

Carteret County News-Times Election Guide: Primaries 2016

Democratic race for NC Treasurer

DAN BLUE III



Age: 42
Hometown and current residence:
Raleigh
Education and occupation:
Attorney. B.S. in biomedical engineering with a minor in public policy studies, Duke University; J.D., Duke University; and MBA, Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.
Political experience:
Chair of the Wake County Democratic Party, 2011-2015.

RON ELMER



Age: 48
Hometown and current residence:
Cary
Education and occupation:
MBA, finance and accounting, New York University; BBA, finance, Oklahoma University; certified public accountant; chartered financial analyst and certified financial planner.
Political experience:
Candidate for state treasurer, 2012 and 2016.

DAN BLUE III
Contact information:
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What changes are needed to the office to make it more effective for North Carolina taxpayers?

First, the office must be run as efficiently as possible, cutting costs where appropriate and without cutting benefits or increasing risks to the pension. There are opportunities to bring management of some components of our pension fund in house to cut costs, and as the next treasurer, I would review those opportunities carefully and make changes where responsible. Second, a public pension plan must be transparent enough to allow the public to evaluate its performance. I am committed to making that information available and readily accessible.

What sets you apart from both other primary candidates and those in the general election?

My educational background in biomedical engineering has supported my work in healthcare in addition to my participation on healthcare community boards, specifically the Duke Nursing School board and WakeMed board. My experience in finance has equipped me to have a firm understanding of how to build a business and invest in companies that will assist me in managing the pension fund.

***This submission was trimmed for space.**

RON ELMER

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Why are you the best candidate for N.C. Treasurer?

Of the \$100 billion our treasurer manages, \$90 billion resides in the pension fund. I have spent most of my career managing pension investments. I have worked inside a corporate pension fund and have managed pension investments for clients like Boeing, IBM, Chrysler, Walgreens and the states of Georgia, California and North Carolina. I have previously managed \$2 billion of investments for the North Carolina pension fund.

What changes are needed to the office to make it more effective for North Carolina taxpayers?

The treasurer's office currently outsources the management of

2/3 of North Carolina's investments to the over 200 Wall Street investment firms at an outrageous cost of \$500 million per year! We need to fire out-of-state investment managers and bring our money back to North Carolina. We can invest our money ourselves and save hundreds of millions of dollars.

What sets you apart from both other primary candidates and those in the general election?

The treasurer's primary role is earning the highest return on the state's \$100 billion. With more than 20 years of financial experience, I am the only professional investment manager on the ballot. Unlike my opponent, I've spent my career managing investments. I've taught finance classes at local universities and have written four books about investments. I am not a career politician. Shouldn't our treasurer be a professional investment manager and not a career politician?

Why are you the best candidate for N.C. Treasurer?

I will ensure that we maintain our AAA credit rating so that North Carolina can continue to be one of the best places to do business and create jobs; that our state employees have access to healthcare for themselves and their families that is affordable and accessible; that our pension is under sound management that protects our teachers, firefighters, police officers and those who have served our state; and that our municipalities have the resources and support they need to ensure their infrastructure is well maintained and safe.

We need a vision for North Carolina that protects the health and wealth of our citizens while fostering an environment for average North Carolinians to pursue their dreams by improving our infrastructure, ensuring that healthcare is affordable and protecting our pension for the thousands of state employees it serves. We need someone in the treasurer's office who wants to build and improve North Carolina and I am that candidate.