

# CCTA & GCCA

## 2026 Primary Election Guide Responses as of February 16, 2026

Each candidate was asked to answer these 6 questions. Below are the responses received so far.

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)
2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?
3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?
4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?
5. Why should I vote for you?
6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

### Contents

Orrick Quick - US SENATE - Democrat.....	2
Marcus W. Williams US SENATE Democrat .....	4
Thomas Johnson - US SENATE - Republican.....	5
Michele Morrow - US SENATE - Republican.....	7
Elizabeth A. Temple - US SENATE - Republican.....	9
Asa Buck US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 Republican .....	10
Eric Rouse - US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 - Republican.....	11
Ashley-Nicole Russell - US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 - Republican .....	12
Shane Guthrie - CARTERET COUNTY SHERIFF - Republican .....	13
John Nyberg - CARTERET COUNTY SHERIFF - Republican .....	15
Chip Hughes CRAVEN COUNTY SHERIFF Republican .....	16
Calvin Williams CRAVEN COUNTY SHERIFF Republican .....	18
Michael C. Byrne NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 01 - Republican .....	20
Steven Overby - CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 - Republican .....	21
Bryan Nicklow CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 03 Republican .....	23
John Chittick CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 - Republican .....	25
Craig Lewis CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 - Republican.....	26
Joshua D. Whitford CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 Republican .....	27
E. T. Mitchell – CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 04 - Republican .....	28
Stephanie Krzich - CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01 - Republican.....	29
Anne Scott, CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01 Republican .....	30
Tracy Jacques Derby CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 06 - Republican .....	32
Lauren Riggs Kitzinger CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 06 -Republican .....	34
The questionnaire was sent to the following individuals .....	36

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## Orrick Quick - US SENATE - Democrat

Orrick Quick<orrickquick@gmail.com>

You

Good evening,

Thank you for the opportunity to share more about who I am and what I stand for. Below are my responses to your questions. Please let me know if you need anything further.

### 1. Short Biography

Orrick Quick is a pastor, community leader, speaker, and entrepreneur with a lifelong commitment to service, truth, and constitutional accountability. Raised in North Carolina, Orrick was shaped by parents who instilled resilience, integrity, and faith. His mother, a public-school teacher, taught him the power of education, while his father's courage—liberating his family from a rigged sharecropping system—instilled in him a determination to confront unjust systems.

Orrick is an ordained pastor and spent 13 years teaching weekly Bible study in a nursing home, walking closely with seniors through faith, loss, and perseverance. That experience deeply shaped his passion for honoring and protecting those who have paid into our society their entire lives. He has also served local churches and communities through preaching, mentorship, and outreach.

A former collegiate football player at NC State University, Orrick later became an award-winning motivational speaker and a FOX daytime television cohost, where he learned to communicate complex issues clearly to broad audiences. He has since led major youth literacy and leadership initiatives, helping hundreds of children become published authors.

Orrick is running for office as a servant-leader—not a career politician—committed to truth, people, and the Constitution.

### 2. What books, documents, principles, or sources form your core personal beliefs?

My core beliefs are grounded in faith, constitutional principles, and disciplined personal study. The Bible is foundational to my life and leadership—not only as a book I read, but as a guide I have intentionally committed to memory. I have memorized hundreds of passages of Scripture because I believe God's Word shapes character, sharpens discernment, and anchors decision-making in truth, humility, and compassion.

Alongside my faith, the U.S. Constitution is central to my political philosophy. It exists to protect people from abuse of power, not to redefine their worth or limit their God-given rights. I also draw from history, particularly the lessons of leaders and everyday citizens who confronted unjust systems with courage, integrity, and perseverance.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

First, constitutional accountability and limiting government overreach.

The Constitution was written to protect people from abuse of power, not to be manipulated to redefine their value. I often refer to this misuse as constitutional witchcraft—when legal language is twisted to justify injustice or expand authority beyond its rightful limits. Government must remain within clear constitutional boundaries.

Second, dignity and care for those who contribute to society—especially those who are taxed.

If the government taxes people their entire lives, it has a moral responsibility to take care of those it taxes. This includes our elders, teachers, and immigrants who work, pay taxes, and strengthen our communities. Having taught Bible study in a nursing home for 13 years, I've seen how seniors are often forgotten. As the child of a teacher, I know educators deserve respect, fair pay, and support. Immigrants who contribute to our economy deserve dignity, not dehumanization.

Third, real opportunity for the next generation through education, skills, and trades.

We must expand education beyond a one-size-fits-all model. I strongly support developing trade schools from early education through 12th grade, so students can graduate not only with a diploma, but with marketable skills and clear pathways to become general contractors, electricians, plumbers, and builders. This strengthens families, rebuilds the middle class, and reduces lifelong debt.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

In five years, I see myself having served with integrity—known for principled leadership, independence, and accountability to the people. I also see tangible progress in expanding workforce development and trade-based education across our state.

In ten years, I envision having helped establish multiple K–12 trade schools, creating pathways where children can develop practical skills alongside academic learning. My goal is for students to graduate prepared for real careers—whether as general contractors, skilled tradespeople, entrepreneurs, or further education—so they are equipped to succeed, provide for their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

5. Why should I vote for you?

You should vote for me because we should be tired of voting for the same **\*\*recycled politicians\*\*** who say the right things but fail to deliver real results. Our nation is looking for leaders whose integrity and character reflect the kind of people we would trust with our own families and futures.

I am not running to protect a party, a title, or donors—I am running to serve people with honesty, courage, and accountability. If you want leadership rooted in truth, principle, and lived experience—not political convenience—I ask for your vote.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

Yes. I am not a career politician, and I do not accept corporate PAC or special-interest money. My background is rooted in faith, community service, education, and leadership—not political ambition. I am willing to challenge power no matter who holds it, and I measure success by how policies affect real people, not headlines.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond. I look forward to continuing the conversation.

Respectfully,

Orrick Quick

US Senate Candidate

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**Marcus W. Williams      US SENATE Democrat**

Marc7@ec.rr.com

FROM: Marcus W. Williams, Attorney At Law (MN/NC/PA), For U.S. Senate

In response to your thoughtful invitation of today, please accept the following:

1. My vast experience as an Attorney At Law, in both the civil and criminal courts, is well chronicled on my website at [www.HurriQuake](http://www.HurriQuake) - which has updated information on the embedded Social Media Platforms (for example, 46 consecutive & continuous years of practicing law in 3 States and the stellar administration/leadership for 17 years of Legal Services Programs - 2 Regional Programs spanning 18 Counties in Eastern N.C & Statewide Pennsylvania Legal Services, the fifth largest State in the U.S. at that time). Having served as a Legal Services advocate for 24 years and almost 6 years as a Public Defender, strained or scarce resources for clients and their families (aka Affordability) has been the central constant condition that had to be addressed. As Executive Director I engaged in creative action and spearheaded proactive projects, such as the FOUR Community Economic Development initiatives and work products that have been successfully implemented. The creation & construction of 79 units of HUD 202 housing for the elderly and impaired particularly speaks to addressing the central issue of affordability in each household. Further, the formation of a Community Development Corporation and subsequent construction of a Business Incubator with 9 units of 1500 square feet are primary examples. I request that you allow them to speak for me.
2. My core beliefs emanate from my tight knit, disciplined family - Catholic upbringing - as reaffirmed by the Priests and Nuns in the Church & Mission parochial elementary school of eight years. For particular insight into my personal experience and outlook, please peruse my 2025 Pinnacle Book Achievement Award winning novel in the INSPIRATIONAL category bestowed by the National Association of Book Entrepreneurs, entitled: "Confronting The White Shadow: The Capacity To Believe".
3. Top salient issues include: Need for Community Economic Development in each County in N.C. for job creation and individual fulfillment/innovation; Immediate proliferation or blitz in the construction of Housing (Congregate 75-110 units & duplexes, triplexes and quads) in a fashion where they are distributed throughout the respective Counties to avoid traffic congestion and not overburden the water/sewer/electric infrastructure; and the provision or access to affordable, High Quality health care for each citizen in tandem with state-of-the-art educational opportunities.
4. In 5 years I will be entering the conclusion of my U.S. Senate tenure.
5. I am the best proven candidate, with experience in 3 States, to serve as the United States Senator for the citizens of North Carolina.
6. See Above to assess what distinguishes and elevates my professional preparedness above the others. Moreover, I was honored to been elected and to have successfully served as Student Body President of UNC-CH (& 3-year varsity UNC Wrestler), Student Body President of the Univ. of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis and Student Body President of Lumberton High School in the first election after the mandatory consolidation of the school system.

Please accept the attached information and utilize them as you deem appropriate to educate the voting community, and hopefully to advance our campaign mission.

My sincerest and deepest gratitude,

Marcus W. Williams, Attorney At Law (MN/NC/PA)

910-392-5713

Candidate for the United States Senate

[www.HurriQuake.us](http://www.HurriQuake.us) (Access updated info on the Social Media Platforms)

<https://www.facebook.com/marcus.williams.5243817>

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## Thomas Johnson - US SENATE - Republican

Glenda DaCosta<info@tlj2026.com>

### 1. Short Biography (200 words or less)

Thomas Johnson was born into foster care and adopted at age five. Arriving in his new home with a stutter, undernourished, and filled with fear, he was raised by a praying mother who anointed him with oil and took him to church three times a week. Through faith and determination, Thomas rose from poverty to graduate as class valedictorian, waking at 4:44 a.m. daily to travel 2.5 hours to an International Baccalaureate high school.

Thomas attended the United States Air Force Academy, earning Dean's List and Commandant's List honors. The CIA recruited him to study space commercialization and build intelligence satellites at the National Reconnaissance Office. He escaped death at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, by mere minutes.

Thomas built Agile Immersive, a multimillion-dollar strategy consulting firm serving Fortune 500 clients including T-Mobile, MetLife, and FedEx. He lectures internationally on organizational transformation at institutions including Goethe Graduate School of Business in Frankfurt, Germany.

Thomas serves on the boards of Main Street Alliance and Entrepreneurs in Christ, and invests in improving foster care across all 100 North Carolina counties through Agape of North Carolina. He is a husband and father of four.

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### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

Romans 8 from the New Living Translation anchors my faith—particularly the promise that "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose." This truth carried me from foster care to where I stand today.

Beyond Scripture, I draw from:

- The U.S. Constitution, particularly the First Amendment protections for religious liberty and free speech that our Founders considered essential to ordered liberty
- Frederick Douglass's writings, especially his 1852 "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" which demonstrates how America's founding principles, rightly applied, are the remedy for injustice—not the cause of it
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "The Cost of Discipleship", which reminds me that faith without action is empty, and that Christians must engage the public square even at personal cost
- The Air Force Academy Honor Code: "We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does"—a standard of integrity I carry into every endeavor

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### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

a. Religious Freedom Restoration Act Two weeks ago, I sent letters to Senators Grassley, Lee, Lankford, Schmidt, and Hawley urging them to co-sponsor a Day One amendment protecting houses of worship during national emergencies. What happened during COVID—when liquor stores stayed open while churches were shuttered—must NEVER happen again. Government has no authority to declare faith "non-essential."

b. Groceries & Gas We Can Afford North Carolina families spend \$1,064 monthly on groceries—above the national average—while watching paychecks drain at the pump. I will fight to extend energy efficiency tax deductions for grocery stores, provide tariff relief on agricultural inputs like fertilizer and food-grade packaging, and deregulate freight bottlenecks that add 20% to grocery costs. Mothers shouldn't have to choose between milk and medicine.

c. Biotech Trade Mission to Expand NC Exports North Carolina's Research Triangle is a global biotech leader, yet we're leaving billions on the table. I will lead trade missions to the United Kingdom, Germany, and Japan to expand market access for North Carolina's \$111 billion agricultural and life sciences sectors—creating jobs and prosperity across our state.

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### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

Five years: Running for my second term as North Carolina's junior Senator, having delivered on my promises to protect religious liberty, lower grocery and gas prices, and expand North Carolina exports to international markets.

Ten years: Celebrating the many victories North Carolina has realized from Senator Thomas Johnson—a state where families can afford groceries and gas, where churches are protected from government overreach, and where our biotech and agricultural sectors lead the world. I see myself continuing to serve, mentor the next generation of conservative leaders, and demonstrate that an overcomer from foster care can change the trajectory of an entire state.

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5. Why should I vote for you?

Because I've lived the struggle that millions of North Carolinians face—and I've overcome it. I'm not a career politician who learned about hardship from briefing papers. I know what it's like to go without, to be counted out, to wonder if tomorrow will be better than today.

I also have the credentials to deliver results: Air Force Academy, CIA, National Reconnaissance Office, Fortune 500 consulting. I understand how Washington works, how international trade works, and how to get things done in complex systems.

Most importantly, I will fight. For your family's grocery bill. For your right to worship freely. For North Carolina's place in the global economy. I am an OVERCOMER—and I will overcome for you.

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6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

Yes—three qualities no other candidate in this race possesses:

Lived adversity, not learned adversity. I was born in foster care, struggled with a stutter, and rose from poverty. My opponents have résumés; I have battle scars. And medals for leadership. That shapes how I fight.

National security depth with kitchen-table understanding. I built spy satellites for the CIA and escaped the Pentagon on 9/11—but I also know what it's like to watch a parent stretch a paycheck. I bring both perspectives to every policy decision.

Proven transformation expertise. I've spent my career fixing broken systems for Fortune 500 companies. Washington is a broken system. I know how to diagnose problems, build coalitions, and deliver measurable results—not just give speeches about change.

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## Michele Morrow - US SENATE - Republican

MICHELE4NC@GMAIL.COM

1. Michele Morrow is a bold freedom fighter who has spent the last eleven years championing Constitutional causes and individual liberties. She is a trusted voice in NC and has been fighting against the political machine that has been 'selecting' our candidates for us, instead of allowing We The People to elect our representatives.

As a nurse and educator, Morrow brings practical, common sense solutions to the issues of the day. Having spent ten years as a legislative liaison and advocate for numerous conservative groups, Morrow helped craft and worked to pass legislation that restores law and order, protects parents rights and students safety, promotes medical freedom and returns the moral and ethical standards our nation was founded upon.

Having traveled the state speaking at press conferences, school boards, county commissions, and legislative committee hearings Morrow has been representing the will and amplifying the voice of NC citizens for over a decade and hopes to continue to serve you as your ambassador in the Senate.

2. The Bible is the foundation for my worldview and the Constitution is the basis for my civics understanding. I align with the economic philosophy of Adam Smith and greatly respect Thomas Soul's insights regarding education and the connection between the two (education/economics) The principles that I strive to live by are to seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. I value honesty, integrity and perseverance and seek to honor the Lord and do everything as though I am doing it for Him.

3). The top three issues I want to address as Senator are:

A) Reestablishing law and order and Justice. WHY? I believe the reason we have the division, chaos and violence in America today is that we have coddled criminals and turned a blind eye to injustices. We must prosecute criminals swiftly and issue consequences that fit the crime. As Rudy Giuliani did in NYC- prosecuting everything from spray painting on walls to breaking windows in abandoned buildings- we must do the same to restore order and respect for our laws. We need arrests, trials, convictions and sentences from the halls of Congress to the streets of Minneapolis. We must deport all illegal immigrants and send them to the back of the line and reform our immigration laws, including remaining and revising our quota system. Law and order is the bedrock of our freedoms.

B) Exposing the waste, fraud and abuse in our federal government. WHY? The government has been robbing from Americans for decades, using our hard-earned tax money for illegal aliens, NGO's, foreign entities and their own personal gain. The government must give an accounting for every dollar they have spent and are planning to spend. As your Senator, I will work to put money back into your pockets, to reduce the federal workforce by 75%, to remove property taxes, inheritance taxes, death taxes and the federal gas tax. As President Trump has done, we need to find creative solutions to repairing our economy without over regulating the free market system. As your Senator I will work with industry leaders to develop common sense solutions that lower the prices of consumer goods and create an economy where the middle class thrives.

C. Providing local, quality, affordable healthcare to every American. As a nurse of 33 years, I have seen the decline in quality care and the exorbitant increase in cost as we have moved to socialized medicine. It is a fact that whenever the government controls a service it becomes less efficient, less effective and more expensive. As your Senator, I will strive to dismantle Obamacare and remove the government, big pharma and the insurance companies from our exam rooms and return your medical decisions to you and your provider. I will push to return to catastrophic insurance and allow completion between the states for coverage. I would demand an audit of the DHHS system and empower state Health Agencies to provide full service hospitals and clinics in every county to ensure healthcare is available for all. I would work to pass legislation that requires every Medicaid recipient to pay a monthly fee and audit the system to cut off those who are abusing it.

4) Five years from now, I expect to still be serving you in Washington and hope that our citizens will be safer, healthier and wealthier for the work that we have done.

Ten years from now, I will be working hard to complete my second and final term and be mentoring someone to run in my place.

5) I will bring bold, principled Christian leadership to DC and continue to be connected and responsive to the people of North Carolina. My experience as a nurse, educator, missionary, foster parent and legislative liaison will bring fresh perspective to many of the issues we face in our country. I am committed to improving the quality of life for every

American and protecting your God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I am the only candidate on the ballot who has proven my devotion to the people of this state in working to protect our freedoms and our families for the past eleven years. It would be an honor to serve you.

6) I am the only candidate who has fought Roy Cooper in legislative battles, the only person in this race who has worked with legislators to craft bills, rally support for the bills and traveled the state to get petitions signed to encourage our elected officials to pass laws which uphold our family values and the Constitution. I am the only candidate that has spoken at committee hearings and sat in the chamber to listen to debates and monitor the vote to hold legislators accountable. I am the only candidate who has faced the attacks, harassment, threats and intimidation from the radical left and the legacy media and stood my ground. I am the only person on the ballot who Cooper considers a threat. As an opponent he fears me. I am the only candidate who received more votes than Thom Tillis when he won this seat in 2020. I am not the typical politician Cooper has faced and defeated in all his previous races. I am the only non-lawyer of the top 4 candidates on both sides of the ballot. Considering 2/3 of our members of Congress are attorneys, I think we the country would benefit from my varied experience and insights. I am the only candidate on the ballot who Steve Bannon calls 'the rising star of the MAGA movement'

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## **Elizabeth A. Temple - US SENATE - Republican**

I AM RUNNING TO:

- Address significant issues such as wealth inequality through continued Capitalism, not Socialism or Communism, and address homelessness.
- Focus on legislation to address risks posed by AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the areas of robotic soldiers in warfare, massive job dislocation, and unprecedented wealth and income concentration for the few that will decrease the standard of living for average Americans.
- Engage in discussions on AI and make a legislative impact with bipartisan efforts to address the challenges and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence on society as a whole, including the companionship of AI rather than fellow human beings and how it might affect the birth rate and nuclear families.
- Develop clear messaging like President Trump has and leadership qualities in the youth of the next generation, in order to preserve the nation as in its founding documents and save the U.S. Constitution while promoting prosperity for black Americans over further immigration.
- Make it a requirement that all elected officials in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as well as Mayors, be born in the city, town, state, and country that they represent and to pledge that they will strive to promote legal immigration and closed borders, in order to preserve our history and culture of the United States of America.
- Prepare for the 20% unemployment increase due to AI over the next one to five years and protect children, animals, and the elderly and note the lack of concern for loss of life with robotic soldiers, and how this could impact our freedom and sovereignty as a nation. (There is far too little discussion in Congress on this issue of AI and Robotics and I will be a willing participant on this matter, as "Work will become optional and money irrelevant," according to Elon Musk.

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## **Asa Buck US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 Republican**

### 1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I am a Beaufort native and ECU graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice, entering my 20th year of service as Carteret County's Sheriff. I want to expand the opportunity to serve the 23 counties of the new First Congressional District.

I will use the citizen first, common sense approach I have implemented in my time as Sheriff to my service in Congress. This will include what I consider to be the litmus test of Conservatism in any legislative issue I encounter. Lower taxes, Less Government and More Individual Freedom. By sticking to these priorities, I will not only serve my constituents but also empower them. This is important because I believe that the answers to the vast majority of problems facing our area do not lie with more intervention by the Federal Government, but instead by empowering the people by unburdening them from the overreach of Washington D.C.

### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

The Constitution would guide my principles of government and although it is an older book, I still feel many of the governing principles laid out in Barry Goldwater's "Conscience of a Conservative" have been a strong influence on me.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

#1 Serving the citizens of Eastern North Carolina. No member of Congress has the absolute power to control any issue. I do have the absolute power to provide the best constituent services possible. That is why it is my #1 issue.

#2 Getting an overbearing government out of people's lives. From fishermen to farmers; small business to retirees; I hear it all the time. Ridiculous government regulations cost them time and money.

#3 Overall economic issues. Any issue that can reduce government spending and keep more of taxpayers money in their own pockets will be a top priority.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

In five years, I would hope to be beginning my final term in Congress because we were successful in passing term limits. In 10 years, I would like to be serving my community in a non-elected manner, living off my state retirement, not any gains derived from serving in Washington.

5. Why should I vote for you? I believe my priorities are realistic and achievable and my conservative principles represent the people of Eastern North Carolina.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates? I have almost 20 years of elected service to our area and I will not ever be a pawn to Washington insiders.

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## **Eric Rouse - US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 - Republican**

Email: ERIC@ERICROUSE.COM

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please) Eric Rouse is a big believer in the American Dream and is running for Congress to fight for the America First Agenda that protects and promotes more and better American jobs for American workers. Rouse’s father was a small business owner, so Rouse saw first-hand every day how much hard work it takes to manage a small business.

2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs? Bible and the US Constitution

3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why? Balanced budget amendment. We are spending way more than we bringing in and it threatens the future of the country.

4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future? After 6 years I will be back home knowing I did my part to help the country.

5. Why should I vote for you? Committed Christian and constitutional conservative. He currently serves the community as a Lenoir County Commissioner, where he has earned a reputation as a fiscal conservative. During his tenure, Rouse has been a stalwart champion for taxpayers, always voting against all tax and fee increases. His record is a testament to his belief that responsible government means managing taxpayer money with the same care and discipline required to run a small business or manage a family budget.

A staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, Rouse is a licensed firearms dealer and a lifetime member of the NRA.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates? Christian, constitutional conservative, business owner who created jobs in the district, born in the district, grew up in the district, married from the district, raised my children in the district. I know the people of ENC better than anyone else in the race.

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## Ashley-Nicole Russell - US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 - Republican

Ashley Nicole Russell<info@ashleynicolerussell.com>

### 1. Short biography (200 words or less)

Ashley-Nicole Russell is a North Carolina attorney, entrepreneur, wife, and mother who has built her career outside of politics by solving real problems for families and small businesses. She is the founder and CEO of AN|R Law, North Carolina's first collaborative family law firm, with offices in Greenville, Raleigh, Beaufort, and Wilmington, serving families across all 100 counties.

Ashley has built and operated multiple businesses, created jobs, managed real budgets, and worked directly with families navigating financial, legal, and personal crises. Her leadership has been recognized nationally and locally, including features in The Washington Post and Forbes, and honors such as North Carolina Super Lawyers and Small Business Leader of the Year.

She is running for Congress because Washington's reckless spending, rising cost of living, and career politicians are failing Eastern North Carolina. Ashley believes the First District deserves an independent voice focused on fiscal responsibility, economic security, and putting families, not the D.C. swamp, first.

### 2. What books, documents, principles, or sources form your core personal beliefs?

My core beliefs are rooted in faith, personal responsibility, and accountability. I believe in the principles of the U.S. Constitution, limited government, and fiscal discipline. I am guided by the idea that the government should serve the people, not control their lives or bankrupt future generations.

I also believe deeply in hard work, family, and community. As a business owner and mother, I've learned that strong families, responsible budgets, and local decision-making, not top-down mandates, are what allow people and communities to thrive.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

First, government spending and the economy. Voters are clear that runaway spending is driving inflation and making everyday life more expensive. I support fiscal restraint, a Balanced Budget Amendment, and stopping wasteful spending that hurts working families.

Second, the cost of living. Families are struggling with grocery prices, healthcare costs, and economic uncertainty. Washington policies must focus on lowering costs, not on growing bureaucracy.

Third, border security and law enforcement. A secure border and safe communities are essential for economic stability, public safety, and national security.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

In five to ten years, I see myself continuing to serve, whether in Congress or in the private sector, by building solutions, strengthening families, and helping Eastern North Carolina prosper. My goal is not a political career, but meaningful service that leaves this district stronger than I found it.

### 5. Why should I vote for you?

You should vote for me because I am not a career politician. I am a proven builder and problem-solver who understands budgets, job creation, and the real-world impact of bad policy.

I will fight to rein in spending, lower the cost of living, support law enforcement, and put Eastern North Carolina first—every time.

### 6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

Yes. I bring real-world experience, not political ambition. I've built businesses, managed payrolls, and made tough decisions that affect families' livelihoods.

I am an outsider who understands that trust is earned through results, not rhetoric, and I will take that mindset to Washington to deliver accountability, discipline, and results for this district.

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## **Shane Guthrie - CARTERET COUNTY SHERIFF - Republican**

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

Born and raised in Carteret County. Son to a Methodist Pastor. Father of two. My Law Enforcement career started in 1991, I worked at Manteo Police Department 91-92 then Dare County Sheriff's Office 92-94. In 1994 I returned home to Carteret County and went to work with Beaufort Police Department. In 1998 I went to Greenville, NC and started with the Pitt County Sheriff's Office working as a Deputy Sheriff, worked up through ranks and in many different positions there until I Retired as a Sergeant in 2021 with 30 years of service. I remained a sworn Deputy Sheriff at Pitt County Sheriff working part-time there serving civil papers, currently. I moved back to Carteret County in 2023, obtained my Insurance Producer License and was employed at Willis Insurance Agency in Morehead City, full time. Thirty of my 34 years in Law Enforcement I have worked directly at a Sheriff's Office.

Certified through North Carolina Sheriff Training and Standards Commission

-Advance Law Enforcement Certification

-Advance Service Award

-Certified Law Enforcement Instructor

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award – 2001 Pitt County, NC

Life Saving Metal – Pitt County Sheriff's Office – 2009

2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

King James Version of the Holy Bible.

1. I was raised by my faith in God and we should always help thy neighbor.

My beliefs are strong, as Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, He is first in my Life in all decisions I make.

2. Love for my Family

3. Love for my Country, as I am a Patriot, as I believe in the Rule of Law as I will uphold the US Constitution.

3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

1. Equipping every Patrol Car with an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and having Deputies respond to all Cardiac Arrest Patience within the County. This program was started in Pitt County and once Deputies started responding to these calls, survival rate increased from 30.8% to 80.8%, that's a 50% increase in survival rate, thereby saving lives in the Community.

2. Enacting a Domestic Violence Prevention Unit. A DV Unit is established to provide a specialized, compassionate, and highly trained response to domestic-related crimes. Its purpose is to protect victims, reduce repeat violence, and ensure offenders are held fully accountable. By conducting thorough investigations, offering immediate victim support, monitoring high-risk offenders, and working closely with prosecutors and community partners, the unit strengthens safety for families and promotes a proactive, prevention-focused approach to domestic violence in the community.

3. Strong Enforcement on seeking out Child Sex Predators, by having a Detective trained with SBI-ICATS, and Partnering with a company that takes these Tips and using A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) to locate the Sex Predators in seconds instead of it taking a human 4 hours. I want to remove these sex predators off our streets and Protect our children.

4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

I am 54 years old. I am young enough to continue to be the Sheriff of Carteret County and Serve the Citizens of Carteret for more than 10 years.

My opponent will be 63 should he win, at the time he takes Office.

5. Why should I vote for you?

My reason to run for Sheriff is solely to make it safer and better for all the citizens who live in Carteret County. I was born and raised in Carteret County, my family lives here, this is my home, and I just want to Protect it.

I want to help Save our elderly, save our children from Child Sex Predators, work to prevent Domestic Violence, save the drug addicts, by getting them the resources to return to society drug free. These are just a few of the many programs I will enact if elected. I want to advance the Carteret County Sheriff's Office, to make it one of the Best in the State of NC.

I will Lead by Faith and Enforce the Laws with Compassion.

Visit: [www.ShaneGuthrieforSheriff.Org](http://www.ShaneGuthrieforSheriff.Org) for more information on all my programs I will enact.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

Yes. I have personally Investigated Homicide cases, Breaking and Entering Cases, Drug Enforcement, responded and investigated thousands of Domestic calls. I have responded to Armed Robberies in progress, B&Es in Progress. I have worked many death cases; I have made thousands of arrests during my law enforcement career. I have also worked many traffic related crimes, which is a very small part of a Sheriff Deputy's responsibilities. I have worked as a Detention Officer, and School Resource Officer, Bailiff, Patrol Deputy, I have been a Domestic Violence Investigator, Special Response Team member, (AKA...S.W.A.T.), Civil Enforcement Deputy, Major Crimes Detective, and a Patrol Sergeant. I would personally want a Sheriff with the experience and knowledge to perform all the same Duties that is expected of a Deputy Sheriff. A Sheriff who has actually worked as a Deputy Sheriff, answered all the same calls, investigated the same crimes and worked all the same job that is required as a Sheriff, by statute. My opponent's 30 year career was working as a State Trooper. A State Trooper has important but very different responsibilities to public safety, but those responsibilities ends on the State Highways, this quote is directly from the NCSHP.GOV website; "The North Carolina Highway Patrol's primary mission is to reduce collisions and make the highways of North Carolina as safe as possible" A Sheriff's responsibilities is to investigate Homicides and other major crime investigations, conduct complex fraud investigations, perform complex forensic analysis of computers and cell phones, routinely write and execute Search Warrants, conduct computer internet crimes involving sexual exploitation of children, conduct sexual assault investigations, conduct cartel level drug investigations, A Sheriff is responsible for all of this and much, much more. I personally have done this job and have the experience and knowledge to do all of it.

Shane Guthrie

Candidate for Sheriff Carteret County

[www.ShaneGuthrieforSheriff.Org](http://www.ShaneGuthrieforSheriff.Org)

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## **John Nyberg - CARTERET COUNTY SHERIFF - Republican**

nyberg5@ec.rr.com

1. John Nyberg was born and raised in Raleigh and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University. He joined the State Highway Patrol in 1987 and retired in 2015 at the rank of Captain. For the last 10 years he has worked at the Carteret County Sheriff's Office and for the past 2 years has served as the Chief Deputy. John has been married to his wife of 35 years, Ann, and she is a retired elementary school teacher. Carteret County has been their home for the past 21 years and they raised their 3 children here. He got involved in many community sports activities coaching youth basketball, baseball and golf. His primary hobby is golf and also loves fishing.
2. My core personal beliefs were formed early in my life from church, my father and education. Faith, initiative, integrity, accountability and hard work are my core beliefs. The Bible and the Constitution are documents I hold in the highest regard.
3. My three top issues are the drug problem, Mental Health crisis and protecting our children. The drug problem continues to plague our families and communities. I intend to continue our approach of being firm with distributors and traffickers and helping low level offenders struggling with addiction. The mental health crisis in our country is also present in our county. I will find a way to bridge the gap between initial treatment and follow up counseling. I will continue to protect our children with School Resource Officers in schools and continue our efforts to remove child predators from our communities utilizing our Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) unit.
4. I see myself in 5 to 10 years leading a Sheriff's Office that continues to be transparent, professional and accountable to the citizens. I will work tirelessly to keep our Office one of the most respected in the state.
5. I have been in public service my whole adult life. Carteret County is my home and I will work with all our public safety partners to keep it safe. Together we can continue to build a county where families feel safe, businesses can thrive and every resident knows they matter.
6. My leadership qualities are extensive. I have supervised co-workers since 1999. Along with my Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, I successfully completed a semester long, graduate level course of study for Administrative officers offered by NC State University. I completed my last 8 years with the State Highway Patrol as a Troop Commander, overseeing 20 counties in eastern North Carolina, with 140 uniformed and civilian personnel, a radio communication center, troop vehicle garage and a radio technician shop. While at the Carteret County Sheriff's Office, I was the assistant administrator in the Detention Center for over 7 years. For the last several years I have served as the Chief Deputy and have overseen the day to day operations of all the divisions within the Office. I successfully completed the Chief Deputies Leadership Institute offered by the NC Sheriff's Association. This year is the third year I have worked with our hard working administrative assistants, Sheriff Buck and the County Manager on the Office budget.

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## Chip Hughes CRAVEN COUNTY SHERIFF Republican

1. Short biography (see bio attached)

2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

The Bible, The Federalist Papers, The US Constitution, The NC Constitution, The Handbook for Americans, Conquering Crisis, Extreme Ownership and The Dichotomy of leadership

3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

The biggest, cross-cutting issue is that the Sheriff's Office has to maintain public safety with fewer people, limited money, and growing demands from the community and courts -all while adapting to modern expectations around transparency, technology, and mental-health-oriented responses. Deputies are increasingly first responders to situations involving mental health crises, substance abuse, and homelessness -areas traditionally managed by social services. Handling these effectively with limited training and support resources is a broader challenge beyond just criminal enforcement.

4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

Continuing my public service as the duly elected Sheriff of Craven County.

5. Why should I vote for you?

Experience matters-especially when it comes to public safety. For more than seven years, I have had the honor of serving as your elected Sheriff, and during that time I have worked every day to keep our community safe, support our deputies, and be a Sheriff who is present, accountable, and accessible. Under my leadership, the Sheriff's Office has focused on professional, constitutional policing while building strong partnerships with our citizens, local agencies, and community organizations. We've worked to address crime proactively, improve training and equipment for our deputies, and manage taxpayer dollars responsibly-always putting public safety first. I believe in leading from the front, not from behind a desk. I know this county, I know its people, and I understand the unique challenges we face as a rural community. My experience allows me to make sound decisions during emergencies, guide the office through changing times, and ensure continuity and stability in law enforcement leadership.

This election is about trust, proven leadership, and results-not on-the-job training. I ask for your vote so I can continue the work we've started, protect our way of life, and keep our county a safe place to live, work, and raise a family.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

What Sets Me Apart as Your Sheriff

Proven Leadership, Not Promises

I am not seeking this office to learn on the job. I have served as your elected Sheriff for over seven years, leading the office through real-world challenges, critical incidents, and changing times. That experience brings stability, sound judgment, and confidence when it matters most.

Experience You Can Trust

I understand the complexities of running a modern Sheriff's Office-from managing budgets and personnel to overseeing jail operations, patrol, investigations, and court services. This experience ensures the office continues to run efficiently and professionally without disruption.

Steady, Common-Sense Decision Making

As Sheriff, I make decisions based on facts, fairness, and what's best for our community-not politics. I believe in enforcing the law constitutionally while treating every person with dignity and respect.

A Sheriff Who Is Present and Accountable

I lead from the front. I am visible in the community, accessible to citizens, and accountable for the actions of my office. When issues arise, I address them directly and transparently.

Strong Support for Deputies and Staff

I believe that a well-trained, well-equipped, and supported deputy is essential to public safety. I advocate for training, resources, and a positive work environment so our deputies can serve the public safely and effectively.

Deep Knowledge of Our Community

I know this county-its people, its challenges, and its values. As a rural community, we face unique public safety issues, and my leadership reflects an understanding of what works here, not one-size-fits-all solutions.

#### Focus on Long-Term Public Safety

I am committed to crime prevention, community partnerships, and responsible growth-ensuring we are prepared not just for today's challenges, but for the future.

(bio page)

#### SHERIFF CHIP HUGHES

##### CRAVEN COUNTY

Chip Hughes has served as the Sheriff-of Craven County, North Carolina since 2018. His promise of serving the community he lives in with enthusiasm, integrity, professionalism, and transparency continues to drive him every single day.

Chip Hughes started his public service career with the United States Air Force. He then joined the North Carolina State Highway Patrol where he became a Sergeant and served for 14 years. His work in law enforcement continued as an executive for a public safety technology company. With over 36 years experience in law enforcement, Sheriff Chip Hughes has every intention of continuing to serve this wonderful county with the skills and wisdom he has acquired over the years.

Chip Hughes has served the state of North Carolina and Craven County in many ways. A few of the ways he has served have been as Chairman of the Governor's Crime Commission. He is currently the Chairman of the North Carolina Sheriff's Association Legislative Committee as well as the North Carolina Sheriffs Association Representative on the State DWI Task Force. He is a member of the North Carolina Sheriff's Association, the National Sheriffs Association, and the Constitutional Sheriffs Association.

#### Boards, Commissions, Memberships, & Associations:

- United States Air Force, 3 years 9 months
- NC State Highway Patrol, 14 years
- Board of Trustees, Craven County Community College (current)
- Chairman, Gov. Pat McCrory's Task Force on Charter Schools (2013-2017)
- Gov. Pat McCrory's Crime Commission (2013-2017)
- Twin Rivers YMCA Board of Directors (2012-2016)
- Board of Directors, Craven Community College Foundation (2011-2017)
- Vice Chairman, Craven County ABC Board of Directors (2013-2013)
- Board Member, Highway 17 Association (2009-2013)
- Commissioner, Town of Trent Woods (2009-2013)
- Board of Directors, Coastal Carolina Regional Airport Authority (2010-2012)
- Elected Sheriff-in 2018
- Member, National Sheriff's Association
- Member, Constitutional Sheriffs Association
- Member, North Carolina Sheriffs Association
- Member, National Criminal Interdiction Association
- Member, North Carolina Sheriff's Association Education & Training Standards Commission
- Chairman, North Carolina Sheriffs Association Legislative Committee
- Representative, North Carolina Sheriff's Association State DWI Task Force
- Sheriff's Fellow, Claremont Institute
- Over 36 years of law enforcement experience

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## Calvin Williams CRAVEN COUNTY SHERIFF Republican

252-670-4362

I am an average citizen—a blue-collar worker and small business owner who spent most of my career as a heavy diesel mechanic. I've also had the privilege of teaching at Craven Community College's Volt Center, driven by a passion for the trade and a desire to share knowledge with others. My wife and I have long believed in service to our community. She served as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician, and I served as a volunteer Firefighter. Since 2016, we have also been active animal rescuers, specializing in special-needs dogs, including two rescues flown from Iraq in critical condition.

I am not a career politician or a career law enforcement officer. I am an average citizen with extensive management experience. Over the years, I have worked closely with law enforcement on multiple projects and developed friendships with many officers. I respect the badge—but I believe respect must be earned through transparency, accountability, and fairness. The role of Sheriff is not just about enforcement; it is about leadership, budgeting, and responsible management. That is where my experience matters most.

My core beliefs weren't formed in a classroom—they were formed on the job, in the shop, and in service to my community. I believe in hard work, accountability, and treating people fairly.

I'm guided by the Bible, the U.S. Constitution and the North Carolina Constitution, especially the idea that government exists to serve the people, not the other way around. I also believe strongly in transparency and personal responsibility—principles you learn quickly when you run a small business. If you don't do what you say you'll do, people stop trusting you, and your business fails.

Beyond that, my beliefs come from experience—working alongside law enforcement, serving as a volunteer firefighter, supporting EMS, and managing people and budgets. Those experiences taught me that leadership means setting clear expectations, protecting the public, and taking responsibility when something goes wrong.

I decided to run for Sheriff because the current administration has failed to deliver on its promises of transparency and accountability. Growing concerns are being raised not only by citizens, but also by deputies and staff within the Sheriff's Department, regarding secrecy, unfair treatment, and decisions made behind closed doors.

At a recent candidate forum, I was troubled by several misrepresentations made by the current Sheriff, particularly regarding drug enforcement and the K-9 unit. Claims were made that Craven County leads the state in drug seizures. According to State Bureau of Investigation data, that is not accurate. Counties leading fentanyl confiscation include Buncombe, Wake, Randolph, and Mecklenburg.

Even more concerning are the outcomes. Data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Craven County Health Department show opioid death rates in Craven County rose from 33.2 per 100,000 residents in 2018 to 89.0 per 100,000 in 2023—the highest rate in the state. These numbers speak louder than press releases highlighting a few arrests and seizures. Even more troubling are repeated overdoses inside the jail that have gone largely unaddressed, despite costly body scanners that have not proven to be an effective deterrent.

The Sheriff has also claimed credit for starting the K-9 unit, despite clear evidence the unit existed prior to his administration. Photographs from the Monette administration show both a K-9 handler and animal control officer present. I personally worked on the K-9 vehicles during that time. While expanding the unit is commendable, misrepresenting its history undermines trust.

These leadership failures have real consequences. Substance abuse treatment programs in the jail have been discontinued. Officer training partnerships with Craven Community College have been reduced. Promised collaborations with community, faith-based, and nonprofit organizations have quietly disappeared—while the opioid crisis continues to worsen.

As Sheriff, my priority would be rebuilding strong community engagement to confront the opioid crisis head-on. The statistics clearly show that enforcement alone is not the answer. Addiction is a disease, and fentanyl is not the only poison destroying lives. We must address this issue from every angle—prevention, treatment, accountability, and recovery—if we want lasting change. I have already begun conversations with local organizations to restore programs and funding for both Craven County citizens and those incarcerated. This includes a stronger, more effective re-entry program so individuals leaving jail have real access to resources— not empty promises.

Public safety depends on trust. The Sheriff's Department should be a resource the community turns to, not an institution people fear.

Financial oversight is another serious concern. Over the last three years, more than \$500,000 in additional funding has been approved for the Sheriff's Department—contributing to higher taxes—yet deputies still lack body cameras. Meanwhile, management drives new vehicles, and administrative salaries exceed those of experienced deputies. As Sheriff, I will conduct a thorough review of the budget to curb overspending and ensure funds are directed where they truly matter: frontline safety, accountability, and effective community programs.

In five to ten years, I want to be able to look people in the eye and say I kept my word. Whether that's as Sheriff or as a business owner, I want to be known as someone who showed up, did the work, and didn't forget where he came from. I'm not chasing a career in politics. I'm chasing results—safer communities, accountable leadership, and a department that works for the people, not itself.

I am not running to attack anyone. I am running to tell the truth. The best advice I have ever received is from Jesus Christ himself in Luke 12:2, "There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed". Craven County deserves leadership rooted in honesty, accountability, and fairness. I am an average citizen with grease on my hands and a firm belief in justice for all. With me, there will be no secrets and no favoritism. I ask you to seek the truth—and if you do, I believe you will stand with me. Vote for an average citizen and an honest Sheriff.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080597793667>

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## Michael C. Byrne NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 01 - Republican

Michael C. Byrne

PO BOX 97275

RALEIGH, NC 27624

Email: MICHAEL@MB4NC.COM

Phone: 9193246606

General Questions -

1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I have a combined 30 years of trial, appellate, and judicial experience. In almost 6 years as a NC Administrative Law Judge, I've authored almost 400 opinions. Nine were reviewed by the Court of Appeals and all were unanimously affirmed. I have never been reversed by the Court of Appeals. As a lawyer I personally did more than 20 cases in the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court and served as an amicus for multiple groups in others. Additionally, I litigated hundreds of trials, including 272 cases alone in the Office of Administrative Hearings, where I am now a judge. I am a lifelong registered Republican who was raised in North Carolina. I went to NC State and Campbell Law School. I live in Cary with my wife and our rescue dog, Tilda.

2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

The Constitution of North Carolina, Michael Barone's Our Country, and Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America.

3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

I cannot comment as a judicial candidate on matters that may come before me. However, I can share that while I am lifelong North Carolina Republican, there is no such thing as Democrat or Republican justice. I do not have a "side" when it comes to the law. Judges who take partisanship into account in their work undermine public trust and confidence in the fairness of the legal system. I apply the law equally and without fear or favor. I also have a passion for due process and fairness.

4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

Hopefully on the Court of Appeals!

5. Why should I vote for you?

I am experienced, conservative and fair. I also am the only primary endorsed Court of Appeals candidate by the National Association of Police Organizations (241,000 sworn officers and 1,000 police organizations nationwide), the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police (part of the nation's largest police fraternal organization) and the North Carolina Police Benevolent Association (NC's largest law enforcement organization). This combination of endorsements is unprecedented in a NC judicial primary. And I have more endorsements coming - so check my website for updates: <https://mb4nc.com/endorsements>.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

I have argued more than 20 cases in the Court of Appeals, and I can find no evidence that my opponent—in his entire career—did more than one.

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## **Steven Overby - CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 - Republican**

Steven Overby<soverby224@gmail.com>

### **Background & Community Involvement**

I am a lifelong resident of District 1 in Carteret County and the son of a retired law enforcement officer, which instilled in me a strong respect for public service, accountability, and community safety. Growing up in District 1 has given me a deep understanding of our district's history, values, and the challenges our community faces.

I am also a small business owner and a youth basketball coach in Carteret County—roles that keep me closely connected to local families, workers, and young people. Through business ownership, I understand firsthand how government decisions affect jobs, taxes, and economic opportunity. As a coach, I see the importance of safe communities, strong schools, and quality recreation spaces for our children.

My Christian faith guides every decision I make. It shapes my belief in servant leadership, fiscal responsibility, and standing up for what is right—even when it's not easy. I believe government exists to serve the people, not burden them, and I am running to ensure District 1 has a strong, principled voice focused on results, not rhetoric.

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### **2. What books, documents, principles, or sources form your core beliefs?**

The Holy Bible and the Constitution shape my core beliefs. They are rooted in my Christian faith, which guides my values, integrity, and decision-making. I believe in the principles of limited government, personal responsibility, fiscal discipline, and service to others. Government should be judged by outcomes, not promises—measured by whether it truly improves the lives of the people it serves.

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### **3. Top three issues I will address when elected**

#### **Managing Growth & Infrastructure**

District 1 is growing rapidly, and our roads, schools, and parks must keep pace. We need fully funded transportation projects and long-term strategic planning—including a new school in District 1—as well as expanded recreation facilities for our families.

#### **Sustainable Economic Development**

We must attract industries that offer livable wages so people can live and work here without long commutes. Strong infrastructure is essential to supporting workforce growth and long-term economic success.

#### **Enhancing Public Safety & Lowering the Tax Burden**

Instead of burdening property owners—especially those on fixed incomes—we should better utilize tourism and occupancy tax revenue to fund infrastructure, recreation, and public services. As we address the impacts of growth, we must prioritize EMS, police, and fire services to keep our communities safe.

### **4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?**

Five years from now, I see myself serving on the Board of County Commissioners, having fought successfully for the infrastructure projects our district needs, broken ground on a new school to serve our growing student population, and helped attract industries that provide livable wages. I want to look back and see tangible improvements in our quality of life.

Ten years from now, I hope to have established a track record of principled conservative leadership that put citizens first. I would hope to find new ways to be of service to our community, I'll always be guided by the same principles: limited government, fiscal responsibility, and ensuring citizens see real value for their tax dollars. Most importantly, I want to know I've been a voice for the people who never stopped listening and advocating for this community.

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### **5. Why should I vote for you?**

You should vote for me because I will be a consistent, conservative voice who puts people before politics. I bring real-world experience as a small business owner, a coach, and a lifelong resident who understands both the opportunities and pressures facing District 1. I will fight for sustainable growth, responsible spending, and policies that protect

families, strengthen our community, and respect taxpayers—guided by faith, accountability, and a commitment to results.

Above all, I understand that if elected, I work for you. I want to be your voice, and the only way I can succeed is by engaging with the people I serve—listening, then taking action.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

I'm the only native of District 1 in the race with a deep understanding of our history and its challenges. I don't just live here; this is home. Being the son of a retired law enforcement officer gives me unique insight into public safety needs.

Most importantly, I believe in genuine community engagement, not just during campaign season. I listen, and I act on what I hear. I'm running because our district deserves better, and I'm committed to being the conservative voice that fights for meaningful results—lower taxes, better services, economic opportunity, and quality of life improvements.

You can reach me at 910-554-6924 [electstevenoverby.com](http://electstevenoverby.com) or Facebook: Elect Steven Overby

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## **Bryan Nicklow CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 03 Republican**

### 1. Short biography – (word count 196)

Each County should have a good conspiracy minded Patriot on the Board of Commissioners.

I am competent and capable of voting on the typical functions of local government. However, I'll hit harder on MAGA, MAHA, MASA, and DOGE like issues.

Following my retirement from USMC after 22.5 years in 2007, I moved with my family to Carteret County. I bought and sold real estate till the market shifted in 2008, after which I started a successful property management company. Also, in 2010, my wife and I started two additional small businesses located and still operating in Indian Beach, NC. I have a BS in Electronic Systems Technology, and I am a member of Tactical Civics.

I strive for a more connected community within our county. This is our Jubilee year, and we must rededicate ourselves to the American Principles and Values that bore this great nation. However, we must use discernment in face of war levels of propaganda in order to avoid the traps perpetuated by the minority of subversives. Ultimately, we must remind each other of all our blessings and how it is a great time to be alive during this Golden Age of America.

### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

1. German 1800's Bible that I purchased for \$5.00 at a yard sale
2. The Money Masters by Patrick S.J. Carmack (Documentary)  
[www.themoneymasters.com](http://www.themoneymasters.com)

### 3. History of the Great American Fortunes by Gustavus Myers

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

1. I will vote to ban all electronic voting computers/tabulators/machines from county election processes.

Why: Due to a third party corporate contractor currently having unconstitutional and unaccountable control over our most important power as a sovereign.

2. I will vote against funding any program that has any language associated with DEI/CRT/ESG/SEL/Race based programs/LGBTQ+/Trans/green energy initiatives or other globalist laden agendas.

Why: Equal opportunity does not guarantee equal outcome, and local action against the failed globalist agendas equals national impact. Ultimately, unity among all people is brought forward without the incessant identity politics.

3. Vote on county growth that supports sovereigns of good moral character and that which strengthens family and enhances our county's culture.

Why: Often the focus of a county's growth is to "increase the tax base" without consideration for important quality of life issues. For example, I think our sovereigns would like to see something else other than more storage facilities, Vape shops, or fast food establishments. Connecting our culture does not necessarily have to be a brick and mortar establishment, but it should always consider strong families and strong culture in our community.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

I'll volunteer for this position as an elected official for one term. I'll support the establishment of a Citizen's Grand Jury and County Militia through a national group called Tactical Civics, whether I be elected or not.

### 5. Why should I vote for you?

I don't particularly desire this job. But, as in the past, I didn't desire to be in locations around the world, but I understood and carried out the mission accordingly, which I will do in this case as well. P.S. I am a non-combat Veteran.

### 6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

I am open to be proven wrong with information that sheds light on the truth. Otherwise, I use non-traditional sources for information, which sometimes rocks the established or otherwise agreed upon narratives. Challenging people's core beliefs can be controversial, and often the establishment can become "triggered" by my stance on issues. However, I will always listen and try to find common ground in resolving all challenging issues.

### 7. Church

Please show up for these most important mid-term elections for our Nation.

Grok: What percentage of church goers vote?

Religious Group

	2024 Turnout Percentage	Change from 2020
Self-identified Christians	56%	-8 points
Catholics	70%	+3 points
Protestants (overall)	59%	-3 points
Mainline Protestant	65%	-1 point
Pentecostal/charismatic	62%	No change
Evangelical church	59%	-6 points
Born-again Christians	58%	-6 points
Adults with a biblical view	67%	+3 points

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## **John Chittick CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 - Republican**

John Chittick<john@johnchittick.com>

General Questions -

### 1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I currently serve as Mayor of Bridgeton, where I've focused on responsible leadership, long-term infrastructure planning, and open communication with residents. Before that, I served eight years as a Bridgeton Town Commissioner and eight years on the Eastern Carolina Council, working with communities across Eastern North Carolina to strengthen infrastructure, support economic development, and protect the character of our towns and rural areas.

I'm a husband, a man of Christian faith, and the father of three U.S. Air Force Airmen, the son of an Airborne Ranger, and a proud grandfather of five. I grew up in a small town in Maine, where I learned the values of hard work, honesty, and looking out for your neighbors—values that still guide me today, as I have lived here in District 1 since 1997 both in Fairfield Harbour and Bridgeton.

### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

The principles of my life come from Biblical principles primarily taught/installed in me from my parents and grandparents with a strong dose of patriotism from my father and respect for our fellow man from my grandparents.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

The number one issue has to be the fiscal spending any government entity will do as it provides the funding for all services provided. Overspending will create a level of expected services that long term cash flow cannot sustain. Underspending allows county assets to deteriorate and citizens to be unprotected/under serviced. This requires a balance of taxation vs spending.

The next priorities would be first responder services and the school district. These issues are large budget items. How do we improve/maintain first responder services with ever increasing expenses, such as increasing the incentive to be volunteer firemen.

Requiring the school board to provide a balanced budget and long term planning to provide the necessary services to minimize wasted spending.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

In five to ten years I hope to provide guidance and leadership to the next generation of leaders.

### 5. Why should I vote for you?

I have already served in government service locally and provided the necessary conservative guidance/principles to improve the town of Bridgeton and will be able to turn the town over to new leadership in good shape.

### 6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

I have the proven conservative leadership in a public position.

Paid For by Friends for John Chittick

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## **Craig Lewis CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 - Republican**

### Short biography

I am Craig Lewis, and I am humbly asking for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Craven County as the next Commissioner of District One. I was born and raised in district one of Craven County. My family and I own a logging business, so I am no stranger to hard work and doing whatever it takes to get the job done! I am also passionate about education. I graduated from East Carolina University with honors, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with a minor in History. After several years of coaching and teaching, I felt a strong desire to return to the family logging business. I left education and became the third generation of Lewis's to log in Craven County.

### What books/documents form my core beliefs?

The Bible is the source of my core beliefs. My Christian faith and belief in the Bible is what creates my worldview. It is the foundation for every decision that I make.

### 3 top issues

1. Public safety should always be a primary issue in any area. This includes working with the sheriff's office and other law enforcement to help continue to keep Craven County safe and do whatever it takes to make it safer. Public safety also includes working with fire and EMS to make sure that they have the proper resources to adequately provide services to the citizens of the county.
2. Being a good steward of taxpayer money is one of the main jobs of a commissioner. I am a strong fiscal conservative that believes taxes should be low and that every dime of taxpayer money should be spent efficiently and wisely to best suit the needs of the citizens. To ensure that is the case, if elected, I will strive to be accountable and accessible to anyone that has a concern about the way their hard-earned money is being spent. Transparency is key.
3. Education is also an important issue for Craven County. I believe every parent should have a choice in how their tax dollars are spent when educating their children. I support school choice, but I also believe that we should work with the school board to make our public schools so excellent that they are the choice

### Where do I see myself in the future?

In the next 5-10 years, I hope to see myself doing my part to add value to this county, state, and great nation in whatever role I find myself!

### Why should you vote for me?

I will always push forward the conservative principles and world view that I believe this country was founded on! No one is perfect, but I will always vote my conscience and do what I believe is the right thing 100% of the time. I will always work with others and seek counsel on the things I need help with to ensure that I am making the best possible decision for Craven County.

### Qualities that distinguish me from other candidates

I believe my background in education as well as running a small business in the very volatile logging industry gives me a unique skill set that will enable me to be a great commissioner for Craven County.

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**Joshua D. Whitford CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01 Republican**

1. Short Biography - My name is Joshua Whitford, I am married to Lindsay Whitford and together we have two kids. I have been serving my community as a volunteer fireman for 25 years and have held various positions from chief to currently president. I am a career fireman with the city of New Bern Fire Rescue where I have been employed for 18 years. I currently serve on the Craven County Board of Adjustments, the Craven County Fireman’s Relief board and Craven County Fireman’s Association Honor Guard. I am a West Craven high graduate class of 2005 and hold an associate’s degree in Fire Protection Technology.
2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your personal beliefs? I am not much of a reader, so most of my principles and sources come from firsthand experiences that I have experienced, which are a result of my principles that I am running on. I also have heard firsthand from the citizens on the needs/ideas and thoughts that are affecting the district.
3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why? Public safety, with an extensive history in public safety, I think the continued support on a county level to the fire/ems, and sheriff’s departments needs to strengthen. I also believe that some of the fire departments need to look into a paid person during the daytime hours, due to staffing shortages in the volunteer world. I will also push to keep school resource officers in every school K-12. Transparency is my next issue to address. I believe as a commissioner that you should be open with the citizens and keep them updated on what is going on within the county and our district. Commissioner’s meetings are open to the public and are also aired live on Facebook and you tube. Closed session meetings are not open to the public. I believe that town hall meetings should be held with representatives of different levels be held periodically to answer questions and provide updates. My final issue is stormwater management, specifically related to the beaver management program. The county puts money towards this fund as far as removing beavers from blocking our waterways by building dams. I would like to see the county increase the amount of money that is paid to this contract company to remove the beavers, so this program can be expanded. By allowing our water to have a natural flow it not only helps homeowners from experiencing flooding in heavy rain or hurricanes, but it also helps our farmers from erosion and not having their crops flood.
4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future. I would like to still be a county commissioner in 5-10 years. It was not in my plan to become a career politician when I started this campaign. I want to continue serving on a district/county level just as I have for the past 25 years as a volunteer fireman.
5. Why should I vote for you? I am a fourth generation born and raised in district 1. I know this district from one side to the other and I have already been serving my district for 25 years, giving thousands of volunteer hours. I have extensive background in preparing line-item fire department county budgets, and course work in this field during obtaining my degree.
6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates? I have lived in district 1 for my entire 38 years. I know many citizens in district 1 on a personal level. I am also not just starting to serve my community as a commissioner; I have been serving for 25 years as a volunteer fireman.

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**E. T. Mitchell – CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 04 - Republican**

WITHDREW FROM THE RACE.

My “opponent” Guy Smith is superb, well qualified to represent District 4; I do not intend to split my District between two well qualified candidates. I am endorsing GUY SMITH for County Commissioner. While I cannot remove my name off the ballot, I am not seeking re-election.

We all talk about term limits (until it’s our seat), and we complain how younger candidates won’t step forward. I’m going to Walk the Talk. I’ve served two terms as a Commissioner, and Guy is a solid Republican - and a USMC Veteran - in his 40’s. I know Guy well, and I’m backing him for elected office.

I’d sure appreciate it if you would help me spread the word. Many thanks. R/ET

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## **Stephanie Krzich - CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01 - Republican**

Stephanie Krzich<stephaniekrzich@yahoo.com>

### 1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I'm Stephanie Krzich, the District 1 Carteret County School Board member. I'm running for re-election to keep a strong, conservative voice at the table.

I'm a mom of four boys, a wife, and an accountant. I've volunteered in our schools and for countless youth sports. I bring both a parent's and financial perspective to the Board—two viewpoints that matter when decisions affect children and taxpayers.

I'm a leader who listens. I'm focused on students; guided by conservative values.

### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

My core personal beliefs are informed by a combination of faith, foundational American principles, personal responsibility, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

They include:

- The Bible — as a source of moral guidance and values such as integrity, responsibility, compassion, and service to others.
  - The Purpose Driven Life
  - Experiencing God
- The United States Constitution
- Biblical Citizenship and Constitution Alive — for their focus on civic responsibility, and constitutional principles
- The HighWire with Del Bigtree, along with the perspectives of Dr. Larry Palevsky and Dr. Sherri Tenpenny — as part of engaging with a wide range of viewpoints on health policy and informed consent.
- Rich Dad Poor Dad and Gone Fishing Portfolio — for lessons on financial literacy, personal responsibility, and long-term planning.

Together, these sources shape my values while serving in public office, where my focus remains on students, families, transparency, and adherence to the law.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

During my service on the Board, I have advocated for and I will continue to advocate for 1) increased supplemental pay for our educators, bus drivers, and coaches, 2) for core academics, not gender ideology, and 3) for meaningful parental involvement.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

In five and ten years, I see myself continuing to serve my community through public service on the school board while also maintaining my career as an accountant.

Personally, I expect to be supporting my children as they move through important life stages, including college, career decisions, and adulthood.

### 5. Why should I vote for you?

I'm running for Election to keep a strong voice and conservative at the table. I'm the incumbent candidate; I've experience serving on the board. I'm truly a leader who listens. I ask questions, seek relevant experts' and educators' expertise, and I take my responsibility seriously. I'm focused on students, a strong advocate for educators and parents, and committed to doing what's right — even when it's not easy.

### 6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

I am the conservative incumbent candidate. I am proud of the work I have accomplished while serving on the school board. Experience matters, and my record reflects consistent advocacy for students, parents, and educators. I'm focused on students, guided by conservative values—faith, family, freedom, and personal and fiscal responsibility.

Have a good day,

Steph

920.372.3300

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## **Anne Scott, CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01 Republican**

Anne Scott<scottanne28584@gmail.com>

preferred email address: scottanne28584@gmail.com

Anne Scott, Candidate for Carteret County School Board, District 1

### 1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

My name is Anne Scott. I grew up in Anchorage, Alaska and moved to North Carolina to attend college at ECU in 1996. I graduated with a B.S. degree in Physics and met my husband, Jeffrey Scott. I furthered my Physics education at NCSU and then pursued a B.S. degree in Radiologic Science at UNC Chapel Hill. Upon graduation, I worked as a radiologic technologist for Duke University Sports Medicine, then worked from home as a writer of directed readings for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists while raising our young children.

My family moved to Carteret County in 2009 when my husband completed his duty in the U.S. Army. Since then, I have volunteered with the Sunday School program and Childcare Committee at Swansboro United Methodist Church, served as board member of the White Oak Elementary PTO for 9 years, the Croatan High School Parent Advisory Council, Athletics Boosters, and Band Boosters, neighborhood HOA Board, and many community outreach and fundraising committees. I have joyfully worked as a substitute teacher in Carteret County Schools since 2016. In addition, I have helped as an administrative assistant at my husband's dental practice in Cape Carteret. My hobbies are running, reading, and jigsaw puzzles.

### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

I am a Christian and follow the principles found in the Holy Bible. I believe there is one God who is loving and just and exists as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that all people are loved by God and that redemption of sins is available to all through faith in Jesus Christ.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

I think teacher pay, class size, and the selection of instructional materials are the top three issues I would like to address. The state of North Carolina needs to increase funding for teacher salaries so that our teachers can afford to live where they work. Many have to work second jobs to make ends meet while balancing large class sizes and the demands of their own families. Students learn better and are able to receive better feedback from their teachers with smaller class sizes. More teachers would allow better student to teacher ratios. I also feel that more attention needs to be placed on the relevance and quality of instructional materials selected for the classrooms. Encouraging teacher input for the purchase of materials could limit wasted spending and allow the purchase of more beneficial instructional programs or supplemental materials.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

In five years, I see myself continuing to serve the community as an advocate and volunteer for programs that improve the quality of life for families in Carteret County. I have helped with a committee that built a pedestrian path in Cape Carteret connecting neighborhoods to the library, school and town center and hope to expand that path to connect neighboring towns and nature trails in Cedar Point. Recently, I have served on a fundraising committee for the construction of the Carteret Health Care hospital in Cedar Point and know there will be ongoing needs associated with its growth. I will continue to volunteer in our schools and hope to establish an affordable before and after school care program that offers tutoring for our students.

In ten years, I hope to have collaborated with established organizations, like Carteret County Parks and Recreation, to offer affordable programs with transportation for health and wellness in Western Carteret County. Children and elderly adults especially need better transportation options to access facilities where these services are offered. I also hope to be working with retired educators to offer tutoring and enrichment programs at these sites.

### 5. Why should I vote for you?

I have proven my dedication to the community, schools, and especially students through 16 years of volunteering and teaching in Carteret County. I will continue to strive for responsible spending and distribution of resources for all of our schools.

### 6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

I am actively engaged in the arts, athletics, and academic programs in Carteret County Schools. I love working with students of all ages and stages from pre-Kindergarten to high school graduates. I am also passionate about supporting

our teachers and advocate for them to have a healthy work-life balance. I am respectful of our school board members, school administrators, and understand the importance of working together to make positive changes in our school system.

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## Tracy Jacques Derby CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 06 - Republican

Email: TJDERBYNC@GMAIL.COM

Phone: 2526175961

### 1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I was born at Cherry Point, attended Havelock School System, and know District 6.

I had a 37-year career with the DoD beginning at FRC-East as a Computer Programmer and ending in retirement as a Program Manager in Washington DC. As Program Manager I was responsible for managing and providing oversight on programs worth billions of dollars, as well as reporting budgets to Congressional and Senate committees. We need capable people on the school board to oversee financial obligations; I am that person.

My educational background is Bachelors from UNC-W in Business Management and Computer Science, Masters from USC in Systems Management, and Masters Certificate from GWU in Program Management. I attended Capella University for 3 years taking doctorate level courses in Organizational behavior and am a Program Management Professional.

Currently, I am a parttime Workforce Development instructor at Craven Community College – Havelock. I volunteer weekly at Colonial Capital Humane Society and am an active member of the Lions Club helping with free child eye screening. I volunteer for turtle watch on Core Banks, assist with local community events, and participate in community events such as Partners in Education, the Havelock Band, Habitat for Humanity, and Religious Community Services.

### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

The initial source for my core personal beliefs were family members. My grandfather started scouting in Carteret, Craven, and Pamlico counties and taught me basic survival skills and environmental awareness while primitive camping. My father, a Sgt.Maj. in the Marine Corps taught me strong patriotism, firm kindness, and people skills. My mom, a homemaker with a creative flair making clothes, created a cake business and was the faith leader in our home. My core beliefs were established with a strong conservative foundation, belief in God and a solid work ethic. At 13, I was biking a daily paper route and babysitting, later helping at fundraisers, volunteering at soup kitchens, and distributing firewood and food for needy families. I am a lifetime learner, volunteer, Christian, and firm believer that this world is a better place because of this great country.

Documents that have formed my core personal beliefs are the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but primarily I enjoyed the letters and notes written by our great founders. One of my favorite experiences was going behind the scenes at places like Mount Vernon, Monticello, and University of Virginia to read the personal writings of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and others. Their intellect and insight to look into our republic's future and incorporate checks and balances is amazing.

Books also formed my core personal beliefs. The Bible is my foundation and I subscribe to daily scripture. Proverb 22:6 is especially appropriate to Board of Education, "Train up a child in a way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Multiple leadership programs I attended; such as The Executive Leadership Program through USDA and Senior Development Programs through DoD, introduced me to leadership styles, self-development work, and personality tests like Meyers-Briggs. Through these programs I studied books such as John C. Maxwell's "360 Degree Leader"; John P. Kotter's "Leading Change", "That's not how we do it here!", and "Sense of Urgency"; Stephen R. Covey's "The Speed of Trust", "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and "The 8th Habit. I am a prolific reader. Lately, I have been reading historical fiction because if the topic interests me, I pursue it further to research more details. One example is "Rose Code" by Kate Quinn, which had me researching the Enigma Machine and WWII decoders. I believe that seeking knowledge and wisdom can transform one's life. By making better informed choices one's personal growth and self-improvement will follow.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

The first issue to address is assuring financial accountability. This is an area where my experience as a Program Manager overseeing billions of dollars in DoD and Veterans Affairs contracts for projects and long-term programs would benefit Craven County Schools. I addressed major inefficiencies within the federal government and would like to use these skills and experiences to assist with the Craven County Schools' budget. School boards are important and in charge of their

county school district's financials and the hiring of important positions such as Superintendent. There are current opportunities to tap my knowledge and experience on major projects.

The second and third issues are interrelated. If we make learning and teaching exciting for both students and educators, improvements in education will follow. Solutions to make learning exciting are multifaceted, as everyone's strengths, abilities, and personal interests differ. We have a diverse population in Craven County and what makes school interesting and exciting to one student will differ from another. We should examine expanding Community College offerings to our high school students beyond college preparation, such as offering classes in the trade at VOLT center, promote volunteer and job opportunities for students, provide mentorship opportunities, sponsor career days, and partner with local entrepreneurs, corporate and government workers to inform and motivate our next generation in becoming productive adults.

School needs to be a place where educators, volunteers, and students want to be. I believe by expanding opportunities and showing students real-life examples of people that have achieved greatness, the majority of students will improve their focus and make better use of their school experience. When students know what can be achieved and have the support to help them on their journey, they will have a better chance to achieve their goals.

4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

Continuing to volunteer, teach at Craven Community College, mentor others, and help my community.

5. Why should I vote for you?

Voters should consider voting for Tracy Derby because I will act in the best interest of the students, educators, and the community. Taxpayer's money should be spent with care and accountability while providing quality education.

Our students are our future and a strong foundation will help achieve their goals. My extensive experiences, knowledge, education, and willingness to dedicate my time would be a valuable asset to the Craven County Board of Education.

6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

My extensive experience overseeing large projects, leading teams to accomplish short and long-term goals, and education make me well suited to the position as Craven County Board of Education.

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## **Lauren Riggs Kitzinger CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 06 -Republican**

General Questions -

### 1. Short biography – (200 words or less, please)

I have lived in Craven County for most of my life and proudly call it home. I am a product of Craven County Schools - the very district I now serve - which gives me a deep appreciation for our diverse community and a firsthand understanding of the importance of strong public education. I graduated with a BSBA, summa cum laude, from North Carolina Wesleyan College, reflecting my commitment to hard work, discipline, and lifelong learning. My connection to this school district is both professional and personal. I am the mother of three sons who are currently enrolled in our schools, as well as two step-sons who have previously graduated. This dual perspective allows me to see the real-world impact of board decisions in our classrooms, homes, and community. I am deeply invested in Craven County Schools and am committed to ensuring our schools remain safe, strong, and focused on student success for years to come.

### 2. What books/documents/principles/sources form your core personal beliefs?

My core beliefs are shaped less by ideology and more by responsibility - first as a mother, and then as a public servant. I believe strongly in parental rights, personal accountability, and idea that schools exist to educate, not to replace families.

I draw guidance from foundational documents such as the US Constitution and the principles of limited government, local control, and fiscal responsibility. I believe decisions are best made closest to the people they affect, which is why I value school boards that listen to parents, teachers, and their community.

As a Christian, my faith guides my values and informs how I serve others - with humility, integrity, and respect. It reinforces the importance of truth, compassion, and stewardship, and reminds me that leadership is about service, not power.

As both a parent and an elected official, common sense, transparency, and a focus on student outcomes guide my decisions more than any single book (besides the Bible). My goal is to put students first, and ensure our schools prepare children to be capable, informed, and responsible adults.

### 3. What are the top three issues you want to address and why?

The three most important issues I want to continue to address are academic outcomes, parental trust, and school safety. First, we must stay focused on strong academic fundamentals. Our students deserve an education that prioritizes reading, writing, math, and critical thinking, so they leave us prepared for college, careers, or the military. Improving outcomes means using data responsibly, supporting effective instruction, and ensuring classroom time is focused on learning.

Second, rebuilding and maintaining trust with parents and the community is critical. Schools work best when families are respected, informed, and heard. Transparency, communication, and honoring parental involvement strengthens our schools and leads to better decisions for students.

Third, school safety is non-negotiable. Parents should feel confident that their children are safe at school each day. That includes maintaining secure facilities, supporting staff training, and working closely with law enforcement and first responders. A safe learning environment is essential for student success.

Addressing these three areas helps ensure our schools remain accountable, focused on students, and aligned with the values of the families they serve.

### 4. Where do you see yourself five and ten years in the future?

In five years, I hope to still be serving our community in a meaningful way, whether on the school board or in another capacity that allows me to advocate for students, families, and educators. My goal is to help ensure our district is on a stable path - with improving academic outcomes, safe schools, and strong community trust.

In ten years, I see myself continuing to give back, guided by the same values that led me to public service in the first place: faith, family, and responsibility. Whatever my role, I want to be someone who has helped leave our schools stronger than I found them and who has modeled service over politics.

I don't view public service as a stepping stone, but as a responsibility. Success to me is knowing I listened, worked hard, and made decisions with students and families at the center, even when they were difficult, while remaining accountable to the community that entrusted me with this role.

## 5. Why should I vote for you?

You should vote for me because I bring steady leadership, common sense, and a proven commitment to putting students first. I'm a parent, a Christian, and an engaged member of this community, and I approach every decision with responsibility to families and taxpayers in mind.

During my time on the board, I've focused on supporting policies that strengthen classroom instruction, respect parental involvement, and use public funds responsibly. I listen, I prepare, and I work collaboratively, even when conversations are difficult.

I'm not interested in politics for its own sake. I'm committed to service, accountability, and making decisions based on what is best for our students and educators - not trends or outside pressure. If you value steady leadership, local control, and a board member who shows up, listens, and does the work thoughtfully, I would be honored to earn your vote.

## 6. Are there qualities that distinguish you from other candidates?

What distinguishes me from the other candidate is my combination of experience, steadiness, and perspective as a parent. I'm not new to the work - I understand how the work is to be done, as well as how board decisions affect classrooms, families, and budgets. I approach those decisions thoughtfully rather than reactively.

I'm willing to ask hard questions, listen carefully, and take the time to understand issues before voting. I value collaboration, but I'm also comfortable standing firm when necessary to protect students, respect parents, or be responsible with taxpayer dollars.

As a mother and a Christian, my leadership is grounded in service, accountability, and integrity. I focus on long-term outcomes rather than the short-term politics, and I believe trust is earned through consistency, transparency, and follow-through.

Ultimately, I bring a practical, community-centered approach - one that puts students first, respects families, supports educators, and keeps decision-making local. That balance of experience, values, and steady leadership sets me apart.

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## The questionnaire was sent to the following individuals

Robert Colon	US SENATE	Democrat
Roy Cooper	US SENATE	Democrat
Justin E. Dues	US SENATE	Democrat
Daryl Farrow	US SENATE	Democrat
Orrick Quick	US SENATE	Democrat
Marcus W. Williams	US SENATE	Democrat
Donald M. (Don) Brown	US SENATE	Republican
Richard Dansie	US SENATE	Republican
Margot Dupre	US SENATE	Republican
Thomas Johnson	US SENATE	Republican
Michele Morrow	US SENATE	Republican
Elizabeth A. Temple	US SENATE	Republican
Michael Whatley	US SENATE	Republican
Asa Buck	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01	Republican
Laurie Buckhout	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01	Republican
Bobby Hanig	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01	Republican
Eric Rouse	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01	Republican
Ashley-Nicole Russell	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01	Republican
Shane Guthrie	CARTERET COUNTY SHERIFF	Republican
John Nyberg	CARTERET COUNTY SHERIFF	Republican
Chip Hughes	CRAVEN COUNTY SHERIFF	Republican
Calvin Williams	CRAVEN COUNTY SHERIFF	Republican
Michael C. Byrne	NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 01	Republican
Matt Smith	NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 01	Republican
Christine Marie Walczyk	NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 03	Democrat
James Weldon Whalen	NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 03	Democrat
Steven Overby	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01	Republican
David Quinn	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01	Republican
Bryan Nicklow	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 03	Republican
Jimmy Paylor	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 03	Republican
Chris Chadwick	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 06	Republican
Kane Gillikin	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 06	Republican
John Chittick	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01	Republican
Craig Lewis	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01	Republican
Joshua D. Whitford	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 01	Republican
E. T. Mitchell	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 04	Republican
Guy D. Smith	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 04	Republican
Denny Bucher	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 07	Republican
Greg Muse	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 07	Republican (No Email)
Jerry Jones	MOREHEAD CITY MAYOR	
Lee Anthony Stiles	MOREHEAD CITY MAYOR	(No Email)
Stephanie Krzich	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01	Republican
Anne Scott	CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 01	Republican
Tracy Jacques Derby	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 06	Republican
Lauren Riggs Kitzynger	CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 06	Republican