

YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE FINES & FEES

Rising court fines and fees, and the harsh penalties for not paying them, are putting more of our neighbors and family members at risk for jail time, job loss, and other life-changing consequences.

We need our elected officials to act to ensure North Carolina institutions and public policies better support people affected by fines and fees.

Court-imposed fees have increased by 400% over the past 20 years.

Federal law banned debtor's prison in the United States, but poor people are still regularly incarcerated because they cannot pay their court debts.

Many people never regain the legal right to drive after a debt-based suspension.

The average suspension is 10 years.

Since 1995, the General Court of Justice fee has increased by 260% for district court and 243% for superior court.

Driver's license suspension and probation extension are among the consequences that poor people face for non-payment.

Statewide, there are approximately 300,000 people with a debt-based driver's license suspension.

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ASK THE CANDIDATES:

What will you do to help end debt-based driver's license suspensions in North Carolina?

STATE LAW MAKERS

What would you do to support statewide change to end driver's license suspensions for unpaid traffic fines and fees?

LOCAL JUDGES

How will you ensure your jurisdiction conducts meaningful ability to pay assessments to help people avoid or overcome debt-based driver's license suspension?

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

How do you plan to stop fines and fees from preventing community members from obtaining jobs, housing, or other opportunities?

LOCAL JUDGES

Have you established a consistent standard for imposing fines, such as a sliding scale for assessment based on an person's ability to pay?

CLERKS OF COURT

What administrative changes would you implement to make it easier for people to avoid or overcome debt-based driver's license suspension?

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