

Voices to Votes NC Questionnaire: Bill Saffo

1. Why do we need to grow and become a city of 150,000 people or more? What is the benefit of a significantly larger population to those citizens already living here?
2. What is the “right size” for Wilmington? When will we reach our optimal size?
3. The term “severe housing shortage” (as per Bowen Report statistics) is used by planning commission and city council to support approval of rezonings to build higher density multi-family housing. Is this “shortage” primarily based on the estimated number of people who want to move here?
4. Every candidate lists *affordable housing* as a priority. When considering affordable housing as defined by HUD, subsidies are required to reach the required lower rental rates. Would you support increased taxes to finance more subsidies for creating affordable housing?
5. The acronym NIMBY (*not in my back yard*) is often used by local leaders and supporters of the development community to denigrate citizens who may oppose a project? Should citizens who are concerned about their backyards and neighborhoods have more or less input in the land planning process and future of our community? Do you think it is unreasonable that a citizen may consider the entire city their “backyard” when expressing concern about growth and development?
6. You listed “*Our Environment*” on your campaign website as a priority issue. Do you feel your voting record specifically relating to rezonings and development of multi-family residential projects support this claim?
7. Do you believe existing Wilmington residents should be willing to sacrifice some level of their quality of life to create more housing for people who want to move to Wilmington?

8. If reelected to serve as Mayor, which factor will carry more weight in your future decision making...your professional experience and personal opinions or the wishes of a majority of Wilmington residents?