

People's Alliance PAC 2008 Questionnaire
for NC Governor Candidates

Candidate's Name Richard Moore

1. There is a series of bills adopted by one house or the other, which have "crossed over" to be considered in the upcoming "short session" of the General Assembly. In each case, we would like to know if you would support this bill and reasons for your position.

As a gubernatorial candidate, I am ineligible to vote on any of these pieces of legislation. I have included short statements regarding my views on each subject.

a. *Environment/Clean Government: What is your position on the proposed "experimental" beach hardening measures being pushed by the residents of Figure 8 Island?*

I do not support beach hardening measures at Figure 8 Island.

b. *Collective Bargaining for Government Workers (H 1583) – This bill would repeal NCGS 95-98, which prevents any government agency—state, county, or local—from negotiating with an organized group representing its employees.*

We should allow public employees to negotiate work issues with their employers in a mutually-respectful manner, but public employees should not be allowed to strike.

c. *Establish Paid Sick Days H 1711 – This bill would require employers to allow employees to earn up to 7 sick days a year that may be taken by employees to care for themselves, sick children, spouses, and parents.*

I am open to the concept of this legislation and think we should do more to improve the situation for North Carolina workers. For example, I have proposed raising the North Carolina minimum wage in my first term as governor.

d. *Pesticides Bill H 1818 Agricultural Family Protection Act – This bill would require farm operators to maintain more complete records about the application of pesticides. It also prohibits discrimination or retaliation against any employee who issues a complaint or files a claim regarding the application of pesticides and allows for confidential complaints.*

It is important that we maintain good records about the usage of pesticides and protect people from their adverse effects.

2. *Energy: The structure of utility rates can be a powerful force in discouraging waste, encouraging appropriate investment and keeping necessities affordable for everyone. In light of the controversies over Cliffside, what, if any, changes would you like to see in the structure of electric and natural gas rates? What other ways would you use your office to move NC to a more sustainable future?*

The way we produce and use energy is exacting a huge cost from our wallets and from our environment. Our current trajectory is unsustainable. That is why I was the first gubernatorial candidate to propose a comprehensive energy plan, which is available here: http://www.richardmoore.org/images/Energy_Future.pdf

We must fix the broken rules that reward the utilities for building expensive and dirty new power plants. As Governor, I will work with the North Carolina Utility Commission to create a rate structure that will allow the utilities to profit from investment in efficiency and renewable energy while also ensuring that consumers are protected.

I have also proposed:

- Making government a leading consumer of alternative fuels.
- Measuring the State's carbon footprint annually and setting targets for future reductions.
- Improving the energy efficiency of state buildings.
- Increasing the availability of public transit.
- A plan to address the drought and to create a more sustainable water future.

3. Growth and infrastructure: North Carolina has some huge gaps in funding for the infrastructure: \$65B for transportation, \$30B for water and sewer, and so on. At the same time, we seem to be constantly "stretching a threadbare blanket" to cover services such as mental health. How would your leadership help us get adequate and stable financing for state government?

No candidate has the financial background and experience that I bring to this race. Soon after I took office in 2001, North Carolina experienced its worst state budget crisis since the Great Depression. I worked with other state leaders to steer North Carolina through these tough times. Because of this effective management, North Carolina is one of just a handful of states with a triple A (AAA) credit rating from all three rating agencies.

As state treasurer, I am responsible for almost \$90 billion in public money and oversee the pension funds for more than 800,000 firefighters, teachers, National Guard members and other public workers. By modernizing the state's investment strategies, we have generated more than \$4 billion in additional investment returns for our retirees. In 2008, credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's named North Carolina as having the second-best funded state pension system in the United States for the third year in a row, a testament to our careful stewardship of the fund.

I have proposed plans to reform transportation, save time and money on school construction and reform the state's budget process. I call my approach "reform-to-invest." We can stretch our dollars to make them go further and use the savings to invest in priorities like education, health care and protecting our environment. A lot of the governor's job is about being a good manager, and I am uniquely prepared for that role.

4. *Foreclosure Crisis: In 2007, the NC General Assembly passed a number of consumer-protection bills related to borrowing. What additional measures in this area, if any, would you take as a leader in NC?*

As a federal prosecutor, state representative, secretary of crime control and public safety, and state treasurer, I have fought for fair treatment of North Carolina workers and families. I helped lead the fight to raise North Carolina's minimum wage in 2006. I have been a national leader in the effort to end the corporate abuses that hurt consumers and our pension fund. And I have worked diligently to promote reforms that reward hard work and increase opportunity.

For example, I recently launched the Mortgage Protection Principles, eight basic standards of transparency and fairness that should become the new standard for responsible and respectable mortgage lending. These common-sense principles are supported by a national coalition and will help to prevent future mortgage meltdowns and reform abusive practices in the lending industry.

I also called for an SEC investigation into the sale of stock by Countrywide CEO Angelo Mozilo. Countrywide, caught at the center of the subprime meltdown, routinely took advantage of its customers by qualifying them for loans they were unable to pay back. Mozilo cashed in \$145 million worth of stock options just before his company's stock went into a tailspin. The SEC did open an investigation on Mozilo, and he recently announced that he would give up \$37.5 million in compensation.

I will continue efforts to protect North Carolina's consumers as governor. We will raise the minimum wage again by one dollar in my first term, continue efforts to teach financial literacy in our schools and crack down on corporate abuses that hurt North Carolina's families and communities.

5. *North Carolina Housing Trust: what is your position on increased funding of the NC Housing Trust Fund to \$50 million?*

I support increased funding of the NC Housing Trust Fund and their goal of \$50 million dollars in funding. I have long been an advocate of affordable housing in North Carolina and know the critical role that the Housing Trust Fund plays in our state.

6. *The State of North Carolina has already passed a Defense of Marriage Act. What is your position on DOMA? Do you support additional legislation (e.g. constitutional amendment) in support of/ or opposed to same-sex marriage? Would you support legislative support of civil union protections for citizens in same-sex relationships?*

I support existing law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. I support allowing hospital visitation for domestic partners.

7. *Do you support continued funding of the state abortion fund?*

Yes. My opponent was responsible for gutting the State Abortion Fund by 96% in 1995 and voted for legislation that makes it inaccessible to low income women.