

2024 North Carolina Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Chuck Hubbard

Congressional District: House of Representatives District 5

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Former journalist

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?

They need a stable household where basic necessities like food and shelter are met. We need to ensure working families are paid a livable wage. Additionally, we need to ensure that basic fundamentals are met through programs like Pre-K, which should be provided at a reasonable cost.

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?

Ensure that the government helps to fund and incentivize these kinds of businesses across the state

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?

Increase the funding to maintain and expand the program.

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?

Inability to care for your child, your number one priority, clearly makes it more challenging. I would encourage government programs that help fill in the gaps and incentivize more child care facilities.

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

In Congress, I will prioritize our working families and small businesses, support public education, work to build an economy that works for all of us, and expand access to affordable healthcare. I'll always vote to protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits that North Carolinians depend on every day, I'll stand up for equal justice for every community, and I'll always protect a woman's right to choose and access critical healthcare.