

# OUR CAROLINA PROMISE

A STATE THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE



## for **OUR JOBS**

### **CREATE AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE**

We've come a long way since the Great Recession but those at the top still are getting so much while the middle class and the poor struggle to afford things like health care, retirement, and a good quality of life. We need to prioritize economic development and bring in good paying high tech, biotech and clean energy jobs so that North Carolina's workers have access to the jobs of the future.

### **REBUILD OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

Whether roads and bridges, wastewater systems, public facilities, or water systems, we need to reinvest in North Carolina. Our state had the 8th highest fatality rating on non-Interstate rural roads of any state in the nation last year and one in ten rural roads are rated in poor condition. Public safety, our quality of life, and economic prosperity depend on solid infrastructure. Let's get to work.

### **ENSURE WORKERS GET THE PAY AND BENEFITS THEY EARNED AND DESERVE**

Workers who put in the hours deserve the pay they earned. Democrats pledge new protections for workers, such as cracking down on companies that dock overtime pay, hold on to employees' tips, or refuse to pay workers the pay they've earned. Our laws must also protect workers from exploitation, including employer misclassification and wage theft, to ensure that workers get what they earn.

### **EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK**

If you do the same work, you should get the same pay. North Carolina women make 82 cents to every dollar a man makes; African-American women make 63 cents; Latina women, just 48 cents. Meanwhile, more families are headed by women breadwinners or co-breadwinners. Ensuring equal pay for equal work isn't just the right thing to do – it's smart for our families and our economy.

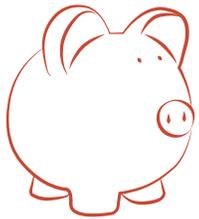
### **PROMOTE PROGRAMS FOR JOB TRAINING AND RETRAINING, LIKE "EARN WHILE YOU LEARN" PROGRAMS, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

From manufacturing and construction to information technology, the jobs of today and tomorrow increasingly require skilled workers and specialized training. Job training and retraining can help close the skills gap. Democrats will increase access to vocational education to help workers learn the skills employers need and open new doors to well-paying jobs for more North Carolinians.



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### **ENSURE PEOPLE EARN A LIVING WAGE IN THEIR COMMUNITY**

No one working full time should be forced to raise their child in poverty. The minimum wage in North Carolina hasn't moved in nearly a decade, making it difficult to raise a family or make ends meet – it's time to change that. It's good for our workers, for our economic competitiveness, and for our state.

### **REQUIRE POLLUTERS, NOT RATE PAYERS, TO PAY FOR COAL ASH, CHEMICAL SPILLS, AND OTHER POLLUTION**

You shouldn't be on the hook to clean up after polluters. When businesses dump coal ash, chemical spills, and other pollution into our public waterways, consumers shouldn't be left to pick up the tab. Democrats will continue to push for new laws that shield consumers from rate hikes and that make sure that companies – not consumers – are paying for the cleanup.

### **BRING BACK THE STATE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT TO PUT MORE MONEY IN WORKING FAMILIES' POCKETS**

Nearly one million poor and middle-class families relied on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) each year to put more money in their pockets and more food on the table. But North Carolina eliminated it in 2014, the only state to do so in 30 years. We need to bring relief to working people and put more money in their pockets by bringing back the EITC.

### **INCREASE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY BROADBAND, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Too many North Carolinians, especially those in rural areas, don't have reliable access to the internet. Students need the internet for homework, workers rely on fast connections to tele-work, and businesses need to connect instantly with suppliers and customers. Let's close the "Homework Gap" and connect rural households and underserved businesses to the 21st century economy.

