



2024 North Carolina Voter Guide Questionnaire for State Candidates

Candidate Information

(Please Print or Type)

Candidate Name Mike Schietzelt Party Affiliation Republican
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 Candidate Signature *Mike Schietzelt* Date 8/2/2024
 (required) (required)

Candidate Questionnaire

Please indicate your position on the following issues by marking "Yes," "No," or "Undecided."
 You may provide additional comments and explanations for your responses on a separate sheet of paper.
 (Failure to answer a question will result in a listing of "No Response" in the 2024 Voter Guide.)

- Should North Carolina parents who choose to educate their children in a non-public school be eligible to receive a state-funded scholarship grant to assist with the cost of tuition and fees?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Undecided See attached
- Should the N.C. General Assembly authorize non-tribal commercial gambling casinos in North Carolina?
 ___ Yes X No ___ Undecided
- Should abortion be prohibited in North Carolina once a fetal heartbeat is detected?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Undecided See attached
- Should N.C. offer tax breaks and other financial benefits as an incentive for businesses to locate in the state?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Undecided See attached
- Should the N.C. General Assembly legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Undecided See attached
- Should state nondiscrimination laws include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classifications?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Undecided See attached

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7. Should biological male students who identify as female be allowed to participate on female sports teams?

Yes No Undecided

8. Should organizations that provide abortions be allowed to receive state funds?

Yes No Undecided *See attached*

9. Should North Carolina law allow a medical professional to assist another person in ending their life?

Yes No Undecided

10. Should a health care practitioner, who is present at the time a child is born alive after a failed abortion attempt, be required by state law to exercise the same degree of skill, care and diligence to preserve the life and health of that child as would be expected for any other child born alive at the same gestational age?

Yes No Undecided

11. Should North Carolina public schools be prohibited from instructing students in kindergarten through fourth grade about "gender identity," "sexual activity," and "sexuality?"

Yes No Undecided

12. Should N.C. law (NCGS §90-21.5) continue to allow minors to consent to the treatment of venereal disease or other reportable communicable diseases, pregnancy (not including abortion), abuse of controlled substances or alcohol, and emotional disturbance, without parental consent?

Yes No Undecided *See attached*

13. Should churches and other qualified religious organizations continue to receive tax-exempt status?

Yes No Undecided

14. Should a person's religious beliefs influence the decisions they make while serving in public office?

Yes No Undecided *See attached*

15. Should the number of terms a state legislator may serve in the North Carolina General Assembly be limited?

Yes No Undecided *See attached*

Candidate Signature *M. L. Smith* Date 8/02/2024
(required) (required)

Please return completed questionnaire by Friday, July 19, 2024

By mail to: NC Family Policy Council • PO Box 20607, Raleigh, NC 27619
By Email to: vote@ncfamily.org -or- By Fax to: (919) 807-0900

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES

QUESTION 1: Should North Carolina parents who choose to educate their children in a non-public school be eligible to receive a state-funded scholarship grant to assist with the cost of tuition and fees?

Every family should be *eligible*, but that won't guarantee every family an opportunity scholarship. The state has an obligation to its taxpayers to take only what it needs and to prioritize spending on projects that will generate returns for the state.

About three-quarters of our children remain in public schools, and we have an obligation to ensure those schools are achieving strong outcomes for those students. We are fortunate to be in a position to provide opportunities for low- and middle-income families to seek alternative education options for their children—opportunities they lacked before. That program should not shift from *scholarship* to *subsidy*, which will lead to inflated tuition prices and create more harm than good for *all* families.

QUESTION 3: Should abortion be prohibited in North Carolina once a fetal heartbeat is detected?

Regardless of my personal beliefs on this matter, the current line drawn by the General Assembly is consistent with where the majority of the state sits on this matter. I support leaving it there.

Many pro-life advocates see elective abortion as a *problem* to be solved. I think most people see elective abortion as a *solution* to a different problem—unplanned pregnancies. Surveys find that most women who seek an elective abortion feel as if they had no other choice. I think the General Assembly's role right now is to facilitate other options for women in need—from driving down healthcare costs and the costs of adoption to investing in community resources from prenatal care to job training. In short, we need to foster a culture that supports life.

QUESTION 4: Should N.C. offer tax breaks and other financial benefits as an incentive for businesses to locate in the state?

I generally oppose the use of tax breaks and incentive deals to bring large businesses to North Carolina. North Carolina has one of the strongest business climates in America, and these businesses don't need incentives to relocate to areas like Wake County.

The reason I won't simply mark "no" on this question: I'm open to having discussions about incentives for smaller businesses to develop supply chains, diversify local economies, and plant the seeds for economic development in communities that currently lack opportunity. I would have to consider those on a case-by-case basis.

QUESTION 5: Should the N.C. General Assembly legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes?

I'm undecided on this issue, leaning toward "no." However, I'd like to see more of the research on this issue and understand how it has helped people managing pain and other chronic conditions, the negative side effects, etc. Having watched my father suffer from chronic pain for decades before he passed, I'm eager to help North Carolinians find alternative, effective pain management options.

QUESTION 6: Should state nondiscrimination laws include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classifications?

This is a broad question, encompassing nondiscrimination in the workplace, in public accommodations, in education, and beyond. With regards to sexual orientation, I think my answer is: yes, in many circumstances, we should have nondiscrimination laws for everything I've just mentioned. HOWEVER—we should also have protections for faith-based organizations, and we need to do a better job of defining public accommodations. As we've seen in a number of U.S. Supreme Court cases over the last decade, nondiscrimination laws do not supersede the First Amendment, and we should guard carefully against any attempt to use them in such a way.

Gender identity is a more difficult issue. We've seen a number of high-profile clashes regarding protecting women's spaces. The Biden Administration's reinterpretation of Title IX to include gender identity is wrong, and it weaponizes Title IX against the very people—women—that it was intended to protect.

QUESTION 8: Should organizations that provide abortions be allowed to receive state funds?

Elective abortions should not be funded by public money. That's a small refinement from the question, but I think it's an important one. Not all abortions are elective.

QUESTION 12: Should N.C. law (NCGS §90-21.5) continue to allow minors to consent to the treatment of venereal disease or other reportable communicable diseases, pregnancy (not including abortion), abuse of controlled substances or alcohol, and emotional disturbance, without parental consent?

No. Parents deserve to know what's going on with their children. We should be empowering parents to help raise their children, not helping children hide things from their parents. I'd like to look a bit deeper at the details behind this law and the proposed remedy. But I fully support empowering parents to care for their kids and informing consumers of what they're paying for.

QUESTION 14: Should a person's religious beliefs influence the decisions they make while serving in public office?

I want to draw a distinction between “influencing decisions” and legislating the dictates of your faith. If your religious beliefs are such that eating meat is prohibited, I don’t think you should attempt to pass legislation banning the consumption of meat. That said, I don’t see how one’s religious beliefs *could not* influence the decisions they make.

QUESTION 15: Should the number of terms a state legislator may serve in the North Carolina General Assembly be limited?

I have fewer concerns with this at the state level than I do at the federal level. The state salary for a legislator (<\$14,000 a year) operates as a huge deterrent for many who might try to make a career out of it. (The low salary also acts as a major obstacle for a lot of capable middle- and working-class North Carolinians who might otherwise make fine legislators.) But I’m open to considering arguments about term limits at the state level.