

2010 SPPACE Questionnaire

C. MORGAN EDWARDS **Candidates for the North Carolina General Assembly** **State Senate – District 37**

1. What are the top three issues facing your district and how would you address them?

All three of my priority issues come to one, that is employment. Private sector employment is a primary need. These jobs product an income source in tax revenue Public sector jobs take money out of the pot and only return a small portion. Service jobs require a need for the service, which is only positive tax money when the services are paid for from the private sector.

2. In 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized counties, subject to voter approval, the ability to impose an additional general fund revenue source (a .4% land transfer tax or a .25% sales tax). To date, the transfer tax has been defeated in every county where it has been considered. Would you support legislation to repeal the transfer tax option?

Property taxes, unfairly targets only a specific group of payers. It can be said that renters pay too, when they pay their rent. However the landlord must pay even when there are vacancies. Sales tax is a fairer tax, but puts the vendor in a position as an agent of the state, etc. and sometimes they may pass it on to customer or eat it as a cost to themselves. The transfer tax is one of the most unfair, because it in many cases hits the senior population the most. I do not like any tax that is not equally spread to all.

3. Would you support a local bill enabling Mecklenburg County to impose a real estate transfer tax or impact fee?

Mecklenburg is not a home rule count, therefore, they should have special laws made by the state just for them.

4. Because North Carolina is facing an estimated \$3 billion shortfall, comprehensive tax reform for the state continues to be at the forefront of discussion in the General Assembly. The prevailing thought is to “broaden the base and lower the rate”. This means taxing items, services, transactions, etc. that are currently untaxed and either reducing the rate or eliminating altogether the taxes on items, services, transactions, etc. that are taxed at a high rate. Are you in agreement with this concept? Please explain your answer.

Before we look just at tax reform, spending needs to be reviewed. Many programs have not been updated for decades. Some or most may need updating to meet today’s needs. This alone could bring about savings and reduce the tax burdens.

5. **There are over 20 different environmental agencies in the State of North Carolina that regulate water, air quality and land use. Would you support the consolidation of these departments? Please explain your answer.**

As a creator of a regulatory agency (I designed and administered a statewide program, I have always been an advocate for one-stop services.

6. **Do you support giving North Carolina's Counties the authority to hold a "Pennies for Progress" referendum similar to South Carolina's? (*South Carolina's program is a 1/4 cent sales tax dedicated to a specific list of projects that sunsets after a period of time or when the projects are completed.*) Please explain your answer.**

My experience is that no law that imposes a temporary revenue source is ever sunset. Presently, a problem is that dedicated funds are being used for General Fund shortages. This must stop, because the intended fund needs are not being met.

7. **Would you consider changing the current NCDOT funding formula to make it more equitable for the growing urban areas? If so, what would you propose?**

Yes, there is a need for a redistribution formula.

8. **Would you support a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) tax as a means to pay for road construction and/or maintenance?**

This is an open question that assumes that present Highway and Highway Trust Funds are being used for Highway activities. I not think this is the practice. Therefore, what ever the method of getting revenue, will not change anything. The dedicated funds must be used for their intended purpose.