

Summary of Youth Legislation

Demobilization of Iraq (Federal Legislation): Passed

Demobilization of Iraq will occur by March of 2008, bringing American troops home without compromising their security. Iraq needs to provide for their own security. This includes announcing a date to bring our troops home, enter into an agreement for withdrawal, and call for an immediate cease fire. Additional funding will be provided for any necessary protection of troops who are on their way home.

(Proposed by Hendersonville Middle School)

From Incandescent to Compact Fluorescent (Federal Legislation): Passed

Incandescent light bulbs will be phased out and completely replaced by compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) in stores over the next five years. By the year 2012, current incandescent bulb manufacturers will only be allowed to produce CFLs. This will drastically reduce energy costs and help in the fight against Global Warming.

(Proposed by Swain Middle School)

Creation of a Youth Center (Local Legislation): Passed

In an attempt to reduce the teenage crime rate and drug use, this piece proposes the creation of a youth center from a vacant library in Franklin, NC. It would help keep students in grades 6-12 involved in after-school activities and off the streets. The center will be open to different grades at different times to reduce age conflicts.

(Proposed by Macon Middle School)

Buncombe County/Asheville Consolidation (Local Legislation): Failed

This bill proposes to annex Asheville and Buncombe County to combine the area into one region divided into districts. This will cut government waste and distribute school funding more evenly. City taxes will also be lowered and seven key services will be provided to residents of the new consolidated region.

(Proposed by North Buncombe High School)

Rising Health Crisis in North Carolina (State Legislation): Passed

This legislation is meant to provide equal and more efficient mental healthcare for everyone in North Carolina through a one cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) voted in by the people of North Carolina. This would place state mental healthcare on an equal footing with Medicare and Medicaid-provided mental healthcare and give aid to those who need help regardless of their financial situation.

(Proposed by Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps)

The Fair Acceptance Act for Colleges and Universities (Federal Legislation): Passed

This act will give all students the equal opportunity to be accepted into college regardless of race, gender, or any other demographic besides merit. Students will be accepted based on the following criteria:

- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Scores
- Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Extracurricular Activities and/or Work Experience
- Community Service
- Teacher Recommendations
- Essay(s)
- Interview

These are qualities that all students, regardless of race, gender, or financial status, may possess. In no way may a college or university hold the race, gender, or financial status of any student as the deciding factor of acceptance or rejection into the institution.

(Proposed by Madison High School)

Revision of the No Child Left Behind Act (State Legislation): Passed

This bill will supplement the No Child Left Behind Act by offering a merit-based bonus plan in which teachers will be awarded bonuses based on their students' performance. This bonus will be dependent on overall student performance improvement.

(Proposed by Enka High School)

Motor Vehicle Clean Air Act (State Legislation): Passed

Any driver or passenger of a vehicle in North Carolina who smokes in a vehicle with passenger(s) under the age of 18 will be hereby guilty of a misdemeanor violation, punishable by a fine of \$250. This is designed to protect occupants in all moving and non-moving vehicles from smoking second-hand smoke that has been shown to cause numerous health problems such as lung cancer, emphysema, and low birth-weight babies.

(Proposed by Enka High School)

A Public Waterslide for Asheville (Local Legislation): Passed

This legislation proposes the addition of a large public waterslide in the Azalea Park in Asheville, NC. The existing pool is large enough that a waterslide would not impede other swimmers, and a waterslide would be very attractive to families visiting North Carolina. This would boost the tourism industry in Asheville and give local residents more options for family activities.

(Proposed by Orton Academy)

A Walkway for Montford Park (Local Legislation): Passed

A new walkway is needed for the Amphitheatre at Montford Park, home of the Montford Park Players, in Asheville, North Carolina. This paved path would run from the parking lot to the amphitheatre, which is currently a gravel path and difficult to travel. The path will greatly improve visitors' inclination to attend the Shakespeare Company's free plays, creating a simple and economical way to contribute to the arts in Asheville.

(Proposed by Orton Academy)

The Guidance and Preservation Act (State Legislation): Failed

This legislation places an option on the state ballot for residents of North Carolina to vote on the legalization of same-sex marriage. If the vote is yes, then same-sex marriage will be made legal and acknowledged within the state of North Carolina.

(Proposed by Tuscola High School)

A Color Blind Nation Act of 2007 (Federal Legislation): Passed

This legislation proposes that the practice of affirmative action in the workplace and college admissions be abolished. Many feel this policy has developed into a practice of reverse discrimination rather than an aid for minorities. If abolished, hiring practices, promotions, and college acceptances would be based on individual merit rather than race, gender, or ethnicity.

(Proposed by Tuscola High School)

Random Drug Testing of Students and Teachers (State Legislation): Failed

Random drug testing will be enforced on all students, teachers, and staff members in North Carolina. Each year, 15% of this population will be tested with consent of the adult or, if under 18-years old, with consent of a guardian. If the initial drug test is failed, a second hair test will be administered to confirm the first test's results. Teachers will be suspended and students will receive 10 days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) and a year's suspension from any extra-curricular activities if they fail the drug test.

(Proposed by Swain Middle School)

Raising the Compulsory Attendance Age (State Legislation): Failed

This proposal aims to raise the school compulsory attendance age in the state of North Carolina from 16- to 18-years old. This legislation, if passed, will take effect in the year 2008 and will only affect the state of NC. Passing this law will help improve the economy and the lives of potential high school drop-outs.

(Proposed by Swain Middle School)

Drug Abuse Awareness (Local Legislation): Passed

Drug Abuse Awareness Programs will be implemented in Henderson County middle schools to increase preventative measures dealing with drug use. This will include a four-step program of these elements: parental awareness and involvement, character-building programs, voluntary random drug screenings, and incentives to reward students for maintaining a drug-free environment.

(Proposed by Hendersonville Middle School)

Creation of a National I.D. Card (Federal Legislation): Failed

To curb the economic drain due to illegal immigrants, a screening process involving training officers and a National I.D. card will be implemented. This I.D. card will be required to enroll children in schools, obtain a driver's license, and apply for a job.

(Proposed by Hendersonville Middle School)

Global Warming Awareness (State Legislation): Passed

This legislation proposes to mandate the teaching of global warming in North Carolina's middle and high schools. A study commission will also be recommended to research and suggest legislation to regulate the carbon dioxide emissions of cars and factories so that new cars will be more environmentally friendly and factories will not be able to sell their allotments for carbon dioxide emissions.

(Proposed by Hendersonville Middle School)

Clean Air Act Reinstatement (Federal Legislation): Passed

The Clean Air Act of 1956 will be reinstated with greater emphasis on car emissions. Tax incentives will encourage the addition of biodiesel pumps at stations nationwide, which is beneficial because biodiesel is a renewable source of energy. It can also be used with already-existing diesel engines with a higher level of efficiency and a quieter noise level. Widespread use of biodiesel use will also lessen our dependence on foreign sources for oil.

(Proposed by Hendersonville Middle School)

The National Health Insurance Program (Federal Legislation): Passed

Full health coverage for every American will be provided under a public health insurance program. This program will pay the operating costs for hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes while still allowing physicians to continue to practice on a fee-for-service basis. Privately-owned hospitals and clinics will also be required to demonstrate administrative cost-effective operational procedures.

(Proposed by Hendersonville Middle School)

No Left Turn (Local Legislation): Passed

A no left turn sign will be placed in Buncombe County at the intersection of Buck Shoals Road and Sweeten Creek Road. By not allowing left turns onto Sweeten Creek, we can drastically reduce traffic back-up during morning and evening rush hours.

(Proposed by TC Roberson High School)

Education Lottery Financial Reform (State Legislation): Passed

Allocations of North Carolina Education Lottery taxes for winnings at the federal level will be allocated to the U.S. Department of Education to improve education. All state taxes taken on lottery winnings and unclaimed prizes will be given directly to North Carolina education, and any winner can delegate a self-specified percentage of their winnings to NC education as well.

(Proposed by Owen High School)

The Economic Justice Act (Federal Legislation): Failed

The central United States economy will be democratically governed. The people will have control over where businesses can grow and develop, and workers will elect representatives to fight for higher wages and better working environments.

(Proposed by Madison High School)