From: Asheville Blade
Subject: Asheville Blade Buncombe Commissioner candidate questionnaire
Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2016 1:03:43 PM

Good afternoon, Buncombe commissioner and chair candidates. I hope this finds you all well.

Below is the Asheville Blade's candidate questionnaire, containing a description section, a general question section and a yes/no section.

The deadline for submitting responses is Oct. 24, though earlier submissions are certainly welcome. Please include a photo and feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

David Forbes
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Asheville Blade Buncombe Commissioners candidate questionnaire

Description

Name:

Profession:

In up to two words, describe your political affiliation:

In one brief sentence, describe yourself and why you're running:

General questions

These questions are about problems, challenges or topics facing county government and how you would try to deal with them if elected. Limit 300 words per answer.

1) Housing costs have steadily risen in the area, outside the city of Asheville as well as within. What steps should the county take to deal with the affordable housing crisis?

2) The State of Black Asheville report reveals multiple inequities — in fields like education, housing, health and more — affecting the African-American community in both Asheville and Buncombe County. What steps would you support to address these issues?

3) What do you see as the appropriate circumstances for a commissioner to question or criticize appointed staff? What is your overall assessment of the current performance of the county manager and top county staff?

4) According to the N.C. Department of Education, Buncombe County Schools have $10,225 in revenue per student, as compared to $13,125 for Asheville City Schools. What steps should the county take to ensure that this revenue gap doesn't result in services for students in county schools falling behind?

5) Buncombe County's seen more development as population and tourism in the area increases. Do you believe the county's current development rules are adequate to deal with this situation? If not, how would you change them?

Yes/No

These questions are about specific proposals the commissioners have or may consider, and how you would vote on them. The first word of each answer must be Yes or No. An explanation of one's position — or an alternative proposal — may follow, with a limit of 300 words. Answers in this section that do not begin with "Yes" or "No" will not be published.

6) Do you support the current distribution of hotel tax revenue to the Tourism Development Authority?

7) Would you endorse the repeal of the provision of HB2 prohibiting local governments from passing nondiscrimination ordinances?

8) Do you support the $34,359 bonus allocated to County Manager Wanda Greene as part of this year's budget?

9) Durham County recently changed its living wage rates so that all county workers make at least $15 an hour. Do you support a similar step in Buncombe, setting a base wage of $15 an hour for all county employees?

10) Will you approve county funds to support the proposal, backed by the city-county African-American Heritage Commission, for a monument on Pack Square marking the contributions and history of local black citizens?