

PA PAC Questionnaire for NC 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.

Candidate's name: _____ Ray Jeffers _____

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Why Are You Running?

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

Support of Broadband

I voted to lay 52 miles of fiber throughout Person County as a commissioner. As a Representative, I would work to pass common-sense legislation to support Durham and Person counties current and future endeavors of connecting their citizens.

Education

Education is the path to ensure prosperity for our children and our communities.

My grandmother was a teacher and showed me the need to support education at all levels. From teachers and support staff to local school systems and preschool programs, a solid educational foundation provides the best outcomes for our most precious resource, our children.

Agriculture

I come from a family rooted in farming. Agriculture provided a means for my great-grandfather and his children, as it has for so many North Carolina families. As a significant economic driver for the state and the 2nd district, we need to support our farmers with proven programs to preserve and protect our farming tradition.

State Revenues, State Spending, and the Economy

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

No I do not believe it is fair, and the republican led tax cuts have set us back as a state and led to increased fees and fines often levied on the poor and middle class. If elected I would support a roll back on those taxes and advocate for tax cuts for working families. I would also support :

- Legislation to allow counties to include specific language on the ballot referendum designating how the proposed quarter-cent local sales tax levy will be spent.**
- The introduction and enactment of a state low-income housing tax credit to assist with the construction of housing affordable to people of all income levels.**

3. 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.

I would support an increase in funding to reinstate the Drug Court program in counties. As a commissioner I saw the importance of this program for our most vulnerable citizens who were addicted to drugs. They received help and compassion in sentencing to assist them.

I would also support an increase in education to include monies for operating, teacher and support staff salary increases, and capital funding for counties to renovate and build new schools.

4. What is your stance on the state of North Carolina utilizing economic development incentives, such as the One NC and JDIG programs to attract and recruit corporations?

I saw these programs work as a Commissioner in providing an adequate package to a company looking to locate in the state. I am not necessarily a fan of incentives, but we must provide them to maintain competitiveness amongst other states when attracting business. I would work to increase funding for these programs and eliminate the county required match to access these funds.

Secure Elections, Fair Elections, and the Right to Vote

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

I would support same day registration on election day, and access to more mail in ballots.

Housing

6. What, if anything, should the NC government do to promote affordable housing and home ownership? What specific policies or programs would you use to do that? Do you support downpayment assistance for first time homebuyers? Rent control? Inclusionary zoning? Please detail your answer.

I would support the introduction and enactment of a state low-income housing tax credit to assist with the construction of housing affordable to people of all income levels. I would support a program to assist with first time homebuyers, policies to limit rental increases in a year, and voluntary inclusionary zoning policies.

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

Assistance programs should be implemented through DHHS and administered by local DSS offices.

Wealth

8. What is your stance on the minimum wage? What do you consider to be a livable wage? What role should the NC government play in regulating wages?

I support raising the minimum wage to include the tipped minimum wage.

9. How can we bring more progressivity to North Carolina's tax code?

By electing more working class to the general assembly, rather than retired and independent wealthy individuals.

Guns

10. What, if anything, should be done to reduce the proliferation of firearms and reduce gun violence in NC?

I support funding the federal background check system adequately

Civil Rights and Race Equity

11. 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?

I am employed with the non profit RAFI-USA where our mission is working towards a more just food system and agricultural practices. I work as a Policy and Program Manager and directly advocate for BIPOC farmers and socially

disadvantaged farmers with regards to federal policy. As a legislator I would look at every proposal through an equity lens.

The Environment

12. Addressing the climate crisis through transformative, intersectional policies will be essential to keeping NC communities safe, healthy, and vibrant. What do you see as the most critical environmental and climate justice issues facing NC and your district? If elected, how would you leverage your role to address them?

With regards to the district one huge concern in Person County is the management of the Duke Energy Ash ponds and our drinking water. Also from a counties concern I would support:

- **Legislation to restore county authority over solid waste management and oppose any further shift of authority away from local governments.**
- **Additional state funding to assist local governments in all recycling, with special attention to managing electronics recycling and scrap tire disposal**
- **Legislation to help improve water quality in the state, including a comprehensive approach to aquatic weed control, increased funding and resources for state agencies to develop health advisory levels and standards for existing and emerging contaminants.**

13. Duke Energy's monopoly on our utilities has severely curbed the expansion of clean energy across North Carolina and locked us into the expansion of harmful gas plants – with disproportionate pollution and cost burdens falling on Black and Brown communities. What creative ideas will you bring to the Legislature to push back against Duke energy to create a more safe, affordable, and resilient electricity sector?

More regulation and oppose policies that would put more power in their hands. I know first hand and I am on record in fighting against Duke Energy pollutants as a commissioner.

14. Other states like California and Colorado have rolled out “Climate Corps” programs that create thousands of good jobs increasing community resilience to climate change, reducing pollution, and building out renewable energy. What ideas do you have for how North Carolina can promote green jobs and workforce development, while addressing the climate crisis and reducing pollution in our most-impacted neighborhoods?

As a commissioner I supported the creation of a county-run MRF and employed citizens with special needs through a vocational employment program. I would support additional state funding to assist local governments in all recycling, with special attention to managing electronics recycling and scrap tire disposal. I would evaluate and support policies that continue to work towards climate change and greener jobs.

State and Local Government Relations

15. In what ways should NC preempt local governments? In what ways in which it currently does so should it not?

I generally support more local control EXCEPT in ways it is used to discriminate like we have seen some localities with regards to equality.

Education

16. What is your record of support for community colleges and what do you see as the role of community college in increasing access to economic mobility and higher education for those who want it?

As a commissioner I have a strong record of support for community colleges and believe they are the key to communities economic growth.

17. What policies would you pursue to increase access to four-year college, community college, training programs, and workforce development initiatives?

I would support increased funding in areas of early college programs and dual enrollment , and ways to make public state universities more affordable.

18. What, if anything, should the NC 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 and NC?

I believe teaching the history around these subjects will go a long way in stopping the proliferation of discriminatory and racist behaviors.

Party Politics

19. If you find your party in the minority in your elected body, what do you see as the role of the minority party? Please detail the role of deal making with members of the opposing party, especially on issues on which deep divisions exist. Please give specific examples from your Past.

If in the minority I see my role as a voice for the ones that will be affected the most by bad policy and laws. I would still work to introduce bills that would affect the working class and our state in the most positive way. As a commissioner in a rural county and in the minority since 2010 I was a part of several bipartisan votes and in 2020 elected as Chairman of the board with 1 republican vote to garner a majority vote 3-2.

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?

We are currently looking at a funding strategy and will evaluate the need of certain endorsements and funding that may follow. Donors have no sway with

me when making policy. I had one encounter with a donor as commissioner, where I voted in a way that the donor did not agree with, and I lost their support in my subsequent next two elections. I was fine with that as I did not compromise my morals or values.

Your Politics

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

President Biden and Cal Cunningham