

HIGH POINT POLITICAL ALLIANCE

“Prosperity For All”

2017 PLATFORM

INTRODUCTION

The decisions and the actions of our local and state governments significantly affect our businesses and our City as a whole. The business community has a keen and ongoing interest in advocating pro-business and pro-growth positions with our City Council, our County Commissioners, and our North Carolina state legislators. Our elected officials want to and need to hear our voice. Yet, the purpose of our Alliance is not to become attached to a particular political ideology. Therefore, our pro-business and pro-growth advocacy will always be non-partisan. The Alliance educates and advocates on behalf of a diverse business community that holds a wide variety of political viewpoints, so we stay non-partisan at all times. What we do support and stand for is the enhancement of economic growth and prosperity throughout our City.

We desire that our entire community become more civically active and informed regarding the affairs of government including, in particular, greater participation in local elections. We are a conduit for good and effective political speech and the lively expression of varied points of view.

To sum up our purpose, the Alliance desires to help achieve **“Prosperity For All”** in the great City of High Point.

ONGOING ADVOCACY

We will analyze legislation, city ordinances, upcoming votes, and other governmental actions that may impact the greater High Point business community. The Alliance will, on a case-by-case basis, advocate positions (support, oppose, remain neutral) that most further the interests of growth and prosperity in our City.

REGARDING CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICE

The Alliance will be a positive force for the good regarding local and state elections, encouraging the development of both new and established political leaders. Here are some of the attributes of candidates for office that the Alliance favors:

- Broad perspective candidates, not single issue candidates, but those that see City issues through a wide lens.
- Pro-business and pro-growth candidates

- Should be “electable” and have a strong campaign structure in place
- Should understand the challenges faced by businesses, the economic climate, and the impact of regulations and ordinances
- Should demonstrate strong leadership qualities
- Should have an understanding of the importance of and strategies behind economic development in High Point.
- The voting record of any incumbent candidates

SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIONS

The Alliance supports the following initiatives and goals:

DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH:

- Forward High Point – Downtown Stadium Project.
- Downtown private development
- Dr. Qubein’s downtown philanthropic projects
- Continued Main Street improvements
- Increase the City’s appeal to Incubators, maker spaces, entrepreneurs, and millennials
- Business High Point’s “High Point 365” initiative for entrepreneurs
- Blight removal
- World class builder & construction services at City Hall

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY:

- Joint investment with City outward along Montlieu and Centennial
- Power lines buried, roads re-routed, and re-named
- McCain Park conveyed to HPU in exchange for like property
- Stoplight at Panther and Lexington

FURNITURE MARKET:

- Beneficial tax and zoning laws that enhance the Furniture Market's national and global competitiveness
- Continued support for the Market Authority

TRANSPORTATION GATEWAYS:

- Lexington Avenue Gateway

TAX POLICY:

- Keep property tax rates level if at all possible
- Build City tax revenue by working directly to build the City's tax base

EDUCATION:

- Dispel the myth of inferior High Point public schools
- Do everything possible to improve educational opportunity and outcomes
- Active intervention, using public-private partnerships, to help struggling schools and students

IMPROVE OUR ATTRIBUTES OF A GREAT CITY:

- City Environment: beautiful, clean, green, walkable, and SAFE
- Community engagement and inclusivity in civic affairs and events
- Elimination of "Food Deserts"
- End Homelessness
- Strong non-profit support and leadership
- Places and events where the community can meet "As One"
- Culture: music, art, literature, and history
- Respect and celebrate the racial and ethnic diversity
- First class healthcare
- Strong transportation infrastructure, both public and individual