

2024 North Carolina Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Michael Dublin

Congressional District: House of Representatives District 2

Party Affiliation: Green

Current Occupation: Educator

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 middle school teacher, parent and grandparent I believe the needs of young children are enormously important. I support free public education beginning in Pre-k, increasing public school funding, ending the privatization of schools, and free childcare which will help meet the needs of young children.

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?

I support free public education beginning in Pre-k and free childcare. I also advocate for a Livable Wage of at least 25\$ an hour which I think will help increase the amount of childcare providers.

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 advocate for a Livable Wage of at least 25\$ and hour which I think will help increase the amount of childcare providers. I also will push to reinstate similar funding as the Compensation Grants until this goal is achieved because we do not need to reduce teacher wages, raise parent tuition, or close programs that help children.

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?

Yes. The need is critical. It impacts me. Impacts my family. It impacts my community. As I stated in a previous answer, I support and advocate for guaranteed free childcare, and increasing childcare workers wages to a livable wage of 25\$ an hour.

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

Stopping endless wars. Healthcare for all. Livable wage of 25\$/hour. A true Green New Deal. Reparations for descendants of slaves in America. End homelessness and increase affordable housing. Increase and equalize public school funding.

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