



For Your County

2022 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Burke County

For more information about C.P.R. Inc., please go to our website www.cprforyourcounty.org. The information contained in this document is for informational purposes. The information was obtained directly from the candidates. We have done our best to represent the information as accurately as possible.



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Introduction

Christian Perspective Representatives Inc. is a cooperative group of volunteers from churches who stand in unison for Biblical values and Constitutional rights, support and affirm human dignity, and value all people.

C.P.R., Inc. began in 2021 as a nonpartisan group to circumvent the loss of freedoms of our children, parents, and employees in public schools and institutions throughout our state and nation. Since we believe there is a potential for topics such as sexuality, gender identify, and extreme theories to be taught to our children in harmful and potentially damaging ways, we want to be part of the solution.

C.P.R. Inc. operates strictly on a volunteer basis. No one involved with C.P.R. receives any type of compensation.

C.P.R. does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party. This questionnaire is being distributed electronically through our website, mainstream and social media, supporting churches, and other means. We have produced a questionnaire for: (1) Burke County District Judge and (2) Burke County Commissioner.

The purpose of our questionnaire is to inform and educate voters of each candidate's position on a variety of general topics that are relevant to C.P.R.'s mission. As a faith-based organization, the questionnaire was designed to be distributed through Churches where the topics of the questions are of the utmost interest to a Christian voter.

Questionnaire Information

The information received from the questionnaire came directly from the candidates themselves. C.P.R. asked the questions in a multiple choice format with the option to elaborate on the response with a limit of 920 characters. To ensure the integrity of the questionnaire, candidate answers are published verbatim. No edits for grammar, spelling, etc. were made to the candidate's answers. An attempt was made to contact each candidate inviting them to respond to the questionnaire. Candidate responses are presented by office and then alphabetical order by last name. If a response was not submitted the publication will state "Did Not Respond."

Burke County District Judge Questionnaire

- 1.) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. If Yes, please explain.
- 2.) Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 3.) Do you have previous public service/community service experiences? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 4.) The loss of local control in government is too high a price to pay in exchange for federal dollars. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 5.) Should local law enforcement funding remain the same, decrease, or increase? Remain the same, Decrease, Increase, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 6.) Do you support the National School Board Association's characterization of parents who speak out at school board meetings as "domestic terrorists"? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 7.) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? Parents, Teachers, School Boards, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 8.) Should there be community participation in law enforcement? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 9.) Should rehabilitation programs require drug testing? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 10.) Do you support creating an option to charge low-level drug possession as a misdemeanor rather than a felony? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Burke County Commissioner Questionnaire

- 1.) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. If Yes, please explain.
- 2.) Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 3.) The loss of local control in government is too high a price to pay in exchange for federal dollars. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 4.) As a representative, would you keep the local law enforcement funding the same, decrease funding, or increase funding? Remain the same, Decrease funding, Increase funding, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 5.) If elected, would supporting local law enforcement be a high priority for you? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 6.) Do you support the National School Board Association's characterization of parents who speak out at school board meetings as "domestic terrorists"? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 7.) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? Parents, Teachers, School Boards, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 8.) Schools should be allowed to require COVID vaccinations? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 9.) Do you support schools having armed resource officers? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
- 10.) Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now enjoyed in the county? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Burke County District Judge- District 25 Seat 08

Scott D. Conrad (R)

Did Not Respond

Steve B. Potter (D)

Did Not Respond

Burke County Commissioner

Randy Burns (R)

- 1.) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. If Yes, please explain.
No.
- 2.) Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
Agree.
- 3.) The loss of local control in government is too high a price to pay in exchange for federal dollars. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
Agree.
- 4.) As a representative, would you keep the local law enforcement funding the same, decrease funding, or increase funding? Remain the same, Decrease funding, Increase funding, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
Increase funding.
- 5.) If elected, would supporting local law enforcement be a high priority for you? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
Yes.
- 6.) Do you support the National School Board Association's characterization of parents who speak out at school board meetings as "domestic terrorists"? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
No.
- 7.) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? Parents, Teachers, School Boards, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
Parents.
- 8.) Schools should be allowed to require COVID vaccinations? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
No.
- 9.) Do you support schools having armed resource officers? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
Yes.
- 10.) Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now enjoyed in the county? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.
No.

Phil Smith (R)

- 1.) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. If Yes, please explain.**
No.
- 2.) **Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Agree.
- 3.) **The loss of local control in government is too high a price to pay in exchange for federal dollars. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Agree.
- 4.) **As a representative, would you keep the local law enforcement funding the same, decrease funding, or increase funding? Remain the same, Decrease funding, Increase funding, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Increase funding. I would increase it as much as possible and still be fiscally responsible.
- 5.) **If elected, would supporting local law enforcement be a high priority for you? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Yes.
- 6.) **Do you support the National School Board Association's characterization of parents who speak out at school board meetings as "domestic terrorists"? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
No. Parents wanting to be involved and having a say in their child's education are NOT terrorists, however, with a remark like that the National School Board Association just might be considered a domestic terrorist.
- 7.) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? Parents, Teachers, School Boards, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Parents. Parents pay the taxes and elect school board members to hire administration and classroom educators and build the schools, so in anyone's estimation the parents should have a huge amount of input in the goings on in public education.
- 8.) **Schools should be allowed to require COVID vaccinations? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
No.
- 9.) **Do you support schools having armed resource officers? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Yes.
- 10.) **Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now enjoyed in the county? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
No. NO, NO, a thousand times NO!

Steve W. Starnes (D)

1.) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. If Yes, please explain.
No.

2.) Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Disagree. While I do believe that human life begins at conception I do not think that a woman's Constitutionally Guaranteed Freedom of Choice should be abridged by any Governmental Body. Since the United States Supreme Court has overturned Roe vs. Wade, thus shifting jurisdiction of this matter to the states, I do not believe that any State or County Legislative Body should pass any laws or ordinances that restricted the ability of any woman to seek and obtain a abortion if she so chooses. As for the abortion procedures themselves I believe that they should only be performed in the FIRST trimester unless the woman's life is in jeopardy. I also believe that the Healthcare Professionals should be held criminally liable for providing the legal abortion services.

3.) The loss of local control in government is too high a price to pay in exchange for federal dollars. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Disagree. The Federal and State Governments have passed many laws that require local jurisdictions to pay at least a portion of many of the mandates. In order to provide the necessary improvements Burke County needs such as updating much of our infrastructure, providing much needed extra funds for Law Enforcement, Mental Health, and address homelessness and the substance abuse problems in the County we need to take full advantage of the Federal Funds that are made available to the County. I do not believe that we would lose local control as to how these funds are allocated and/or used as long as we remained in compliance with the law governing those funds.

4.) As a representative, would you keep the local law enforcement funding the same, decrease funding, or increase funding? Remain the same, Decrease funding, Increase funding, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Increase funding. I fully support increasing the funding for Law Enforcement in Burke County. The Sheriff's Department needs those additional dollars to purchase the most modern equipment, provide the most update training for the staff and to increase the salaries of the Department's Staff for that best best and the brightest in the field are recruited and stay in Burke County. The Department also needs additional funding to help eliminate the drug trafficking problem in the Country.

5.) If elected, would supporting local law enforcement be a high priority for you? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Yes. Supporting Law Enforcement is one of my top three priorities.

6.) Do you support the National School Board Association's characterization of parents who speak out at school board meetings as "domestic terrorists"? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

No. The United States Constitution guarantees every citizens the right of free speech. These concerned parents have that right and should not be labeled anything other than a "concerned citizen", as long as they do not advocate violence or harm of any sort toward in person, group or institution.

7.) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? Parents, Teachers, School Boards, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Parents. Parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their children. However, it does "take a village". Each of us has a responsibility to help with the education of the children. We must join forces and help the teachers, administrations others in the schools to provide quality unbiased education for our children. Too often elected leaders pass laws governing the education of our children that actually ties the hands of the trained professionals who have been charged with

providing education for our children. I believe that while certain standards should be maintained the Government at any levels should not tell these educators what they should teach beyond the BASICS or how to teach it.

8.) Schools should be allowed to require COVID vaccinations? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Yes. The State already requires that children receive a variety of vaccinations before they can attend out public schools. I see not legitimate reason why the COVID vaccination shouldn't be among those required.

9.) Do you support schools having armed resource officers? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Yes. In light of the many mass shooting in schools across the Country I feel it would bring another layer of protection for our children while the are in school.

10.) Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now enjoyed in the county? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.

Yes. While I am a firm believer in the right to bear arms I do believe that local ordinances should be able to restrict who can purchase weapons and to ban the sell of high powered assault weapons that are not designed to be used for sports such as hunting or competitive shooting. I feel that weapons likes the AK-47 or R-15, high capacity magazines, kits that can convert semi automatic weapons into automatic weapons, and armour piercing bullets should be banned for civilian purchases. Those should only be available to Law Enforcement or the Military.

Kyle Whisnant (D)

- 1.) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. If Yes, please explain.**
No.
- 2.) **Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Refuse to Answer.
- 3.) **The loss of local control in government is too high a price to pay in exchange for federal dollars. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Refuse to Answer.
- 4.) **As a representative, would you keep the local law enforcement funding the same, decrease funding, or increase funding? Remain the same, Decrease funding, Increase funding, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Remain the same. I will say remain the same for now but until I am on the board, I need to see where the funding is going to see if increases are possible. I would not decrease funding.
- 5.) **If elected, would supporting local law enforcement be a high priority for you? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Yes.
- 6.) **Do you support the National School Board Association's characterization of parents who speak out at school board meetings as "domestic terrorists"? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Refuse to Answer. There is no ultimate responsibility in education. It is a combination of all listed, among others.
- 7.) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? Parents, Teachers, School Boards, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Refuse to Answer.
- 8.) **Schools should be allowed to require COVID vaccinations? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Refuse to Answer.
- 9.) **Do you support schools having armed resource officers? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Yes.
- 10.) **Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now enjoyed in the county? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional Elaboration.**
Yes. I believe there needs to be practical, common sense legislation when it comes to firearms. I think it needs to be harder for the wrong people to obtain firearms. I do not want to take away any upstanding citizen's firearms but I do not believe the general public needs assault rifles and extended capacity magazines. We can come to a reasonable solution in this matter.

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