am not a regulation type person, but I feel that the state sometimes has to address problems in business that is just not right. I feel that the actions taken against the check cashing intuitions a few years ago where justified. Their practices were directly affecting the working poor and were not fair to the consumer. Established finical institutions know how to bank and are not scam artists. I do not see the banking industry as "evil" like it is being portrayed in the national media.

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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.

Attached "Four Pillars of Job Creation"

Candidate Signature:
(signature required)

Jeffrey C. Elmore

Date:

3/9/10

Four Pillars of Job Creation

“The government cannot create private sector jobs, but can hinder their growth.

1. Education

- We must have a workforce that is prepared for the 21st century world economy
- A focus needs to be placed on our Community College system on retraining, education of small business owners, and entrepreneurship
- I will support the restructuring of the bureaucratic K-12 system, through clarification of who is in charge of the Department of Public Instruction.
- I will support putting more decision-making at the local school board level. This will allow for the diversification needed to help our small rural communities develop what they believe their workforce needs to be.
- I believe accountability is necessary, but the archaic testing system does not give the public a clear picture of what skills our students have learned. Accountability needs to be under the control of the local school systems with auditing review teams from the state. The model needs to be similar to the Southern Association Accreditation process.

2. Business Retention/Recruitment

- NC needs to place focus on existing businesses and their needs.
- I will strive to reform the current tax system from multiple taxes to fewer ones and lower taxes in areas that will generate investment.
- Change the current incentive policies, because they do not work
- A change is needed in training of employees, tax structure, and transportation costs (gas tax). This will create business growth more evenly across the state and in rural areas.
- I will support current agricultural business through examining regulations, creation of new organic and local markets, and aid in ag-tourism

3. Infrastructure

- As your Senator, I will work to reform the DOT. The DOT needs to approach road construction and planning proactively, not reactively, and I will disallow construction through pork barrel political favors.
- I will support interconnectivity of roads in Western NC because it is essential for economic development especially in our rural mountain areas.
- Examine regulations and mandates with municipal water systems.

4. State Institutions

- I support the planning and placement of new state governmental buildings in Tier 1 counties whenever possible. Through this governmental investment in bricks and mortar, the slow economy in these hard hit counties can develop and supplemental businesses can grow around these intuitions.
- Governmental investment in bricks and mortar can help the slow economy in these counties and supplemental businesses can grow around these intuitions.