



2020 Candidate Questionnaire State Elections

How do you propose to get the North Carolina economy back on track after Covid-19 and prepare for the upcoming hurricane season?

There is a balance between preserving the public's physical health and their economic health. Based on incomplete knowledge of COVID-19, NC took mostly appropriate measures early on. However now, as it appears that the worst is behind us, we need to rapidly reopen the economy in a safe manner and not be overcautious.

If elected, what are your thoughts on passing a budget?

Passing a responsible budget is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the legislature. The legislature passed a responsible budget which was vetoed. Unable to override the veto, the legislature sent "mini-budgets" to the Governor. In the end, approximately 93% of what was in the original budget was passed into law.

Now that we almost have the private road NCDOT database, how would you prevent any new orphan roads from occurring?

I was the primary sponsor of HB620 which established the NCDOT database. I have been, and will continue to be, a vigorous supporter of the Association of Realtors in preventing new orphan roads from occurring. As with HB620, I will work with the Association and other stakeholders to come up with a reasonable, workable solution to this issue.

What do you think the General Assembly needs to be paying attention to next year?

Jobs and the economy. Over the past few years, NC has continued to have one of the fastest growing economies due to our fiscally responsible, pro-business environment. The pandemic has been a major setback to the economy. There is no issue more important than getting the economy back on its feet.

How can the State fast track broadband to rural areas?

I am the leading advocate in filing legislation to speed deployment of broadband to rural areas. I was primary sponsor of HB387, Growing GREAT, which increased grants for public-private partnerships for broadband in rural areas. Originally in HB387 was language that allowed Electric CO-ops to provide broadband to rural areas. This passed in SB310.