ASK THE CANDIDATES

What will you do to ensure a job loss or economic downturn doesn’t push workers into poverty?

- What is your plan to make sure the state’s unemployment insurance protects workers from being pushed into poverty when they lose their job through no fault of their own?
- Do you think North Carolina should continue to provide less support than any other state to people who lose a job, even while the state’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has more than $4 billion set aside?
- How would you improve services for jobless workers to ensure they can access jobs when employment picks up? What steps will you take to ensure jobless workers can access skills training for the jobs of the future?
- Beyond the state’s unemployment insurance program, how will you help make sure our food assistance program is flexible and fully fund the state’s model foreclosure prevention program to ensure people can put food on the table and stay in their homes?

Public policies like the unemployment insurance system, food assistance, and foreclosure prevention programs help communities during economic downturns and periods of high unemployment.

FACTS YOU CAN USE

- North Carolina’s unemployment rate has come down but there are still too few jobs for those looking for work. More than 40 counties have fewer jobs than they did in December 2007.
- Every dollar in unemployment benefits can translate into $2 in stabilizing effect in the economy. But too few people receive unemployment insurance for too short a time (just a little more than eight weeks) and with too little in wage replacement.
- Even in good times North Carolina has one of the 10 highest rates of hunger in the country.
- Although homeownership is a key tool in building assets, for many North Carolina households the loss of income through unemployment puts their house at risk.

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.