

Carteret County News-Times Election Guide: Primaries 2016

Democratic race for NC Lieutenant Governor

LINDA COLEMAN



Age: 66
Hometown and current residence: Greenville and currently Knightdale.
Education and occupation: B.A. from N.C. A&T State University and master's from the University of Pittsburgh. Former director of the office of state personnel.

Political experience: Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor 2012, N.C. House of Representatives, 2004-09, Wake County Commissioner, 1999-2002 and chair from 2001-02.

LINDA COLEMAN
 Contact information:
 Mailing, Linda Coleman
 for Lt. Governor, P.O. Box
 27502, Raleigh, N.C.
 27611; or phone, 919-
 673-3152.

HOLLY JONES



Age: 53
Hometown and current residence: Asheboro and currently Asheville.
Education and occupation: B.A. in public policy analysis and a master's in public health from UNC-Chapel Hill; and Master's of Divinity from Duke University. Currently member services for YMCA USA.

Political experience: Asheville City Council, 2001-08, and Buncombe County Commissioner, 2009-present.

HOLLY JONES
 Contact information:
 hollyjones.org

RONALD L. NEWTON



Age: 63
Hometown and current residence: 5003 Vistawood Way, Durham, N.C. 27713
Education and occupation: Tax lawyer
Political experience: Elected to the Westchester County, N.Y., school board.

RONALD NEWTON
 Contact information:
 thepublicservant2016.com

ROBERT EARL WILSON



Age: 61
Hometown and current residence: Wilson and currently Cary.
Education and occupation: B.A. in history from Fayetteville State University and retired former assistant secretary of state in North Carolina.

Political experience: Former precinct chairman.

ROBERT WILSON
 Contact information:
 RobertWilson4ltgov.com

Please identify your stance on offshore drilling and exploration.

I am opposed to offshore drilling and exploration. North Carolina is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the nation. As a visitor to the Crystal Coast, I know businesses and locals depend on robust tourism and commercial fishing – offshore drilling and exploration threaten these livelihoods. We need to continue placing restrictions on drilling and find more renewable energy resources.

How can we strengthen public education across the state?

We need to restore the cuts made and provide ample resources and support to our teachers and students in the classroom. Teachers should be certified to ensure our students are receiving the best quality education and remain competitive. Compensation should be consistent with qualifications and certification, and remain competitive with the national average; this includes giving those with master's degrees a fair raise and continuing to increase experienced teacher pay. Retention has become difficult because of a lack of resources, support, morale and funding. We also need to reinstate the 100-school cap on charter schools. Their role is to serve as laboratories for best practices in education, which should be transferable to the public education system. Currently, they are taking taxpayer subsidies and placing them into school choice vouchers. I also believe we need to repeal the A-F letter grade for schools. I feel there are alternative ways for us to support our schools which are failing and not judge then solely on student performance.

Identify two infrastructure improvements that could aid Eastern North Carolina.

Two infrastructure projects that could aid Eastern North Carolina are expanding the transportation budget for road repairs and working with cooperatives to reduce electric prices.

List your top five objectives in office.

1. Education.
2. Jobs.
3. The economy.
4. Health care.
5. Environment.
6. Veterans.

Please identify your stance on offshore drilling and exploration.

Offshore drilling on the Atlantic Coast is, at best, shortsighted. Drilling would immediately put North Carolina's tourism and seafood industries at risk. Additionally, it is extremely impractical at a time when the price of oil has plunged to nearly \$25 a barrel.

How can we strengthen public education across the state?

Raise per-pupil spending. It's currently among the lowest in the nation, and our teacher pay is too low. We should set a goal of being at the national average for teacher salaries in the next five years.

Identify two infrastructure improvements that could aid Eastern North Carolina.

Finding a permanent solution to keep the channel of the Morehead City Port at 45 feet deep. Dune rehabilitation and flood protection. Our state was mostly spared by Hurricane Joaquin, but we saw the tremendous flooding it brought South Carolina. Climate change is real and is going to bring more and more severe weather to coastal North Carolina and we have to be prepared for it.

List your top five objectives in office.

1. Bring more transparency to the state Senate.
2. Use the bully pulpit of the office of the lieutenant governor to become a champion for K-12 education.
3. Make sure our community college system is serving the needs of 21st century students.
4. Work with the rest of the N.C. Economic Development Board to attract high-paying jobs to North Carolina.
5. Continue the work of the Military Affairs Commission to make North Carolina the most military-friendly state in the country.

Please identify your stance on offshore drilling and exploration.

Wikipedia with updated figures recognizes that the N.C. tourism industry employs more than 204,000 people and 40,000 N.C. businesses. This state is the sixth most visited state in the country. Offshore drilling and exploration should not adversely impact the beauty and cleanliness of N.C. beaches, which attract millions of visitors who spend about \$21.3 billion a year. Since there is an oversupply in the oil market, offshore drilling may not (be) necessary.

How can we strengthen public education across the state?

We need to respect the quality of the professional teachers.

Identify two infrastructure improvements that could aid Eastern North Carolina.

Relatively inexpensive broadband and fiber optics to communicate, and sustainable energy options, like solar and wind farms, to mitigate the flooding and sea level rise from climate change.

List your top five objectives in office.

1. Change tax reform to progressive taxes with bracketing, creating a marginal tax rate.
2. Allowing the first two years of community college to be free as an expansion of public education, including supporting vocational education that allows students to learn trades.
3. Strengthening building standards to make them more energy efficient and better able to withstand hurricanes.
4. Investments in residents' health, such as supporting local farms, exercise and public transportation.
5. Improvements in N.C. parks because our state is a top tourist destination.

Please identify your stance on offshore drilling and exploration.

I am opposed to offshore drilling and exploration. I am in favor of wind and solar energy exploration.

How can we strengthen public education across the state?

Restructure the prekindergarten through 4th grade curriculums with a stronger emphasis on reading, writing and mathematics. Raise teacher salary, restore lost benefits to teachers, raise teacher standards and increase per pupil spending.

Identify two infrastructure improvements that could aid Eastern North Carolina.

Increase technology infrastructure to Eastern North Carolina and expand the ports to allow for mega ships to be able to enter.

List your top five objectives in office.

1. Education.
2. Jobs.
3. Medicaid expansion.
4. Create a one-stop-shop for business in North Carolina.
5. Maintain a strong military presence in North Carolina.

Marine Fisheries Commission meeting set for Feb. 17-19 in Wrightsville Beach

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH — The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission will meet Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 17-19, at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort.

Public comment periods will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, and 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 18.

The chairman will allow each speaker to comment for up to three minutes. Due to time constraints, those making comments will be asked to speak only once, either at the Feb. 17 or Feb. 18 session, but

not during both public comment periods.

The business meeting begins at 9 a.m. Feb. 18 and 8:30 a.m. Feb. 19.

The deadline for submitting written correspondence to the commission, including email, through the Marine Fisheries Commission Office is 5 p.m. Monday.

People who wish to give handouts to the commission during the public comment periods should bring at least 12 copies of the handout.

The public may listen to the meeting on the Internet.

Up to 200 participants may listen to audio and view presentations in real-time on a first-come, first-served basis.

Directions for participating in the webcast, including information on system requirements and testing, can be found at the website portal.ncdnr.org/web/mf/listen-online.

The commission's schedule for the meeting includes the following:

- Receive a presentation on and select preferred management options for amendments to the oyster and clam fishery management plans.
- Select replacement candidates for the governor's consideration for North Carolina's obligatory seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.
- Consider a request for a declaratory ruling from American Eel Farm.
- Receive a presentation on the 2015 Coastal Habitat

Protection Plan update and give final approval of the plan.

- Discuss the Standard Commercial Fishing License criteria.
- Consider delegating authority to the commission's Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Committee to develop and implement a memorandum of understanding with the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Funding Committee. The memorandum of understand-

ing will set procedures for agreeing to and authorizing disbursements from the fund.

- Receive a brief update on the division's progress toward setting total allowable landings for pound nets by water bodies for Supplement A to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1.

A full meeting agenda and briefing book can be found online at the website portal.ncdnr.org/web/mf/mfc-meetings.

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