

2010 SPPACE Questionnaire

BOB RUCHO

Candidates for the North Carolina General Assembly State Senate – District 39

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

A. Revitalize the NC economy, support small business and produce good private sector jobs

B. Complete I- 485 and widen the southern leg of I -485 from Rae Rd. to I- 77.

C. Reduce the 30% high school dropout rate with technical and vocational training programs.

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 have already voted and will continue to oppose the transfer tax.

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

No!!

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.

The NC tax base has changed due to loss of manufacturing sector. If the change in tax policy moves forward:

The total tax dollars generated must be revenue neutral. Sales tax must be on all services, can't allow government to pick winners and losers. The tax rates on corporate, personal and sales tax must be reduced by 2-3%. Must have lower tax rates to produce a WOW factor for the people to accept this new tax policy. A NC Constitutional amendment is

required to establish an annual spending limit which should be based on % of population growth and the change in the inflation rate.

- 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.**

Consolidate the State regulatory agencies and require a cost-benefit review process on all existing and newly proposed regulations. Eliminate any regulation that does not prove to be beneficial to the public and unnecessarily burdensome to industry.

- 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.**

No, NCDOT must be reorganized to meet the needs of 21st century NC.

- 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?**

The formula can be changed to include a congestion factor and include vehicle lane miles in the calculation. The most important change is to redraw the maps of each transportation district to reflect an accurate population count and combine counties based on commonality of interests. Cluster urban and rural like demographics.

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

No, especially on top of the existing gas tax system.