

Caroline Warren

Triad City Beat 2024 Candidate Questionnaire Please send back responses to sayaka@triad-city-beat.com by Oct. 7 for inclusion in our Oct. 17 election guide. Please send a headshot with your answers.

For all candidates:

- What is your background in politics? If you are an incumbent, please state which offices you have held and when. In 2012, I was hired as an organizer for the Obama Campaign, and every election year since then, I have worked on a campaign either as staff, or volunteer. I am a member of Democratic Socialists of America, and I have worked with the local and state Democratic party for the past 12 years.
- Why were you drawn to run for office? I pay close attention to the lawmaking process, and I want to be part of that process on behalf of every day North Carolinians, not the super wealthy, and not the corporations.
- If you had to pick three issues (housing, economy, schools, policing, etc) which three issues would you say are most important to you? Ending the prohibition on collective bargaining for state employees, a \$20 minimum wage, and fully funding our public schools in compliance with the Leandro decision.
 - If elected, how would you work with fellow representatives on the other side of the political aisle? I will seek the advice of those who have more experience legislating about when compromise is possible, and when it's necessary to hold firm.
- What do you see as the role of the office you seek? To represent the interests of the majority of the people of the district that elected me- not the interests of a wealthy few, or corporations.
- Which city do you live in and what are three favorite things about it? Winston-Salem! My favorite things are our people, our generosity, and the amazing selection of international foods on Waughtown St.

For state races:

- Where do you think our state is headed? What stands in the way? How can you help us get there? We are headed to becoming a state with zero corporate income tax by 2030 if we don't turn that around. This is not for small businesses. The majority of companies paying corporate income tax are large, multi-state corporations making over \$25 million a year, according to the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center. When these corporations don't pay what they owe, the cost gets passed on to the rest of us, usually in the form of higher sales taxes.
- Our state seems divided by party. What are some of the things that both parties agree on? I can't speak for the Republican Party, but I like to believe humans have more in common than not and try to go from there. I would hope they believe the same.
- For state representatives: If elected, what are some pieces of legislation you would work to draft or sponsor? A repeal of the 1959 law that prevents me as a public employee from collective bargaining for my salary. North and South Carolina are the only two remaining states in the nation with this type of law, and we are poorer personally and economically for it. I would sponsor a \$20 minimum wage, and an end to sub-minimum wages for tipped workers and workers with disabilities. I would also sponsor a bill to make 18 the minimum age for marriage, without exception, as our current law serves as a cover for abuse.
- For state representatives: Which laws that have been passed in the last few years are you most in support of? Which do you least support? Expansion of Medicaid has been the best thing

to come out of this General Assembly in several years. Democrats had been fighting for this since 2014, and finally the Republicans stopped obstructing it. It is sad, though, the people who have died waiting- and I knew some.

- For state representatives: Who are your legislative role models and why? **Mo Green** for Superintendent of Public Instruction because he has both the experience and the belief in our public schools and our educators, unlike his opponent.
- What are the drawbacks of gerrymandered districts to our state? Are there any benefits? Gerrymandering is a way for legislators to choose their voters and dilute the vote of opposition. There is no benefit, except to the party in power, but it's crooked. Districts need to be drawn by independent redistricting commissions so that everyone's vote counts equally and candidates are forced to run competitive campaigns on the issues- not just slide into office every election cycle unopposed.