

**UE Local 150, NC Public Service Workers Union
2026 State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire**

1. Tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations have now removed over a third of annual revenue, totalling \$13 billion annually from our state budget of roughly \$34 billion. Do you support rolling back the tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations that started in 2013? Why or why not?

I do support rolling back the tax cuts for the wealthy and for corporations. Right now, a lot of essential services such as our public education system and our public safety system are underfunded. By eliminating these tax cuts, we could invest more money into the daily lives of North Carolinians without having to raise taxes on everyday working people.

2. Do you support paying state employees a minimum living wage of \$25 per hour, and raising wages for all state employees by at least 20%?

While I am not comfortable committing to an exact amount, I do believe that our state employees deserve to be paid a living wage that increases at a rate to keep up with inflation.

3. Due to staff shortages and workplace safety issues, the governor, with support from the legislature, raised all Department of Public Safety staff to a 7-Year Step Plan in 2022. Would you support the same for DHHS workers?

Yes, I would support a similar 7-Year Step plan for DHHS workers.

4. Do you support raising the minimum stipend for UNC System graduate workers to at least \$27,000 for a yearly contract?

I am not comfortable committing to an exact amount but I would be in favor of increasing the minimum stipend to an amount that is fair for these workers.

5. Do you support: a) repealing state tax incentives for data centers, b) stopping Duke Energy from raising utility rates to pay for more data centers, and c) passing a statewide ban to stop building new data centers?

Yes, I support repealing tax incentives for data centers, stopping Duke Energy from raising rates to pay for data centers, and passing a ban on new data centers. During my time on the Matthews Town Council, I spearheaded the effort to stop a proposed data center from being built here in Matthews and I will continue that work if elected to the State House.

6. Currently NC has embedded unprecedented racially gerrymandered maps that disenfranchise African Americans. Election districts are currently stacked to be highly partisan. What will you do to help redraw election maps to not be as partisan, make voting less complicated, and increase transparency to ensure truly free and fair elections?

If elected, I would advocate for our maps to be drawn by an independent redistricting committee to put an end to the racial gerrymandering seen in North Carolina. My district is one of the most gerrymandered districts in the state and I believe that voters should be the

ones choosing their representatives, not the other way around. In addition, I would fight against any legislation that makes it harder for North Carolinians to vote.

7. North Carolinians pay more out of pocket for healthcare than workers in any state. Will you support a cap on healthcare reimbursement rates, and join us in demanding US Congress to enact the Medicare for All Act?

Nobody should die because they cannot afford medical treatments. Nobody should have to choose between putting food on the table and getting adequate healthcare. I am in support of a competitive public option for healthcare and I will work to ensure that all North Carolina residents at risk of being kicked off their healthcare plans are reenrolled. I also am in support of blocks on big pharma to make sure everyone can afford their medications.

8. With state employee vacancies rates being high, what is your plan to retain state employees, especially in DHHS?

To retain state employees, I believe that we need to not only pay them more but also ensure that they are getting competitive benefits and ensure that they are able to work in a good and safe work environment.

9. Recently the UNC Board of Governors voted to eliminate the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs. Meanwhile, we have seen increased policing in syllabi policies and suppression of academic freedom supported by SB588. What would you do to protect public and private workers from suppressions of freedom of speech and from all forms of discrimination and unfairness in hiring and workplace practices?

I strongly believe in the protections of the First Amendment. If elected, I will work to reinstate programs that protect the First Amendment to ensure that workers have freedom of speech and freedom from discrimination in the workplace.

10. Do you support repealing the ban on public sector collective bargaining, GS 95-98? Why or why not?

While I would like to learn more about this collective bargaining repeal and the implications it has for our workers, I will always stand for safe workplaces and living wages. We need to support our workers and allow them to get what they deserve.

11. Would you support ending "Pay to Work" in the UNC System by stopping parking fees for university employees and eliminating student fees for graduate workers?

Yes, I would support ending "pay to work" in the UNC system.

12. There have been a series of recent efforts to curtail workers and students' right to protest and exercise their constitutional rights. How would you preserve students' right to protest freely and openly on campus?

Again, I believe in the protections laid out in the First Amendment. Students, workers, and all people should be able to freely exercise their freedom of speech and right to protest on campus.

13. While there has been some modest progress, state OSHA is still unable to fully fill all inspector positions to enforce workplace safety. Do you support full funding for Occupational Safety and Health Administration? Why or why not?

Yes, I support fully funding OSHA. Our workers deserve protections that put their safety first. We need to fully fund OSHA so that those protections are rightfully and consistently enforced in the workplace.

14. Do you support establishing an enforceable state OSHA excessive summer heat safety rule that includes paid cooling breaks, PPE, hydration and training for local and state government, as well as agricultural workers? Why or why not?

Yes, I support establishing an OSHA heat safety rule. As summers in North Carolina get increasingly brutal, there must be protections for our workers that must work in this heat. There have been numerous days this past summer where it was unbearably hot and we must protect our workers from the consequences of these high temperatures.

15. Do you support job security for municipal employees by passing Civil Service Board protections for city workers?

Yes, if elected, I would support passing Civil Service Board protections for city workers.

16. What plans do you have to alleviate the housing affordability crisis in our state? Would you support a bill to bring rent control to NC? Why or why not?

I would not be willing to go as far as supporting a rent control bill in NC but I do believe that work has to be done to lower housing costs in North Carolina. During my time on the Matthews Town Council, I secured more affordable housing in Matthews than ever before and I want to bring that experience to the General Assembly. Additionally, I believe that we need to not only focus on lowering rents but also making it easier for North Carolinians to own a home and build generational wealth for themselves and their families.

17. Do you support expanding fully covered dental and vision healthcare plans to all state employees, including the UNC system and its graduate workers? Why or why not?

Yes, I support expanding healthcare plans to fully cover dental and vision for all state employees. Healthcare is a basic human right and dental and vision care should not be seen as luxury services. Our workers deserve to have a comprehensive healthcare plan that includes these benefits.