

**Asheville Home Builders Association  
Candidate Questionnaire**

Candidate Name: Mark Crawford

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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