ASK THE CANDIDATES
What will you do to help close the coverage gap for hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians?

- Do you support using federal dollars to close the Medicaid coverage gap and offer health insurance coverage to the 300,000 plus North Carolinians who form the backbone of our economy?
- Do you support prioritizing good health in people before they can work, or would you impose work requirements on Medicaid enrollees to be able to gain coverage?
- Would you support expanding Medicaid to strengthen the financial stability of rural hospitals to stay open? If not, how would you ensure access to care and a healthy economy for these communities?
- What would you do to ensure people of color are offered the same opportunity and access to coverage, health care, and treatment rather than jails and prisons?

More than 600,000 North Carolinians who earn low incomes could gain health insurance coverage if lawmakers expanded Medicaid eligibility.

FACTS YOU CAN USE

- The NC General Assembly has rejected free federal dollars to expand Medicaid for the last six years. More than 300,000 North Carolinians fall into the coverage gap, meaning they make too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to receive a subsidy or financial help on the Marketplace.
- Five rural hospitals have closed their doors since NC lawmakers first refused to expand Medicaid. Hospitals in these communities are often the largest employer and economic driver for other businesses.
- Communities of color have the highest rates of uninsurance, fare worse on health outcomes, and experience greater levels of poverty and toxic social and environmental stressors. It is more difficult for people of color to access care and treatment, especially for substance use disorders.
- In other states that expanded Medicaid, private insurance premium rates are on an average 7 percent lower. When more people are insured, health care is more affordable and accessible for everyone.

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.