

2010 SPPACE Questionnaire

MALCOLM GRAHAM Candidates for the North Carolina General Assembly State Senate – District 40

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

The top three issues are creating and retaining jobs, supporting small businesses, and education. I would address those issues by supporting job programs for recruitment of business to North Carolina, tax credit for small businesses and fund school systems at appropriate level, and teachers pay increase.

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?

Yes.

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

No; because of the economy, we simply cannot afford to put this new tax on developers. We need to encourage more development and sales of homes and property.

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.

I would need to study that concept more; however, the North Carolina tax code was developed in the 40's. We are no longer a manufacturing economy, but a service one and our tax code should reflect that.

- 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.**

Yes, consolidation would encourage a more comprehensive approach to regulating water and air quality, as well as land use in North Carolina. It would also save much needed resources as “One Stop Shopping” for agencies who rely on the information.

- 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 ¼ 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.**

I am undecided on that referendum. I would have to study the issue more as it relates to the newer taxing authority that we have in the counties.

- 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, a simple proposal, “Build the roads where the people are.”

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

No.