

2024 North Carolina Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Nigel Bristow

Congressional District: House of Representatives District 9

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Law Enforcement

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?

Addressing the needs of young children (prenatal to age 5) is paramount. I would address the needs by providing funding for health care/ early education/ Head start programs

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?

Renewing and expanding the American Rescue act which secured funding for daycare. I would ensure continued funding for quality and affordable childcare. I would also support paying childcare workers a living wage and I would advocate for labor unions for those workers.

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 work to raise the federal minimum wage, secure funding to pay the workers a living wage and advocate for labor unions to offer those workers protections.

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?

There can be no economic prosperity if parents aren't free to go after better paying jobs due to the lack of available/affordable childcare. I would work to provide employers incentives to provide employer childcare for their employees.

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

1)Public Education 2) Affordable Health Care 3) Women's Reproductive Rights 4) Fair Elections w/ voter protections and expanding the Voting Rights Amendment 5) Protect Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid