



If I Were Governor of North Carolina . . .

Plenty of you sent us ideas of what you would do if you were to become governor of North Carolina. If you all were governor, ours sure would be a different state. For one, thing, we'd probably have a state lottery (the most popular of your ideas). Also, teachers would be paid more, God would play a more prominent role, criminals would get harsher punishment, and we'd pay more attention to the natural environment.

We'll send all your ideas to whoever is elected governor this fall. Thanks for sending them to us. See a list of themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series on page 13. And be sure to vote on Nov. 2.

Michael E.C. Gery, editor

CLEAN THE AIR

I'm appalled by our state's air quality, some of the country's worst. As governor, I would improve our public transportation system and get some vehicles off our roads. I also would put a high tax on SUV's. People get large federal tax breaks for these vehicles, so they can afford to give a little extra to the state for the privilege of driving these gas-guzzling, dangerous cars.

As governor, I would be driving a compact car or a hybrid because it is the environmentally friendly and inexpensive way to go. I would set a good example for the fine people in my state and would not ask them to do anything I wouldn't.

The Great Smoky National Park is the most polluted in the nation. There are days when it is not safe to hike. This is not what our beautiful state wants to be known for. Ask the old-timers how far you could once see in these mountains compared to now.

*Mary Catherine True
Marion
Rutherford EMC*

LOTTERY, DOUGHNUTS, CLAY AIKEN

- Get the lottery so people would not have to drive to Virginia or South Carolina to buy tickets.
- Do away with food tax at grocery stores.
- Lower the price of car inspections to \$5 and only have it done every two years.
- Make sure that retired state employees get a bigger raise every year.
- Keep Daylight Savings Time year-round.
- Save historic buildings and landmarks and make Cold Mountain a national landmark, if I could find it.
- Make Krispy Kreme doughnuts the state food.
- Make it a law that Clay Aiken sing the national anthem at all special events.

*Barbara Jones
Lewisville
Surry-Yadkin EMC*



PUNISH SCHOOLYARD BULLIES

I would make it mandatory for children to complete high school, and money management would be an integral part of high school curriculum.

School bullies would have to face harsh consequences: First offense, the bully would pick up litter in his community every Saturday for a month. If the victim had physical injuries, then a longer period of trash duty would be given. Second offense, the bully would have to go to solitary confinement for three days in a juvenile correctional facility and continue to pick up litter. Third offense, this schoolyard tyrant would receive five days of confinement, the parents and the child would go to family counseling, and litter duty would continue. Boot camp for troublemaking children would be the next step if the bully attacks again.

School bullies should be stopped quickly because they often get more violent as they grow older. Many kids have been injured and killed by bullies. A lot of the victims spiral downward emotionally, taking their own lives or the lives of others. If bullies are quickly chastised,



then this will save lives and stop senseless violence, saving many families from horrible grief.

*Jamie Moore
Willard
Four County EMC*

TAXES, GAMBLING, STATE DOG

- Make the voting districts whole counties.
- Give tax refunds only to minors and people who vote.
- Taxes would not be taken out of paychecks. Taxpayers would have to write a check paying their taxes before receiving the next paycheck.
- Smart Start would go. Head Start we already have. I do not want to pay for both.
- The size of the government in the state of North Carolina would shrink. So would the taxes.
- Gambling would be allowed on the Duke vs. Carolina basketball games only.
- The Irish setter would be the state dog.

*George "Bud" Royster
Lexington
EnergyUnited*

CLEAN UP THE ROADSIDES

I would challenge the legislature to pass more laws regarding cleaner state roads. I am retired and every day I walk along River Road in beautiful eastern Burke County, located off N.C. 18 south of Morganton. During my walk, I am saddened by the sight of many plastic containers that will not decay thrown out along the highway. People pick up aluminum cans from the roadsides because they can be recycled for a considerable amount of cash. As governor, I would put a 10-cents returnable deposit on any and all plastic bottles and containers, so that people would think twice about tossing them out.

*Bob Melton
Morganton
Rutherford EMC*

GOD, TEACHERS, HEALTH CARE, WILDERNESS

Put God back where He should be: first.

North Carolina has wonderful teachers and staff members in our public schools who do not get recognized for their hard work.

There are often good day care centers that are over crowded

and need assistance. Let's make it easier for a parent to work a schedule so one could be home when the children get there.

Strive to get better assistance for cancer patients and patients with rare diseases. Work with insurance companies to keep rates low and help cancer survivors.

Improve the disability claims for cancer patients and terminally ill patients.

Remember the beautiful parks and recreation areas that North Carolina holds in its palm. Work with surrounding states to begin a new campaign of promoting the "great outdoors." Instead of accepting any campaign funds to litter the beautiful countryside with signs, establish a trust fund from the money to help North Carolina's natural areas to be preserved.

*Pamela Nichols
North Wilkesboro
EnergyUnited*



Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

DECEMBER 2004

"Meeting Your Grandparents"

Something you never knew about a grandparent.

Deadline: Oct. 15

JANUARY 2005

"The Best Investment I Ever Made"

What was it and why.

Deadline: Nov. 15

FEBRUARY 2005

"Finally On My Own"

Tell us about the first place you lived on your own. Send pictures.

Deadline: Dec. 15

MARCH 2005

"Whacky Plants"

Pictures of strange-looking or unusual garden plants or produce?

Deadline: Jan. 15

APRIL 2005

"Road Trip Horror Stories"

Where did you go and what happened? Send pictures.

Deadline: Feb. 15

MAY 2005

"Safety Lessons"

Accidents and mishaps that taught you a safety lesson.

Deadline: March 15

JUNE 2005

"On the Farm"

The best things about growing up or living on a farm.

Deadline: April 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com