

COMM. DISTRICT 7

Carl Blount

Russell Edwards

Bill Overend

Questionnaire Received

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please click this link for survey responses

Are you a Democrat?

Yes

Yes

If elected, will you work to enact the ACCDC platform?

Yes

Yes

Have you ever been a member of the ACCDC?

No

I've been a member of the ACCDC since 2017 and have been active ever since. I organized debate watch parties and canvassing for Obama. Ran for US House in 2010. Served as Vice Chair for Special Projects and most recently as Chair.

If you have, please indicate your years of service and describe your work with the ACCDC

Please list all campaigns you have worked on, regardless of party affiliation, in either a volunteer or staff member capacity, on either the federal, state, or local level, and briefly describe your work on each.

N/A

Howard Dean, field organizer. Barack Obama, field organizer. Jonathan Wallace, field organizer. Spencer Frye, field organizer.

Please describe any work you have done in your community, either in Athens-Clarke County or elsewhere, in support of progressive causes.

None that I would consider clearly progressive

My specialty is fundraising and field organizing. I worked very hard to elect Jonathan Wallace and Deborah Gonzalez.

Please list organizations and/or causes you have been involved with in any kind of substantial way.

The Athens Rotary Club, Athens Little League, Lead Athens, Lead Athens Alumni Association, the Georgia Green Industry Association, the Athens Area Homebuilders Association, First United Methodist Church Basketball, and Lockerly Arboretum

Athens Latino Center for Education and Services, Athens-Clarke Citizen Advocacy.

If elected, what will be your policy priorities? Please describe 3 - 5 priorities.

- 1. Working to Reduce Poverty in Athens**
We need more opportunities and innovative thinking to tackle poverty in Clarke County. My goal will be to lead and unite the community against poverty by strengthening and establishing partnerships in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- 2. Fighting for High-Paying Jobs**
As a small business owner, I will work to ensure that Athens is welcoming to new businesses that provide high-paying, quality jobs. I will also work with our local small business owners in Athens to help them expand and create new employment opportunities in our community.
- 3. Improving Our Education System**
I will be a voice for our children on the Commission. As a father of two in the public schools, I know the importance and value of improving our public education system. I will work with the School Board to find solutions to continue raising our standards and be a champion for our students.
- 4. Ensuring Historic Preservation In Our Neighborhoods**
Our neighborhoods are special, and it's important that we preserve the culture and feel of Athens. I will be a listening ear on the commission who works with all sides in a transparent way to ensure our neighborhoods are protected.

More priorities will be working to create pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, stream-lined historic preservation processes, and continuing to push for an Athens that is more family-friendly with a focus on developing infrastructure that serves children and seniors.

Does your campaign have a platform? If so, please include a link here.

See question above

<http://www.russellforathens.com/platform.html>

Do you support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour?

Yes

Yes

Do you support making it easier for workers to organize and join unions?

Yes

Yes

Will you support policies aimed at increasing the stock of affordable housing in in-town neighborhoods and making home-ownership more possible for ACC's low-income residents?

Yes

Yes

Would you support initiatives to help keep longtime Athens residents in their homes - people who are in danger of being pushed out of their neighborhoods by gentrification and rising taxes?

Yes

Yes

Do you support equal pay for equal work for women?

Yes

Yes

Should marijuana be removed from the list of "Schedule 1" federal controlled substances?

Yes

Yes

Should local law enforcement agencies be required to assist federal immigration law enforcement agencies with deportations?

No

No

Should military-style weapons be accessible to civilians?

No

No

Do you support repealing the Campus Carry law?

Yes

Yes

Do you support incentivizing investments in clean energy and ending tax breaks and other perks for fossil fuel companies?

Yes

Yes

Do you support increasing protections for wetlands buffers to help keep our waterways uncontaminated?

Yes

Yes

Do you support comprehensive non-discrimination legislation in ACC?

Yes

Yes

Should it be illegal for public businesses and institutions to discriminate against LGBTQ people?

Yes

Yes

Do you support the expansion of Medicaid in Georgia?

Yes

Yes

Do you support the goal of Universal healthcare – healthcare as a fundamental human right for every American?

Yes

Yes

Should all state education funds should be directed to public schools?

Yes

Yes

What are your thoughts about how to secure safe schools for all students?

It is unfortunate that this is a reality for our education system. As someone with two children in the Athens-Clarke County public school system it is a matter very important to me. I feel the best solutions for addressing this issue involve having school resource officers at all public schools; repealing campus carry; and other sensible gun control measures.

Make it harder for people to gain access to assault weapons. There are too many guns on the streets.

Do you support the current Teacher Retirement System of Georgia?

Yes

Yes

Should legislation requiring electoral districts be drawn by an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission?

Yes

Yes

Do you support restoring the full protections of the Voters Rights Act?

Yes

Yes