

Candidates name: GUY MEILLEUR

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

1.a.

I am running to improve the freedoms that North Carolina voters and residents should feel secure about. Our freedoms are under attack by the North Carolina state legislature and government.

North Carolina voters need to know that they will enjoy the basic freedom of all United States citizens as enshrined in the first amendment to the United States Constitution. Yet the North Carolina state legislature has been moving to restrict our freedom of speech and assembly. If we are anywhere near a demonstration where any damage happens, the legislature has considered bills to make us guilty of a crime. If we cannot assemble and speak to air our grievances, we are not free.

As a child of the 60s, I protested in the streets for open housing and civil liberties, and against the Vietnam war. Now we see people in Russia who say that a war is a war can go to prison for 15 years. North Carolina must not move in that direction. This issue must be addressed by representatives committed to constant vigilance and correction of bills that might be well meaning, but do not improve safety and exceed legitimate government authority.

1.b.

North Carolina voters need to know the vote is free and fair, and their votes count. Yet legislatures gerrymander districts so the politicians are picking their voters, instead of the other way around. Whether it's the red team or the blue team, it's not fair, especially to the Libertarian and unaffiliated team, which outnumbers them both.

There must be an independent commission that draws these districts, so these cases do not bounce around in the courts at the last minute, creating havoc in our democracy.

1.c.

North Carolina voters need to know that their Rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness should not be compromised by corporations that represent major polluters writing the regulations. North Carolina is regularly awash in coal ash, pig waste, and a host of other toxins that pollute our air and water, on which our life depends.

Corporate lobbyists crony up to legislatures and agencies, to the detriment of our quality of life. Government granted monopolies cut down and ruin peoples trees and properties, with no accountability. Municipalities can condemn real estate for projects that may or may not benefit the public.

We need laws that roll back the size and reach of these monopolies, and of the government as a whole.

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

Our tax system has too many loopholes, and tax breaks for corporations who make big donations. These need to close.

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.

3.a.

I went to public and private schools. My children went to public, private, and charter schools. I have volunteered as a tutor for at risk students, and in many other roles in the PTA. I have taught children from second grade to high school. And college. I have felt the strain that teachers feel under top-heavy administration . There has got to be a better way.

I am in favor of increasing school choice, and ultimately reducing government spending on education. There is almost \$1000 spent every year for each resident of North Carolina on public education. The main headline we see out of the annual budget deliberations are what percentage of an increase there was in school funding. This reminds me of the military industrial complex. The military budget goes up and up; they always get more than they ask for. Up and up it goes. But still we rank way behind countries in Europe and Asia. How can that be?

We have to allow our teachers and principals more freedom to function, free of demands from middle managers in Raleigh. We have to allow parents and students more choice, and let the tax dollars follow the student.

3.b.

I am in favor of spending less money on the corrections department. Victimless crime should get no time.

3.c

More money for improved tax collection from big companies that evade taxes.

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 am in favor spending less money on corporate welfare. Business owners in North Carolina watch their tax money go into the government, then the government cuts deals with new

businesses coming in, which will only compete with the existing tax paying businesses. North Carolina has a lot going for it. We don't have to bribe people to move their businesses here.

JDIG granted a \$242 million state subsidy package to Dell in 2004. In November 2010, Dell closed the plant. The state recovered \$1.5 million of the JDIG grant. Most JDIG grants go to the biggest counties.

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

The 2020 schedule for early voting, same day registration, and mail-in voting should remain. We must not make it harder for people of limited means to vote. There must be an independent commission that draws voting districts, so these cases do not bounce around between the legislature and the courts at the last minute, creating havoc in our democracy.

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?

The state program that encourages cities to give breaks to developers because they include affordable housing units needs to be reviewed. A block away from us there are 420 apartment units being packed onto an old commercial property. The higher number is allowed because a certain percentage is advertised as affordable housing. The developers manipulate the formulas to make more profit, creating a little benefit for the consumers.

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

If the state and local governments exerted less regulation of the housing industry, rents would be lower and more affordable in the first place. That's the most sustainable way to avoid evictions.

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?

The North Carolina government does not have a role in regulating wages. Some regions have a higher cost-of-living than others. It's not one size fits all.

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

North Carolina's tax code would be more progressive if I cut out some of the loopholes that benefit corporations and not people. That's corporate welfare would bring more progress for every day citizens.

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

Gun violence is a tragic and growing problem. It's best to dress it at its core. The second amendment refers to well regulated militia's, as they had back in 1776. But we don't have well

regulated militias today. We have people with mental problems and serious criminal tendencies enabled by easy access to firearms. That needs to change.

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 have advocated for a raise equity since participating in open housing marches as a high school student. I could never understand why I lived in a neighborhood with big houses and no dark people, while all the dark people lived downtown and apartments and very small houses. I brought diversity to my industry by recruiting diverse populations to participate. .

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?

The most critical climate justice issues are the deforestation in our cities. My neighborhood is losing most of its canopy trees to rampant development, city projects and poor construction practices. All we are saying, give trees a chance!

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?

The utility monopoly has treated us to call Ash in our waterways. For 20 years I lived 5 miles from a nuclear power plant. It was a good neighbor. Nuclear power creates a more safe, affordable, and resilient electricity sector.

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?

The civilian conservation corps produced some lasting benefits to our civilization and environment. Perhaps a modern day climate core can do the same thing, by creating partnerships with small businesses and communities.

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

North Carolina state laws should prevent local governments from confiscating land and resources without their compensation. Eminent domain should only be for emergencies.

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?

I am a community college graduate. This level of education should be encouraged and promoted, with a living wage paid to its instructors. I am in favor of merging vocational education into community colleges, to provide a choice for students who want more practical education.

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

I have seen work-study programs help people get on to and climb the economic ladder.

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?

Social studies and civics classes should include a balanced view of our history and institutions. Just the other day a community college professor shared the story of a black soldier home in 1944 after fighting the war. He did not sit where the bus driver wanted him to sit. And they argued. After the soldier got off the bus, the bus driver followed him and shot him dead. Duke power owned the bus company. They paid his bail and legal fees. He got off Scott free. Private Spicely deserves a sign commemorating his life and service. Duke Energy should be invited to sponsor it. The state government should allow teachers to teach, so they can be free to set their own curriculum and tell these stories.

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.

As a Libertarian I seek to bring in a multi part as an approach to legal deliberations. The best way to bridge the deep divisions between the two major parties is to bring in people who have no allegiance to either of them.

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?

Donors always have influence on policy. It's just the nature of the system. My campaign is not accepting any contributions but it has enough funding to make a difference.. It's a lean operation, open to influence by residents of the district with legitimate grievances and positive ideas.

21. For whom did you vote in the 2020 United States Senate and presidential elections? For Senate, I voted for Shannon Bray who served in the United States Navy and received a master's degree from the University of Delaware. Bray's professional experience includes working in software development, information security, and management.

For president I was proud and pleased to vote for [Jo Jorgensen](#), the first woman presidential candidate in the 50 years that I have voted Libertarian. She is a senior lecturer of [psychology](#) at [Clemson University](#), and former owner of a [software](#) company. As a Libertarian, Jorgensen opposed [federal civil asset forfeiture](#) and [qualified immunity](#). She opposed the [war on drugs](#)

and supports [abolishing drug laws](#), promising to pardon all nonviolent drug offenders, and has urged the [demilitarization of police](#).

Best Regards,

Guy P. Meilleur

Libertarian, NC House 30

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