



KIDS VOTING DURHAM
2018 DISTRICT JUDGE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete and return your written answers to this questionnaire by Monday, July 29, to ckreuger@dconc.gov or 721 Foster St. along with your video response to question #1 and a headshot for the Kids Voting Durham ballot. If you have questions, please call Carolyn Kreuger at 919-423-9227 or email ckreuger@dconc.gov

You can type answers into this document in plain text (do not save as a PDF if possible). The guide will be available online in mid-October, and a print version will be available shortly after that.

Thank you.

NAME:

Jillian Johnson

OFFICE RUNNING FOR:

Durham City Council

NEIGHBORHOOD YOU LIVE IN:

West End

FIRST JOB:

Babysitter

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US (BRIEFLY) ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY:

I've lived in Durham for the last 20 years and have been serving as a city council member since 2015. I'm a queer black woman, board game addict, policy nerd, and mother of two. I grew up in Virginia, attended Duke University, and live in the West End neighborhood. I'm running for re-election because I love Durham and want to make it a place where everyone can thrive.

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1. Why do you want to serve on Durham City Council? What issues made you decide to run for this office?

I'm running for re-election because I want to help make Durham a thriving, equitable, and inclusive community where anyone can afford to live. I want to use the power and resources of our local government to improve the lives of our most marginalized residents and make public policy that centers their needs. I want to bring more voices to the table so that we benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience of everyone in our community. I want to ensure that government considers racial equity when making public policy and corrects the harm that has been done in the past to communities of color. I want to continue to push the envelope on what a progressive city government can do to advance justice and serve our residents in a place with a right-wing state government.

I want to be part of improving the city that I love and that my family and I call home.

2. In the Kids Voting 2019 Youth Survey on Durham, residents 18 and under have said that affordable housing is the most important responsibilities of City Government. Are you in favor of the 2019 Affordable Housing Bond? What steps would you take for more affordable and fair housing in Durham?

Yes, I enthusiastically support the \$95M housing bond developed and proposed by Mayor Steve Schewel. I believe we should invest both the bond funds and the city's existing affordable housing funds into building new affordable rental housing, keeping existing affordable housing, rebuilding and renovating our public housing communities, providing home ownership opportunities, increasing weatherization and repairs programs for low-income homeowners, and helping finance the construction of affordable units. I also believe we should allow more dense housing to be built in the city's central neighborhoods, while still preserving the quality of life in these neighborhoods.

3. Young people who cannot drive have difficulty getting to downtown Durham, especially if they live in North or South Durham. How would you develop more bus and other public transportation options that connect all areas of Durham?

I support expanding transit service throughout the city, particularly in low-income communities where residents are less likely to own their own cars. We should pay particular attention to transit services in areas like South Durham, which are growing very quickly but have a largely suburban development pattern. These development patterns are less friendly to transit, so we'll have to be more creative to

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make sure to provide access. In less dense areas like North Durham, we should provide more access to on-demand services so that everyone has access to transit, even where it doesn't make sense to provide a whole bus route. I support recent efforts to provide free youth go-passes to students under 18 and to fund any budget shortfalls with tax revenue so that fares can stay at \$1.

4. Despite actions the city has taken to ensure fair treatment for all citizens in recent years, there are still noticeable difference in police stops and arrests for certain ethnic and racial groups. How would you make policing in Durham fairer? How would you know if you succeeded? Would you allow DPD to work with ICE and immigration enforcement?

Given the long history of structural and institutional racism in our country, it's not surprising that Black and Latinx people face racial discrimination in the criminal legal system. I believe that these biases are inherently part of the system and can not be "reformed" away. Therefore, I advocate for the use of a more holistic public health model when addressing community safety that considers prevention, intervention, and re-entry in addition to enforcement. There will certainly be times when force needs to be used to keep people safe, and we should deploy police resources when those circumstances exist. But by focusing more on the root causes of community violence, we can actually proactively reduce violence rather than just responding once violence has occurred. Ultimately, we will know that we are succeeding if the level of violence in the city goes down, but we will also be able to measure and track the number of people who are served by prevention and intervention services and survey them about their experiences. My platform includes creating a task force of local residents to help develop community violence prevention solutions that don't require an increase in policing.

I strongly oppose DPD collaboration with ICE or immigration enforcement. These collaborations make our immigrant neighbors less safe.

5. Do you have a plan to increase jobs for young people and recent graduates? Over 50% of Durham youth in the 2019 KVD survey were unaware of YouthWorks and other Durham City programs to support youth employment and only between 5-10% had participated in them. How would you make youth more aware of these City programs and make them available to more youth?

There are two primary ways we can increase access to jobs for young people: 1) provide more jobs within city government, and 2) promote private sector job growth. The city has plans to increase the number of paid summer youth internships from 200 to 1,000 over the next 3 years, and I am fully in support of this effort. Doing this will require a significant partnership with the private sector, and I

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regularly encourage private employers to sign on to this project and take youth interns. We also promote private sector job growth by investing in public/private partnerships that include job commitments. I support these incentives as long as the jobs provide living wages and safe, fair working conditions.

6. What is your biggest fear?

Death.

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