

Q.1 Your Name

Senator Kay Hagan

Q.2 How Would You Improve On The 'No Child Left Behind' Program?

Educational opportunity is central to economic opportunity. We need to fix the No Child Left Behind Act to make sure that the money and energy we invest in our public school system produces results. I recognize that further investments in public education are necessary but dollars alone cannot solve the lingering problems in public education. NCLB has been underfunded by \$70 billion, and I will push to fully fund this program. Additionally, NCLB is being implemented rigidly and does not give state and local school systems enough opportunity to assess their own students' growth. I know standardized testing can be a good measure of learning, but I will also encourage the use of other valid and reliable assessment methods. I also believe the federal government should encourage states to implement a growth model to measure schools' progress and progress among specific segments of the student body.

Q.3 How Would You Bring New Jobs And A Better Economy To North Carolina?

In Washington, I will be a diligent steward of taxpayers' funds by working towards a balanced budget and fiscal constraints, and I will demand we follow pay-as-you-go rules. I recently released a middle class policy that promotes tax cuts for middle class families instead of borrowing billions from China to pay for reckless tax cuts for the extremely wealthy. I will push to expand tax credits for child care, tuition expenses, energy efficiency and first time homebuyers. I will also support economic programs and targeted tax incentives to create and keep good jobs right here in North Carolina. I unveiled a comprehensive trade policy, which discusses how we can make trade fair and accountable, provide tax credits for companies that create jobs here and take tax credits away from companies that send jobs overseas, and assist workers who have lost their jobs due to bad trade deals. I unveiled a plan to reinvest in our rural areas by expanding access to education, health care and technology, which will improve standard of living and create new jobs. Additionally, in my energy plan, I laid out my goals for building a new, green energy economy where North Carolina can grow and produce its own energy, creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs. All of these plans are available on my website, www.kayhagan.com.

Q.4 What Is Your Plan For Our Current Immigration Policy?

Illegal immigration is a threat to national security and our economy. During the last seven years, the current administration in Washington has failed. The rule of law has been eroded as the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. nearly doubled and enforcement activity fell. I will work towards a practical solution that is fair to taxpayers and addresses the problem at its roots: by strengthening the borders, enforcing and upgrading laws that crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal workers. If North Carolina's farmers and seasonal businesses are having trouble finding the help they need, I would support the reform of guest-worker programs to ensure farmers and businesses are able to meet their needs legally and stay competitive while protecting American workers' jobs.

Q.5 If You Had A Blog, What Would Be The Subject?

I do have a blog for my campaign, at www.kayhagan.com/blog, and I post about what I am doing across the state, my plans to advocate for North Carolinians' best interests instead of the special interests, and my record of results working on behalf of North Carolinians. I have reached across party lines to solve problems and get results. I balanced five straight budgets and invested in the right priorities to make North Carolina one of the best states in which to do business. I have a decade of service in the state Senate, where I have been repeatedly ranked as one of the most effective senators by the non-partisan North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. In the U.S. Senate, I will continue to advocate for North Carolinians, and that is what I want people to know about.

Q.1 Your Name

Christopher Cole

Q.2 How Would You Improve On The 'No Child Left Behind' Program?

The Tenth Amendment places education firmly under the jurisdiction of the states and families. I would support repealing the law completely.

Q.3 How Would You Bring New Jobs And A Better Economy To North Carolina?

Open oil drilling off the coast would provide those jobs, as well as more onshore in the refineries. I would also support a biodiesel industry, based on hemp, a onetime common crop in NC. It would also provide new jobs in textiles, toiletries, and paper.

Q.4 What Is Your Plan For Our Current Immigration Policy?

Illegal immigration is a black-market response to government limitations on lowend labor, such as the minimum-wage law and the ban on piece work. Remove those restrictions and there will no longer be an economic incentive to smuggle labor.

Q.5 If You Had A Blog, What Would Be The Subject?

The capitalist alternatives to government economic interventions.
