ASK THE CANDIDATES
What will you do to ensure businesses owned by people of color and women have a fair chance at doing business with government?

- We know qualified women and people of color are not getting their fair shot at public contracts. What will you do to address Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) lack of access to public contracts?
- Why do you think it is important that all business owners, regardless of race or gender, can access public contracts?
- The aspirational target in state law is that 10 percent of public dollars go to HUBs. What steps will you take to set a goal for our community to reach (or surpass it)? What target would you aim to achieve?
- We often hear there aren’t enough qualified businesses owned by women and people of color – tell me why that’s wrong.

North Carolina’s lawmakers can ensure all businesses have access to capital and opportunity so that they can pay their employees and neighbors a living wage, strengthen main streets and build prosperity for Black, brown and white business owners, men and women.

FACTS YOU CAN USE

- In the face of structural and financial barriers, 183,380 enterprises of color generated $20.7 billion in 2012, up from 131,826 firms and $16.1 billion in 2007. If actively supported, business creation and increases in receipts could only be expected to grow and build the assets of many North Carolinians.
- In several communities where people of color make up more than 50 percent of the population, the HUB utilization rate is less than 1 percent.
- Firms owned by people of color and women represent important contributors to the economy and community life. There are 287,058 firms in North Carolina owned by women and 112,941 Black-owned firms.
- Analysis from 2016-17 shows North Carolina is falling short of our aspirational goal. For example, in the NC Community College System, 1.3 percent spent on goods and services is engaged with HUBs. In the state’s public school systems, only 2.7 percent of goods and services are secured through HUBs.

DID YOU GET A REAL, MEANINGFUL ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION?

If not, here are some follow-up questions that might help you get a more specific answer:

- Please be more specific about the actions you will take to implement your plan.
- You have mentioned ways individuals might take action to benefit themselves. Please focus your response on how you will ensure North Carolina institutions and public policies can better support those affected.
- Can you tell me about what principles or values will guide your decisions on this issue?
- What are the problems you see in the current approach?

TELL US WHAT YOU HEARD.
VISIT WWW.NCJUSTICE.ORG/ELECTION2020 TO SHARE THE ANSWERS YOU RECEIVED.