**Name as it appears on the ballot:  Susan P Evans
Campaign website:  susanevansncsenate.com
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Years lived in the district: 24 years in Apex and District 17, 36 years in Wake County**

**Questions:**

**1.What inspired you to run for NC Senate #17 and if elected what do you want your legacy to be after you leave?**

As a North Carolina native and a 36-year resident of Wake County, a former CPA and small business owner, a parent and community volunteer, I want to see North Carolina and Wake County be the best they can be. That’s why I’m running for state Senate.

I want my legacy to be that we have renewed North Carolina’s promise of a high-quality education for all students; an economy that’s working well for everyone, not just those at the top; and a commitment to fair representation and government by and for the people.

**2.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**

While we have moved past the worst of the Great Recession, many in our state are still feeling the effects. Recent changes to the state’s tax system which have added numerous new sales taxes on day-to-day expenses, such as car repairs, home repairs, and movie tickets, while removing income tax savings for child care, college savings, and small business income, have left middle-class families paying more in taxes. As an accountant, I will work to develop a tax system that yields the revenues necessary to sustain the infrastructure needed to keep North Carolina a vibrant place without overburdening our working families. I will support policies that encourage widespread prosperity for all.

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

As a product of public education, a first-generation college graduate of UNC, and a member of the Wake County Board of Education for the past five years, I understand that investing in a strong public education system is key to our economic well-being. Just as I have on the school board, I will fight to improve teacher pay, and I will advocate for policies that strengthen academic opportunities from Pre-K through college. We must focus on early childhood learning and strong literacy programs, provide for adequate textbooks and supplies, keep teachers’ assistants in our primary grades, and make our community colleges and public universities more affordable.

**4.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?**

During my time on the school board, I have prided myself as being a good listener and a pragmatic decision maker who makes decisions based on facts, and who weighs each side of an issue appropriately. I also understand there must be compromise to reach policy that all can agree on. I will bring that style of leadership to the General Assembly. I am also concerned that our current system of legislative districts heavily gerrymandered according to political party has led to representatives being far less responsive to their entire constituency. I support creating an independent method of determining the legislative districts that will allow voters to select their representatives rather than the other way around.

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

As a true southerner, I would vote emphatically for banana pudding as our state dessert, but it has to be the real thing with homemade custard and meringue!