

---

## Confederate Monument Questions

1 message

---

**Brian McMahan** <brianmcmahan@jacksonnc.org>

Sun, Jun 14, 2020 at 11:59 AM

To: cory@smokymountainnews.com

1. In light of the current state of protest across this country, do you think it's time to remove these monuments in Jackson County? Why or why not?

"No, I do not believe that we should remove the confederate statue/monument at the Jackson County Library complex, it is an historical component of that property. As a community our focus needs to be on lifting people up, not tearing things done. It is easy to focus on symbols and inanimate objects, we however, need to focus on helping change peoples hearts and minds. Learning to understand our differences and the issues that divide us and find ways that we can come together and live in harmony, is a great first step, but a giant one at that. We have far more in common than we have that divides us."

2. Some across the country have suggested that Confederate monuments remain, but also feature some other sort of monument or explanation putting slavery and discrimination into context. For example, the marker at the county courthouse could see an additional monument placed next to it, or some signage presenting the other side of the story. Would you favor this?

"Yes, I am in favor of using the monument as a teaching tool to educate current and future generations about where we came from and help guide us to where we need to be. I am definitely in favor of adding other monuments that recognize other people/events in our history. History has its ugly moments, that hopefully we can learn from, so that we can truly make those moment history and not current reality."

3. What are your feelings on the state commission appointed by the Governor (the NC Historical Commission) being empowered to tell counties and municipalities what to do with their monuments?

"Unfortunately in NC, local governments are strictly regulated by the State Government. There are times that this creates problems. A "cookie cutter" approach does not work all across the state and in every community. Local autonomy has a benefit of making sure that local communities are able to take actions that best represent and benefit their citizens."

4. If you're advocating for removal of Confederate monuments and imagery, would you appeal to the NC Historical Commission for permission, or simply remove the monuments and take whatever comes from that?

"I believe in the rule of law and would follow the appropriate measures as outlined by the State of NC in any matter."

Sent from my iPad