

QUALIFICATIONS

1. What are your strongest qualifications for this position?

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><i>I place people before politics and, above all, listen to the needs of Western North Carolinians. As Chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Rural Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade, and as a leader of the influential Blue Dog Coalition, I have the experience and leadership to reach across party lines to bring people together behind common-sense solutions to the problems facing America.</i></p>	<p><i>My small buisness background. I know what it is like to make a budget and keep it, something Washington has lost touch with. I have experience in creating and protecting jobs. A skill that we need in Washington in order to get this country up and running again. Also my record of service. I served on the board of Pardee Hospital, help create the local Boys and Girls Club in Hendersonville, help create the Heritage Musuem, raised money to buy bulletproof vests for our Sherrifs office, and my proudest achievement, creating HonorAir and co-founding the Honor Flight Network.</i></p>

ECONOMY - JOBS

Some 7.3 million jobs have been lost since the recession began in December 2007. Business and government leaders have put forth a variety of ideas for job creation.

2. Which of these ideas for job creation do you support?

	Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
Just wait, jobs will come back		
Expand Small Business Administration loan programs to help credit flow	<i>Support</i>	<i>Support</i>
Provide tax credits to encourage employers to hire workers	<i>Support</i>	<i>Support</i>
Encourage job-sharing and/or shorter work hours so more people can work	<i>Support</i>	<i>Support</i>
Increase federal job training opportunities		<i>Support</i>
Provide monies to states to reduce layoffs and create jobs through additional infrastructure projects		<i>Support</i>
Other		<i>Support</i>

3. Please comment on your response:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><i>It is time for us to start making things in American again. A member of the bipartisan Buy American Caucus, I work to reverse the effects of unfair trade agreements, promote domestic manufacturing and</i></p>	<p><i>We need to restore consumer confidence. We need to balance the budget in DC so there are no new taxes.</i></p>

get jobs back on American soil. As Chairman of a Small Business Subcommittee, I strive to increase access to capital for small businesses, which create 60% of new jobs. I authored and passed the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009 that overhauled the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs to provide entrepreneurs tools necessary for growth.

We need to get the debt under control. Once we do this we can give the money back to the people so they can invest, which in turn will help stimulate revenues and allow for businesses to hire more employees.

ECONOMY - DEBT

The US debt exceeds \$12.3 trillion, and has been growing by almost \$4 billion/day since fall of 2007. The deficit for fiscal year 2009 came in at \$1.42 trillion, more than triple the record set just the previous year. The Bush-era tax cuts are due to expire at the end of 2010, with rates returning to where they were in 2003. During his campaign, President Obama said he would extend the tax cuts for those making less than \$250,000 and let the cuts expire on those with higher incomes.

4. How strongly do you support or oppose the President's proposal to allow the 2003 tax cuts on incomes over \$250,000 to expire, but extend the cuts on lower incomes? (Strongly Support, Support, Neutral/Undecided, Oppose, Strongly Oppose)

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
	Oppose

5. Please comment on your response:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<i>I fully support extending tax cuts for hard-working, middle-class families. In this sluggish economy, disposable income is at a premium. I would consider temporarily extending the tax cuts for the top tax bracket to prevent any potential further job losses, provided that these cuts do not increase our deficit. We could cut expenditures back to 2008 levels to pay for these tax cuts.</i>	<i>I don't believe the government should be taxing anyone more than it already is, period. People need to keep their money so they can reinvest into the economy. Which will help stimulate revenues and create more jobs.</i>

6. Given continued high unemployment, what approach do you support for dealing with the US budget deficit and growing debt?

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<i>Fiscal responsibility is one of my top priorities and I've supported countless bills to lower spending and get</i>	<i>First we need to pay back all leftover money from TARP and the bailout. Then we need to start auditing</i>

our debt under control. The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act saves \$98 billion in taxpayer dollars by improving transparency and holding government agencies accountable for waste. I was especially proud to work to get Pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budgeting rules signed into law, ensuring that new spending bills are "deficit-neutral."

parts of the government. As a small businessmen I have to audit my business and asses what is efficient and what is not. Than we need to start deconstructing departments that are no longer needed and turning their services over to the private sector.

ECONOMY – FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

After the financial meltdown of our ‘too-big-to-fail’ banks and insurance companies in late 2008 and the resulting economic chaos, many are calling for financial regulatory reform. Debate in Congress has focused on: 1. Protecting consumers from abusive, unfair, deceptive and discriminatory financial practices; 2. Requiring stricter standards and greater transparency in the business practices of financial institutions; and 3. Limiting the types of risky activities in which banks may engage.

7. What are the most important elements of financial regulatory reform that need to be addressed?

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><i>There is still work to do in consumer protection, transparency in lending, and institutional accountability. I served on the conference committee for the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and supported the Credit Cardholders’ Bill of Rights Act. These bills established landmark reforms to aid consumer credit safety, rein in Wall Street, end taxpayer-funded bailouts, prevent another financial upheaval, and stabilize the economy to create an atmosphere conducive to growth and job creation.</i></p>	<p><i>First we need to ensure government doesn't create policies that reward bad behavior. The reason we got into the housing crisis in the first place was due to government intervention in which they rewarded banks that bundled mortgages that did not have fixed rates. More government is not the answer. I do agree that there needs to be great protections on consumers. If a business engages in bad practices it should not be rewarded. I know at my business if we engage in bad practices we will not be bailed out, same should go for the "too-big-to-fail" corporations.</i></p>

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WAR

We have lost over 4300 U.S. military lives in Iraq and almost 1000 in Afghanistan since these wars began. War-related spending has reached \$1.05 trillion over and above the regular Department of Defense budget. The number of lives lost and dollars expended will grow with the Afghanistan “surge” and continued military engagements.

8. Please outline your views regarding our continuation of these wars given their cost in lives lost and money spent:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)

Too many lives have been lost and too many dollars spent on the war in Afghanistan. While we remain engaged in the war, I will continue to support our troops and vote to give them the resources, training, and equipment they need to remain safe. However, it is time for us to find a way to stabilize the region, give responsibility and accountability to the Afghan government, and get our troops back home safely and quickly.

I believe war is a terrible thing. Having said that, I do believe the biggest problem we have with the wars is that we are not giving our troops the best equipment they need to get the job done. That is why we are losing so many soldiers over there. I also believe that if we were to withdraw right now we would leave terrorist organizations in charge. In the long term this will cost us more problems and money because it will increase terrorists abilities to recruit more suicide bombers.

HEALTH CARE

Congress has recently considered major health care reform bills. Debate centered on a number of issues, including cost control, affordability, access, choice & competition and tort reform. If changes are not made, health care is expected to consume 1/5 of our economy by 2020 and 1/4 by 2025, leaving families with less money to spend on other things. Moreover, the number of Americans without access to needed care will continue to grow.

9. What are the most important elements of reform that need to be addressed now? Please be specific.

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><i>The recently passed healthcare bill requires adjustments to ensure cost reduction, improve access to care, and create more efficiency in the system. I supported provisions in the bill to protect those with preexisting conditions, bar insurance companies from dropping those who fall ill, and cover children under parents' insurance until age 26. I could not cut \$500 billion from Medicare, which provides care for millions of seniors. We must address waste, fraud, and abuse that deplete much-needed resources, and fix our broken health care system in a fiscally responsible and compassionate way.</i></p>	<p><i>I provide quality healthcare to my employees and live with that same plan. I know that there are serious problems facing our healthcare system. What we do not need to do is change the insurance companies with an IRS agent. The whole process they used to pass healthcare legislation is truly dissapointing. If the bill was so great why did they need to engage in pay offs in order to get it passed? I believe we need to let the private market drive this change. Increase competition amongst insurance companies, stop the fraud and lets get some tort reform.</i></p>

ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE CHANGE & POLLUTION

In the 1990's, the US government successfully used a cap and trade system to reduce acid rain from power plant emissions. Following the American example, Europe now relies on cap and trade to urge about 10,000 large industrial plants to find the most economical way to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The House Clean Energy Bill sets the goal of reducing greenhouse gas by 17 percent below 2005 levels over the next 10 years using cap and trade.

10. How strongly do you support or oppose cap and trade as a means for controlling greenhouse gas emissions? (Strongly Support, Support, Neutral/Undecided, Oppose, Strongly Oppose)

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
Support	Strongly Oppose

11. Please comment on your response:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><i>I voted for the American Clean Energy and Security Act because it strengthens our economy, limits consumer costs, enhances national security, and protects our lands and natural resources. The bill would give our state billions of dollars to promote clean energy and efficiency, growing our economy and creating jobs. Since 1998, jobs related to the clean energy economy in N.C. have grown over 15%, while other types only increased 6%. This policy would help secure our long-term energy and economic future.</i></p>	<p><i>If you study what is happening in Europe you can see how it doesn't work. All it does is create a new tax that a company will pass onto it's consumers. Someone has to pay for this and it ends up being us. Also it doesn't limit the amount of pollution, it just allows for a company to continue to pollute by buying more permits.</i></p>

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The US imports 58% of the oil we use, some from countries whose governments have policies in opposition to our own. Transportation is responsible for 2/3 of the oil consumption in this country.

12. Which of the following methods of reducing oil consumption do you support?

	Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
Increase tax on gasoline		
Raise standards for car and truck fuel economy	Support	
Increase incentives for the development and manufacture of alternative energy-powered vehicles	Support	Support
Increase exploration for and recovery of US oil deposits	Support	Support
Funding of high-speed rail networks to link cities	Support	Support
Funding of public transportation and bike lanes within cities	Support	Support
Other		Support

13. Please comment on your response:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)

<p><i>America must be a global leader in the development, production and use of new technologies to reduce climate change and end our reliance on foreign oil. We can no longer afford to depend solely on fossil fuels, like petroleum, to drive our economy and meet our energy needs. This is a national security issue as much as it is an environmental one. For the oil we need, it is better to acquire it domestically than get it from hostile nations in the Middle East.</i></p>	<p><i>We need to look into more nuclear power plants and other means of energy production. This will help us stop being dependent on foreign oil.</i></p>
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<p>IMMIGRATION</p> <p>Congress has not passed a comprehensive immigration bill. Meanwhile, the undocumented population in the U.S. provides a vast pool of workers integral to our economy. Concerns about undocumented immigrants range from worker exploitation and separation of family members to immigrant utilization of public services such as schools and healthcare. The process for obtaining work visas is slow and unwieldy. Immigration laws are difficult to enforce, leading to safety and security concerns for our borders.</p>

14. List the components that are needed in a comprehensive federal immigration bill:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><i>We must enhance border security, expand employee verification, and improve enforcement of existing immigration laws. Legislation I authored incorporates these 3 methods. My bill, the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act, has broad bipartisan support and endorsements from leaders in the business, labor, and law enforcement communities. It requires employers to use E-verify, already used voluntarily by 185,000 businesses, to ensure a legal workforce and turn off the jobs magnet that draws hundreds of thousands across our borders illegally each year.</i></p>	<p><i>We need to secure our borders. If we can't control what is coming in and out of our country we have a serious problem. This opens up the opportunity for terrorists and other anti-american groups to smuggle weapons, drugs and people into the United States. We need to have stricter enforcement on people that came here under work visas and then disappeared. The problem is these people are not paying taxes and are getting to use our services, driving up costs.</i></p>

<p>CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM</p> <p>The January 2010 Supreme Court decision allows corporations and unions to spend unlimited funds on advertising for political candidates. This decision renews concerns about the influence of special interests in the electoral process. The Fair Elections Now Act, which has bipartisan sponsorship, is designed to provide four-to-one Federal matching funds for small, local donor contributions, reducing the need for large campaign donations.</p>

15. How strongly do you support or oppose the concept of The Fair Elections Now Act or other legislation designed to reduce the influence of large contributors? (Strongly Support, Support, Neutral/Undecided, Oppose, Strongly Oppose)

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<i>Support</i>	<i>Support</i>

16. Please comment on your response:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<i>I am committed to ensuring that corporations are not able to unduly influence elections. I supported the DISCLOSE Act that will improve transparency and ensure elections are decided by voters – not corporations, special interests or shadow groups.</i>	NR