



2026 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire -Catawba 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.



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Questionnaire Information	3
Board of Education Questionnaire	4
Board of Commissioners Questionnaire	5
Board of Education Candidate Responses	6
Board of Commissioners Candidate Responses	15

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)?

Board of Education Candidate Responses

William R. Barnabas (R)

Did not respond.

Tom Dees (R)

- 1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?
Answer: Yes. I believe we must build our government around a pro-life ethic that includes defending those who cannot defend themselves but also championing life in school programs, sex education curriculum, and in how we approach development at the county level. A pro-life culture also means promoting life and teaching our students how to build big, beautiful families again. I am pro-life for the whole-life!
- 2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?
Answer: Parents. While education is a community endeavor, parents must be given the ultimate say in their children's education. Our teachers and staff are here to serve, not govern. And our school board exists to represent the public's interest in education, not to represent educators as an interest group. Additionally, we cannot build a pro-life culture without building strong and empowered families.
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?
Answer: Yes. While I am under no illusion about the risks of this issue, from lawfare to public scandal, I believe it is an important litmus test in the defense of our children's virtue. For too long have public officials abdicated their role in the preservation of virtue to the detriment of society and the souls in our care. This abdication must come to an end and tackling the books should be treated as a beginning, not an end, in this endeavor.
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?
Answer: Do not support. I believe in a merit-based society that rewards good ideas, good morals and good work ethic. The politics of racial grievance will only lead to ruin, as it has in many cases around the globe.
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?
Answer: Yes. As a teacher, I am required to submit my lesson plans to the principal for review once a week. It would be no additional effort to make these plans available to the public. That said, I don't believe it is responsible to use these plans to engage in witch hunts. The teaching profession is still a noble profession and should be treated with due respect.
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?
Answer: No. I believe that these issues are a social contagion for what Elon Musk so eloquently declared the "Woke Mind Virus." Social contagions are extremely dangerous to the health of our students and should be opposed wherever they are found.
- 7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?

Answer: Yes. As an 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher, I am tasked with teaching NC and American history to my students. I often emphasize the virtues of the founding fathers in my lesson plans. For example, many students today will immediately know that several of our founding fathers were slave owners but I take time to make them read and present on the amendments that failed at the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention excoriating slavery as an evil institution propped up by the evil tyrant King George. America isn't some evil nation. It is the savior that took on evil and won.

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

Answer: Support. I support parental rights. Empowering families is the only way to build a truly pro-life culture.

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

Answer: Yes. School Boards exist to conduct oversight. This oversight does not exist solely for the benefit of the taxpayer but for the well-being of the students we serve. My campaign slogan is STUDENTS FIRST. Every decision our board makes should prioritize the students.

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

Answer: Support. Unfortunately, while the numbers show an unchecked downward spiral on standards and test scores, it would be cruel and evil to oppose allowing families to choose better options for their children. Public schools need to be treated as a source of national pride. Taking pride in the product again is the only way to reverse the negative trends appearing in public education. I support school choice.

Matthew Fox (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: Teachers. Dignity, education, and values start in the home. Though, the Teachers are delivering the curriculum and influence in the classroom day to day. Ultimately the responsibility lies on us all; parents engaged and invested into the education being delivered, teachers sticking to the approved curriculum leaving cultural hot-button topics outside the learning environment, and oversight from the school board ensuring the appropriate curriculum and resources are available and the standard for education. All voices matter! This is a situation where it does "take the village" together to eradicate the progressive woke agenda deep rooted as a system into academia. We're dealing with spiritual warfare and demonic principalities. Ultimately, it's all of our responsibility to ensure the culture outside our homes, does not challenge our Sons and Daughters morale principles inside the classroom.

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. Furthermore, I support revisiting the bill, to ensure any ambiguous or convoluted language in the bill which may allow a loophole to silence parents voices and negate their rights, to be updated with codified verbiage to ensure their rights are not infringed upon.
- 9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?
Answer: Yes. Those standards should be derived from foundational principles and the fabric of the community. Our Constitution and our God given rights under our divinely authored founding documents must remain in tact and at the forefront of those principles. Those standards and principles should coincide with the mass majority of the voters culture, Biblical doctrine, and our Constitution. I'm a devout Christian with Conservative values. I recognize overwhelmingly, the mass of our culture in Catawba County, as principled in Conservative values.
- 10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?
Answer: Support.

Kevin Hawley (D)

Did not respond.

Robert Lopez (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. Starts with parents. We must find a way to attract top talent teachers also that are supported by a strong growers thinking school board.
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?
Answer: Yes. No need for this in schools. Parents and church will teach kids right from wrong.

- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?
Answer: Do not support. I do not support. I support equality for all. Best suited to perform.
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?
Answer: Yes. Parents need to hold kids accountable.
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?
Answer: No. Never.
- 7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?
Answer: Yes. It's important to understand and protect.
- 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. Everyone should be held accountable.
- 10) Do you support school choice options (charter, private, homeschool)?
Answer: Support. Very much support. Parents need options best suited for there kids.

Tim Settlemyre (R)

- 1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?
Answer: Yes. I believe that life begins at the moment of conception. We are all children of God at the moment of conception.
- 2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?
Answer: Parents. Parents should have the say in what their children are being taught.
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?
Answer: Yes. Yes, this should be done by implementing policy that keeps public school libraries clean reading places for students
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?
Answer: Do not support. People should be rewarded on their skill set.
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?
Answer: Parents should be allowed to understand what lesson are being taught
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?
Answer: No. Students should only be allowed to compete in sports as their birth gender, and the same goes for locker rooms.
- 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. Parent's should and now do have the right to be involved in their children's education

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

Answer: Yes. Yes,

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

Answer: Support. There are times where a private, charter or homeschool are the right answer for the parent or the child.

Don Sigmon (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.

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.

Khristy Womack Smith (D)

Did not respond.

Michelle Teague (R)

- 1) Do you believe life begins at conception and deserves legal protection?
Answer: Yes. I believe that we are created by God and that life begins at conception. God doesn't make mistakes. I believe there should be legal protection to preserve life.
- 2) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?
Answer: Parents. I strongly believe that parents, not government are responsible for the education and upbringing of their children.
- 3) Should sexually explicit books be removed from school libraries and classrooms?
Answer: Yes. There is absolutely no place for sexually explicit books in school libraries. I have stood against this as a current board member for Catawba County Schools.
- 4) Do you support any Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programs?
Answer: Do not support. I do not support DEI in schools and have stood against this as a current board member of Catawba County Schools.
- 5) Should all classroom materials and lesson plans be publicly available to parents?
Answer: Yes. Yes, I believe in transparency and parents have a right to know what is being taught in our classrooms at school.
- 6) Should biological males be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms?
Answer: No. Absolutely not! Biological males should not be allowed to compete in girls' sports or use girls' locker rooms. I have spoke up and stood against this as a current school board member of Catawba County Schools.
- 7) Should schools emphasize civics, patriotism, and America's founding principles?
Answer: Yes. We do not want to teach kids to hate America. We want them to learn to love America and to fully understand the difference between the downfall of communism and the meaning of true patriotic American freedom for all generations.
- 8) Do you support the Parents' Bill of Rights (SB49)?
Answer: Support. I completely support this bill. This bill supported parents in many ways however one thing that stood out and that I support wholeheartedly is that it prohibits instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality from inclusion in K-4th grade curriculum.
- 9) Should teachers and administrators be held accountable to community standards?
Answer: Yes. Yes, teachers and administrators should definitely be held accountable to community standards.

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

Answer: Support. I definitely agree with school choice. Parents gain more control over their children's education and how their education dollars are spent, empowering them to be able to choose the learning environment that works best for their child.

Greg Whitener (R)

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

Answer: Yes. Without a doubt.

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

Answer: Parents. Parents need to be the driving force behind the children and support the teachers who are to educate not indoctrinate!

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

Answer: Yes. Without a doubt.

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

Answer: Do not support. I think that hiring or any personnel / team situations should be solely based on qualifications!

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

Answer: Yes. Parents should have the right of transparency to all material that are being taught to their children!

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

Answer: No. NO. GOD made man and woman.

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

Answer: Yes. Yes, history will be forgotten or be altered if left out of our history books.

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

Answer: Support. Absolutely!

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

Answer: Yes. Yes, as they are being entrusted with our children!

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

Answer: Support. Every family unit has different dynamics and needs that may change. I personally had a younger sister with special needs that would have benefited from a different setting other than public school.

Jack R. Young (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.
- 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.

Jill L. Young (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.
- 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

Jesse Alden (D)

Did not respond.

Nicholas F. Bellomo, Jr. (R)

Did not respond.

Sherry Edmonds Butler (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.

Eric Dunn (R)

Did not respond.

Dave Fontana (R)

Did not respond.

Aubrey Gregory (D)

Did not respond.

Phyllis Michaux (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: Yes.
- 3) Who has the ultimate responsibility for the education of children in public schools?
Answer: School Board. State and local governments are ultimately responsible, while parents are responsible for their children's welfare.
- 4) Do you agree that excessive regulations and taxes hinder small business growth and startups?
Answer: Agree. Small businesses are usually negatively impacted by excessive taxes and compliance costs.
- 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. Request for more specific details regarding this question.
- 6) Should county funds support DEI training, programs, statements, or policies?
Answer: Refuse to answer. Commissioners should allocate a balanced budget for education, construction, human services, and safety.
- 7) Would you oppose any new restrictions on the Second Amendment?
Answer: Yes. We currently have laws for individuals who are convicted of gun violations.
- 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. I encourage community outreach to build partnerships and maintain public programs.
- 10) How would you approach county funding for local emergency services (law enforcement, fire, and EMS)?
Answer: Increase. Safety first!

Jay Moore (R)

Did not respond.

Cole Terrell Setzer (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: No.
- 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: Keep the Same.

Marla G. Thompson (R)

Did not respond.