



New Hanover RLC Candidate Survey

-- County Board of Commissioners --

Economy and Taxes:

1. Do you support local individualized tax break or grants in order to incentivize specific companies to do business in New Hanover County? (Check all that apply)
 - Tax breaks and grants
 - Tax breaks only
 - Grants only
 - Other, Explain _____
2. Currently the county-wide sales tax rate is 2.25%. This is in addition to the state sales tax rate of 4.75%. Do you think this is the proper county-wide sales tax rate? (Check one)
 - Yes, I would leave the county-wide sales tax rate unchanged
 - No, I would increase the county-wide sales tax rate to _____
 - No, I would decrease the county-wide sales tax rate to _____
 - Other, Explain _____
3. The current county property tax rate is 47.5 cents per \$100 of property value. This is a 1.5 cent decrease over the 2020 county property tax rate. However, since assessed property values have risen dramatically over the last year, many property owners are now paying significantly more in property taxes. What would you do to the county property tax rate? (Check one)
 - I would increase the property tax rate to _____
 - I would decrease the property tax rate to _____
 - I would leave the property tax rate unchanged
 - Other, Explain _____
4. The county has received the sum of \$ 1.2T from its sales of the New Hanover Regional Medical Center to Novant. How should those funds be used? (Check all that apply)
 - Increase funding to public schools

- Send a tax refund or incentive check to the citizens of the county
- Build new roads, bridges, and other infrastructure
- Invest the funds and decrease county taxes
- Increase funding for public assistance programs
- Increase charitable grants to private non-profits in the county
- Increase funding for local business grants to spur economic growth
- Other, Explain _____

5. Sometimes bonds are necessary to back large county projects. What type of bonds do you espouse using? (Check all that apply)

- General Obligation Bonds
- Tax Increment Financing
- Certificates of Participation
- None
- Other, Explain _____

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Personal Liberty:

6. What is your position on short term rental restrictions? (Check one)

- They make sense and are important in maintaining affordable housing in the area.
- They are an affront to personal property rights and should be banned within the county.
- The County should have no short-term rental restrictions, but municipalities should be allowed to implement them.
- Restrictions on corporate properties are ok, but not on personally owned property.
- Other, Explain _____

7. Currently the County bans the use of tobacco and vaping products on any county property, inside and outside. What is your position on the ban? (Check all that apply)

- Chewing tobacco and vaping should be unrestricted
- Smoking should only be banned inside
- Inside restrictions are fine, but outside restrictions are unnecessary
- All the restrictions serve the public health and should be kept as is

Other, Explain _____

8. The County, along with the New Hanover County Dept of Health and Human Services, have placed a number of restrictions on the liberty of the individual and business owners during the COVID crisis. Which type of restrictions do you support if the situation is dire enough? (Check all that apply)

- Mask mandates
- Vaccination mandates
- Closing of certain businesses
- Occupancy limits (not related to fire risk)
- Travel restrictions
- Mandatory quarantine
- None
- Other, Explain _____

9. What do you believe the County's role should be in defending its citizens right to keep and bear arms? (Check all that apply)

- The County should make sensible gun ordinances to protect the community
- The County should help to enforce ALL federal and state gun laws and regulations to the best of its ability, but not make any local gun ordinances.
- The County should declare itself a "Sanctuary County" when it comes to the 2nd Amendment.
- The County should instruct the Sheriff's Office, and municipal law enforcement units, not to cooperate with state and federal law enforcement in enforcing onerous gun laws
- The County should instruct the Sheriff's Office, and municipal law enforcement units, to actively protect its citizens from state and federal law enforcement when enforcing onerous gun laws
- None
- Other, Explain _____

10. Civil asset forfeiture is the process where law enforcement seizes the assets of suspected criminals. North Carolina state law prohibits state and local government from permanently keeping these assets unless the suspected criminal is actually convicted in a court of criminal law. However, law enforcement agencies within New Hanover County participate in the Equitable Sharing Program with US Department of Justice. As a result, local law enforcement will request that the federal government seize these assets permanently from a suspected criminal, and then the local law enforcement

agency receives up to 80% of the asset's value in return. Participation in this program has resulted in many individuals losing substantial amounts of money, and other valuable assets, without ever being convicted of (or sometimes ever being charged with) a crime. Should New Hanover County pass a local ordinance barring local law enforcement participation in the federal Equitable Sharing Program? (Check one)

- Yes
- Yes, but only for the Sheriff's Office, and not for municipal law enforcement
- No
- Other, Explain _____

11. What is your position regarding the use of body cameras by local law enforcement agencies? (Check all that apply)

- These need to be required, and funds allotted so that every officer can wear one at all times
- All body camera footage needs to be released to the public ASAP
- Body cameras are unnecessary and place an undue burden on our law enforcement officers
- Other, Explain _____

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Development & Infrastructure:

12. Currently there is a significant shortage of affordable housing within New Hanover County. What measures (if any) would you take to address this? (Check all that apply)

- Reduce property taxes on homes and apartment complexes
- Subsidize more low-income housing projects
- Reduce zoning restrictions so that more housing can be built
- Nothing, we already have too many people living in this county
- Other, Explain _____

13. With the drastic and continuing population increase in New Hanover County, many feel that the infrastructure within the county is dragging far behind. What measures (if any) would you take to address this? (Check all that apply)

- Invest in new roads and bridges in order to deal with increased traffic congestion.

- Place a moratorium on new commercial development until infrastructure has caught up.
- Place a moratorium on new residential development until infrastructure has caught up.
- Place a moratorium on apartment complexes, and limit continued residential development to single-family homes until infrastructure has caught up.
- Invest in publicly funded high speed broadband to support the increased population and their technology needs.
- Invest in and incentivize use of, public transportation
- Nothing
- Other, Explain _____

14. The large increase in development within the county has left very little green space and may have environmental consequences. What (if anything) should be done? (Check all that apply)

- The County should buy out the remaining green space and create public parks and conservation areas.
- The County should create more stringent building codes to protect the county from environmental damage
- The County should incentivize development projects that protect at least part of the remaining green spaces.
- Nothing, let the free market reign.
- Other, Explain _____

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

15. Please list your top 3 priorities that you will work on, if elected. Attach additional page(s) if necessary.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

END OF SURVEY