

NC COALITION *for* LOBBYING & GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Coalition staking out candidates on lobbying and ethics issues

Responses to be posted before May 6th primary

The non-partisan North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform is surveying all candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Council of State, and the 170 seats in the North Carolina General Assembly on a variety of lobbying and ethics issues. In total, approximately 370 candidates received the survey, which can be found at www.nclobbyreform.org <<http://www.nclobbyreform.org/>>

“North Carolina has made dramatic progress in toughening our state’s lobbying and ethics laws in recent years, but there’s still much more work to do, says Jane Pinsky, Director of the NC Lobbying and Government Reform Coalition. “More sunshine, better rules and more education will continue to help improve the lobbying and ethics process, which is needed to restore public confidence in government.

The survey contains five questions related to the roles of money, lobbyists and special interests in North Carolina politics. They cover the ability of lobbyists to raise unlimited amounts of money for candidates, the disclosure of all bundled contributions including the names of the fundraisers soliciting the money, restrictions on unlimited giving by political parties, the solicitation of charitable and not for profit contributions from lobbyists by legislators , and restricting the role of lobbyists to serve on political action committees .

The Coalition is working on gathering the replies. It plans to begin releasing them to the press and public March 31, 2008. The results will be sent media across the state, posted on the Coalition’s website, www.nclobbyreform.org, distributed by coalition members who will then share it with their members, and circulated at public events throughout the state. It hopes that voters will consider the candidates opinions before they go to their voting places on May 6th.

The coalition has taken a position on the five questions it asked the candidates. The coalition:

- Supports restricting lobbyists from raising unlimited amounts of money for candidates.
- Supports restricting lawmakers from soliciting money from lobbyists for a charity
- Supports prohibiting lobbyists from serving on their clients' political action committees.
- Supports sunshine on big fundraisers – identify all individuals raising more than \$10,000
- Supports restricting political parties from providing unlimited amounts of money to candidates

The NC Coalition for Lobbying & Government Reform is a non-partisan non-profit organization dedicated to promoting good-government policies that level the playing field for the citizens of North Carolina. The Coalition membership includes groups as diverse as the John Locke Foundation, NC Policy Watch, AARP, NC Family Council and the NC AFL -CIO.

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