

Transylvania County Voter Guide

A Nonpartisan Guide to the Transylvania County General Election 2010



Developed by
The Brevard Branch of AAUW
(American Association of University Women)
With the support of
The Transylvania Times

See back for a sample ballot, times and locations for voting

This Non-partisan Voter Guide for selected State and Federal offices was prepared by the Brevard Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The AAUW is a national organization that promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change. The questions for candidates reflect these concerns.

Invitations to candidates to participate in the Voter Guide were issued beginning in February 2010, and questionnaires were sent to every candidate who met the filing deadlines. Follow-up with candidates included extensive and repeated efforts by phone, mail, e-mail and personal contact to provide every opportunity for candidates to participate. Candidates are presented here in the same order as they will be presented on the ballot.

You may also view the information by clicking on Voter Guide at the AAUW Brevard Branch web site:
www.aauwbrevardnc.org/vote.html

Throughout the Guide, the following code is used:

NR - indicates "No Response" - the candidate chose not to participate in this Voter Guide
Blank space - indicates that the candidate chose to leave the particular item blank

US Senate

Candidates: Elaine Marshall (Democrat)
Richard Burr (Republican)
Michael Beitler (Libertarian)

QUALIFICATIONS

1. What are your strongest qualifications for this position?

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<p><i>I've taken on challenges not because they were easy, but because they were right.</i></p> <p><i>As a citizen I successfully petitioned our General Assembly to mandate that insurers cover mammograms and pap smears.</i></p> <p><i>As a state senator, I was a leader on the Marital Rape bill, earning the News & Observer's 'Rookie of the Year' award as the outstanding freshman legislator.</i></p> <p><i>As Secretary of State I've made our lobbying laws into some of the toughest in the country. My office has aggressively fought financial fraud taking lead on multi-state lawsuits against Wall Street banks, recouping over \$500 million for NC.</i></p>	NR	NR

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?

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

3. Please comment on your response:

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<p><i>There are no quick fixes, as this didn't happen overnight, but in the short-run we must prevent more layoffs, particularly stopping the layoffs of public school teachers and public safety personnel.</i></p>	NR	NR

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)

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
Strongly Support	NR	NR

5. Please comment on your response:

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<i>Under Bush our national debt doubled, in large part due to his reckless tax cuts for the richest among us, therefore we should let them expire to help get our house back in order. Overall the economic policies of the Bush Administration have accelerated the growing imbalance in our society, creating a middle class that is at the breaking point.</i>	NR	NR

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

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<i>I agree with leading economists that we need to address unemployment before we tackle our budget deficit and debt. I have proposed a financial transactions fee on Wall Street banks to be assessed for a ten-year period. Their reckless behavior is what got us into this mess and they should share in the burden of getting our economy out of it. The revenue would prevent layoffs of teachers and public safety employees. Further funds would be used to rebuild and modernize our infrastructure, putting people back to work.</i>	NR	NR

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?

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<p><i>As Secretary of State I protect North Carolinians from investment fraud. In the past year I have reached settlements with some of the mega-banks preying on North Carolina consumers. Any serious measure must end 'too big to fail' that is why I support a modern version of Glass-Steagall that separates investment, commercial, and insurance entities. We also need an independent consumer financial protection agency giving consumers a voice in credit transactions, adding simplicity and transparency to the credit and borrowing process –no more loopholes or incomprehensible fine print.</i></p>	NR	NR

<p><i>option. We rushed into a war in Iraq, as the Bush administration wanted this war and cooked the books to get it. The war in Afghanistan is just another testament to the ineptitude of the Bush administration as we took our eye off the ball, letting Al Qaeda and the Taliban regroup and rearm in the lawless borderland, creating a bigger mess. Our policy today should be to end our military presence in these areas as soon as possible, as the country that needs rebuilding is our own.</i></p>		
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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.

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:

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<p><i>This has been an expensive lesson in blood and treasure. We've learned that going to war should be our last possible</i></p>	NR	NR

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

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<p><i>I've been a strong supporter from day one of my campaign of the public option as I feel that's the best way to keep insurers honest, and in the Senate I'll work to get that done. It's great that my primary opponents have finally come around and join me in that. In the recently passed reform bill an area that needs revision are the state-based insurance exchanges. In many smaller</i></p>	NR	NR

states they won't have the scale to keep premiums down and/or the state market is dominated by just a few individual plan insurers. North Carolina is an example. That is why I favor a national exchange instead.

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.

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)

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
Support	NR	NR

11. Please comment on your response:

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<i>I support this policy in concept but have reservations with regard to it's impact on our smaller towns in North Carolina. These are areas that have borne too much of the brunt of past Washington policies like NAFTA. We must include measures that mitigate the economic impact on these communities.</i>	NR	NR

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

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

13. Please comment on your response:

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<i>We have recently passed higher CAFE standards, so before we raise them again we should let industry meet these new goals first. Becoming more efficient with our energy usage is the most effective way to impact our consumption of fossil fuels - we need to look into enhanced efficiency standards in building codes and tax credits to make them feasible.</i>	NR	NR

IMMIGRATION

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.

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

Marshall (D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
<i>Before we address the number of undocumented immigrants that are living in our country now, we first need to secure our borders. We have neither the will nor the resources to deport 10-12 million unauthorized workers. Our focus should be on removing those individuals who are engaged in criminal enterprises.</i>	NR	NR

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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.

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)

Marshall(D)	Beitler (L)	Burr (R)
Support	NR	NR

16. Please comment on your response:

Marshall (D)	Burr (R)	Burr (R)
<i>The Citizens Untied ruling by a conservative activist court, will cause corporations to have undue influence in our electoral process. Money in politics is already a problem, that ruling just exacerbates it. I am supportive of campaign finance reform including public financing measures.</i>	NR	NR

US House of Representatives District 11

Candidates: Heath Shuler (Democrat)
Jeff Miller (Republican)

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 business 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 creat 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	Support	Support
Provide tax credits to encourage employers to hire workers	Support	Support
Encourage job-sharing and/or shorter work hours so more people can work	Support	Support
Increase federal job training opportunities		Support
Provide monies to states to reduce layoffs and create jobs through additional infrastructure projects		Support
Other		Support

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 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.</i></p>	<p><i>We need to restore consumer confidence. We need to balance the budget in DC so there are no new taxes. We need to get the debt under controll. 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 buisnesses to hire more employees.</i></p>

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)
<p><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></p>	<p><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></p>

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

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><i>Fiscal responsibility is one of my top priorities and I've supported countless bills to lower spending and get 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."</i></p>	<p><i>First we need to pay back all leftover money from TARP and the bailout. Then we need to start auditing parts of the government. As a small businessmen I have to audit my business and assess what is efficient and what is not. Then we need to start deconstructing departments that are no longer needed and turning their services over to the private sector.</i></p>

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</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</i></p>

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Shuler (D)

Miller (R)

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 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 disappointing. 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 let's get some tort reform.

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)
<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>	<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>

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)
<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>	<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>

IMMIGRATION

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.

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 than disappeared. The problem is these people are not paying taxes and are getting to use our services, driving up costs.</i></p>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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.

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)
Support	Support

16. Please comment on your response:

Shuler (D)	Miller (R)
<p><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></p>	NR

NC State Senate District 50

Candidates: John J. Snow, Jr. (Democrat)
Jim Davis (Republican)

QUALIFICATIONS

1. What are your strongest qualifications for this position?

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p>Married 39 years, 4 kids, 4 grandkids, 3 teachers in the family. 31 years in the court system: 27 as District Court. Judge, 4 years Asst. DA. I know important issues for children, families and businesses of WNC. Judges and Senators have similar duties. I have served 3 terms as a Senator. Legislative emphasis on issues involving children, families, economics and public safety. 7 Senate committees. Co-Chair of Crime Control and Public Safety. Sponsor of 179 bills. Hard working-people before politics, strong constituent service.</p>	NR

<p>of new businesses. See: http://www.sbcn.nc.gov/localSBC/Dept. of Commerce supports small businesses. See: http://www.nccommerce.com/en/BusinessServices/Helping unemployed find work, employment sec. assistance. See: http://www.jobsnow.nc.gov/findJobs.aspx Incentives are sometimes necessary. See: http://www.nccommerce.com/en/PressRoom/PressReleases/</p>	
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ECONOMY - BUDGET

The "Great Recession" which began in December 2007 has strained state budgets. North Carolina saw a shortfall of over \$5 billion in the 2009 budget. To balance the budget the legislature made cuts of \$4 billion, increased taxes by \$1 billion, and still needed federal stimulus money to prevent thousands of teachers losing their jobs.

ECONOMY - JOBS

Unemployment in the United States and Western North Carolina has recently reached levels rarely seen since the Great Depression.

2. What are the 1 or 2 most important actions that the NC General Assembly should take to increase employment?

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p>Supporting small businesses is the key to creating jobs, and the key to helping small businesses is providing access to credit. See: http://jobsnow.nc.gov/financing.aspx Small Business Center Network of 58 business centers supports development</p>	NR

3. With the prospect of another shortfall in revenue for 2010, what state programs would you consider for further cuts and/or what tax increases or other revenue-generating ideas would you support?

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p>With the largest budget cuts in history, further cuts in education and DHHS will be hard. Possible cuts would include non-profits that receive funds from the state. Cuts on state paid athletic scholarships for out of state students. Cuts on bloated administrative positions in the UNC system. Cuts identified by the Budget Reform and Accountability Commission that look through the budget to find inefficient programs. Tax reform that broadens the base will not be possible in this economic environment.</p>	NR

HEALTH CARE

The US Congress continues to struggle with health care reform. With no change or reform, the number of uninsured North Carolinians is projected to grow by more than 30% (to over 2 million people) in 10 years. In that same time, family spending on health care will grow by about 70%, and the NC share of Medicaid and the children’s health program will almost double.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

By many accounts, implementation of mental health reforms begun in North Carolina in 2001 has been seriously flawed and made worse by recent budget shortfalls. There is substantial support within the mental health community for a new comprehensive provider plan – the Critical Access Behavioral Health Agency – announced in November by the NC Dept of Health & Human Services. However, there is significant concern that rural areas – including most of western NC – do not have the provider resources required to make this plan effective here.

4. What should the NC General Assembly do now to address the growing numbers of uninsured, the cost of health care for families, and the burden on the state budget?

5. What are the 2 or 3 most important actions that the NC General Assembly should take to assure availability of mental health provider resources in western NC?

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p>National Health Care will help NC coverage in the 1st year: Dependant coverage for children up to age 26. Bars denial of ins. to kids w/pre-existing conditions. Bars placing caps on dollar value of lifetime benefits & covers many preventive services at no charge. Create temporary high-risk pool for those unable to buy insurance. Gives conditional tax credit to businesses w/fewer than 25 workers. Gives help to businesses that provide coverage to retirees over 55 who aren't eligible for Medicare. Increases access to care with 11 billion dollars in new funding to community health centers.</p>	<p>NR</p>

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p>Reform has destabilized & fragmented services from providers. The CABHA initiative attempts to integrate primary and behavioral health care w/a full range of services-access to psychiatric, clinical and treatment as well as strong case mgt. as a safety net for consumers. CABHA's will restore a community mental health center focus. Smoky Mtn. LME more rural than Western Highland LME will have a more difficult CABHA implementation. As revenues return adequate funding is imperative for the success of CABHAs. We can't afford more cuts in Mental Health!</p>	<p>NR</p>

EDUCATION

State funding for education has suffered greatly during the recent recession. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding saved many teacher jobs in NC (21 in Transylvania County) as well as provided funds for other educational needs. Those funds were limited to two years.

6. What tax increases, program cuts or other revenue-generating ideas do you support to assure adequate funding to educate NC children?

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p><i>Tax increases in the last budget were expressly for keeping teachers working. I have mentioned possible areas for further cuts in the answer for #3. Also in #3 the purpose of the BRAC Commission will be important in looking for efficiencies. We must protect teachers and the vulnerable citizens in the mental health program. At last resort we can take percentage cuts from all agencies and programs based on their ability to withstand the cuts and still perform their core functions. I do not see raising taxes again, by broadening the base in these tough economic times.</i></p>	NR

ENVIRONMENT- RENEWABLE ENERGY

By 2021, North Carolina will require investor-owned utilities – Duke Energy, Progress Energy, etc. – to produce 12.5 % of their electricity from renewable resources, or from more energy efficient fossil fuel plants. According to the Department of Energy, NC ranks in the top 10 states in wind power capacity. Duke Power is constructing a pilot wind farm in Pamlico Sound and Appalachian State University has built a demonstration wind farm near its campus.

7. Do you support utilizing the abundant wind power found in Western North Carolina as a source of renewable energy? (Strongly Support, Support, Neutral/Undecided, Opposed, Strongly Opposed)

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
Strongly Oppose	NR

8. Please comment on your response:

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p><i>The abundant wind power in NC is on the coast. In WNC the best wind is 3,000 ft. or above. NC ridge law puts a height restriction on structures built at 3,000 ft. or above. Senate Bill 1068 would prohibit commercial wind farms at 3,000 ft. or above, but will allow, with limits, windmills for residential use. Commercial windmills would mean groups of as many as 20 or more windmills strung along the ridges at or above 3,000 ft. I believe this would destroy the esthetic beauty of our mountain tops, as well as spoil their value as a tourist attraction.</i></p>	NR

ENVIRONMENT- OIL & GAS

The state of NC has control of waters up to 3 nautical miles from the coast and can manage, develop and lease resources there, and the US government controls out to 12 miles (called the Outer Continental Shelf). According to NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR,) a potential large gas field may exist off the coast near Manteo.

9. Would you support offshore oil or gas drilling off the coast of North Carolina? (Strongly Support, Support, Neutral/Undecided, Opposed, Strongly Opposed)

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
Oppose	NR

10. Please comment on your response:

Snow (D)	Davis (R)
<p><i>I would, most likely, be opposed to off-shore exploration due to the danger to the fragile aquatic environment through oil spills that could destroy the coastal area for tourists and damage the commercial & sport fishing industry. Whatever way they vote, (for or against) I would support the vote of the coastal legislators on this issue. I would hope they would support me on the windmill issue. There are areas in the Dakotas that have gas & oil deposits and a less threatened environment for drilling.</i></p>	NR

NC House of Representatives District 113

Candidates: W.David Guice (Republican)
Unopposed

Note: Since the candidate did not respond to the voter guide, and since he is running unopposed, the questions for this race are omitted.

Court of Appeals Judge Special Instructions for Instant Runoff Voting

Why there is a new Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in one race of the 2010 NC Election for the Court of Appeals:

A judge left the NC Court of Appeals in August to take a seat on the federal court. Under the NC Constitution, the vacant office must be filled by an election this November. Thirteen candidates are running for the office, one of whom (Cressie Thigpen) is filling the office temporarily, having been appointed by Gov. Bev Perdue. It's too late to hold a primary. Under NC law, this election will use an Instant Runoff Voting method. Voters indicate who they prefer among the candidates at the "instant" they vote, by ranking as many as three choices 1, 2, and 3. If your 1st choice loses, your 2nd or 3rd choice could help determine who wins.

Mark your 1st choice in Column 1. Choose the candidate you most want to win as you 1st choice.

Mark a different candidate as your 2nd choice in Column 2. This is a back-up choice in case your 1st choice loses.

Mark a 3rd choice in Column 3. This choice should be different from your 1st and 2nd choices.

Important: You may rank less than three candidates by leaving columns blank. If you select the same candidate in more than one column, your vote for that candidate will only count once.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Current financing of political campaigns contributes to voter apathy, raises questions about the role of special interests, requires that lawmakers spend much of their time fund-raising, and discourages those without considerable financial resources from seeking public office.

The NC Legislature has enacted a program of voter-owned elections covering several Council of State offices. This program provides a competitive amount of campaign money from a public fund to candidates who meet strict guidelines.

11. Do you support extending the voter-owned elections legislation to cover the following offices? (Support/Oppose)

	Snow (D)	Davis (R)
State Legislature	Support	NR
Governor	Oppose	NR
Lt. Governor	Oppose	NR
Council of State offices not yet publicly funded	Support	NR

Sample Ballot (portion - includes races covered in this guide)

PARTISAN OFFICES

US Senate

(You may vote for ONE)

- Elaine Marshall
Democrat
- Richard Burr
Republican
- Michael Beitler
Libertarian
- _____
Write-in

**US House of Representatives
District 11**

(You may vote for ONE)

- Heath Shuler
Democrat
- Jeff Miller
Republican

**NC State Senate
District 50**

(You may vote for ONE)

- John J. Snow, Jr.
Democrat
- Jim Davis
Republican

**NC House of Representatives
District 113**

(You may vote for ONE)

- W. David Guice
Republican

CHECK YOUR VOTE!

The new voting machines print each vote you cast under a small window onto a paper ballot as you make your choices. **BEFORE you push the VOTE button** on your electronic ballot, LOOK at the paper record in the window on the machine to CHECK the votes recorded there. This will confirm that the votes you cast on the machine are accurately recorded.



Three (3) Methods for Voting

One-Stop-Voting (in person)

Vote at your convenience – no prior arrangements needed!

Oct 14 – Oct 30

Old Library Building, Corner of South Broad and Morgan Streets
Brevard, NC 28712

Stop by anytime during the following hours:

Mon - Wed, 8:30am - 5pm

Thurs – Fri, 8:30am – 6pm

Sat Oct 16, 23, 30, 8:30am - 1pm

Absentee Voting by Mail

Deadlines:

Request ballot by: **5pm Tuesday, Oct. 26**

Return ballots by: **5 pm Monday, Nov 1**

Send a written request for an absentee ballot to:

Transylvania Board of Elections, P O Box 868, Brevard, NC 28712

Include the following information in your request:

- Name of voter (printed)
- Signature of voter
- Residential address
- Address to which you want ballot mailed
- Date of Birth
- Telephone number (or contact number)

or, call 884-3114 for an official request form



General Election

Tuesday, November 2

All Voting Precincts are open 6:30a.m. – 7:30 p.m.