Name as it appears on the ballot: Dan Blue III

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Years lived in the district: N.C. Native. State Wide Race

Questions:

1. What inspired you to run for the Office of State Treasurer and if elected what do you want your legacy to be after you leave?

First, My parents raised me to value family, community involvement and public service. Giving back to my community has been an important part of my life and it’s a value I share with my wife, Traci. I currently serve on the board of the Salvation Army of Wake County, the board of the affordable housing developer DHIC and on the board of WakeMed, a not­for­profit healthcare system.

Second, the challenges that we face as a society — maintaining a quality work force for the state, growing an economy, solving the healthcare riddle, investing in infrastructure, and ensuring we have a responsible and transparent banking system — are both the areas that I have spent my career in and the areas that the Treasurer’s office touches.

I studied biomedical engineering and public policy at Duke University as an undegraduate student. Later, I returned to

Duke to earn a joint JD and MBA to strengthen my knowledge of law and finance.

In my professional life I have worked with GlaxoWellcome to help found Healthmatics, a company that allowed health care personnel to manage and analyze medical information and quickly access that information during exams. I have worked as an investment banker serving healthcare clients, including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, diagnostic, and service companies and helped found the Pharmaceutical Institute, a leading provider of specialized training and pharmaceutical and biotechnology professionals. Currently, I work alongside my father and brother in our family law firm where I specialize in debt financing. Our firm has worked as bond counsel for the State of North Carolina, private colleges, and universities.

The Department of State Treasurer oversees the health and pension plans for state employees, issues and manages all state and local debt and invests over $100 billion in state and pension fund assets. My commitment to public service and the character of my professional experience were both factors in my decision to seek this particular office.

The vision of the Department is to “create and maintain a fiscally sound and prosperous North Carolina.” I believe attaining that goal would be a great legacy for my administration. One accomplishes this, in part, by providing outstanding customer service to our citizens, exercising sound fiduciary oversight of the funds entrusted to me, making government more efficient and effective, and in working with all elected officials to make North Carolina a great place to live, work, raise a family, and retire. Achieving this goal would be a great accomplishment.

1. In your opinion what is the biggest issue on the minds of North Carolinians right now and how do you believe you could have the biggest impact?

There are many issues on the minds of our citizens: both social and economic. Among the most important of these is creating a healthy economy characterized by jobs that pay well and which will allow an individual to live independently and raise a family. As State Treasurer and a member of the Council of State I would have an important role to play in working with other officials to ensure that North Carolina addresses this issue.

As Treasurer I would use my power to leverage our investments in support of our economy. There are opportunities for investing in a risk­adjusted manner to help our economy grow. As importantly, the Treasurer has an important role in maintaining our state’s AAA bond rating. A “AAA” bond rating has more than a direct financial benefit. It tells entrepreneurs and investors that North Carolina is a great place to live and work, is a key inducement for businesses to come to our state and it says a great deal about how we as policy makers and citizens value our future. As a member of the Community College Board of Trustees and the State Board of Education, I would support policies that expand

training and retraining for workers that would provide them with the skills needed to obtain good paying jobs in our emerging 21st century economy. It is in these ways that I would be able to most effectively contribute in this issue area.

1. What policy areas are the most important to you and if elected what changes would you make?

The Department of State Treasurer is responsible for managing the state employee health and pension systems, investing state assets, operating the state’s banking system, issuing and managing our state’s debt, helping local governments to remain fiscally sound and operating the unclaimed property program. With this in mind, my top three priorities as Treasurer would be as follows:

Addressing the unfunded liability that exists in both the State Employees Retirement System and the State Employee Health System. As fiduciary for these plans it would be my responsibility to ensure that these benefits remain secure yet affordable for taxpayers. There is no magic bullet that will address this issue. Any solution will entail a combination of reducing fees and costs, increased employer contributions and employee engagement. I plan to initiate a thorough review of these plans with an eye toward solving the liability issue in a way that reduced costs while securing these important inducements to state employment while making it affordable to taxpayers.

The Department of State Treasurer is responsible for the oversight of all state and local government debt issuance. North Carolina has tremendous unmet infrastructure needs in its' schools, water and sewer systems, roads and bridges, and the upkeep of state and local government buildings. Studies estimate the need for more than $20 billion dollars in investments. Fortunately, North Carolina is a well­managed state with a conservative debt load. There is a demand for North Carolina debt in the market and our bonds sell quickly. As Treasurer I would work closely with the General Assembly to leverage this advantage in a responsible manner and help address our infrastructure needs.

I believe that public officials should step up and address problems facing our citizens. To my mind a key issue is the debt burden that many of our young people incur in order to get a college education. Numerous studies have demonstrated that young people struggling with educational debt put off buying a home, starting a family and have more limited employment opportunities. This situation poses a significant drag on our state’s economy. As

Treasurer I want to explore innovative ways to partner with banks and non­profit entities and leverage the some of the $90 billion in pension fund money to address this issue. I do not believe that we have been as entrepreneurial or as creative with our investments as we might be when it comes to this and other issues.

1. As a large community organization we don’t always agree with each other on the best way to accomplish many of our projects, but we always work together to get the job done. In what way do you believe you will be able to work together with members of the opposite party to work together?

First, my experience in the private sector gives me a good understanding of the needs and perspectives of the business community. I think that the private and public sectors can work collaboratively to both make government more efficient while providing needed public services. I do not see the private and public sectors as incompatible when it comes to serving the people of our state.

Second, I am committed to reasonable politics that bring all of the stakeholders to the table to achieve a desirable and rational outcome; I believe that the office has no room for partisan politics. As such, if elected I will reach out to the

leadership at the General Assembly, Governor’s office and Council of State in an effort to work together to craft policies that will both address our many problems and move North Carolina forward. With that said, I also know that sometimes, it is necessary to “agree to disagree.” But in such cases it is always important to not burn bridges and leave the door open to future cooperation.

1. Just for fun: North Carolina doesn’t have an “official State dessert”, but if we did what would you want it to be? Sweet potato pie.