N.C. HOUSE - DISTRICT 62

Sal Leone (D)



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: blueboy210@aol.com; www.salvatoreleone.org

Age: 43

Profession: Law Enforcement

Highest degree earned: Associate in applied science

Leadership experience: Field training officer, crisis intervention officer, zoo volunteer, Communities In School. General instructor, FEMA training, with about 800 hours.

As a minority party member, how will you be able to get things done for your constituents? I can get along with anyone; it's about getting along and having an open mind. It's not the party you are in; it's the people you got to remember.

How can the state's rivers and lakes be better protected from coal ash and other pollutants? We first limit PAC money to elected officials. We then hold them responsible for their mess, fines, inspections. The state has to be strong and send the right message from jump street.

Would you support an independent commission for redistricting? The way the state did redistricting was shady; just look at all the unopposed races. You call that America? I call it not running because you will lose. I was told that I would lose since the district was cut for Republicans. So yes, I support it.

Should North Carolina expand Medicaid coverage? Yes.People are dying, people need help, and we simply fight about it. There are states that took the money and they are still around; we are losing money, jobs and the most important thing, we are losing people.

Are there parts of the 2013 voter reform that you would change? The voter ID seems over the top. We need new software for voting that could catch fraud. Voting is about freedom; ID takes away freedom.

Would you support an increase to the state minimum wage? Yes, I have a plan to increase it based on age. We can't afford a fast jump, but we can work with it. We need to make sure working people are not poor. They make more, then they spend more.

Should the state privatize its economic development efforts? I have to say no. I just don't trust the agenda of that. There is no reason the state can't do it.

North Carolina is 46th in teacher pay. What's the best way for North Carolina to improve teacher pay? First, we need to stop all the pay increase games. All teachers should get the same percentage. We need to stop the big tax shift that cost us millions; you can't pay when you don't have the money. Tax cuts hurt when they are done wrong.

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 should fund the system. The students are the future; pay now or later. We need to stop tax cuts when we have programs to fund; tuition is out of control now; we need to stop any increase.

Do you think any other firearm law reforms are needed? We need to make laws simple and leave no room for question. We need to make laws that match federal laws — gun control for criminals, not good citizens. We need to make pistol-purchase permits state-mandated and take power away from sheriffs to choose.

GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AT-LARGE

Jack Kraemer



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: kraemer.for.school.board@gmail.com

Age: 66

Profession: Retired teacher/librarian

Highest degree earned: Ph.D.

Leadership experience: Served on the board of the Raleigh Ballet Theater Co.; board of the Greensboro Episcopal Housing Ministry.

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 the board? After nearly 40 years of face-to-face work with students, the last 18 with Guilford County Schools, I think I have recent classroom experience that will be a valuable addition to the board. I can easily learn the way the board does its business.

Why do you want to be on the school board? I worry about the morale of teachers and the paltry number of students interested in teaching. I also want to work on getting parents involved in their children's education.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Too many students come off to school poorly prepared for academic work; as a result, they are behind from the start and only play catch-up for their entire school career.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? The board has to energize our residents to raise the educational aspirations of all parents and students so that the need of each child is correctly assessed and their capabilities pushed to the limit. Reading is key.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? If the rewrite comes up with a rigorous curriculum that can be properly implemented and sets our students up to compete in the global economy, the name is immaterial.

Would you have agreed to sue the state over teacher tenure? Yes. Asking teachers to give up a contractual right to a form of due process seemed a breaking of faith with tenured teachers; doing away with a tenure process for new teachers is a very different thing.

Nancy Routh



Lives in: Pleasant Garden

Contact: nrouth@bellsouth.net

Age: 81

Profession: Retired teacher and principal

Highest degree earned: Doctor of education, UNCG

Leadership Experience: 12 years on Guilford County Board of Education, at-large seat; numerous committees and advisory boards.

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 the board? Going through the election process from filing to run through the final election is a learning experience. Regardless of the office, your interaction with the public gives insight into the interests and needs of residents you are representing. The diversity within Guilford County is amazing. It's an honor to serve.

Why do you want to be on the school board? I want to continue the work in progress — construction projects and improving instruction.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Advocating for our public schools — all levels, national, state and local.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? Providing a support system for students and families K-12.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Common Core is only a set of standards for reading/language arts and math K-12. Regardless of the standards used, they will require aligned instructional resources and teacher training. Common Core is not a curriculum; materials and rushed implementation are the problems.

Would you have agreed to sue the state over teacher tenure? Why or why not? Yes, I did agree. The issue wasn't the tenure law itself, but the constitutionality of revoking an already earned right of teachers.

DISTRICT 4

Alan Duncan



Lives in: Greensboro

Contact: aduncan@vldlitigation.com

Age: 60

Profession: Attorney

Highest degree earned: Juris Doctor, Vanderbilt University Law School, 1979

Leadership Experience: Guilford County Board of Education, 2000-2014 (chairman 2002-2014); president of the N.C. Bar Association, 2013-2014; chairman of the Davidson College Ne Ultra Giving Society, 2012-2013; chairman of the First Presbyterian Church Capital Campaign, 2011-2012.

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 the board? You have experience and a deep understanding of the issues. Even with experience, it remains important that energy and a continued study of the factual background of board issues be brought to the task of board service.

Why do you want to be on the school board? I am passionate about the significance of a quality public education for our society and for democracy. It is a privilege to be of service to the children of our community and to be of assistance and support for our educators and certified employees.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Maintaining high rigor for all of our students and challenging our students with meaningful and interesting curriculum and instruction in an environment conducive to learning. This is the key component to closing the achievement gap, which remains a significant priority.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? By supporting the effort of our senior staff and educators, Guilford County Schools is now approaching a graduation rate of 90 percent for all of our students, which means we still have work to do even though we have one of the very highest rates of any urban district in the country.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? There have been too many curriculum changes with a lack of consistency and appropriate implementation of the various approaches used by the state. The state must settle on a consistent, research-supported curriculum approach for our schools that is educationally driven, not politically driven.

Would you have agreed to sue the state over teacher tenure? I supported suing the state on this law because I strongly believed it was unconstitutional and was divisive and demoralizing for our teachers. Teachers had earned tenure in their contract with the state. To take that earned right away retroactively was unfair by any measure.