

2024 North Carolina State Office Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Steve Moree

District or Office: NC House District 94

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Semi retired

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?

These years are extremely important as to prepare children for school and socialization. We need affordable childcare and proper healthcare for them. I want to see more affordable options for both.

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?

We need to see how we can reduce the cost for parents and offer some sort of assistance for working parents.

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. This summer, the NC General Assembly appropriated funds to extend the grants for a short time, while also recognizing the need to explore long-term solutions to attract and retain a qualified early childhood workforce. 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?

We can investigate other Grant options and partnerships. We should not be supporting private schools through the voucher program, this money could drive down childcare cost.

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?

I haven't spent much time looking to answers for this but if I am elected I will be focused on this priority.

5. North Carolina currently spends approximately 1% of the annual state budget on early childhood programs, including Smart Start, NC Pre-K, and Child Care Subsidy Assistance. Nearly all early childhood programs in every county of the state have waiting lists and only serve a fraction of eligible children and families. What are your goals for overall early childhood funding and/or what types of early childhood programs would you support making an investment in at the state level?

Reduce the financial burden of young families and I will support early education programs.

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

Reduce or potentially end the voucher program

Set a salary schedule for teachers that is on par with national average
Reduce testing in School
Use money that went to private schools to help with daycare.
Help attract businesses to our state.