

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Candidate Name:	Monica Walker
Position/Office on the Ballot:	City Council District 2
Party Affiliation:	Democrat

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE + MATERNAL HEALTH:

1. As federal policies threaten to widen health and economic disparities — particularly through cuts to Medicaid and SNAP — what strategies would you advance at the local level to build a more equitable and cost-effective system of care that ensures all residents can access the services they need, regardless of income or insurance status?

As federal cuts to Medicaid and SNAP threaten vulnerable families in Greensboro, local solutions are more important than ever. Expanding community-based care through Health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers can provide accessible, cost-effective services regardless of insurance status. Additionally, investing in community health workers (CHWs) across high-need neighborhoods like 27405 and 27406 will connect residents to care, food resources, and housing support while reducing emergency room overuse. Pairing these efforts with a local — in partnership with groups initiatives like Backpack Beginnings could provide targeted, low-cost strategies that might strengthen health equity and protect Greensboro families from falling through the cracks. While these are immediate responses, they are temporary fixes and my advocacy is geared towards longer term permanent fixes, which rarely come as a result of increasing programs.

2. With rural hospitals in North Carolina already under threat of closure due to rising uncompensated care resulting from cuts to Medicaid, what investments or partnerships would you support at the local level to expand access to primary care, mental health services, and maternal and child health — especially in underserved areas within your municipality?

Rather than just reacting to the symptoms (like ER overuse or rising hospital debt), the local response should shift to address the system-level conditions that created dependency on emergency care in the first place — especially in racially marginalized and low-income communities.

3. How would you ensure that community voices — particularly those most impacted by health disparities and barriers to care — are meaningfully included and elevated in shaping local policies and programs aimed at expanding access to healthcare and addressing systemic inequities?

To meaningfully include community voices—especially those most impacted by health disparities and barriers to care—local health systems and policymakers must go beyond consultation and shift toward shared power. This means creating paid advisory boards

made up of residents from underserved neighborhoods, partnering with grassroots organizations to lead engagement, and using participatory budgeting to let communities directly shape funding decisions. By compensating lived experience, closing feedback loops, and building transparency into the process, Greensboro can ensure that those most affected are not only heard, but are helping lead the design of equitable, effective healthcare solutions.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. Do you support ordinances that penalize people for sleeping in public spaces, panhandling, or living in their vehicles? Why or why not?

I do not support ordinances that penalize people for sleeping in public spaces, panhandling, or living in their vehicles because these laws criminalize poverty rather than addressing its root causes. Punishing people for trying to survive when they have no access to shelter, income, or housing only deepens the cycle of homelessness and makes it harder for them to get back on their feet. Instead of investing in enforcement, we should invest in real solutions like affordable housing, mental health care, and outreach services that treat people with dignity and actually reduce homelessness in the long term. Everyone deserves safety and support, not fines and jail time for being poor.

2. What is your plan to address homelessness without resorting to criminalization or displacement?

Fund rapid re-housing programs and create low-barrier shelter options that lead directly to permanent housing. Decriminalize Survival Behaviors and Shift to Public Health Response. Laws against panhandling, vehicle sleeping, or sidewalk camping criminalize being poor, not criminal acts. These ordinances disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities, who are already over-policed. Homelessness is not a personal failure; it's a predictable outcome of systems that were never designed to be equitable. If we want different outcomes like fewer people on the streets, especially Black and Brown people, we have to stop criminalizing poverty and start treating housing as a human right.

3. What policies will you support to ensure law enforcement officers in our town are held accountable for the use of deadly force, especially when it results in the injury or death of unarmed individuals?

I fully support law enforcement officers and that they be well paid and funded like every office of public service including and especially teachers.. Likewise, I support policies that ensure law enforcement is held accountable when deadly force is used—especially against unarmed individuals. As a resident of color, I am concerned and seek to build a bridge of accountability and transparency that respects policing and renders the highest level of support, safety and accountability in communities of color in particular and all communities in general. Accountability, transparency, and community oversight are essential to earning public trust and ensuring that no one is above the law.

DEMOCRACY

1. How will you address underrepresentation in North Carolina's voters—especially among Black communities and young voters ages 18-29?

Voting is a critical exercise of civic responsibility, yet we often fail to equip young people—especially Black students—with the tools they need for meaningful participation in our democracy. While we invest heavily in academic instruction, we overlook the urgent need for civic education that fosters active, informed, and accountable engagement. To address underrepresentation among Black voters and young voters in North Carolina, we must start in schools—by integrating civic literacy, voting rights history, and real-world democratic practice into the curriculum. We must also support community-led voter education efforts, remove structural barriers to access, and create a culture that values and encourages participation from all voices, especially those historically excluded. Civic power begins with civic preparation—and it's time we make that a priority.

2. How will you ensure that state and local district maps reflect fair representation across party, race, and geography?

While the drawing of state and legislative district maps does not fall within the formal responsibilities of City Council, it remains a serious concern, especially during this critical period of municipal voting for an entire council. Redistricting decisions at the state level directly impact local representation, resource allocation, and voter confidence. As city leaders, we may not draw the maps, but we do have a responsibility to advocate for fair representation, speak out against voter suppression, and ensure that all residents, especially those in historically underrepresented communities understand how these broader structural issues affect their voice at the local level. Fair maps are the foundation of fair governance, and we must not remain silent when that foundation is at risk.

3. Would you support legislation to establish a truly independent, non-partisan commission for redistricting, free from legislative influence?

Yes.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

1. What policies will you support to foster innovation and encourage an equitable entrepreneurial environment in the state?

Entrepreneurship is a cornerstone of free enterprise and a vital pathway to economic mobility. Yet, communities of color have long been denied full access to the resources, networks, and capital needed to participate equitably in our economy. To close this gap, we must develop and advance policies that intentionally foster innovation while ensuring equitable access to funding, technical assistance, and business development opportunities. This includes supporting minority-owned businesses, expanding inclusive procurement practices, and investing in local ecosystems that empower entrepreneurs from historically marginalized communities. Equity in entrepreneurship isn't just an economic imperative, it's a matter of justice.

2. The NC workforce is dealing with cooling hiring markets and ongoing labor shortages across education, transit, health care, public service and more. What specific initiatives — such as apprenticeships, skills-based hiring, or public-sector retention programs would you support?

I support workforce initiatives that address the root causes of racial and economic disparities in employment—not just the symptoms. That means investing in equitable, paid apprenticeship programs that remove entry barriers for Black, Brown, and underrepresented workers, expanding skills-based hiring in both the public and private sectors, and creating retention-focused pathways into public service careers. These efforts must be paired with transparent equity tracking, community partnerships, and support services like transportation, childcare, and mentorship. If we want different outcomes, we must stop asking individuals to overcome broken systems—and start redesigning those systems to deliver equity by design.

3. Current state legislative budget proposals aim to reduce personal and corporate income tax rates tremendously by 2030. Do you believe such cuts are fiscally responsible given projected revenue shortfalls, or would you oppose accelerating them?

While tax relief can be part of sound economic policy, slashing revenue without a sustainable plan to maintain core services risks undermining public education, healthcare access, infrastructure, and other vital community investments. These cuts disproportionately benefit the wealthy and large corporations, while shifting the burden to working families and local governments. A responsible budget should balance the need for competitiveness with the need for equity, long-term stability, and continued investment in the public goods that make North Carolina strong.

EDUCATION:

1. Considering the consistent defunding of public education that we have seen over the past several years as a result of poor policy decisions, what is your plan of action to ensure that you are coordinating with the school board to provide the best quality education feasible for students?

City councils and school boards each have distinct roles, but when they work together, they can create the conditions for a stronger, more equitable public education system. Councils can support schools by investing in safe infrastructure, affordable housing for educators and families, public transportation for students, and after-school and youth programs that extend learning beyond the classroom. School boards, in turn, can partner with the city to align educational priorities with broader community goals, such as workforce development, mental health services, and digital access. Regular communication, shared planning, and a commitment to equity can ensure that both bodies are working in tandem to provide every student, not just in the classroom, but in the community, the tools to succeed.

2. Do you support increasing educator pay to meet the national average and reinstating master's and related advanced degree pay?

Yes, I completely support increasing educator pay in North Carolina. Our teachers are the backbone of our public education system, yet they remain some of the most underpaid professionals in the state. To recruit and retain high-quality educators and to show respect for the critical role they play, we must invest in competitive, livable salaries. Increasing teacher pay is not only a matter of fairness; it's a strategic investment in student success, workforce development, and the future of our communities. North Carolina cannot lead in education if it does not lead in supporting its educators.

3. What is your stance on private school vouchers? Do you support using public funds to fund private school voucher programs?

I do not support using public funds to finance private school voucher programs. Public dollars should be invested in strengthening our public education system, not diverted to private institutions that are not held to the same transparency, accountability, or equity standards. Voucher programs often exacerbate educational inequities by funneling resources away from the schools that serve the majority of low-income students and students of color. Every child deserves access to a high-quality public education, and our focus should be on fully funding public schools, supporting educators, and ensuring all students regardless of ZIP code, can thrive.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1. North Carolina faces various water quality challenges, including contamination caused by PFAS, CAFOs, and other forms of industrial and commercial pollution. How do you plan to ensure communities across the state, particularly yours, will have access to clean, safe drinking water?

Ensuring access to safe drinking water is a fundamental public health responsibility, and I support strong local oversight, infrastructure investment, and transparency to protect our water systems. This includes regular testing for contaminants like lead and PFAS, upgrading aging pipes and treatment facilities, and ensuring that low-income and

historically underserved communities are not left behind. I also support public reporting of water quality data and strong accountability for industrial polluters. Safe, clean drinking water should never depend on your ZIP code or income level. It's a basic human right that must be protected for all residents.

2. With recent federal limitations of the IRA and the continual removal of environmentally sound initiatives, as well as the impacts of defunding Medicare and Medicaid, how do you plan to ensure readily and equitable access to healthcare and other resources to ensure community needs are met?

More study needed here.

3. Greensboro: What is your stance on the toxic waste site, Bingham Park, located in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Greensboro? Do you support the community's request for full remediation?

I stand firmly with the residents of Greensboro, particularly those in the historically Black neighborhood surrounding Bingham Park, who have long endured the environmental injustice of living near a toxic waste site. The contamination at Bingham Park is not just a public health issue; it's a racial and environmental equity issue that reflects a broader pattern of placing hazardous sites in communities of color. I support immediate and transparent action to remediate the site, ongoing health monitoring for affected residents, and full community involvement in any cleanup or redevelopment plans. No community should bear the burden of environmental harm due to decades of neglect. Justice for Bingham Park means cleanup, accountability, and investment in the health and safety of the neighborhood moving forward.