League of Women Voters Questionnaire – Jim Harris NC House D16

Thank you for filling out your profile information on the League of Women Voters 2026 VOTE411.org online voter guide. We appreciate your participation!

Here is a copy of your submission:

NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 016

harris4nc16@gmail.com
Retired Healthcare IT Systems and Services Executive
Harris4NC16.com
ALL residents of District 16 deserve a voice - I pledge to listen and act to put YOU first, not politics, profit, or personal loyalty.
910-406-8350
P.O. Box 84
HAMPSTEAD, NC, 28443

What experience and skills make you the best candidate for this office? (Max. 750 characters)
I value truth, facts, clear goals and accountability for results. I am committed to serve North Carolina residents proactively and objectively using the skills and experience I've accumulated and refined. I will always serve and act in my constituent's best interests. Honesty, integrity, fairness, open communication, and foresight (avoiding unintended consequences) is crucial to earn the public's trust.

What do you see as your most important priority if you are elected? (Max. 750 characters)
My priorities focus on four elements which NC residents have told me they expect their elected leaders to understand, to negotiate, address in a timely fashion, and enable – namely Affordability (prices, wages, housing, insurance, energy, child care, taxes), Healthcare (access, coverage/inclusion, cost), Education (facilities, a broad curriculum, teacher pay, equity across all Districts), and Transparency and Integrity (ban trading while in office, free & fair elections, campaign finance reform, term limits, restoring oversight, honesty and integrity).

What are your views and priorities on how education policy and funding issues should be addressed in the coming year? (Max. 750 characters)
Current funding is woefully insufficient (NC is dead last in per-pupil funding), and it forces NC counties to supplement increasingly burdensome reductions and inflation-impacted

expenses. Opportunity Scholarships are detrimental to a sound, basic education for ALL school-age children, and a taxpayer-supported gift to the wealthy in NC. I would propose the repeal of Opportunity Scholarships for those above a certain income level and restore equivalent (e.g., LEANDRO Remediation Plan) funding for all students in NC.

What role do you believe tax policy should play in supporting North Carolina's economy and addressing the needs of its residents? (Max 750 characters)
NC is highly desirable to corporate development, but it's time they uphold their fair share contribution to our tax base. And they need to pay their workers a living wage! I believe we should fairly tax large corporations to fund infrastructure, affordable housing, educational excellence, public works/parks, etc. I would propose an increase in the minimum wage, and repeal of Right to Work laws prohibiting union development. On the other hand, I do propose we increase the small business tax deduction (current Federal deduction on the first $20,000 of income) to the larger amount of $50,000.

What changes to the laws in our state would you promote to improve safety in our communities? (Max. 750 characters)
According to the most recent finalized data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Gun Violence Solutions, 1,835 gun deaths were recorded in North Carolina in 2024. We must address lax gun safety laws and improve mental health services to address the underlying issues and reduce related crime(s). I am also a strong proponent of "drug courts" as well, to help alleviate incarceration as the only (illogical) penalty given to drug offenders. Gun deaths totals include: 688 homicides 1,059 suicides 88 other firearm-related deaths (e.g., legal intervention, unintentional discharge)

Additional Comments (Max. 1000 characters)
Our current system of elected officials drawing voting district maps that protect their tenure in office (gerrymandering) is one significant cause of our current divisive approach to governance, where legislators choose their voters instead of the other way around. I will propose an independent commission charged with creating fair District maps, and only ONCE per decade, based on objective census data. I will commit to listen to and serve the majority regardless of party affiliation. This will support my efforts regarding the District's top four 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.

The League of Women Voters of NC reserves the right to review all responses and edit for clarity and content. We will contact you if changes need to be made. You can always go back into VOTE411 and edit your responses using the same response link:

https://admin.thevoterguide.org/candidates/N328ZQGG/responses

If you have any questions, please call me at *843.879.8124* or respond to this email.

With appreciation,

Lindsay LaPlante

LWVNC VOTE411

my.lwv.org/north-carolina-state