

Pricey Harris Candidate Questionnaire

For all candidates:

- **What is your background in politics? If you are an incumbent, please state which offices you have held and when.**

I have served in the North Carolina House of Representatives (House Districts 57 and 61) since I was first elected in 2004.

- **Why were you drawn to run for office?**

I had served on a regulatory commission (the Coastal Resources Commission) for several years and battled legislative efforts to overturn policy recommendations. I saw a real need for a legislator who would advocate for the environment. As an advocate who had been working to influence policy in Raleigh and throughout the country, I realized that getting elected to office would put me in a better position to have a more direct impact.

- **If you had to pick three issues (housing, economy, schools, policing, etc) which three issues would you say are most important to you?**

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- **We will likely be working on helping Western NC recover from Hurricane Helene for some time, but in addition to that my top three issues are:**

Protecting our democracy (fair maps, ballot access, and campaign finance reform)

Addressing climate change and environmental justice

Protecting and strengthening our public schools

- **If elected, how would you work with fellow representatives on the other side of the political aisle?**

I have worked with my colleagues across the aisle for all of my legislative career. I have been able to find common ground in many instances, and help to rewrite bills to make them better for all of North Carolina.

- **What do you see as the role of the office you seek?**

Members of the NC House Representatives serve the people in their district AND people throughout the state. My role is to advocate for fairness for people, communities, and our state's natural resources. We also provide constituent services for residents who are facing challenges.

- **Which city do you live in and what are three favorite things about it?**

Greensboro. Admittedly, it is hard to limit to three but I would say I love the vibrant arts community and cultural opportunities; the city's bike ability; and the diversity of our citizens and their commitment to each other and the community.

For state races:

- **Where do you think our state is headed? What stands in the way? How can you help us get there?**

The legislature of late has steered the state in a more extreme direction, especially on social issues. That said, in a bipartisan way it has been headed in a business friendly direction, and continues to be one of the best ranked states to do business. The diminishing investment in public schools and the increasing politicization of our state universities is concerning, and stands in the way of future growth. I will continue to fight against the extreme policies and fight for what's best for all North Carolinians.

- **Our state seems divided by party. What are some of the things that both parties agree on?**

We do seem to come together in moments of crisis, for example early efforts around covid, and currently efforts to provide relief for those impacted by Hurricane Helene.

- **For state representatives: If elected, what are some pieces of legislation you would work to draft or sponsor?**

I have sponsored hundreds of bills in my time at the legislature. My priority now is to continue to push for protecting our democracy (including bills to enact citizens driven redistricting and fighting efforts to limit access to the ballot). I called for that when I was first elected and Democrats were in control, and still believe fair maps are the first step towards solutions for most of the issues we face. I also will continue to prioritize climate/environmental justice; strong public schools; gun violence prevention; protecting women's reproductive rights; and economic security and equality for all.

- **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?**

I am most opposed to the extreme gerrymandered maps that were passed into law multiple times over my career. I am also vehemently opposed to laws that restrict local governments from protecting their citizens and passing regulations that best serve their community as well as environmental concerns. I am also very troubled by the increase in the use of local bills to circumvent the process (i.e. potential vetoes) and overrule local governments and school boards. I am also opposed to limiting women's

reproductive rights, expanding gun access, directing \$800,000,000 in taxpayer money to unaccountable private schools, and rollbacks of environmental protections,

- **For state representatives: Who are your legislative role models and why?**

My role models are the Late Congressman Rich Preyer and current members of Congress Jamie Raskin and Elizabeth Warren, all principled elected officials who were and are committed to what's best for our country and planet.

- **What are the drawbacks of gerrymandered districts to our state? Are there any benefits?**

The drawbacks are that the minority is able to rule with no regard for more than half of the state's citizens and their priorities. Legislation becomes more and more extreme as elected officials have to move further to the extreme in order to win a primary, since that is where the majority of elections are won in gerrymandered districts. It creates a much more partisan atmosphere, making it less conducive to working together. There are no benefits to gerrymandered districts.

- **Guilford County candidates: What's your take on a 1-percent prepared food tax that would go toward sports tourism projects? Would you support it? Why or why not?**

I am mixed about it. I think a more appropriate place to raise those funds would be through an occupancy tax. A prepared food tax seems like a more regressive way to raise those funds.