

# INDY Week Candidate Questionnaire 2013 Raleigh City Council and Mayor

Name as it appears on the ballot: Racquel Williams

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Do you have a Facebook page? Yes (Racquel Williams)

If you have a Twitter account, please list your username/handle: @IAMTHERIA

*Note: Please submit a digital photo of yourself along with your completed questionnaire, if you haven't already sent us one. Campaign literature, résumés and any other relevant materials you'd like us to consider are also most welcome. Thanks!*

**1. What do you see as the most important issues facing Raleigh?  
If elected, what are your top three priorities in addressing those issues?**

*a. Raleigh has become a city divided by Religion and Politics.*

**b. Top 3 priorities**

*i. Proclaim and BE the new voice, the new sound, that establishes this new administration in the political arena*

- ii. *Dismantle Religion—Unify the 600+ church to the One Church of Raleigh*
  - iii. *Create a climate of investment within the Southeast Raleigh area whereby the District can join Raleigh counterparts in its health, wealth and prosperity.*
- 2. What in your record as a public official or other experience demonstrates your ability to be effective on the issues you've identified? Please be as specific as possible in relating past accomplishments to current goals.**

- a. *The contribution that I make to the lives of broken people on a daily basis, my ability to take such persecution and bounce back, my ability to master the nature of Love are just a few attributes and accomplishments which demonstrates my ability to answer the call of the Righteous in Authority.*
- b. *Breaking free from a merciless welfare system that penalized me for wanting to be free, setting myself free from the mental bondage that would otherwise keep me sought in that situation and others just like it.*
- c. *Being an entrepreneur and mom of four*
- d. *Facing the most brute, brash and evil manner of man and still being able to posture my heart to LOVE not only qualifies me for this race, but helps me prepare others for what is soon to come.*
- e. *Keeping my pursuit one of the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and keeping my heart free and clear from all offense postures me to hear the voice of God.*

**3. Indy Week's mission is to help build a just community in the Triangle and North Carolina. Please point to a specific position in your platform that would, if achieved, help further that goal.**

*The platform Righteous in Authority is about Justice. Justice is a nature by which one rules. In order to produce Justice—a people would have to become Justice; for you can only produce after your own kind. Justice is not created by a written law or decree...it is established by way of its nature. If we want Justice—lets become the Justice we desire to see.*

**4. Identify and explain one principled stand you would be willing to take if elected that you suspect might cost you some popularity points with voters.**

*My whole platform of the Righteous in Authority has caused me popularity*

*points with voters. My platform embodies the true nature and principles by which Christ himself came to establish. However, I will stand even if it means to stand alone. Just know that I came in second place last election, something that if I ran on my own platform, surely I would take the seat this time around. But I have heard the voice of the Lord and I will obey the Father for it is "HIS WILL" that will prevail.*

**5. If these issues haven't been addressed above, would you please comment on:**

**a) The role of City Council members and their relationship to the manager and staff is an issue currently. Some think council members should talk only to the manager, insulating staffers from political pressure. Others think the members should also be able to question department heads and staff as part of their policy oversight role and to resolve constituents' problems. A middle course would be oversight by committee, a time-consuming job for the part-time council. What's your position on this?**

*Transparency brings about few questions and leaves very little up to speculation. There is nothing private and or secret within the City especially when it's the entire infrastructure is paid for by tax-payers' dollars. As council, I have a right to question anyone about anything at any time. Does that mean I will get an answer or the answer I am looking for? No! But there should be no policy which prevents open dialogue between city council members, city manager, attorney and staff.*

**b) Council members are paid little (\$17,000 for the mayor; \$12-13,000 for the others) and, except for the city attorney and clerk, no professional staff report to them. All staff work for the manager. Would you change this system at all, and if so, how?**

*Absolutely! A house divided cannot stand. It is imperative as a City moving forward on one page—on one accord that we all have open dialogue. Bureaucracy is so painful and really unnecessary! I would change the entire infrastructure whereby the accountability to leadership was expected and open. The city does more than push paper, it delivers a mindset, an attitude and a spirit behind the work that is being done. Without a knowledge on the affairs of the people, than you inherently have a staff that is disconnected from the most important aspect of the councils functions—governance. When you leave people (staff who do the work) out of the loop you are also leaving their ideas, thoughts and innovation out of the thought process.*

**c) In light of the scandal unfolding at the Raleigh Business and Technical Center, supposedly a business incubator, is it time to beef up the City Council's oversight mechanisms? Are other city-sponsored agencies and city departments vulnerable to similar problems?**

*Beef up the City's oversight is an understatement. To think that the fraud that went on with the RBTC was not known for the last 12 years is naivety. Lawrence Wray was not only the assistant city manager; he was also the RBTC board chair, secretary and treasurer. If you think no one in the city knew of his fraudulent activities then we are worse off than I thought.*

*Here's a thought: Black people cannot go into a department store without being watched. What more for a Black Assistant City Manager who works in the Administration and Budget division. You mean to tell me that no one watched him for 12 + years. LOL!!!! Lawrence got away with this kind of fraud only because there were bigger wolves in the pack getting away with far more than a few hundred thousand dollars (crumbs to the big bad wolves).*

*The greater issue is who will report the story without political slant or pressures. Who will report that tax-payers money was invested into an entity (RBTC) which was dissolved in 2008 effective 2006? Who will give an answer? A press release was submitted with evidence and still no one has uttered a word.*

**d) Do you support the goals of the 2009 comprehensive plan and the brand new Unified Development Ordinance? Will these two initiatives really change the way Raleigh develops over the next several decades—and for the better? Or for the worse?**

*I don't support the works of the city in its entirety. If it is developed out of a place where God was not acknowledged, or sought for the betterment of his people than it will fall and will not work. We can change the way Raleigh develops on paper all day, but if the people's attitudes, mindsets, hearts and nature's don't change, you will have a beautiful broken city. One that looks good on the outside but one that is rotten to its core on the inside. Then we look like great sales men and imposters.*

**e) How important is improving public transit in Raleigh and the region to the city's future prosperity, do you think?**

*Prosperity is more than money and the things that money can buy.*

*Improving transit may be important, but it is not the uttermost priority. We can do things different. We can sit back and relax and think about the bondage we are creating with the debt that we will be accruing. Bonds are not always the best answer. But the "American Way" says, if I can't afford to pay for it, I'll just go into debt for it. This is not the mindset that the people should continue to adopt.*

**f) If elected, will you ask the Wake County Commissioners to allow a public referendum in 2014 on a ½-cent sales tax for transit, the same as Durham and Orange counties have passed?**

NO

**g) Until the ½-cent sales tax is in place in Wake, what else should Raleigh do on its own, if anything, to jump-start public transit within the city?**

*I believe in paying fair market value for the land, especially when the City can prove no other benefit to the people outside of a park.*

*To Jump-Start transit, I would incorporate Shuttle/Express Vans that can get to places where large amounts of people are employed (i.e. research triangle). You can have shuttle vans move throughout the city during peak hours both am and pm shifts. This is much quicker than the bus. The vans can be equipped with Wi-Fi, phone chargers, hot coffee, etc.*

*This can be financed through the Church (the ONE Church of Raleigh) when she begins to pay taxes and the City in honor to God begins to pay tithes.*

**h) Raleigh is trying to gain control of the 325-acre Dorothea Dix Hospital tract for use as a destination park. Do you support this effort? Should Raleigh pay fair-market value for the land, via lease or purchase, as many in the General Assembly demand? Please share your thoughts on how development of the park should be financed, if at all?**

*Raleigh is investing more in brick and mortar(infrastructure) than in its people. People are the greatest resource and assets we have. If there is anything that Raleigh is not short of it is Parks. To think that the homeless population cannot find shelter in the city is sad. For crying out loud...build a huge hotel whereby the homeless have to work to earn their keep. Put them to work, train and develop them to function, get them the healing that*

*they need to repair the cracks and breaches within their souls.*

- i) As part of a growth and economic development strategy, should Raleigh begin to use tax-increment financing (TIFs), subsidizing current developments with anticipated future property tax gains? If so, what policy limits, in any, should be adopted as part of a TIF plan?**

*None! I do not support this.*

- j) For many years, it's been a point of pride for Raleigh managers and Council members that Raleigh government costs less, and the city's property tax rate is lower, than other towns in Wake County and other North Carolina cities. On the other hand, services may suffer because of inadequate funding. Are you concerned that Raleigh is investing too little to achieve the world-class status to which it aspires? Or can spending be cut further without sacrificing quality?**

*The more you build and develop on broken infrastructure, the more you will need as the demand on that infrastructure increases. I understand that we have the some of the best and brightest men and women who work for our city, but if they do not embody the nature of Christ and if what they have worked for to build was not in God, for the purposes of God and his people then Raleigh's world-class aspirations are merely just that. In this season, if it is not birthed out of God, it will not stand and it cannot be sustained.*

- k) Is Raleigh doing enough to serve its growing Hispanic population and help them feel a part of the city?**

*No! In fact, we are allowing them to be exploited for our own selfish motives and financial gain.*

- l) Is Raleigh doing enough to serve its growing population of homeless and street people, many of whom suffer with mental illnesses? If not, what do you recommend?**

*If enough pressure can burst pipes, what more can it do for the human mind which is made up of human tissues. Homelessness is not a decision that someone decided to make one morning over a cup of coffee. These things are by-products of injustice. Not everyone has the same wherewithal to push past the nonsense and keep moving. There are many who have checked out–injustice and pressures will make you do that. The bible tells us to pray for those who are in authority so that we may have a*

*peaceable life. If you listen to some of the stories of our homeless families, they were not always homeless.*

*The City of Raleigh does lots of reacting but very little prevention. Stop the pressures that cause homelessness. I recommend taking dollars and reinvading the vacant hotel on Capital Blvd and establish the home for the homeless called "Hotel Raleigh". A transitional place whereby people earn their keep. They will be assessed, trained and developed and put to good use and productivity.*

*I declare the Righteous in Authority, for when the Righteous are in Authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people mourn. If you have not heard the voice of their mourning then you are too far removed from your city and the people in it.*

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