Name as it appears on the ballot:  Jay J. Chaudhuri
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Years lived in the district: 15 years

Questions:

1. What inspired you to run for [insert name of OFFICE] and if elected what do you want your legacy to be after you leave?

I was inspired to run for the North Carolina because of the opportunity my parents had to achieve the American Dream when they immigrated to this country 50 years ago and the love my family carries for the State of North Carolina.  I am running so that all North Carolinians have a shot at the American Dream, the way my parents did.  That’s why I want to leave a legacy that makes education a priority again and builds an economy that works for all North Carolinians.

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?

Currently, I believe the biggest issue remains House Bill 2, a bill that has resulted in Wake County’s economy losing millions of dollars, including more than $2.5 million in loss for the Town of Cary (part of my State Senate district) alone because of the removal of the four NCAA championships.

I believe I can have an impact by continuing my call to repeal House Bill 2.  During the first week as a State Senator, the first bill I co-sponsored was to repeal House Bill 2.

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

Education and the economy.  For the education, I will fight to make education a priority again, including raising teacher pay above the national average.  I will also fight to expand early childhood education because we have 30,000 children on waitlists.  And, I will also push for free community college, an idea that both Tennessee and Oregon now have in place.  For economic development, I will push to spur innovation, including updating our research and development tax credit and establishing an Entrepreneurship & Education Endowment using our Unclaimed Property fund.  Such a fund could pay for student scholarships and inject capital to our State’s early high-growth companies.

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?

I still believe the North Carolina State Senate can work together on some issues, but not all issues.  That’s why I continue to meet one-on-one with every Republican member of the Senate.  And that’s why I intend to sponsor a number of bills with Republicans.

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

This is a difficult and potentially controversial question.  The natural response would be sweet potato pie because our State is the top producer of sweet potatoes.  However, I would advocate for the sonker, a deep dish cobbler made of sweet potatoes or other fruit and service with a dip of sugar-milk glaze.  It is unique and served at the annual sonker festival in Surry County.