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Government and the Public Good

1. Of all the issues confronting Durham County, which single issue is most important to you and why? What would you do about it if you are elected? Crime and Safety would be my top priority – Because Durham when folks are safe it benefits our overall footprint. For instance, when people feel safe it has an economic impact, and improves Durham's economic landscape. It encourages investments in Durham and magnetically attracts folks to the area. What I plan to do is (1) use technology and KPI's/KRI's to help drill down on the most troublesome and eroding concerns, (2) dynamically interact more with Durham residents the public (3) Partner and engage with experts collaborate and display a report card on what is being done, what the results indicate and how the Commissioners are working to improve crime in Durham.

2. How can county government use its authority and its resources to direct jobs to those who most need them and to lift the wages of the lowest-paid workers in Durham?

County governments can use its resources to have more job/career fairs and has the authority to regulate and enforce employment laws and regulations within its Durham jurisdiction. Durham be creative and engage businesses, it can also create policies that promote job growth and economic development within its footprint area. For instance, they can offer tax incentives to businesses that create jobs/trainings in the county or provide internships and training programs to help residents gain new skills, widen access and obtain employment opportunities.

Education, etc (including but not limited to education session and new business informational sessions)

3. What issues do you see with school construction and student school assignment?

What role should race equity play with regard to school construction and student assignment? Please address cost overruns that have reduced the reach of the last education bond. In my view school construction is a distraction to the school environment. Moreover, as much planning as possible should be done to avoid internal and external school construction as much as possible. School assignment issues can impact mood, student motivation, time management, mental, physical emotional and much more, and given historical data, race equity should be invisible and play no role in in school construction or assignment. The bond money for Durham Public Schools plans was to go toward different projects, including bond money going toward building a new elementary school in south Durham, spending more than \$100 million on moving the Durham School of the Arts (DSA) from downtown to Duke Homestead Road, as the current building is more than 100 years old, and toward repairs and expansion to multiple elementary schools. Voters have spoken; yet many will be left out and not fairly receive necessary funds...

4. What are your thoughts about the expansion of the HEART program to schools? How do you envision HEART interacting with the SRO program, both in terms of funding and within schools themselves?

Expanding the heart program would be a great opportunity and I would support this effort. The HEART program is a crisis response program that provides mental health support to individuals experiencing a behavioral and/or suicidal health crisis. The SRO would defer to the HEART experts on staff as necessary and both would balance one another.

5. Library staff have asked for an increased workforce, in part to support Sunday opening hours, but in the bigger picture, to enable one of the highest rated County services to fully function. As County Commissioner, how would you support, preserve, and grow the staff and programs of the library? How would you get input from library staff in the process of doing so? We should collaborate with Sandra Lovely and other Durham County Library staff for feedback on expansion ideas. Moreover, I support the library growth by dynamically expanding support services, preserving, and helping the library staff and programs in Durham County, with the help of local business sponsorship and partnerships.

Housing, Planning, and Neighborhoods

6. What planning policies and priorities do you wish to see emerge from the on-going review and revision of Durham's Uniform Development Ordinance?

The policies or some policies, should be modified, re-written and reviewed by a team of policy experts, to include revision of Durham's Uniform Development Ordinance. The planning policies should be inclusive and include dynamic verbiage with parameters for housing and communities that are impactfully fair. As a priority more housing should be available and affordable for all residents.

7. Should the County expand permanently supportive housing? What do you see as the role of PSH in community reentry? What other roles does it play?

I think the County should provide supportive housing, but reconsider if that support housing should be permanent. Housing should be evaluated on a criteria basis, to determine residential and community need as it relates to investment, incentives, finance and transportation partnership and sponsorship services.

County Finances, Transportation, Incentives, and Services

8. What is your position on providing public incentives to private firms to promote economic development in Durham? How can county government use development

incentives to promote more widely shared prosperity, including better jobs and higher wages for Durham residents?

I am open to providing fair and smart public incentives to private firms to promote economic development in Durham. Durham should promote a win-win approach to utilizing development incentives to promote more widely shared prosperity, including better jobs and higher wages for Durham residents.

9. What non-traditional programs (such as public banking, community investment trusts, community development venture capital) could Durham County implement to reduce economic inequality in our community?

I am open to reasonable low-risk non-traditional programs. However, I am not certain it will reduce economic inequality in our current community. In my view, more research is needed on this matter.

10. What should be the principal components of a new public transit plan for Durham County?

Intelligent trains to Raleigh, RDU Airport, Charlotte, Atlanta, etc.
Use KPI's. Customer Satisfaction Surveys and Customer Service Report Cards
Improve on-board security with high-definition cameras
Enhanced reliable passenger Wi-Fi services
Evaluate banned customers and continuously improving
Automation passenger counting systems for public transport capacity management
Quality communications, digital signage and geo-location services
Available Emergency and crisis response teams

11. What, if anything, should the county do to distribute the property tax burden with greater equity and fairness?

Offer more incentive by dynamically enhancing the interest in wanting to come to Durham, and by spreading the tax burden across various pillars, to offset property taxes (ex. lower crime statistics makes folks want to be in Durham).

Justice and Law Enforcement

12. Explain how you see the County's role in overseeing the Durham jail. Under what circumstances, if any, should the county take intervening action to improve the lives of incarcerated individuals?

County does a good job, but I like to see a teenager scared straight jail program, to prevent teen from going to jail. I would like to see 60 days in program, and more mental health and drug services bundled into the jail system. If the teens polit program is a value add, then expand it to adults.

13. What is your position on expanding the HEART program to be county-wide, fully staffed, and available 24/7? Which of those are your top priorities? How would you work to overcome resistance to HEART from some in law enforcement?

Expanding the HEART program throughout the county would be brilliant and a necessary partnership with law enforce. The Experts would take control of the situation, be that HEART or Law enforce, no longer does the Law Enforcement officer have be a-1-stop shop or an expert on everything.

Health Care and Social Services

14. As profiled recently in a 3-part Assembly/WBTV series, Durham County has the second-slowest reunification rate in the state for children in foster care. As a County Commissioner, what steps would you propose to help families thrive in Durham County and prevent involuntary family separation?

Do questionnaires and Comprehensive family assessments

Randomly Audit families with child under 18 as a priority

Regular visits with parents and siblings and share with parents an expectation checklist

Allow inclusion of family and youth in planning and decision-making

Offer legal representation for families/parents

Share avaiable contacts and supprt services for parents/families

15. What do you think about the balance between confidentiality and transparency related to families impacted by involuntary separation in the foster care system? Should these courtrooms be open to the public? What should Durham parents do if they feel their child has been wrongfully taken from them? Would you meet with and listen to a parent in this situation?

Courts have a backlog of cases. However, confidentiality and transparency related to families is essential and have far reaching impacts regarding involuntary separation in the foster care system. Courtrooms should be open on a need-to-know basis in my view. Parents should contact available legal resources and contacts, if they were legitimately wronged and child/children taken. I would listen and gladly meet with parents and families as needed.

Civil Rights

16. What are the principal issues facing the Latinx and immigrant communities in Durham and how should the county address them?

The County should listen, address the needs and point out resources for the Latinx and immigrant communities in Durham.

It been said that the Lack services for ID card would be a great help to the Latinx and immigrant communities

That Durham Public School system growth has not always felt welcoming with the increasing numbers of Latino/a students with lacks resources to support sufficient ESL instruction and interpretation services.

The Latinx populations faces obstacles, including language barriers and limited or no health insurance options. Along with Latinx residents in Durham being disproportionately targeted in armed robberies, due to fear of notifying the police after a crime, per their immigration status

17. At a time when the LGBTQ community is under attack by the NC legislature, what can the County do to provide as much protection to this community as possible?

Whatever it "TAKES" to protect the LGBTQ based on the counties authority, do it; it's a must to protect "ALL" Durham County residents!

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please do not forget to provide us with your resume or biographical statement.