

Tracy Clark candidate questionnaire

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

I am the current NC House 57 Representative, appointed by Gov. Cooper in August to finish the term and replace our outgoing Democratic Representative on the ballot this November. I was chosen as one of 16 fellows last Spring with the Institute of Political Leadership (IOPL) to do an extensive candidate-development training program.

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

I began paying much closer to politics in 2016. In tracking legislation this past year there was a trifecta of bad bills that got me off the sidelines: The abortion ban, the private school vouchers, and the repeal of local permits for handguns. All three impact areas I am extremely passionate about, namely reproductive health, public education, and gun violence prevention. I knew that I could do better and our community deserved better leadership.

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

Public education, reproductive rights, gun violence prevention. Please see my website for more: [Tracy Clark for NC House 57](#)

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

I see myself as a moderate, and I understand that passing anything takes bipartisan support. I aim to strategically negotiate and find commonalities to build trust and rapport across all NC House Representatives.

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

My first and foremost goal is to effectively represent my constituents. That means listening to their concerns and taking action whenever possible. I strive to be a resourceful and respectful leader. I aim to work on legislation in key areas that will positively impact the majority of my constituents.

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

I have lived in Northern Greensboro for the past five years with my husband and two young daughters. My husband was born and raised in Greensboro so we are delighted to be back in his hometown. We love the sense of community all around us - in our neighborhood, public school, and our social group. I love the vibrant downtown and all it has to offer, especially including Tanger Center which I love to take my girls to help them fall in the love with live performing arts as I do. Lastly I love how we work together as a community to make Greensboro a better place for all, including my work with Women 2 Women through the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. The number of non-profits in our county doing amazing work is extremely impressive and I'm honored to play my small role in funding their efforts to improve the lives of others.

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

I am born and raised in North Carolina so I have nothing but love for our state and all that it offers. I fear we are moving away from core basics of ensuring NC residents can thrive with recent legislation such as moving billions of tax payer dollars away from public schools over the next decade. I want to ensure Guilford County has a strong Democratic voice to represent what is best for ALL families.

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

Even though the extreme sides are louder, they truly are the minority at all levels of government. We must focus on the middle zone of honest, hardworking individuals who all hold basic principles around supporting workers and striving for fair wages, supporting our economy, keeping costs of housing and basic needs low, etc. There is a lot more that unites us than divides us.

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

I hope to repeal the abortion ban currently in place and allow women to have full autonomy around their reproductive health. I hope to repeal the private school vouchers and move the millions of public taxpayer dollars back into public schools. And I hope to work on legislation that reduces our gun violence deaths as it is sadly an epidemic and frustratingly preventable.

● **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?**

Most support: Expanding Medicaid.

Least support: abortion ban; private school vouchers; local pistol permit repeal

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

I respect Rep. Pricey Harrison for her loyalty and dedication to Guilford County over the past 20+ years. I also admire young leaders such as Rep. Lindsey Prather in Buncombe County who was a school teacher and like me so upset by what she saw that she got off the sidelines.

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

There are no benefits to gerrymandered districts. They prevent the willful vote of the people we represent. I am in favor of moving the districting to an impartial process based on Census data.

● **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 not aware of this nor is it on the ballot this November. I would not be in favor of it generally. I am in favor of the fraction of a penny sales tax increase on the ballot to support educators' wages.

