



# 2026 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire

## -McDowell County-

For additional details regarding C.P.R. Inc., visit our website at [www.CPRforYourCounty.org](http://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.



## Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Questionnaire Information	3
Board of Education Questionnaire	4
Board of Commissioners Questionnaire	5
District Attorney Questionnaire	6
Sheriff Questionnaire	7
Board of Education Candidate Responses	8
Board of Commissioners Candidate Responses	15
District Attorney Candidate Responses	22
Sheriff Candidate Responses	25

## 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 identity, 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) Board of Education, (2) Board of Commissioners, (3) District Attorney, and (4) Sheriff races.

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) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?
- 2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?
- 7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?
- 8) Do you support the Parents' Bill of Rights (SB49)?
- 9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?
- 10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?

## Board of Commissioners Questionnaire

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?
- 3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?
- 4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?
- 5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?
- 6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?
- 7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?
- 8) Should the Ten Commandments or "In God We Trust" be displayed in county courthouses?
- 9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?
- 10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?

## **District Attorney Questionnaire**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?
- 3) Should crimes involving child abuse, sexual exploitation, or trafficking be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law?
- 4) Should repeat offenders of crimes against children face enhanced charges or sentencing when allowed by law?
- 5) Should violent crimes be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law whenever legally possible?
- 6) Do you oppose “catch-and-release” policies that quickly return repeat offenders to the community?
- 7) Should drug trafficking and fentanyl-related crimes be treated as top prosecution priorities?
- 8) Should victims’ rights, especially those of children, be prioritized in charging decisions, plea agreements, and sentencing recommendations?
- 9) Should the District Attorney publicly report prosecution outcomes to ensure transparency and accountability?
- 10) Do you support faith-based or restorative justice programs for non-violent offenders who voluntarily participate?

## **Sheriff Questionnaire**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?
- 3) Do you support strong enforcement of immigration laws, including cooperation with federal authorities regarding illegal immigration?
- 4) Should the sheriff's office prioritize fighting drug trafficking, including fentanyl and cartel activity, as a top public safety concern?
- 5) Do you support protecting the Second Amendment and opposing local restrictions on lawful gun ownership?
- 6) Should the sheriff's office work closely with local schools to improve campus safety and prevent violence?
- 7) Do you support allowing biological males to use female facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms) in county-run buildings or detention centers?
- 8) Should the sheriff's office publicly release information about crimes, arrests, and departmental operations to maintain transparency?
- 9) Do you support faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates who voluntarily choose to participate?
- 10) Do you support enforcing public nuisance laws on issues such as drug use, trespassing, panhandling, and related behaviors?

# Board of Education Candidate Responses

## Glenwood District

### Terry Frank (R)

- 1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes. The truth is, GOD knows you before you are conceived. He knows all and you are part of His great plan.
- 2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Parents. A supportive parent who wants the best for their child will also be supportive of teachers, staff and the whole system. They are usually involved in their child's academic, athletic, homework, healthy choices, choice of friends and etc.
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?  
Answer: Yes. Parents should and do have a choice in the selection of their child's reading selections. This is mandated by North Carolina law and our system complies with this law.
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?  
Answer: Do not support. We are required to follow policies, federal and state law. Former DEI requirements have been remanded according to current federal and state legislation.
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?  
Answer: Yes. Teachers are very transparent and there are very few things the public doesn't have access to.
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?  
Answer: No.
- 7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?  
Answer: Yes.
- 8) Do you support the Parents' Bill of Rights (SB49)?  
Answer: Support. It's law and as an elected representative I am required to follow law and set an example too.
- 9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?  
Answer: Yes. I think teachers and administrators should be aware of the culture as well as the community's expectations of their position. I personally have always placed teachers and their administrators on a higher playing field than the ordinary citizen. Children really look up to teachers as a whole and teachers need to be an example for our children.
- 10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?

Answer: Yes. I am pro public schools. I think they have the most to offer but if public school is not for you, I feel you have the right to go wherever you choose. I also feel public schools offer a lot of opportunities to mingle with a lot of different types of children with a lot of different backgrounds. I felt like this prepared me for a career as a public servant in law enforcement. It also was beneficial serving in the armed forces.

## Marion District

### Marvin F. Greer (R)

- 1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?

Answer: Yes. I wholeheartedly believe life begins at conception based on the Bible and based on science. Jeremiah 1:5 says, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee". The Bible mentions in Job 3:3 "... the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived." Here the word CHILD is connected to the moment of conception. Science defines a human as 46 chromosomes which come together at fertilization, 23 from the male and 23 from the female. Therefore, life has begun and should be protected and loved as much as any other person.

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

Answer: Parents: Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children, period. This includes their child's education and all facets of the educational experience. Teachers, administrators, and even the school board should work as a team alongside the parents to provide the best education possible for each student.

- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?

Answer: Yes. A student's education should be focused on the basics of education and not by providing explicit books and materials. Far too much of society already focuses on sexually explicit materials and school should not be one of those places. Rather a school should be a safe place where our children are not inundated with these materials.

- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?

Answer: Do not support. I believe that DEI programs have actually created the reverse effect as to what it claims to help correct. These policies cause a focus more on traits, groups and social standing rather than the individuals. We should focus on teaching students the importance of each individual and who they are to God and our country.

- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?

Answer: Yes. No classroom materials should be kept private from parents. There is a real problem when parents do not have access to (or visibility of) what their child is being taught. Teachers and parents must work as a team to help with the education of their children.

- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?

Answer: No. There are so many aspects to answer this question all leading to the same answer, Emphatically, No! The safety of our girls is at stake and has sadly already caused harm to female athletes in other school regions. I believe our State took a good stand in recognizing two genders as male and female.

7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?  
Answer: Yes. Absolutely. I believe this is one of the fundamentals of our education and of our country. Our children need to learn about our founding fathers, our founding documents and what our country was built on. They need to understand how the government is supposed to operate and what role and responsibilities they have to our country.

8) Do you support the Parents' Bill of Rights (SB49)?  
Answer: Support. This Bill puts the rights of the parents back where they should be, back in the hands of the parents. Children are given to the parents by God and parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children, period.

9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?  
Answer: Yes. I believe the teachers and the administrator, at the basic level, work for parents and students. They are an integral part of our community and help shape the future of this great county. With that great responsibility comes accountability by peers and neighbors. Accountability generates responsibility.

10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?  
Answer: Support. As stated in prior answers, parents are ultimately responsible for their children. With that, each parent should have the ability to choose what is best for their child. If the public school system is not the answer for their child, then I support the right to choose. This creates a competitive attitude and self-awareness within other schools, making an overall better educational environment.

## **Angela Allen-Helms (R)**

1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes. Yes, I believe that life begins at the moment of conception. My belief is grounded in basic embryology and the belief that human life biologically begins at conception. This life, regardless of size, location, level of development or dependency on others, has inherent worth from the earliest stages of development. Thus, we, as a society have a moral responsibility to protect the most vulnerable among us, including unborn children who cannot speak for themselves. Upholding this principle affirms a consistent commitment to human dignity and equality under the law. However, there are situations when impossible, heart wrenching decisions must be made by parents to end the pregnancy, due to the life or health of the mother. These parents deserve our love, prayers and support, not judgement or condemnation.

2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Parents. Parents bear the ultimate responsibility for their children's education. They are the primary caregivers and ultimate moral guides in their child's life. Public schools exist to support and partner with families, not replace them. However, the education of our children is best achieved when parents, teachers, faculty and administration work together to achieve educational excellence for each and every child in the system. This is accomplished when schools provide instruction that complements

parents' values, expectations and involvement. As parents, we are responsible for being interested and engaged in our children's education while supporting the public school institution in every way possible.

- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?  
Answer: Yes. I am an avid reader. I believe that books open a world of learning and adventure for our children. Through reading, kids can explore a vast world beyond our own lives, allowing readers to explore new ideas, cultures and experiences while deepening empathy and broadening imaginations. I do believe that sexually explicit books should be removed from public school libraries and classrooms. With today's technology, there are so many avenues for easily accessing books of interest, outside of our classrooms and libraries. These are great options for parents who want their children to have unlimited access to any and every book. Our public school libraries should prioritize age-appropriate educational materials. Thus, helping to protect children's development and ensuring that they are not exposed to objectionable material they are not emotionally or psychologically ready to handle.
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?  
Answer: Refuse to answer. I believe that all men are created equal with certain inalienable rights. I would venture to say that I have one of the most diverse families around, having both children with varying special needs of Asian descent. However, I believe that any formal DEI program, policy or statement in public schools only serves to replace equal treatment and merit-based standards with ideological frameworks that can inadvertently divide students, politicize the classrooms and distract from the core mission of optimal academic achievement and shared civic education.
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?  
Answer: Yes. Any parent should be able to access and review their child's educational materials at any time. This ensures transparency, builds trust and allow parents to stay fully informed and engaged in their children's education.
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?  
Answer: No. As a medical professional and mom, I cannot support having males present in girls' locker rooms. I would not want this for my own children. I do believe that males physically have an advantage in competitive sports, based on male genetic code biologically. Policies should ensure that fairness, safety and privacy for girls by maintaining sex-based sports and locker rooms, recognizing biological differences while respecting everyone's dignity.
- 7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?  
Answer: Yes. Emphasis on civics, patriotism and America's founding documents and principles helps students to understand their rights and responsibilities, appreciate our founding Father's and nation's guiding principles. This encourages them to become informed, engaged citizens.
- 8) Do you support the Parents' Bill of Rights (SB49)?  
Answer: Support. I absolutely support the Parents' Bill of Rights. This bill serves as a legislative affirmation that parents, are the primary stakeholders, in their children's

upbringing and education. Thus, ensuring transparency, involvement, and respect for family values.

- 9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?  
Answer: Yes. Yes, teachers and administrators should be held accountable to community standards. When individuals in these positions are measured against community standards and are accountable to the communities they serve, parents can be assured that there is transparency, trust and that all decisions reflect local values and students' best interest.

- 10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?  
Answer: I believe that every parent has the right to school choice for their child. School choice empowers parents to select the school environment that will best meet the individualized needs of their child. Home schools, private schools and charter schools offer families more flexibility, specialized approaches or tailored values. These options vary in access, regulation and consistency of resources. However, I will always be a proponent of public school. Public schools are for EVERY child. For instance, I have 4 children with various special needs. In the private school setting, my children could not receive the support and services/accommodations they need to learn most effectively. Public schools are essential community institutions that serve ALL students, meet all kids where they are and provide publicly funded education for the common good.

### **Sarah Skinner (D)**

Did not respond.

### **Nebo District**

### **Chuck Abernathy (R)**

- 1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes.
- 2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Parents. Teachers do obviously have a major responsibility for educating their students. Parents have the ultimate responsibility to educate and instill values regarding their children.
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?  
Answer: Yes. Books that have pornographic language or depictions should be removed from the library. I do not mean restrict access.....they should be removed.
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?  
Answer: Do not support. DEI received a huge push in the nation and in this community. DEI conflicts with my views regarding our economic system, our liberty and our core values.

- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?  
Answer: Yes. I cannot imagine that educational content would not be shared with parents.
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?  
Answer: No. This is wrong for many reasons including fairness to those women that participate in sporting activities. It is really a simple question. A person is either a biological male or female. They are different and should be treated as distinct.
- 7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?  
Answer: Yes. The schools have a role to play in instilling values such as taking pride in our nation's history. The US was the first nation to come together and form a system of government that was entered into by its citizens. The school system should teach history and civics with accuracy and not mislead regarding mistakes that may have been made. They should, however, not teach these subjects with a negative bias.
- 8) Do you support the Parents' Bill of Rights (SB49)?  
Answer: Support.
- 9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?  
Answer: Yes.
- 10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?  
Answer: Support.

## **Pleasant Gardens District**

### **Eddie Shuford (R)**

- 1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes
- 2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Parents. Teachers must have parents supporting them, and be involved with their children's education for best results.
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?  
Answer: Yes.
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?  
Answer: Do not support.
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?  
Answer: Yes.
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?  
Answer: No.

7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?

Answer: Yes.

8) Do you support the Parents' Bill of Rights (SB49)?

Answer: Support.

9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?

Answer: Yes.

10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?

Answer: Support.

## **Board of Commissioners Candidate Responses**

### **Chris Allison (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes.
- 3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Parents.
- 4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?  
Answer: Agree.
- 5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?  
Answer: Support.
- 6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?  
Answer: No.
- 7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?  
Answer: Yes.
- 8) Should the Ten Commandments or “In God We Trust” be displayed in county courthouses?  
Answer: Yes.
- 9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?  
Answer: Yes.
- 10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?  
Answer: Increase.

### **Tony G. Brown (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes.

- 3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Parents.
- 4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?  
Answer: Agree.
- 5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?  
Answer: Support.
- 6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?  
Answer: No.
- 7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?  
Answer: Yes.
- 8) Should the Ten Commandments or “In God We Trust” be displayed in county courthouses?  
Answer: Yes.
- 9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?  
Answer: Yes.
- 10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?  
Answer: Increase. As our county grows, so does the need for our Emergency Services to grow.

## **Terry English (D)**

Blocked our email message.

## **Lynn Greene (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes.
- 3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Parents. While the local Board of Education has the legal responsibility for the education of our children it is our responsibility as parents to ensure that we stay connected with the school system and know what is being taught in the classroom. We must also elect people to the Board of Education that share those values.

4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?

Answer: Agree.

5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?

Answer: Support.

6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?

Answer: No. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent for any special interest groups or purposes.

7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?

Answer: Yes. There is no other guaranteed constitutional right that a citizen must take a class to enjoy. Any infringement on the right of the citizens to bear arms is in my opinion unconstitutional.

8) Should the Ten Commandments or "In God We Trust" be displayed in county courthouses?

Answer: Yes. While I believe that we should be able to post the Ten Commandments we must also weigh the freedom of other citizens that may not profess any religion at all. Our Founding Fathers knew what they were doing when they penned our Constitution. They wanted absolutely no interference from Government in religion. The only place you find any reference in the Constitution is where it was signed "in the year of our Lord".

9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?

Answer: Yes.

10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?

Answer: Increase. That is not a simple Yes or No answer. Local government must fund law enforcement and emergency services to the level needed to protect and serve our communities with the highest level of training and equipment available.

## Robert Allen Rise (R)

1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?

Answer: Yes. Cannabis charge 24 years ago .

2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?

Answer: Yes. Life is the gift of The Father himself .

3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?

Answer: Teachers. I would like to answer all 3 are responsible .the children are our future. And they always come first .as I am a father of 5 .

4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?

Answer: Agree. After witnessing no economic growth in mcdowell , I feel that is a set back for all of us . By growing our own county run entity's. We can create more jobs , start better programs that are designed for today's people . Create revenue instead of running down budgets .

5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?

Answer: Support. It's unfortunate , to have elaborate on these topics. But here goes , the crime ,and drug use in this county is hit our youth , and there parents as well ,for I have witnessed ,and I feel bad , but the drugs ,that are being used ,with new generations changes there ways of thinking normally . I am for more court ordered programs .to help with today's needs .family's falling apart across the USA. I'm sure this is not God's intentions.

6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?

Answer: Yes. I feel that way more programs need put in place for today's needs. It's so sad , that there isn't enough compassion and heart left in the teachings. In a few generations now . Plus it also a good way for growth and also stop the problems for our youth in our school systems.

7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?

Answer: Yes. Very good question , for I was raised the right way , my father was the great hobbyist , I went from muzzle loaders ,to 3/4 scale napoleon cannon ,civil war reenacting through my teenage years. I feel everyone has the right to defend themselves from the evils of today's world . I also would like to see , more regulations on the qualifications to purchase such weapons . After the first school shooting these policies should have been more regulated requiring proper training ,also slow advancement to larger and semi automatic weapons . Dad taught me with a bee bee gun. More fathers are needed desperately.

8) Should the Ten Commandments or "In God We Trust" be displayed in county courthouses?

Answer: Yes. I feel , I want them for my front gate ,lol let's also understand that they want budget money to fund this idea . I feel when people , such as ourselves can get work together , we can come up with other ways of funding such projects. GOD SPEED .

9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?

Answer: Yes. Freedom of our religions. Is free speech .

10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?

Answer: Increase. In mcdowell county , the need to keep our citizens safe , should always come first ,I support law enforcement, as well as our emt,s , our lives depend on

them .and I will get involved to help them in any matter , to keep our county a safe place to live .

## **Mike Seay (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes. Once life is breathed in the womb the baby is alive
- 3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Teachers.
- 4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?  
Answer: Agree.
- 5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?  
Answer: Support.
- 6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?  
Answer: No. We need to focus on the homeless population, The kids that are Hungry.and the homeless vets that have been forgotten
- 7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?  
Answer: Yes. We have the rights to bare arms no one should be able to take that right away,
- 8) Should the Ten Commandments or "In God We Trust" be displayed in county courthouses?  
Answer: Yes. That is how this great country was started.
- 9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?  
Answer: Yes. They need to know they can count on house and they are not alone in the fight.
- 10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?  
Answer: Increase. We need not to waste money buying up land and properties we dont need have the extra money we do need.

## **Matt Suttles (D)**

Did not respond.

## Stephanie Tenary (D)

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Refuse to answer. I don't feel qualified to answer this question, not being God or a medical professional.
- 3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?  
Answer: Refuse to answer. All three entities share responsibility for different facets of our children's education: guidance, knowledge and fiscal needs.
- 4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?  
Answer: Refuse to answer. This question is too broad; which regulations, which taxes? Many regulations are implemented for the protection of the employees and customers, which in turn benefits the owner of the business.
- 5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?  
Answer: Refuse to answer. As a law abiding citizen, I support the laws our citizens pass (providing they are enforced within the letter of the law ); however, I think we need to focus on solutions - not band aids.
- 6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?  
Answer: Yes. County employees should be educated about policies that respect the dignity and human rights of all citizens. Not only does this avoid the potential burden from law suits, but reflects the values of our county.
- 7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?  
Answer: Yes. I believe in the Constitutional right to bear arms. Each state and/or county can enact additional regulations as needed.
- 8) Should the Ten Commandments or "In God We Trust" be displayed in county courthouses?  
Answer: No. Pursuant to the 1st Amendment ( Establishment clause and Free Exercise Clause ); these documents would be illegal.
- 9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?  
Answer: Refuse to answer. The words, discrimination and church shouldn't share the same sentence. I offer...  
Galatians 5: 22-23

10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?

Answer: Increase. Increase, when the cost of living dictates and for any additional training staff may need to better serve our citizens.

## David Walker (R)

1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?

Answer: No.

2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?

Answer: Yes.

3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?

Answer: Parents.

4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?

Answer: Agree.

5) Do you support the county enforcing public nuisance laws and cooperating with federal authorities to address illegal activity, including drug use, trespassing, and unlawful immigration?

Answer: Support.

6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?

Answer: No. I am totally against promoting DEI policies.

7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?

Answer: Yes.

8) Should the Ten Commandments or "In God We Trust" be displayed in county courthouses?

Answer: Yes. I Support the 10 Commandments being displayed in the Courthouse only. They should be displayed along with other Historical documents such as the Bill of Rights or Declaration of Independence.

9) Will you defend churches and ministries from government overreach or discrimination?

Answer: Yes.

10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?

Answer: Increase. I have always supported Our Sheriffs Dept., EMS and Fire Departments and will continue to do so when re-elected.

# **District Attorney Candidate Responses**

## **Tedd Bell (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes.
- 3) Should crimes involving child abuse, sexual exploitation, or trafficking be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law?  
Answer: Yes. One area my office particularly focuses on is child sexual predators, and we have sent these monsters to prison for the longest sentences in the history of our District - numerous sentences of over 100 years in prison, up to 175 years in prison.
- 4) Should repeat offenders of crimes against children face enhanced charges or sentencing when allowed by law?  
Answer: Yes. We use every tool available to protect children from these predators, and do everything we can to get the toughest sentences we can. I wholeheartedly support repeat-offender enhancements for these predators.
- 5) Should violent crimes be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law whenever legally possible?  
Answer: Yes. Our primary responsibility is the safety of the community, and violent crime directly attacks that safety and security. We take violent crime very seriously and do everything we can to maximize the consequences for the defendant while protecting the victims.
- 6) Do you oppose “catch-and-release” policies that quickly return repeat offenders to the community?  
Answer: Yes. We are bound by the sentencing laws established by the legislature, but do everything we can within those limitations to hold people accountable and prevent them from coming back through court. For example, we have increased the number of habitual felons sent to prison by 350%. We have also sent 750 people to prison for breaking into our homes. In addition to tough sentences, we work closely with many local organizations to get treatment and services for defendants to try break that cycle of recidivism.
- 7) Should drug trafficking and fentanyl-related crimes be treated as top prosecution priorities?  
Answer: Yes. We have sent over 100 drug dealers to prison just in the last four years. We have sent 10 drug dealers to prison for Death by Distribution just last year - the most in the State. We work with many organizations to get treatment for the drug users, but come down like a hammer on the drug dealers.
- 8) Should victims’ rights, especially those of children, be prioritized in charging decisions, plea agreements, and sentencing recommendations?

Answer: Yes. It is a priority in our office to give victims input into the handling and disposition of their case. And while our number one priority has always been the safety and security of the community, victims' requests are given strong consideration in case decisions. We have always gone beyond the requirements of the state's Victim's Rights Act.

- 9) Should the District Attorney publicly report prosecution outcomes to ensure transparency and accountability?

Answer: Yes. The District Attorney's office has recently converted to a paperless system where all court files are computerized and available to the public, and the outcome in every case is now publically available online.

- 10) Do you support faith-based or restorative justice programs for non-violent offenders who voluntarily participate?

Answer: Support. I have worked with several faith-based programs, such as Freedom Life, for years in seeking effective long-term outcomes to our criminal prosecutions and in working to get defendants the treatment and services they need as we fight the cycle of recidivism.

## **David Norris (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?

Answer: No.

- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?

Answer: Yes. Deserving of legal protection at both the State and Federal levels.

- 3) Should crimes involving child abuse, sexual exploitation, or trafficking be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law?

Answer: Yes. Not only prosecuted fully but also timely, avoiding unnecessary delays.

- 4) Should repeat offenders of crimes against children face enhanced charges or sentencing when allowed by law?

Answer: Yes. Enhanced charges/sentencing are the most effective tool to keeping communities safe from repeat offenders.

- 5) Should violent crimes be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law whenever legally possible?

Answer: Yes. With victim input at every stage of the process.

- 6) Do you oppose "catch-and-release" policies that quickly return repeat offenders to the community?

Answer: Yes. Catch and release must end as it's probably the single largest contributor to people's loss of faith in their judicial system.

- 7) Should drug trafficking and fentanyl-related crimes be treated as top prosecution priorities?

Answer: Yes. Top priority, especially due to the disastrous effects these substances are having in our community at almost every level.

- 8) Should victims' rights, especially those of children, be prioritized in charging decisions, plea agreements, and sentencing recommendations?

Answer: Yes. The DA represents the people of the State of North Carolina in criminal cases and, as such, the DA has a duty to inform, consult, and be attentive to all victims, especially children and their families.

- 9) Should the District Attorney publicly report prosecution outcomes to ensure transparency and accountability?

Answer: Yes. Prosecution reports are available on the NC Judicial Branch website: [nccourts.gov](http://nccourts.gov)

- 10) Do you support faith-based or restorative justice programs for non-violent offenders who voluntarily participate?

Answer: Support. I support those programs with a proven track record of successful results.

## **Sheriff Candidate Responses**

### **J. S. Calvert (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.
- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes.
- 3) Do you support strong enforcement of immigration laws, including cooperation with federal authorities regarding illegal immigration?  
Answer: Support.
- 4) Should the sheriff's office prioritize fighting drug trafficking, including fentanyl and cartel activity, as a top public safety concern?  
Answer: Yes.
- 5) Do you support protecting the Second Amendment and opposing local restrictions on lawful gun ownership?  
Answer: Yes.
- 6) Should the sheriff's office work closely with local schools to improve campus safety and prevent violence?  
Answer: Yes.
- 7) Do you support allowing biological males to use female facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms) in county-run buildings or detention centers?  
Answer: Do Not Support.
- 8) Should the sheriff's office publicly release information about crimes, arrests, and departmental operations to maintain transparency?  
Answer: Yes.
- 9) Do you support faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates who voluntarily choose to participate?  
Answer: Support.
- 10) Do you support enforcing public nuisance laws on issues such as drug use, trespassing, panhandling, and related behaviors?  
Answer: Support.

### **Bryon Crisp (R)**

- 1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?

Answer: No. No. I have never been convicted of a felony, nor have I ever been penalized for sexual misconduct.

My career in law enforcement has been guided by faith, integrity, and a clear understanding of right and wrong. While serving in the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit, I was involved in the arrest of hundreds of child sexual predators and supervised detectives working these cases.

Scripture teaches us that we are called to protect the innocent and defend those who cannot defend themselves. There is no greater responsibility than safeguarding our children. As Sheriff, I will remain steadfast in holding predators accountable and ensuring that justice is carried out with both strength and moral clarity.

- 2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?

Answer: Yes. Yes. I believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection. Scripture teaches us that God knows us before we are born and forms us in the womb. Every human life is created with purpose and value, and that life deserves to be protected.

As a Christian, I believe we are called to defend the most vulnerable among us. Upholding the sanctity of life is a moral responsibility, and our laws should reflect respect for life at every stage. While compassion and care are always necessary, the fundamental truth remains that every life is precious and worthy of protection.

- 3) Do you support strong enforcement of immigration laws, including cooperation with federal authorities regarding illegal immigration?

Answer: Support. Yes. I support the strong and lawful enforcement of our immigration laws, including appropriate cooperation with federal authorities. Scripture teaches us the importance of order, justice, and respect for the rule of law. A nation without laws cannot protect its citizens or those who enter it lawfully.

As Sheriff, my responsibility is to uphold the law while treating every person with dignity and respect. Compassion and enforcement are not opposites. We can care for individuals while still enforcing the laws that protect our communities, ensure public safety, and preserve the integrity of our nation.

- 4) Should the sheriff's office prioritize fighting drug trafficking, including fentanyl and cartel activity, as a top public safety concern?

Answer: Yes. Yes. The Sheriff's Office must prioritize the fight against drug trafficking, including fentanyl and cartel activity. Our county is under siege by drugs that are destroying families, taking lives, and breaking apart communities. Fentanyl in particular has become a deadly weapon, and those who traffic it show no regard for human life.

As Christians, we are called to protect life and stand against evil. That means being uncompromising with traffickers and dealers who profit from addiction and death, while still showing compassion to those struggling with substance abuse. As Sheriff, I will

aggressively pursue those who bring these poisons into our communities and work to keep our families safe.

- 5) Do you support protecting the Second Amendment and opposing local restrictions on lawful gun ownership?

Answer: Yes. Yes. I strongly support the Second Amendment and oppose local restrictions that infringe on the lawful ownership of firearms. The Constitution recognizes the fundamental right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, including the right to defend themselves and their families.

No one should be forced to become a victim in their own home. When a person is faced with a credible threat to life, they have the right to protect themselves using lawful means. I encourage responsible firearm ownership, proper training, and safe handling so citizens are prepared to act decisively if necessary. As Sheriff, I will respect and defend constitutional rights while ensuring the law is applied fairly and responsibly.

- 6) Should the sheriff's office work closely with local schools to improve campus safety and prevent violence?

Answer: Yes. Yes. The Sheriff's Office must work closely with local schools to improve campus safety and prevent violence. Children are a gift entrusted to us, and we are called to protect them, not look the other way when they are in danger.

This requires honest cooperation with school leadership, lawful oversight, and early detection of violence, bullying, and inappropriate behavior. It also means training administrators and staff to recognize warning signs and respond appropriately.

As Sheriff, there will be zero tolerance for anyone who harms or exploits a child. There will be no quiet cover-ups or alternate paths to accountability. Any failure to report or act will be investigated, and those who knowingly allow harm or conceal abuse will be held fully accountable under the law.

- 7) Do you support allowing biological males to use female facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms) in county-run buildings or detention centers?

Answer: Do Not Support. No. I do not support allowing biological males to use female facilities in county-run buildings or detention centers. My foremost responsibility as Sheriff is to protect the safety, dignity, and privacy of women and children.

We are called to be good stewards of those placed in our care, especially the most vulnerable. Allowing policies that place young girls or women at risk is unacceptable. Separate facilities exist for a reason, and safeguarding them is a matter of both common sense and public safety.

As Sheriff, I will use every lawful tool available to protect children and women from harm, exploitation, or abuse. There will be no tolerance for policies or practices that compromise their safety, and I will always place protection over political or ideological pressure.

8) Should the sheriff's office publicly release information about crimes, arrests, and departmental operations to maintain transparency?

Answer: Yes. Yes. Transparency is essential to public trust and good governance. The community has a right to know how its Sheriff's Office operates and how public safety decisions are made.

We are called to walk in truth and accountability, not behind closed doors. As Sheriff, I will ensure that lawful and appropriate information regarding crimes, arrests, and departmental operations is shared with the public. Call logs will be made available on the Sheriff's Office website for public review, consistent with the law.

Openness builds trust, strengthens relationships with the community, and ensures the Sheriff's Office remains accountable to the people it serves.

9) Do you support faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates who voluntarily choose to participate?

Answer: Support. Yes. I support faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates who voluntarily choose to participate. Faith has the power to transform lives, restore hope, and encourage personal responsibility.

As Sheriff, we will ensure inmates are made aware of these opportunities and are encouraged to pursue a better path forward. Experience has shown that partnering with the faith community produces real results. Programs like Freedom Life have proven to be one of the most effective re-entry efforts in McDowell County's history.

We will work to strengthen and expand community-based, faith-supported programs for locally held inmates, while respecting voluntary participation and individual choice.

10) Do you support enforcing public nuisance laws on issues such as drug use, trespassing, panhandling, and related behaviors?

Answer: Support. Yes. I support the fair and consistent enforcement of public nuisance laws, including issues related to drug use, trespassing, panhandling, and related behaviors. These laws exist to protect public safety, preserve community order, and ensure shared spaces remain safe for everyone.

Compassion does not mean ignoring the law. Public nuisance laws often provide multiple warnings and opportunities for compliance, but when the law becomes clear and enforcement is necessary, it must be carried out.

As Sheriff, I will ensure enforcement is firm, lawful, and fair, while also encouraging individuals toward help, accountability, and a better path forward when appropriate.

## **Nathan Mace (R)**

1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?

Answer: No.

2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?

Answer: Yes. I am firmly grounded in my faith and do believe that life begins once one is conceived. (Jeremiah 1:5)

3) Do you support strong enforcement of immigration laws, including cooperation with federal authorities regarding illegal immigration?

Answer: Support. If I am elected Sheriff, the Sheriff's Office will continue to work collaboratively with our local, state, and federal partners. The Sheriff's Office will comply with all mandated laws regarding illegal immigration. Currently, if someone is arrested for certain misdemeanor crimes, a crime involving domestic violence, or any offense involving impaired driving, it is a requirement to validate the offender's immigration status. If the offender's status cannot be verified, they are to be committed to the detention center for a two-hour period. During that period, a query will be conducted through ICE regarding the offender's status, and if any further action is necessary, ICE will proceed with a detainer.

4) Should the sheriff's office prioritize fighting drug trafficking, including fentanyl and cartel activity, as a top public safety concern?

Answer: Yes. Individuals who are targeting our communities by trafficking illegal drugs, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, etc., will continue to be a top priority of my administration. We will continue to work closely with local, state, and federal partners in the relentless pursuit of protecting our communities from the dangers of narcotics. We will target those who profit from addiction and continue to disrupt networks and supply chains through proactive enforcement efforts.

5) Do you support protecting the Second Amendment and opposing local restrictions on lawful gun ownership?

Answer: Yes. As Sheriff, I will firmly support the Second Amendment and the right of law-abiding citizens to own and carry firearms. I will oppose local restrictions that infringe on lawful gun ownership and unnecessary burdens on responsible gun owners. Protecting constitutional rights and public safety go hand in hand. I will work to ensure and uphold both individual freedoms and community safety.

6) Should the sheriff's office work closely with local schools to improve campus safety and prevent violence?

Answer: Yes. As Sheriff, I will continue to work closely with our local School Board and Administrators to ensure the safety of students and staff throughout McDowell County. Protecting our children and teachers is a top priority. Through a strong partnership (which I firmly believe exists between the Sheriff's Office and School Administration), training, and proactive planning, we can ensure our schools remain safe places to learn and grow.

7) Do you support allowing biological males to use female facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms) in county-run buildings or detention centers?

Answer: Do Not Support. I do not support allowing biological males to use female facilities. I believe bathrooms and locker rooms should remain separated by biological sex to protect one's privacy, safety, and dignity.

8) Should the sheriff's office publicly release information about crimes, arrests, and departmental operations to maintain transparency?  
Answer: Yes. I believe the Sheriff's Office has a responsibility to keep the public informed about crimes, arrests, and operations. Timely and accurate information builds trust, promotes accountability, and helps the residents of McDowell County stay aware and engaged in the safety of their community.

9) Do you support faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates who voluntarily choose to participate?  
Answer: Support. As Sheriff, I will continue to support faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates who voluntarily choose to participate. I have seen firsthand the effectiveness of faith-based programs for those who truly commit and want to make a change in their life. I believe these programs help individuals make positive changes, reduce repeat offenses, and better prepare individuals to return to their families and community as productive, law-abiding individuals.

10) Do you support enforcing public nuisance laws on issues such as drug use, trespassing, panhandling, and related behaviors?  
Answer: Support. As Sheriff, I will support the enforcement of public nuisance laws, including those addressing illegal drug use, trespassing, and panhandling. These laws exist to protect public safety and ensure that our public spaces are safe and welcoming to everyone. Residents, business owners, and visitors should feel safe within our communities. Consistent enforcement of public nuisance laws will help aid in the endeavor to keep our communities clean and safe for all.

## Brent Allen Rumfelt (R)

1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or penalized for sexual misconduct?  
Answer: No.

2) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?  
Answer: Yes.

3) Do you support strong enforcement of immigration laws, including cooperation with federal authorities regarding illegal immigration?  
Answer: Support. By law the sheriff must obey the laws of the federal government. We will cooperate with ICE but we will not actively look for illegals if I am sheriff. We will arrest anyone who is breaking the law and illegals are by federal law to be turned over to ICE

4) Should the sheriff's office prioritize fighting drug trafficking, including fentanyl and cartel activity, as a top public safety concern?  
Answer: Yes. This is one of my top priority reducing drugs both using and sales in the county.

5) Do you support protecting the Second Amendment and opposing local restrictions on lawful gun ownership?

Answer: Yes.

6) Should the sheriff's office work closely with local schools to improve campus safety and prevent violence?

Answer: Yes.

7) Do you support allowing biological males to use female facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms) in county-run buildings or detention centers?

Answer: Do Not Support. I personally think that one person bathrooms and changing areas would resolve these issues. Women and young girls are a vulnerable population and since changing these old fashion standard policies new issues of assault have become evident nation wide.

8) Should the sheriff's office publicly release information about crimes, arrests, and departmental operations to maintain transparency?

Answer: Yes.

9) Do you support faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates who voluntarily choose to participate?

Answer: Support. Faith based programs are highly successful IF the inmate is vested in fully using the program to the fullest of their abilities.

10) Do you support enforcing public nuisance laws on issues such as drug use, trespassing, panhandling, and related behaviors?

Answer: Support. These behaviors are not new. There are laws on the books if deputies know and use them appropriately. Making sure the tools are available to the officer would be a priority for me.