**People’s Alliance PAC 2023 Questionnaire for North Carolina District Court Judge Candidates**

**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 no later than Saturday, April 1 at 5pm, at the latest.**

**Please e-mail your responses to PAC Coordinators at** **papacboard@googlegroups.com**

**by Saturday, April 1 at 5pm.**

**Please note that following the Saturday April 1 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’sname: David T\_\_\_\_Robinson\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail Address: dtrob82 @aol.com\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Judges and judicial candidates in North Carolina are allowed substantial freedom of political speech. PA PAC believes that every question in this questionnaire may be answered fully within the scope of the applicable rules. For more information on the scope of permitted political speech for judicial candidates, we refer you to the March 2, 2022 memorandum of the Judicial Standards Commission on Permitted Political Conduct. You may find it at:*

<https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/inline-files/JSC-3-16-22-Political-Conduct-Memo.pdf?VersionId=ePz7Gk6WyhubUTd5nry0pmUllX41fuZ3?ePz7Gk6WyhubUTd5nry0pmUllX41fuZ3>

1. What currently motivates you to be a district court judge and how have you prepared for this role?
2. What do you think is the single barrier to justice and what would you adopt as your judicial philosophy?
3. What biases would be difficult for you to overcome and how will you overcome those biases for the administration of justice?
4. Please describe your practice as a lawyer. Describe the areas of your practice and your specialties. If, over time, your practice has evolved or changed, describe the changes. Describe your various client bases as a part of your answer.
5. If your practice is primarily focused on criminal law, how will you address the learning curve associated with learning about civil law? If your practice is primarily focused on civil law, how will you address the learning curve associated with learning about criminal law?
6. North Carolina incarcerates an extraordinary number of people, including persons convicted of non-violent crimes. Those who are incarcerated are disproportionately people of color. What, if anything, should the legislature and our courts do to address the issues of mass incarceration and racial bias in the administration of justice?
7. Should the North Carolina General Assembly abolish the death penalty?
8. What, if anything, should be done to improve access to justice for people with limited financial means or who mistrust the system? How should courts handle requests to waive court costs, fines, failure to appear fees, probation supervision fees, attorney’s fees, and bail in criminal court?
9. What does racial equity mean to you and how does racial equity inform your work as a District Court judge? Have you any special training in issues related to racial disparities and equities?

1. What are your thoughts on Durham’s current diversion programs? If you believe these programs should be changed in any way please describe how and why.
2. What is the most significant challenge we face in our Durham civil court system and what can be done to address it?

**Answers**

* + - 1. I believe I have prepared for the role of Judge through the last 20 years of practicing law. Every day that I am in a courtroom I have been taking mental notes of how the Judge acts, speaks to courts personnel and to the parties. I ask myself, is that the way I would act, talk to people in the courtroom? Although there is some learning when you transition into a new position, I think my 20 years of experience would accelerate that learning curve.
			2. I believe making snap decisions is the greatest barrier to justice. If you as a judge, make a quick decision you may not have thought through the collateral consequences of your ruling. This could have lasting damage to the person and not intended by the judge.
			3. I cannot think of any intrinsic bias that I have. However, if I discovered a bias, I would talk to colleagues to see how they may have overcome a bias.
			4. My law practice has been quite diverse. I have practiced in criminal, traffic, personal injury, family, civil and Wills. My practice has now narrowed to criminal, traffic and some Wills. My client were some that could and could.. not afford a private attorney. I worked out payment plans knowing that I may never receive payment.
			5. I have practiced both criminal and civil law over the past 20 years. I believe have the knowledge to bring either up speed in a short time.
			6. The legislature should keep a monthly total on all people that have received sentences that call for incarnation. That should also have the Judge that sentenced the person and be able come back to the judge and say you have X number of people sentenced and of that X number are Black, Hispanic and other. That is a basic framework that could be used to figure out if people of color are being incarcerated by a specific judge.
			7. I think the death penalty should be abolished. There are to many people incarcerated to later find out through DNA evidence that it could not have been that person.
			8. I believe person should not be locked up unless that person is charged with a violent crime. When possible, Judges should give as much relief to a defendant so the “playing field “is equal.
			9. Racial equity means that race should not be a factor in the decision a judge makes in their ruling.
			10. I think Durham has done a good job with their diversion programs. I have not studied enough to see where I think improvements can be made.
			11. I think access to civil attorneys is a significant challenge. If the court were funded so that the court could appoint civil attorneys it would allow greater access to under served members of our community.