U.S. HOUSE - DIST. 12

Vince Coakley (R)



Lives in: Charlotte

Contact: vincecoakley@coakleyforcongress.com; www.coakleyforcongress.com; @votevince on Twitter; facebook.com/vincecoakleyforcongress

Age: Not given

Profession: Broadcaster/radio host

Highest degree earned: Bachelor of arts in broadcasting, Eastern Kentucky University

Leadership experience: Serving as a minister of the Gospel working with individuals, families and youths to help others lead healthy and fulfilling lives in Christ.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of Congress? I'm not a career politician. Career politicians have created "Big Government," high unemployment, regulations that hurt small business, and limits on individuals and families to get ahead. I am a concerned citizen who wants to empower individuals, families and communities, not "Big Government," "Big Business" and career politicians.

Give an example of how you have worked with someone from another political party to accomplish a goal. Or, if you haven't held elected office, how will you do this? Democrats and Republicans are responsible for the problems and struggles facing North Carolina families. I am not beholden to labels or political parties. I want to empower individuals, families, and communities, not "Big Government," "Big Business" and career politicians. My priority is helping everyone succeed and prosper.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? Yes, I support an independent commission for redistricting. An independent commission would limit the number of career politicians able to continue to do more for themselves than they do for ordinary citizens.

What is your plan for federal health care reform? The Affordable Care Act has proven bad for North Carolina. It is neither affordable nor is it providing health care. The ACA is causing small businesses to either close their doors or stop hiring new employees. And some 300,000 North Carolinians have lost their health insurance because of the ACA.

In the event of another debt ceiling impasse, are you willing to let the federal government shut down? The United States will go bankrupt if the federal government continues to spend money senselessly. "Big Government" empowers career politicians and "Big Business" through handouts and bailouts. We must cut wasteful spending and live within our means. No more bailouts and no more handouts.

Should there be a federally mandated minimum wage? Why or why not? No, there should not. The federal government should not determine how small businesses run their business. Small businesses create jobs. Federal government meddling and over-regulation kills job creation, keeps individuals and families unemployed.

Do you think the federal government should promote more off-shore energy development, stricter environmental regulations, or both? The U.S. should encourage, not restrict, domestic exploration and production of our energy resources. Congress should approve the Keystone Pipeline and encourage energy independence. This will create good-paying jobs in the U.S. We should not be importing energy resources from foreign countries that wish Americans harm.

What would you do to reduce illegal immigration? What would you do about the illegal immigrants that are currently in the country? We must secure our border and enforce our immigration laws. Amnesty is not an option. It will destroy our economy and health care system. Granting amnesty to 12 million people will make it harder for American citizens already looking for work to find work.

N.C. HOUSE

John Faircloth (R) (i)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: johnfaircloth61@gmail.com; www.johnfaircloth61.com

Age: 75

Profession: Retired chief of police/real estate broker/owner

Highest degree earned: MPA from UNCG

Leadership experience: U.S. Army noncommissioned officer; chief of police; real estate broker/owner; City Council mayor pro tem; N.C. House of Representatives: chairman of Guilford delegation, chairman of Justice and Public Safetey Appropriations subcommittee, vice chairman of Appropriations Committee, chairman of Emergency Management Oversight Committee, chairman of Jordan Lake Committee

As a minority party member, how will you be able to get things done for your constituents? For the 2013-2014 session, I ranked 4th out of 170 legislators in effectiveness for passage of bills I was a primary sponsor on. Working across the aisle and with fellow legislators from diverse geographic and economic areas is important.

How can the state's rivers and lakes be better protected from coal ash and other pollutants? By improved transportation and storage methods, more diligent regulatory monitoring and developing more active markets for use of coal ash in commercial products.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? Why or why not? Yes, if (a) the structure of the commission and its authority was properly neutral with respect to partisan influence, and (b) if a strong majority of residents accepted the actual proposal and not just the concept.

Should North Carolina expand Medicaid coverage? Why or why not? Not based on the present problematic health care programs. Adequate health care should be accessible, affordable and effective. I support continued deliberate legislative and administrative cooperation to develop a system that has citizens' trust and that they can afford.

Are there parts of the 2013 voter reform that you would change? The reforms are presently under strict and thorough review. In the event of court findings that call for amending or deleting some of the language or provisions, it is certainly proper to make such changes. With respect to the policy expressed in the reforms, I am in agreement.

Would you support an increase to the state minimum wage? I would support an increase when it can be determined that business productivity would be maintained or improved and jobs would not be lost to a greater extent than we now are suffering. Businesses voluntarily raise salaries to employ appropriately trained and talented workers. An improved economy will bring increases.

Should the state privatize its economic development efforts? There is justification for government/private sector cooperation in economic development. Ideally, the private sector would prefer a healthy, robust business climate that prompted growth and migration of industry to our state. Until that occurs, we stand in competition with other states and countries. We can't walk away.

North Carolina is 46th in teacher pay. What's the best way for North Carolina to improve teacher pay? Education is closely related to other service businesses, both public and private. Higher pay comes from improved service. Our teachers are capable, proud and desirous of seeing their students succeed. As they, with parental support and enlightened administrative guidance, produce higher quality, increases should follow.

What should be done about the funding crisis in the state's higher education system? Should tuition or state funding be increased, or is there another solution? We seem to believe that almost every young person who wants to should be in college. We have lightened entry requirements to the point that remediation takes the better part of the first year of study for many. Higher entry standards will help ease the demand and encourage technical careers.

DISTRICT 61

Ron Weatherford (D)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: weathfd@aol.com

Age: 58

Profession: Retired

Highest degree earned: Master's degree

Leadership experience: Chairman, Guilford County Selective Service; executive board memberships,Urban League, Piedmont Funeral Consumers Alliance; former pastor, United Methodist Church; management experience, U.S. Postal Service; director, Nia's Ark.

As a minority party member, how will you be able to get things done for your constituents? I will partner with other legislators to get bills to floor. Because North Carolina has both rural and urban areas, it will be critical to support the issues affecting farmers. Hopefully this will enable my district to have our issues addressed and voted into policy.

How can the state's rivers and lakes be better protected from coal ash and other pollutants? The state should enforce the Clean Water Act. Education is needed to reduce runoff from lawns and golf courses. Erosion control measures should be implemented on land subject to cause runoff pollution. The state needs to fine any company that causes pollution and make them pay cleanup costs.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? Why or why not? I would support an independent commission for redistricting. Those who serve on this commission must pledge to be non-partisan. I think by using an independent commission, district lines can be drawn that do not give an advantage to either party. My district is one that favors the Republican Party.

Should North Carolina expand Medicaid coverage? Why or why not? Medicaid should be expanded in North Carolina because there are still an estimated 500,000 people who not insured. The present system actually costs more when those uninsured visit emergency rooms for minor treatments. Medicaid should be expanded so to that children can get preventive care for diseases.

Are there parts of the 2013 voter reform that you would change? The courts have recently overturned most of the new voting changes that were to take place in 2014. The voter picture ID will be overturned as well.

Would you support an increase to the state minimum wage? I would support an increase to the minimum wage. As it stands now, those earning the minimum qualify for public programs which are paid for by tax dollars. Those who are living on the minimum wage are less apt to have health insurance.

Should the state privatize its economic development efforts? The state should work in partnership with private developers for economic development. By working together, I think that the state can propose incentives that will lure businesses to North Carolina.

North Carolina is 46th in teacher pay. What's the best way for North Carolina to improve teacher pay? At the present time there have been tax reductions on top wage earners that make it difficult to have enough funding for teacher pay. The bottom line is bringing teacher pay from the bottom means raising taxes somewhere.

What should be done about the funding crisis in the state's higher education system? Should tuition or state funding be increased, or is there another solution? We can legalize the recreational use of marijuana and tax it at 28 percent. This money can be used to help offset tuition hikes. It can also be used in part to improve teacher pay in the state.