



For Your County

**2024 Election
Candidate Questionnaire
-McDowell County-**

For additional details regarding C.P.R. Inc., visit our website at www.cprforyourcounty.org. The content in this document is provided for informational purposes and has been directly sourced from the candidates. We have made diligent efforts to present 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) McDowell County Board of Education and (2) McDowell County Board of Commissioners.

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 responses gathered from the questionnaire were provided directly by the candidates themselves. C.P.R. utilized a multiple-choice format for the questions, offering candidates the option to expand on their responses within a 950-character limit. Upholding the questionnaire's integrity, candidate answers are presented verbatim, without any modifications for grammar or spelling. Each candidate was contacted in an attempt to encourage their participation using the contact information obtained from the North Carolina State Board of Elections website.

If a candidate did not submit a response, the publication will indicate "Did Not Respond." In cases where a candidate replied via email, telephone, etc., but opted not to participate, the publication will note "Refused to Respond." The party affiliation of each candidate is listed beside their name: (D) for Democrat, (L) for Libertarian, (R) for Republican, (U) for Unaffiliated.

Board of Education 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) Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 3) Before students are taught courses such as Comprehensive Sex Ed (CSE), do you agree that parents must opt-in with written parental permission? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 4) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? School Boards, Teachers, Parents, State Government, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 5) I support Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, slogans, and/or training for students, teachers, and/or school staff. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 6) I do not believe school choice will improve educational opportunities for children in poor performing school districts? Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 7) I believe a detailed dress code policy should be firmly enforced by the administration, with support from the superintendent at all schools. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 8) Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 9) I support policies and implementation of the Parents Bill of Rights (SB49). Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 10) As a representative, would you support Critical Race Theory type curriculum being used in the public schools? Support, Do not Support, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.

Board of Commissioners 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) Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death? Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 3) I support counties having a Pro Life Resolution. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 4) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools? School Boards, Teachers, Parents, State Government, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 5) I support county tax dollars and/or grants to pay for Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) training for students and teachers/school staff. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 6) I support implementing Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, or slogans, for any local public entity. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 7) As a representative, how would you handle local law enforcement funding? Increase Funding, Decrease Funding, Keep the Same, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 8) Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 9) I support allowing public school students to participate in athletic competition based on the gender with which they identify instead of biological sex. Agree, Disagree, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.
- 10) Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now applied in the county? Yes, No, Refuse to Answer. Optional elaboration.

McDowell County Board of Education

Marion District

Greg Barksdale (R)

- 1) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct?**

Response: No.

- 2) **Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death?**

Response: Yes.

- 3) **Before students are taught courses such as Comprehensive Sex Ed (CSE), do you agree that parents must opt-in with written parental permission?**

Response: Yes.

- 4) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?**

Response: Parents. Parents must be involved and should collaborate with the teachers, and ultimately, should have a say in what their children are being taught.

- 5) **I support Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, slogans, and/or training for students, teachers, and/or school staff.**

Response: Disagree. DEI is very divisive. Equity is not equality. Equality gives students equal opportunities. What the student and parent does with that opportunity is up to him or her. When you decide to give more to one child than you do another, you are not helping that child. You are teaching that child that they will achieve their goals by always getting a break. They expect it. Meanwhile, other children who work very hard are passed up. Merit should be focus. Work hard and achieve your goals. DEI breeds mediocrity.

- 6) **I do not believe school choice will improve educational opportunities for children in poor performing school districts?**

Response: Disagree. I believe that parents should have the option to move their child out of a poor performing school into a school of their choice. It is about doing what is best for the child, not the system.

- 7) **I believe a detailed dress code policy should be firmly enforced by the administration, with support from the superintendent at all schools.**

Response: Agree.

- 8) **Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries.**

Response: Disagree. When a book is so explicit that it cannot be read aloud during a school board meeting, then THAT should tell you all you need to know. These books have no place in our school libraries and purchased with tax payers money. Anyone who has purchased these books for a school should be held accountable.

- 9) **I support policies and implementation of the Parents Bill of Rights (SB49).**

Response: Agree.

- 10) **As a representative, would you support Critical Race Theory type curriculum being used in the public schools?**

Response: Do not support. Critical race theory has become an immensely popular idea among many in the academic world, and some of its core tenants have made their way into countless classrooms in virtually every state in the country. This is teaching racism. You are dividing children at an early age by teaching one group of children that they are oppressed, and the other group is the oppressor. All this does is create a negative

environment where core learning is not possible and behavioral problems become the primary focus.

Donnie Suttles (R)

- 1) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct?**
Response: No.
- 2) **Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death?**
Response: Yes.
- 3) **Before students are taught courses such as Comprehensive Sex Ed (CSE), do you agree that parents must opt-in with written parental permission?**
Response: Yes.
- 4) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?**
Response: School boards.
- 5) **I support Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, slogans, and/or training for students, teachers, and/or school staff.**
Response: Disagree.
- 6) **I do not believe school choice will improve educational opportunities for children in poor performing school districts?**
Response: Disagree.
- 7) **I believe a detailed dress code policy should be firmly enforced by the administration, with support from the superintendent at all schools.**
Response: Agree.
- 8) **Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries.**
Response: Disagree.
- 9) **I support policies and implementation of the Parents Bill of Rights (SB49).**
Response: Agree.
- 10) **As a representative, would you support Critical Race Theory type curriculum being used in the public schools?**
Response: Do not support.

West Marion District

Paul Baker (R)

- 1) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct?**

Response: No.

- 2) **Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death?**

Response: Yes.

- 3) **Before students are taught courses such as Comprehensive Sex Ed (CSE), do you agree that parents must opt-in with written parental permission?**

Response: Yes.

- 4) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?**

Response: Parents.

- 5) **I support Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, slogans, and/or training for students, teachers, and/or school staff.**

Response: Disagree.

- 6) **I do not believe school choice will improve educational opportunities for children in poor performing school districts?**

Response: Disagree.

- 7) **I believe a detailed dress code policy should be firmly enforced by the administration, with support from the superintendent at all schools.**

Response: Agree.

- 8) **Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries.**

Response: Disagree.

- 9) **I support policies and implementation of the Parents Bill of Rights (SB49).**

Response: Agree

- 10) **As a representative, would you support Critical Race Theory type curriculum being used in the public schools?**

Response: Do not support.

North Cove District

Jimmy Allison (R)

- 1) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct?**

Response: No.

- 2) **Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death?**
Response: Yes.
- 3) **Before students are taught courses such as Comprehensive Sex Ed (CSE), do you agree that parents must opt-in with written parental permission?**
Response: Yes.
- 4) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?**
Response: School boards.
- 5) **I support Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, slogans, and/or training for students, teachers, and/or school staff.**
Response: Disagree.
- 6) **I do not believe school choice will improve educational opportunities for children in poor performing school districts?**
Response: Disagree.
- 7) **I believe a detailed dress code policy should be firmly enforced by the administration, with support from the superintendent at all schools.**
Response: Agree.
- 8) **Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries.**
Response: Disagree.
- 9) **I support policies and implementation of the Parents Bill of Rights (SB49).**
Response: Agree.
- 10) **As a representative, would you support Critical Race Theory type curriculum being used in the public schools?**
Response: Do not support.

Terry English (D)
Refused to Respond

Old Fort District

Derrick McGinnis (R)

- 1) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct?**
Response: No.
- 2) **Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death?**

Response: Yes. Life is a gift from our Creator God and we are created in the image of God. It is our duty to defend life at every stage.

- 3) **Before students are taught courses such as Comprehensive Sex Ed (CSE), do you agree that parents must opt-in with written parental permission?**

Response: Yes. Parents do not surrender their rights by sending their children to school. The children belong to the parents, not to the state.

- 4) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?**

Response: Parents.

- 5) **I support Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, slogans, and/or training for students, teachers, and/or school staff.**

Response: Disagree. I will not support any agenda, no matter how appealing the language may be, if it at its core it is ultimately anti American and anti-conservative.

- 6) **I do not believe school choice will improve educational opportunities for children in poor performing school districts?**

Response: Disagree.

- 7) **I believe a detailed dress code policy should be firmly enforced by the administration, with support from the superintendent at all schools.**

Response: Agree.

- 8) **Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries.**

Response: Disagree. We must have decency in education. Exposing young, impressionable minds to pornography is destructive to mind and soul.

- 9) **I support policies and implementation of the Parents Bill of Rights (SB49).**

Response: Agree.

- 10) **As a representative, would you support Critical Race Theory type curriculum being used in the public schools?**

Response: Do not support.

Beth Silver (UNA)
Did Not Respond

McDowell County Board of Commissioners

Patrick Ellis (R)
Did Not Respond

Trisha Garner (R)

- 1) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct?**

Response: No.

- 2) **Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death?**
Response: Agree.
- 3) **I support counties having a Pro Life Resolution.**
Response: Agree.
- 4) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?**
Response: Parents.
- 5) **I support county tax dollars and/or grants to pay for Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) training for students and teachers/school staff.**
Response: Disagree.
- 6) **I support implementing Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, or slogans, for any local public entity.**
Response: Disagree.
- 7) **As a representative, how would you handle local law enforcement funding?**
Response: Increase funding.
- 8) **Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries.**
Response: Disagree.
- 9) **I support allowing public school students to participate in athletic competition based on the gender with which they identify instead of biological sex.**
Response: Disagree.
- 10) **Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now applied in the county?**
Response: No.

Teri Stahara (D)

- 1) **Have you ever been convicted of a felony or been penalized in either civil or criminal court for sexual misconduct?**
Response: No.
- 2) **Do you agree that human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every single stage until natural death?**
Response: Refuse to answer. I, nor anyone I know, wants or likes abortions, but there are times that they are a question of a woman's health.
- 3) **I support counties having a Pro Life Resolution.**
Response: Refuse to answer. I support any resolution which provides security and dignity for anyone performing assistance for for the life of a woman.
- 4) **Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?**
Response: Teachers. A person that has been educated to bring the history, math, civic programs, reading skills, and much more to young minds in an undisturbed environment should be responsible, as well as parents.
- 5) **I support county tax dollars and/or grants to pay for Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) training for students and teachers/school staff.**
Response: Agree.

- 6) I support implementing Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statements, policies, or slogans, for any local public entity.**

Response: Agree. As long as they are consistent with the Constitution and are not secular.

- 7) As a representative, how would you handle local law enforcement funding?**

Response: Increase funding.

- 8) Materials/books that are sexually explicit should be accessible to students in classrooms and/or libraries.**

Response: Refuse to answer. This depends on the age of the student..a college student vs. a 4th grader is a different answer.

- 9) I support allowing public school students to participate in athletic competition based on the gender with which they identify instead of biological sex.**

Response: Refuse to answer. Here again, some children begin transition at such a young age and hormones play the such a large role in their development , this question is not answerable without an example and medical training.

- 10) Would you support local ordinances that would place restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights as they are now applied in the county?**

Response: Yes. I believe every gun should be placed in a gun safe to ensure that, especially children don't get involved in accidents. Mine are!

