

PA PAC Questionnaire for US House and Senate - 2022

Please return the completed form along with your resume or biographical statement describing education, work history, community service, and prior political experience, as well as a high-resolution headshot of yourself as soon as possible, but by Sat Mar 19 at 5pm, at the latest.

Please e-mail your responses to PAC Coordinators at papacboard@googlegroups.com by Saturday, March 19 at 5pm.

Please note that following the Saturday, March 19 at 5pm deadline, the People's Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.

When answering this questionnaire, please repeat the questions in your response document with each question numbered and organized as it appears here. Type your responses in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your responses from the questions. Do not use colors or shading.

Please try to confine your responses to no more than 300 words unless another word limit is indicated. Do not feel obliged to exhaust the limit for each question.

If you use words or ideas from another person, please attribute your source.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your willingness to serve the people of Durham.

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Why Are You Running?

1. What are the three most important issues facing the nation? What are your top priorities in addressing these issues?

As I travel the state, I talk to families who are working so hard to make sure their children have a better future than they did. From jobs that don't pay living wages to the rising costs – we have major challenges to tackle. And I believe every North Carolinian – no matter their race – should have a fair shot, a fair shake, and equal rights. I'm focused on how we can lower costs for families, grow job opportunities in our state, make healthcare accessible and affordable, and protect our freedom to vote. And I'm focused on being a leader that stands up and fights for North Carolina.

Federal Revenues, Federal Spending, and the Economy

2. Is the current system of federal taxation fair? What changes should be made, if any? Please cite specific examples

Too often Washington only responds to the wealthy and well connected. That needs to change. Deep inequities persist in our economy and communities, in part, because our tax code is easy to exploit and favors wealthy individuals and corporations over America's middle and working class. I believe we should close loopholes in our tax code so that everyone pays their fair share.

We urgently need to lower costs for North Carolina families, and families nationwide, and fight for policies that will help communities thrive - like making the middle class tax cut permanent I've met with families who received the Child Tax Credit and used them to make sure their child got medical care that would otherwise have been put off, on school supplies, and even helping meet the monthly mortgage payment. This has made a big difference for families all across our state and if I were in the US Senate, I would work to make sure these policies were made permanent.

3. What is your position concerning tariffs and trade?

I support common sense policies on trade and tariffs that protect North Carolina jobs and products, help keep family farms strong and expand markets for our farmers. China is our greatest competition economically and we need to invest in manufacturing and research here at home, which is why I'd support the COMPETES Act.

4. Are you in favor of reducing government spending in any specific areas? If so, please list your top three specific areas and explain your reasons. Are you in favor of increasing government spending in any specific areas? If so, please list your top three specific areas and explain your reasons.

The federal government can make key investments that are good for American families and good for our economy. I would support funding for policies that tangibly support our babies and families, like paid family medical leave. I would fight for long-overdue investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and renewable energy. And I would invest in high-end manufacturing so Americans have access to modern, good paying jobs right here at home and that help our nation compete in the global economy.

5. Are you concerned about the affordability of a college education in the U.S.? If so, what role can the federal government play in addressing your concerns?

I'm hearing from students across the state who talk about the burden they feel from their student debt – that it keeps them from buying a home, starting a meaningful career, and more. In North Carolina, there are over one million people with thousands of dollars in debt - and it disproportionately hurts people of color, those with lower incomes and those in rural communities.

I will fight to make sure students can refinance loans for lower interest rates, and to make the student loan process more transparent so students and families know exactly what the terms are. I'll also work to expand Pell Grants, which provides aid to students that doesn't need to be paid back.

Secure Elections, Fair Elections, and the Right to Vote

6. What action should the Congress take, if any, to protect the integrity of elections from foreign or domestic actors seeking to undermine it?

We need to address dangerous mis- and dis-information undermining public confidence in our elections, invest in resilient election infrastructure, and support trusted election officials and poll workers on the front lines of our democracy. I strongly support the Freedom to Vote Act, which includes key election security provisions. We need stronger rules to protect against intimidation of poll workers, standards on ballot paper trails, credible post-election audit requirements, modern disclosure standards for political ads financed by outside actors, and more.

Election security also takes investment, expertise, and resources: from cybersecurity, to secure equipment storage, to audits, and more. And too often, local election offices in North Carolina are strapped for funding, while being tasked with essential work for our nation. Investing in sound election administration is a key step Congress can take to protect the security of our elections from foreign and domestic interference.

7. What changes need to be made to US law to protect the right of all people to vote in free and fair elections?

There is no question that our freedom to vote is under attack. 56 years ago my mother accessed the right to vote because of the Voting Rights Act, which was passed with bipartisan support. Now, lawmakers in nearly every state including North Carolina are working to make it harder to vote and Republicans in the Senate are refusing to even allow debate on legislation to protect voting rights. That's unacceptable.

We need to elect leaders who will stand up for our fundamental rights, who will establish fair, national voting standards, and who will hold the line against state attacks by

restoring federal pre-clearance. I support the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and I will always fight for the right to vote.

Immigration

8. How would you reform U.S. immigration policy? Since agreement on immigration reform has proved hard to obtain, what measures should be taken in the meantime that would improve the lives of undocumented immigrants? Are government agencies responsible for immigration and our borders performing as they should?

For too long, Washington has dropped the ball on immigration and families have suffered. America is a country of immigrants, and we need a clear pathway to citizenship, particularly for the Dreamers who have been raised here. We must protect the DACA program, while reforming our immigration system to reduce wait times for legal immigration and improve visa programs.

We also need to recognize that America is a land of hope for those fleeing persecution, and our policies should reflect our values. We need systems and agencies that treat people with dignity and respect, and we need a fair and efficient asylum process for people seeking refuge. I believe that we can do all that and still keep our country safe with policies that protect our country.

Healthcare

9. Are you satisfied with the healthcare system in the United States? If you are not, how should the system be changed?

We've got to lower costs, make healthcare more affordable, and address racial and socioeconomic health disparities in every part of the state and nation. For too many, health care is inaccessible and unaffordable, from high prescription drug prices to a lack of local hospitals or clinics. I support expanding Medicaid, expanding the Affordable Care Act with a public option, lowering the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies, and protecting coverage for pre-existing conditions.

In particular, we have to invest in rural communities and make sure they have the care they need. I strongly support increasing access to telehealth across North Carolina, coupled with expanded broadband access, and I look forward to learning more about other policy options to extend care and lower costs for communities in need.

Housing

10. What, if anything, should the federal government do to promote affordable housing and home ownership? What specific policies or programs would you use to do that? Do you support

a federal housing guarantee? Rent control? Inclusionary zoning? Down payment assistance for first time homebuyers? Please detail your answer.

I believe that home ownership and high-quality affordable rental housing are critical to families' and individuals' economic security and well-being. Our state faces widespread shortages of affordable rental homes, and the cost of rent has more than doubled over the last 10 years on average. Action is needed to address both short and long-term homelessness and housing instability.

As Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, I took action during the pandemic to halt evictions and created a first of its kind mediation program for tenants and landlords to mediate disputes to help people stay in their homes.

I support building and expanding housing options for some of our most vulnerable including seniors, low-income families, individuals, and veterans. I believe we must also make investments for repairs and upgrades that make housing safe and energy efficient. I will also fight to end discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of a home.

11. What should the federal government do, if anything, to avoid an eviction crisis following the lifting of the COVID-era moratorium on evictions?

Action is needed to address both short and long-term homelessness and housing instability. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolinians were struggling to pay their rent or find safe, affordable housing for themselves and their families. I support expanding homelessness prevention programs that provide rent relief with direct payments to landlords.

Wealth

12. Is the distribution of wealth among the people of the United States a proper concern of the federal government? If your answer is "yes," what should the Congress do to close the wealth gap that separates the richest and poorest Americans?

Extreme wealth disparities - including racial wealth disparities - are a concern of the federal government. For example, we know that the median Black American family has 13 cents for every one dollar in wealth held by White families. I support policies that advance affordable health care, housing, and higher education, and invest in minority-owned and small businesses to rectify these systemic injustices.

13. What do you think are the most powerful levers to address racial and class-based economic injustice? To what extent do you support federal policies such as reparations, guaranteed basic income, and down payment assistance for first time homebuyers?

I support H.R. 40 to create a commission to study reparations at the federal level.

14. What is your stance on the minimum wage? What do you consider to be a livable wage? What role should the federal government play in regulating wages? In particular, do you support federal efforts to advance guaranteed basic income or a federal jobs guarantee?

I support a \$15 federal minimum wage. Working people shouldn't need two, three or even four jobs to make ends meet.

Guns

15. What, if anything, should be done to reduce the proliferation of firearms and reduce gun violence in the United States?

An overwhelming majority of Americans support action to stop gun violence, but Washington has failed to act. That needs to change. We must keep our children and communities safe by implementing common sense gun safety measures like universal background checks, encouraging safe storage and closing loopholes to prevent domestic abusers from being able to obtain a gun. We must also do more to stop the plague of mass shootings across our communities by keeping combat-style weapons and high-capacity magazines off our streets and away from our schools. Gun safety legislation must be crafted in consultation with communities and public safety officials – and not controlled by the gun lobby as has been the case for far too long.

Civil Rights and Race Equity

16. What should the state do to promote racial equity and diversity, such as increasing opportunities for under-represented and under-served people of color? Can you provide an example of your advocacy for race-equity and diversity?

There are countless ways the government can improve the lives of Black, brown, and other underrepresented communities. Throughout my service as a public defender, judge, and Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court, I've worked to make our courts more fair and transparent and address racial disparities. I was the first Chief Justice in the nation to speak out after the murder of George Floyd, and I led a coalition of law enforcement, faith leaders, and other stakeholders to both take on the school-to-prison pipeline and meet unmet legal needs for people experiencing poverty. Among other reforms to address racial disparities in our justice system, I would support marijuana legalization and review sentencing laws that perpetuate cycles of incarceration and disenfranchisement for people of color.

The impact of COVID-19 on people of color and low-income communities has been devastating – from job loss, business closures, to the immense and disproportionate loss of life families have suffered. While Congressional relief packages took unprecedented steps to help Americans stay afloat, I know that assistance was not always accessible or equitably distributed to those who needed it most. This pandemic underscored the disparities in access to health care that must be addressed. But it also shone a light on other challenges we face. For example, only .1% of the initial COVID-19 relief to farmers went to Black farmers. Many minority-owned businesses were unable to access initial rounds of emergency loans. That’s unacceptable. As a Senator, I will support targeted relief for our most vulnerable communities who have been left behind for too long.

17. What, if anything, should the federal government do to promote the education of youth in the history of civil rights, racial inequality, and the legacy of racial discrimination in the United States?

I’m a mom of twin sons in college, and I know that every parent wants to make sure their kid can get a quality education. We need to do more to engage parents and students to build strong school communities and get kids the education they need and deserve.

I also believe that providing a good education means teaching our kids about our history honestly and completely. I know that this issue has caused a lot of division in our communities and brought a lot of stress and concern on to parents and families -- and it's already been a hard few years for parents and students navigating the pandemic.

We already have too much division and our leaders should be working to bring us together - not divide us.

The Environment

18. Addressing the climate crisis through transformative, intersectional policies will be essential to keeping US communities safe, healthy, and vibrant. What do you see as the most critical environmental and climate justice issues facing the United States? If elected, how would you leverage your role as a US Senator or Representative to address them?

We’re facing a climate crisis that demands more action than what we’ve seen from Washington. The consequences of our inaction on climate change continue to hurt the people of North Carolina, from longer and more damaging hurricane seasons to the highest levels of greenhouse gases in the air in 800,000 years.

We have to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, expand renewable energy, and cut carbon emissions in half by 2030. Environmental justice must be at the forefront of all action we take around the climate crisis. North Carolina became the birthplace of the

environmental justice movement when a community protested a landfill in Warren County in 1982. And I know that we must take action to address disproportionate impacts of climate change and pollution on low-income communities and communities of color. For example, saltwater intrusion could devastate our farmlands in Eastern North Carolina – disproportionately and permanently impacting the livelihoods of our Black farmers. We must explore solutions to prevent further salinization and find pathways to support farmers whose lands have been irreversibly damaged.

North Carolina is the state with the third highest exposure to chemicals like pFAS. We must invest in climate-resilient infrastructure to protect people's homes from damage from storms. And we must ensure that our roads are strong, as is our sewer and wastewater infrastructure. I also support the Justice40 initiative which will help to ensure clean drinking water, develop renewable energy, assist with climate-resiliency projects and more critical efforts.

Foreign Policy

19. The Russian attack on Ukraine has set off a cascade of change in international relations. How do you see this changing US foreign policy in the years to come? What role, if any, should the US play in foreign conflict?

I am praying for Ukraine in the face of Russia's illegal and unjustified attack. Russia must be held accountable, and I support the severe and far-reaching sanctions that the U.S. and our allies are imposing. We must continue to work with NATO and our allies to provide both military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, continue to isolate Russia, and take care to avoid an escalation of conflict – including nuclear conflict – that could gravely threaten US and global security.

The history and legacy of Russia's attack on Ukraine has yet to be written. But we have already seen how essential it is for America to center our alliances and coordinate with the international community, stand up for democracy and self-determination, and center human life in all our foreign policy.

Campaign Funding

20. Does your campaign have specific policies regarding from whom it accepts donations? Please specifically detail any contributions from corporations to your current and prior campaigns. How do you see the influence of donors on policy, both for yourself and for others?

Our senators should represent the people of North Carolina, not special interests. I won't accept a dime of corporate PAC money because I think our officials should be accountable to the people they are elected to serve.

Your Politics

21. For whom did you vote in the 2020 United States Senate and presidential elections?

The right to cast a secret ballot in elections is a core value of the democracy we've built in the United States. The right to privately cast your vote in elections guards against coercion and is essential to integrity in the electoral process. I will continue to fight to safeguard our elections, and protect Americans' right to privacy when casting their vote.