Star News Candidate Questionnaire – Jim Harris, NC HD16

Basic info:

1. Date of birth: October 29, 1953
2. Occupation: Retired
3. Education: Public High School; B.A. Finance – Michigan State University; MBA – Wayne State University
4. Political experience: In NC, Pender County Precinct Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, and Chairperson (current). State Executive Committee member, and prior candidate for County Commissioner, District 1 in 2024.
5. Political affiliation: Democratic
6. Photo: Please provide a photo/headshot of yourself that we can use with our article.



Questions:

1. **What are the top issues facing your district?** 1) ***Affordability*** (high prices, low wages, housing, energy, insurance, child care, taxes). 2) ***Healthcare*** (access, coverage/inclusion, cost). 3) ***Transparency and Integrity*** (fair elections, ban trading while in office, campaign finance and PAC funding reform, term limits, mandatory retirement age limits, allowing citizen Referenda, and restoring honesty and integrity oversight). Before meaningful legislative reform can be achieved, and supported by the public, the issue of integrity must be resolved in advance, and visible to the public.
2. **What goals do you have for your district?** I will commit to listen to, and serve the majority regardless of party affiliation. This will support my efforts regarding the District's top three issues (above) to succeed. I support delegating organized and responsible growth controls, such as land use and UDO re-design, zoning, permitting, negotiated fees and incentives to the Counties. I will act to reverse ALL

voter disenfranchisement, starting with a proposal to support District voting for all Counties.

3. **Why are you the best candidate for this position?** I value truth, facts, clear goals and accountability for results. I believe that WE, THE PEOPLE are the answer to progress, not US vs THEM. Our elected officials determine law and policy matters, promote or impede economic development and equal justice, and have a generational impact upon the quality of life for NC residents. Therefore, it's important to note that my qualifications include leadership experience, knowledge through education, strong organization and communication skills, problem-solving skills, management skills, and a strident moral and ethical passion to serve.

4. **How will you tackle affordability?** I would encourage the formation of Union partnerships between labor and large employers. I would propose to eliminate corporate "free rides" and propose common-sense income and property taxation. I would incentivize corporate day-care provisions for employed families. I would increase the (State) tax deduction to the first $50,000 of small business income. I would encourage public-private programs to provide reduced-cost financing, reduce regulations and permitting burdens, and allow County-driven negotiations to incentivize multi-family housing land use around "town squares" that offer business, services, and public parks. I would work toward an urban and rural transportation system to reduce the cost and reliance on automobile-only access to work, school, and services.

5. **How will you increase healthcare access in your district?** I will focus on, and work with the Municipalities in each County to maintain (and/or offer) urgent/critical care hospital and extended care facilities in rural locations. I support Planned Parenthood programs supporting men and women and would improve incentives to attract medical professionals (via better housing, school, and transportation options at least). I would make permanent State funding to maintain our citizen's health, not simply react to their illness, such as the ACA subsidies supported by Governor Stein.

6. **What's your plan to improve infrastructure in your district?** I will work with the WMPO, the State DOT, and the Counties to develop a proactive investment in infrastructure through long-range planning and clusters of land-use designations. We must rethink our current developer-driven, residential-only approach to "islands" of bedroom communities that have virtually impassable interconnections to jobs, schools, dining, and services.