



North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections

2012 Campaign Reform Questionnaire
Questionnaire for State Legislative Candidates

Candidate Name:_____ **Party Affiliation:**_____

Office Sought:_____ **District:**_____

Campaign Address:_____ **City:**_____

Campaign Phone:_____ **Campaign Website:**_____

Please indicate your position on the following issues by marking yes, no, or undecided. If you need to explain your position, you may use the space provided below each question or attach a separate sheet. **Responses should be returned by email to melissa@ncvce.org, or postmarked by September 24, 2012 and mailed to PO Box 10402, Raleigh, NC 27605.**

1. Do you think the rising cost of campaigns in North Carolina pushes candidates to spend too much of their time fundraising?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

2. Do you favor the current program which gives statewide judicial candidates a public campaign financing option if they refuse large donations, adhere to spending limits, and obtain a large number of small qualifying contributions from registered voters?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

3. The current public financing program for Commissioner of Insurance, State Auditor and Superintendent of Public Instruction has largely ended these candidates' fundraising dependency on the groups they regulate and do business with. Do you favor this program which gives candidates a public financing option if they refuse large donations, adhere to spending limits, and obtain a large number of small contributions from voters?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

4. Do you support expanding the public financing option to other Council of State offices like State Treasurer and Commissioner of Labor?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

5. Would you support the creation of a 'Voter-Owned Elections' public financing option for state legislative races that would provide candidates with an alternative to the money chase? Like North Carolina's other Voter-Owned Elections programs, it would be fully voluntary and require all participating candidates to agree to strict spending and fundraising limits and meet a high threshold of small donor support.

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

6. The cities of Raleigh, Wilmington, and Greenville have all passed resolutions asking for state authority to explore local public campaign financing options. Do you support a bill that would allow municipalities with more than 50,000 residents to create and fund Voter-Owned Elections programs for local races?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

7. The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* will allow corporations and unions to create political groups to sponsor independent expenditures that directly support or attack candidates. Would you support new disclosure and reporting requirements for these groups that require:

- Increased disclosure of the income sources and the expenses of independent groups that spend money directly attacking or supporting the election of candidates?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

- Public attribution of the independent group's top five donors in each political advertisements the group sponsors?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

8. The State Board Electronic has a large backlog of campaign disclosure reports to process because of the thousands of paper reports that are filed. That backlog severely limits the public's ability to review campaign reports. Would you support requiring PACs, party committees, candidates and independent groups to file their disclosure reports in an electronic format if they raise more than \$10,000 during an election?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

9. Do you support an amendment to the US constitution to reverse the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision by clarifying that corporations and unions do not have the same rights as people and that purchased speech is not the same as free speech?

Yes__ No__ Undecided__

10. If you have other ideas for addressing money-in-politics problems please list them below.

Candidate Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

*** Please return questionnaire no later than September 24, 2012. Responses can be submitted by email: melissa@ncvce.org; or mail: PO Box 10402 Raleigh NC 27605.**