



## Asheville Home Builders Association 2010 Candidate Questionnaire Responses

The Asheville Home Builders Association (AHBA) is a professional trade association providing education and promoting excellence within the building industry. The Legislative Committee of the AHBA works diligently throughout the year to interview candidates running for state, local and federal offices. The AHBA supports NC Build Pac and strives to raise money for the Pac each year. The legislative committee is responsible for reviewing candidate information, interviews and more to help determine where our local Build Pac dollars should go during election years.

Below you will find candidate questionnaires for John Carroll, Mark Crawford, Susan Fisher and Jeff Miller. We appreciate the time and interest of these candidates as they completed these questionnaires at our request so that we can provide information to our members prior to Election Day. Please note that questionnaires were requested from **all** candidates running for office, at this time we have posted all questionnaires that have been received. Please contact the AHBA at [caroline@ashevillehba.com](mailto:caroline@ashevillehba.com) with any questions you may have.



**Click on an individual below for their completed questionnaire or scroll down to see all questionnaires.**

[JOHN CARROLL – NC HOUSE DISTRICT 114](#)

[MARK CRAWFORD – NC HOUSE DISTRICT 115](#)

[SUSAN FISHER – NC HOUSE DISTRICT 114](#)

[JEFF MILLER – US CONGRESS – NC 11](#)

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### JOHN CARROLL – NC HOUSE DISTRICT 114

#### Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: John Carroll

Address: PO Box 8967, Asheville NC, 28814

Email: [cbdme@aol.com](mailto:cbdme@aol.com)

Website: [www.carroll4nchouse.com](http://www.carroll4nchouse.com)

Office Sought: NC House – District 114

#### 1. Why are you running for this particular position?

Response: Jobs, stop wasteful spending, preserve our schools

#### 2. Which community leaders are supporting your campaign?

Response: All of my family and company, REALTORS Pac, Insurance, Eye Doctors

#### 3. How will you seek to support the housing industry if elected?

Response: Personal conversation

**4. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing our community today and how do you plan to address it?**

Response: Jobs, cut taxes and encourage education

**5. What can we do to improve small business and homeowners loans on a local and regional level?**

Response: cut business taxes, create jobs so people can buy homes, encourage first time home buyer programs.

**6. Do you support more local, state or federal regulation on the housing industry?**

**Strongly oppose**      Oppose      Support      Strongly Support

**7. How do you feel about a municipal or statewide mandate requiring fire sprinklers in all new one and two family homes? Would you:**

**Strongly oppose**      Oppose      Support      Strongly Support

**8. Do you support local tax breaks for energy efficiency?**

Strongly oppose      Oppose       **Support**      Strongly Support

**9. If elected are you willing to meet with Asheville Home Builders Association leaders to discuss issues of importance to home owners and our industry?**

**Yes**      Maybe      No

**MARK CRAWFORD – NC HOUSE DISTRICT 115**

**Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate Name: Mark Crawford

Address: PO Box 1345, Montreat, NC 28757

Email: [mark@crawfordnchouse.com](mailto:mark@crawfordnchouse.com)

Website: [www.crawfordnchouse.com](http://www.crawfordnchouse.com)

Office Sought: NC House – 115<sup>th</sup> District

**1. Why are you running for this particular position?**

Response: I am running for this office to make a real and tangible impact on the lives of the citizens of Buncombe County, Western North Carolina and of the State as a whole. I had the honor of serving in the NC House of Representatives in 2001-02, but many of the things I hoped to accomplish were not possible at that time. Now, the ability to make a difference is far more likely. With this in mind, my top three priorities are: creating more and better jobs; improving the overall state of the economy so that job creation can be successful; and, continuing to improve our education system in this state.

**2. Which community leaders are supporting your campaign?**

Response: I would like to believe that many community leaders are supporting my campaign. Individuals ranging from the former Chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners (Mr. Nathan Ramsey) to former mayors of Montreat (Mr. Andrews and Mrs. Foreman), to well known and notable attorneys, such as Mr. Albert Sneed., are among many who support me. But more than individually, various groups have also endorsed me. During the primary, I was endorsed by SEANC (State Employees). I was recently given notice of endorsement by the PBA (Police & Law Officers). Before all is said and done, I expect various other endorsements and I would be greatly honored to have that of the AHBA.

**3. How will you seek to support the housing industry if elected?**

Response: The primary manner in which I hope to support the housing industry will be by: trying to reduce needless bureaucratic oversight and regulation; trying to alleviate the oppressive amount of red tape; attempting to aid in streamlining any and all levels of permitting processes, thereby making the overall administrative processes of building less burdensome; and finally, to relieve various tax burdens beginning with sales tax on materials, the capital gains on homes built, and eve the gas taxes costing those building the homes whenever they use their vehicles.

**4. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing our community today and how do you plan to address it?**

Response: The biggest issue facing our community today is the collapse of the housing market and how it has directly impacted not only the building community, but so many facets of the rest of the economy, as a whole. To deal with this, I believe the vest possible solutions are found in a series of wide ranging tax cuts (income tax, corporate tax, sales tax, fuel tax, etc.). John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan proved that when Americans are left with more in their pockets, the tendency is to inject more into the economy. This has the effect of creating growth, more jobs, and greater overall wealth, which in turn continues to further fuel the economic engines. When those resources are siphoned off through increased taxation, the economic machine, as a whole, slows down.

**5. What can we do to improve small business and homeowners loans on a local and regional level?**

Response: I strongly feel that if many of those steps suggested in my response for Question #4 are undertaken, the overall improvement of small business and homeowners loans will logically follow as the economy grows stronger and more capital typically thereby made available.

**6. Do you support more local, state or federal regulation on the housing industry?**

Strongly oppose      **X Oppose**      Support      Strongly Support

**7. How do you feel about a municipal or statewide mandate requiring fire sprinklers in all new one and two family homes? Would you:**

Strongly oppose      **X Oppose**      Support      Strongly Support

**8. Do you support local tax breaks for energy efficiency?**

Strongly oppose      Oppose      Support      **X Strongly Support**

**9. If elected are you willing to meet with Asheville Home Builders Association leaders to discuss issues of importance to home owners and our industry?**

**X Yes**      Maybe      No

**SUSAN FISHER – NC HOUSE DISTRICT 114**

**Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate Name: Susan Fisher

Address: 7 Maple Ridge Lane, Asheville NC, 28806

Email: [campaign@electsusanfischer.org](mailto:campaign@electsusanfischer.org)

Website: [www.electsusanfischer.org](http://www.electsusanfischer.org)

Office Sought: NC House – District 114

**1. Why are you running for this particular position?**

Response: I am running because I want to continue representing the people of Western North Carolina as we rebuild our economy and create good jobs to help families support themselves. My top three priorities are jobs and the economy, education, and the environment.

**2. Which community leaders are supporting your campaign?**

Response: Sherriff Van Duncan, Senator Martin Nesbitt, Commissioners David Gantt and Holly Jones, Mayor Bellamy, Rev. Joe Hoffman, Rev. Jeanne Finan, many more – please see list of endorsements on my website, electsusanfisher.org.

**3. How will you seek to support the housing industry if elected?**

Response: I am committed to listening to your concerns, and working with you to help rebuild our economy. I have worked hard in my time in the legislature to promote safe and affordable housing, including supporting the NC Housing Trust Fund, which provides financial support so developers can build affordable housing. I support the creation of affordable housing, and was honored to be name NC Housing Coalition Legislator of the Year for 2008 for my work to promote affordable housing in North Carolina.

**4. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing our community today and how do you plan to address it?**

Response: Rebuilding our economy is by far the most important task before us. I am committed to getting our economy back on track, brining jobs to WNC and growing a strong local economy rooted in our mountain values. We must support homegrown small businesses while at the same time attracting new industry to our region – industry that fits our values, skills, and resources.

**5. What can we do to improve small business and homeowners loans on a local and regional level?**

Response: Continue to access private, local, state, and federal support for local organizations like Mountain Housing Opportunities, On Track Financial and Mountain Biz Works; continue to support local small businesses with tax relief and other tools.

**6. Do you support more local, state or federal regulation on the housing industry?**

Strongly oppose      Oppose      Support      Strongly Support

Response: my answer to this question would depend on what kind of regulation was proposed. In general, I support efforts to ensure minimum safety standards.

**7. How do you feel about a municipal or statewide mandate requiring fire sprinklers in all new one and two family homes? Would you:**

Strongly oppose      Oppose      Support      Strongly Support

Response: I would need more information about any new legislation along these lines, but in general I support efforts to protect public safety.

**8. Do you support local tax breaks for energy efficiency?**

Strongly oppose      Oppose      Support      **X Strongly Support**

**9. If elected are you willing to meet with Asheville Home Builders Association leaders to discuss issues of importance to home owners and our industry?**

**X Yes**      Maybe      No

## **Jeff Miller – US Congress – NC 11**

### **Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate Name: Jeff Miller

Address: PO Box 6338, Hendersonville NC, 28793

Email: jeff@jeffmiller2010.com

Website: www.jeffmiller2010.com

Office Sought: US Congress – NC -11

#### **1. Why are you running for this particular position?**

Response: One of the main reasons I am running for Congress is because if the reckless deficit spending continues in Washington, it will not be me but my son and his children that have to pay for it years from now. We need to audit every department and find ways to do things in our federal government better, faster, and cheaper. Our children deserve the same opportunity to achieve the American Dream as generations before us have.

My top priority in Congress will be to put America back to work. As a small business owner, I know first hand that government doesn't create jobs. It's government's job to create an environment where small business owners and entrepreneurs can flourish. I know the top two creators of jobs are business start-ups and expanding businesses. I'll make sure government improves the business climate instead of putting barriers in the way of prosperity and job creation. I'll fight to reduce taxes and control government spending so government is working with job creators to make it easier for them to grow and invest here, not working against them.

#### **2. Which community leaders are supporting your campaign?**

Response: Senator Richard Burr, Former NC Senator and 2008 Gubernatorial Candidate Fred Smith, Commissioner of Labor Cherie K Berry, Former District Chief of Staff to Sen. William Cohen of Maine, Steve Ziegler, Mayor of Marion Stephen Little, Former Mayor of Hendersonville Fred H. Niehoff, Jr., General Coordinator of the Henderson County TEA Party, Bill O'Connor, NC Sen. Tom Apodaca of Henderson County, Former Sen. Robert Carpenter of Franklin, Former NC Sen. Dennis Davis, who served Rutherford and Cleveland Counties, Former NC Sen. Keith Presnell of Yancey County, NC Rep. Carolyn Justus of Dana, Former Henderson County Sheriff George Erwin, Former Polk County Commissioner Ted Owens, Current Henderson County Commissioners Bill Moyer and Chuck McGrady, County Commissioner Charlie Messer.

#### **3. How will you seek to support the housing industry if elected?**

Response: North Carolina's skilled tradesman literally built our state. Given the chance, your organization and groups like yours can help rebuild our economy. The best way to stimulate the economy is to remove barriers to growth and job creation. It is time the federal government stops over-regulating the housing industry and starts giving them the tools to build and create jobs in Western North Carolina. As a small business owner, I know the burden of overregulation and I will be the housing industry's number one advocate to creating an environment where you all can be successful once again.

#### **4. What do you feel is the single biggest issue facing our community today and how do you plan to address it?**

Response: One of the biggest fears I hear while on the campaign trail is the national deficit. There was a poll taken recently and the national deficit polled higher than terrorism as the number one fear of the American people. That to me is a failure of our federal government.

Happy talk about the stimulus and the economy won't create one job or put one person back to work. Bigger government, more spending and more debt aren't the answers our country needs. People will have the confidence to start spending again when they see the federal government stop spending money we do not have. To get America back to work we need to regain the confidence of the American people.

**5. What can we do to improve small business and homeowners loans on a local and regional level?**

Response: The tax burden on North Carolina's working families and businesses are already far too high and government spending is out of control. Businesses and homeowners want certainty. Before they consider investing, job creators need to know they'll have an economic climate, which fosters success. I want small businesses to have a more predictable and stable tax environment. We must get government out of the way of business so everyone will see North Carolina is the place to grow or start a business.

**6. Do you support more local, state or federal regulation on the housing industry?**

**Strongly oppose**       Oppose       Support       Strongly Support

**7. How do you feel about a municipal or statewide mandate requiring fire sprinklers in all new one and two family homes? Would you:**

**Strongly oppose**       Oppose       Support       Strongly Support

**8. Do you support local tax breaks for energy efficiency?**

Strongly oppose       Oppose       **Support**       Strongly Support

**9. If elected are you willing to meet with Asheville Home Builders Association leaders to discuss issues of importance to home owners and our industry?**

**Yes**       Maybe       No