

2017



ROAD TO FREEDOM

STAY THE COURSE FOR A PROSPEROUS NORTH CAROLINA



johnlocke.org



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Bold.
Focused.
Right.



JANUARY 2017 EDITION

North Carolina's road to freedom began long ago. John Locke, the 17th-century English philosopher, started the journey and influenced Thomas Jefferson and the founding fathers. He argued that government should protect life, liberty, and property and be limited to allow people to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The John Locke Foundation has continued along the same path of ideas and influence. We argue for free markets, limited government, and personal responsibility in North Carolina and since 1990 have influenced governors, legislators, and decision makers.

In just the last several years, the John Locke Foundation's ideas of government restraint, lower taxes, rainy-day savings, smart investments, and scaled-back regulations have paved the way to greater prosperity and a strong economy. Unemployment is down in all 100 counties. Job creation, gross domestic product, and personal income are up. Over 400,000 net new jobs have been created. North Carolina is moving in the right direction, but the journey is not over.

Lawmakers are asking: Where do we go in 2017? Our answer is simple. Stay the course, continue the momentum, and stick with ideas that work. Those ageless conservative principles work—limit the size and scope of government, leave more resources for private investment, unleash free markets, and make fiscally responsible public investments.

The road to freedom is full of opportunity at every turn. Here's our guide to a successful and prosperous journey in 2017. Join us on the Road to Freedom.



SIMPLIFY THE TAX CODE & CUT TAXES

IDEAS THAT WORK

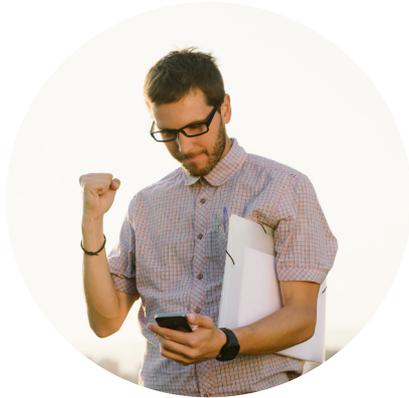
1. **STABILIZE** the tax system while ending the double taxation of investments with repeal or reform of capital gains tax.
2. **RECOGNIZE** the value of families by increasing the per-child tax credit.
3. **LOWER** the burden for all families with an increase in the zero tax bracket.



LIMIT SPENDING & REIN IN GOVERNMENT

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **ENSURE** a fiscally responsible budget by restraining the growth of government spending to a rate no greater than the increase of population plus inflation.
2. **DEDICATE** any surplus revenue to building reserve funds and ensuring future benefits for state employees, and shore up the pension plan.



SLASH UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **REIN IN** job-killing regulations with regular review, cost-benefit analysis, and red-tape reduction.
2. **ENSURE** the right to earn a living by restructuring and reforming occupational licensing.
3. **REMOVE** restrictions for craft brewers and small distilleries to distribute their products to willing consumers.
4. **DETACH** state government from the liquor business, and privatize the ABC system.



ELIMINATE CRONY CAPITALISM

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **REPEAL** corporate welfare by abolishing all special programs, incentives, carve-outs, and credits that disrupt the free market, create inequities for businesses, and impede economic growth.



EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **ENSURE** a quality education for every child by monitoring implementation of the Achievement School District to save failing schools, enactment of school vouchers, and the health and well-being of charter schools.
2. **MONITOR** performance-pay pilot programs now that average teacher pay is competitive.
3. **EMPOWER** students & parents, not the teachers union.



CHAMPION A FAIR & EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **REDUCE** recidivism rates for young offenders by raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction.
2. **REVERSE** the process of overcriminalization by consolidating, clarifying, and optimizing the criminal code.
3. **STOP** unjust prosecutions by making “criminal intent” a default requirement for criminal convictions.
4. **PREVENT** unjust asset forfeitures by curtailing or eliminating the use of federal asset sharing.



ENSURE LOW-COST AVAILABLE ENERGY

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **REPEAL** or freeze (at 6 percent) the requirement that part of our energy come only from renewable sources.
2. **MODIFY** the state's oppressive and outdated Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) contracts requirement.



PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTH CARE

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **ABOLISH** certificate-of-need laws that require permission from the government before a medical provider can build or expand facilities or invest in new equipment.
2. **ENCOURAGE** patients, doctors, and local governments to use direct primary care to increase satisfaction of care and reduce the cost of medicine.
3. **AUDIT** state welfare programs to ensure delivery of services to qualified recipients and identify, punish, and eliminate fraudsters.



INVEST WISELY IN INFRASTRUCTURE

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **STICK WITH** the plan for transportation and infrastructure investments based on data, not politics, focused on safety, congestion relief, and economic growth.
2. **INVEST** in public transportation that serves the public, based on data, not politics.



GUARANTEE PROPERTY RIGHTS

IDEAS THAT WORK

1. **PROTECT** property rights by ensuring that government cannot abuse its eminent domain power, both in statute and with a constitutional amendment.
2. **OVERSEE** implementation of the N.C. Supreme Court's Map Act decision to ensure that abused property owners get what they deserve and that the law is changed so that DOT can make long-term highway planning decisions without violating property rights.



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