

Elect Merry Guy for Chair

NCGOP Congressional District 11

FAQ: Since you asked...

Questions sent by phone, text or email are listed below with my answers. Feel free to send me your questions. I will respond to you personally but check back periodically to see if your question is here!

Q. What are your plans if elected to prevent NC 11 counties from turning blue? Counties such as Henderson or Transylvania that have moved to the left slightly in recent elections? How will you address this as Chair?

A. No doubt, our proximity to Asheville makes these counties vulnerable, however the Republican Party has a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring former Democrats into the Republican Party. The DEM party left most of their voters behind when their radical and dangerous agenda was revealed in this last election cycle, especially when Trump fearlessly called it out.

I believe the Counties need to recognize this potential and make growing the party one of their core strategies. As such, I will work on a training module that outlines how to approach the community to recruit new Republicans and convert former DEMS to our Party. I can help the Chairs put together a custom strategy for their county by meeting in person and also work with larger groups online to foster exchange of ideas across the District.

Q. Based on the recent 2024 elections, down ballot races were a real issue. We need voters to vote Republican from the top to the bottom. As Chair, how could you work on getting voters to finish their ballots and to choose Republican candidates all the way down?

A. We found the most effective way to encourage down ballot voting when I was Chair was to make sure we have at least one GOP volunteer at every precinct on election day and the polling places during early voting, from open to close. Have a brightly colored sheet with all the candidates on one side, and on the back side we had useful information including the

need to vote the entire ballot – with great emphasis!. Our volunteers would hand them out and really encourage folks to vote for the entire candidate list we were handing out. Having a list that was officially endorsed by the Party gave people the confidence to vote for candidates they may not have heard of before. It was an effective way to engage the voting public. To keep costs down, we used a half sheet. Now folks actually ask for our famous “green sheet” when they go to vote.

Q. Will you be running with a slate of candidates in this election? If so, who will be a part of your leadership team you run alongside with?

A. I am not running a slate. I know most of the rest of the folks running and they are capable individuals with some returning to the Board. If I am the new District Chair, it would be good to have some level of continuity, and I have no doubt that we would coalesce quickly into a new team.

Q. How will you promote party unity as Chair?

A. Unity is critical for a County Party to function optimally. I have found that regardless of the endeavor, if everyone is sold out to a singular, urgent goal they will focus on that goal and the things that caused division will become less and less important until all that is left is unity. That is helpful on several fronts.

First, we must be focused on the singular goal as a Party to electing ALL of our Republican candidates. That is our urgent business. When differences looked like they could cause division I would remind everyone of that goal of winning elections. This “deflect and redirect approach” tends to realign everyone with a purpose they embrace.

There are some more obvious ways to avoid discord, such as Party leadership not engaging in the primaries, not taking “sides” and leadership supporting all the candidates top to bottom. As District Chair I will set that example across the district and encourage the County Chairs to follow suit.

Most folks appreciate the opportunity to feel productive and be part of a great team. When invited and if necessary, I would be happy to discuss issues with individuals to figure out a way to mend the fences if possible and move forward. This is just an intro to promoting unity, but for brevity, this is the main concept.

New Questions Added April 9th

Q. If you are the next NC11 chair what is your plan to improve the party?

A. My focus will be on the individual county parties and what they need to become even more effective. Of our 16 counties, we have a wide range of expertise and experience. The District Party, in my opinion, exists primarily to facilitate County Party success. To that end, I will seek opportunities for improvement in communication of best practices, access to individualized help as needed and in some areas Party unity.

Having hands-on experience as a County Chair, I would be a readily available resource when questions arise and I will proactively bring my experience to County leadership to share what worked well, what didn't etc. For example, sometimes a party can really expand their local voter outreach and precinct chair recruitment with the right tools and databases. I have considerable experience with that and would like to share ways to become more efficient. Sometimes, a County Treasurer, especially new ones, may have a quick question that has become a gating issue. I know the software and requirements well and can also serve as a resource to the new Treasurers. I have a proven track record staying focused on the end game of winning elections and bringing diverse groups to work together for the common goal.

I plan to improve the party not only by bringing my experience and expertise to the counties, but by listening to the needs of the various counties and helping them find solutions to challenges as they arise.

Q. What officer position(s) in the GOP have you held?

A. I have held the following positions in Henderson County.

Precinct Chair from around May 2016 until March 2017

County Chair from March 2017 until March 2021

County 2nd Vice Chair in an advisory role from March 2021 until December 2022

Q. Do you support the North Carolina US Senators – Budd and Tillis?

A. "Support" can mean a couple of things, so I will answer this question in two ways.

1. Do I always agree with what the Senators have done as elected officials? Not at all. Right now, I am very disappointed in any “Republican”, including Tillis, Collins and Murkowski who supports the Trade Review Act of 2025 which undermines Trump. It’s a little early to tell how Budd will vote long term. He is certainly more conservative than Tillis or Burr and his lifetime “conservative scores” are encouraging! That said, I was disappointed in his vote to continue to fund Ukraine. I believe we should work to hold our elected officials accountable by letting them know when they aren’t upholding our Platform, but to also let them know we appreciate it when they do.

2. Will I support Tillis in the primary? Not at all. As District Chair, I will not support any candidate in the Republican Primaries. After the primary it is the job of the Party leadership to win our Republican elections which requires supporting all REP candidates enthusiastically. If a District Chair bashes a candidate before the primary, it is very difficult for that Chair to turn around and support that candidate wholeheartedly during the general without looking like a hypocrite and losing credibility. Regardless of the primary outcome, we must all be ready to fight for our NC Senate seat and keep Cooper out of DC.

Q. What is your perspective of President Trump?

A. I think this country would be done if it weren’t for Trump. I support him 100% and have from day one. I believe we were on the verge of losing our country when he got into office in 2016. While he was only marginally successful for many reasons, he was able to slow the decline and expose the swamp. After four years of Biden, we were truly on the cusp of complete failure militarily, economically and culturally as a country. I believe Trump is the only person with the backbone, knowledge and sheer force of personality who can do what needs to be done and turn this country around. I believe God saved his life on July 13th for a reason, and I am praying that Trump will continue to have God’s favor in spite of those detractors on both sides of the aisle. I support Trump without reservation, pray for him daily and encourage others to do the same.

Q. Who do you support for the next NCGOP Chair? Jason Simmons or Brooke McGowa

A. I know this is a “litmus” test for some in the District, however I am still researching the options. Considering the fact that it’s not too late for another candidate to enter the race, it would be better to decide after I am satisfied that I have all the information. I plan to be

prepared to work with whomever is elected because we cannot afford to sit this one out. We must win.

Merry Guy, PhD

828-606-6182

merryguy0406@gmail.com