

2010 SPPACE Questionnaire

REBECCA STEEN Candidates for the North Carolina General Assembly State House of Representatives – District 101

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

Job Creation, Taxes and Spending and Transportation are the top three issues facing not only my district but Mecklenburg County and North Carolina as a whole.

We need to make NC an appealing state for small businesses which will lead to the creation of private sector jobs. In order for our state to be appealing, we need to focus on passing legislation that will cut taxes. Specifically in Mecklenburg County, we need to go from being one of the “highest tax counties” to being one of the “lower tax counties”. We also need to reduce costs and cut out frivolous spending.

It is imperative that we improve the transportation infrastructure in Mecklenburg County. Due to the drastic growth in this area, we must make state road construction/maintenance a priority. One way that we can do this is by voting for a portion of the money in Highway Trust Funds to be used to address these issues and work towards not only reducing congestion but improving the safety of North Carolina roads.

- 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, I absolutely would support this type of legislation. Transfer tax referendums have failed in the past. The people have spoken and they voted “No”.

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

From what I know about the current tax structure, I would not support this. I’m not in favor of imposing any further tax burdens on individuals or businesses.

- 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?**

From what I know, I would have to say that I am not in agreement with this concept. I oppose taxing professional services because in the end these taxes will be passed on to the consumer. A tax of this type would also have an impact on small businesses that outsource a portion of their services. As I stated in my answer to question #1, we need to cut taxes and spending. In turn, this will create more jobs and help our economy recover.

- 5. There are 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?**

This needs to happen as it is one example of how we can reduce the cost of government. I would support the consolidation of these departments and the streamlining of various processes in these departments.

- 6. Do you support giving North Carolina’s Counties the authority to hold a “Pennies for Progress” referendum similar to South Carolina’s? Please explain your answer.**

Yes. I believe this program has been very successful in South Carolina. I believe the people should have a voice in funding such an important issue.

- 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. I mentioned this in my answer to question #1.

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

I’m not sure what this would entail but again, I’m not in favor of imposing any additional tax burdens on individuals and businesses.