

2024 North Carolina Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Addul Ali

Congressional District: House of Representatives District 12

Party Affiliation: Republican

Current Occupation: CFO - TUC Media LLC

Questions for 2024 Candidates for State Office in North Carolina

1. The most rapid period of brain development happens in the first five years of life, laying the foundation for all future learning, health, and success in school and life. What are your views on the needs of young children (prenatal to age 5) and what steps would you take to address these needs?

As a parent, I believe that these years should be dedicated to fostering a healthy emotional and physical environment with a major emphasis on healthy diet and early childhood literacy. I will work to ensure that we are promoting this to parents in areas where outcomes need to improve.

2. Every county in North Carolina is considered a "child care desert" with not enough supply to meet the demand. When parents do find child care, the average cost is nearly \$10,000/year, which is higher than the cost of public college tuition. What steps would you take to ensure that families have access to high-quality and affordable early learning programs for their children?

The federal government needs to reduce or eliminate the Federal Department of Education and reallocate the \$68 billion budget to assist families with childcare and bolster teacher and early childhood provider pay.

3. Currently, child care teachers in North Carolina earn an average of \$14/hour, less than most retail or service workers. Since 2021, federally-funded Child Care Compensation Grants have provided higher wages and bonuses to more than 40,000 North Carolina early educators, but that funding has expired. Without additional funding, child care providers have said that they will have to reduce teacher wages, raise parent tuition, or close their programs. What steps would you take to stabilize and sustain North Carolina's early education system and child care workforce as we approach the end of Compensation Grant funding?

I would champion reducing the size of or eliminating the DOE and use a portion of those funds to support teachers directly.

4. Working parents depend on child care, and businesses in nearly every sector have identified child care as a critical factor in their workforce challenges. A new study from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that insufficient child care is costing North Carolina about \$5.65 billion each year. What are your views on how the issues facing our state's child care system impact the state's economy? What specific steps would you take to ensure that our child care system can keep up with the demand as more working families need child care in North Carolina?

We should be looking at ways to support working families and daycare providers. I would work with industry leaders and daycare providers to develop solutions that benefit the people of North Carolina.

5. If elected, what would be your top 5 priorities for 2025?

Community safety, improving childhood literacy outcomes, developing more economic opportunities, reducing the tax burden on working families, and protecting social security

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