

SENATE

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"unfair playing field." However, Twiddy said he would consider incentives that create a lot of jobs and have a strong "return on investment."

In a contrast with Steinburg, Twiddy also said he doesn't support subsidies for renewable energy companies.

"I'm much more of a free market guy than he is," Twiddy said.

On a regulatory issue related to renewable energies — the 18-month moratorium placed on wind energy projects last year — Twiddy said he needed to further study the issue. The moratorium's proponents, including Republican Sens. Harry Brown and Bill Cook, argued the moratorium is needed while the state studies where wind facilities might harm military operations. Opponents, including Steinburg, argue current permitting reviews already ensure wind farms won't conflict with the military, and that the moratorium needlessly discourages investment.

Twiddy also discussed his approach to education, which he noted is also vital to economic development.

"I'm a huge believer in community colleges," said Twiddy, a member of the State Board of Community Colleges.

Twiddy said he wants to ensure the district's community colleges maintain strong ties with businesses both in the region and in southeastern Virginia. Twiddy also said he's a strong supporter of early college and community colleges' "Career and College Promise" program that helps students pursue

BOB STEINBURG

- **Age:** 69
- **Occupation:** Salesman, president of Wolfstein LLC, sports marketing
- **Education:** Associate's degree, 1969, retail business management from Corning Community College, Bachelor's degree in business administration from Upper Merion University, 1990
- **Military Service:** None
- **Prior campaigns:** Elected to House District 1 in 2012; re-elected in 2014 and 2016; ran unsuccessfully for House District 2 seat in 2010
- **Civic, community affiliations:** Past president, Edenton Emergency Aid nonprofit; past president, Albemarle-Pamlico Republican Club; active member, St. Paul's Church in Edenton
- **Family:** Wife, Marie, two adult sons

degrees, tuition-free, while still in high school.

One of the most pressing educational needs, according to county officials, is more money for school construction. Twiddy called for more educational investment but without tax increases, and said he would consider supporting approval of another statewide bond, similar to the Connect NC bond that passed in 2016, to provide school funding.

Republican lawmakers have been granting teachers raises in recent years. Twiddy said he believes teacher pay in North Carolina is becoming more competitive. He didn't rule out supporting additional raises, but said the state also needs to look at pay for other state employees, particularly first responders.

Twiddy also addressed Steinburg's criticisms of Twiddy's campaign donations to Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper when Cooper was the state's attorney general. Twiddy said he didn't believe those donations undermined conservative causes, noting

he made donations to numerous politicians, including Steinburg himself in years past, to cultivate business relationships.

"I wrote Roy Cooper two checks, but Bob Steinburg five," Twiddy said. "At the time I made (the donations), I wasn't thinking politically."

Twiddy stressed that he disagrees with Cooper's agenda, but would work to convince him of better policies, rather than criticize him.

As for why he would be a more effective senator than Steinburg, Twiddy cited his business experience, relationships in the district and ability to work in a bipartisan, collaborative way. He also said he enjoys support from Senate Republicans, meaning he would have "good relationships from day one in the Senate."

Bob Steinburg

Steinburg, a salesman and lifelong Republican, says he is more qualified than Twiddy to serve as senator. He already has strong relationships with officials

CLARK TWIDDY

- **Age:** 41
- **Occupation:** Director, Twiddy and Company, a rental property management business
- **Education:** 1998 graduate of Virginia Military Institute
- **Military service:** U.S. Navy, eight years followed by two years reserve duty, including one active year
- **Prior campaigns:** Ran for lieutenant governor before switching to Senate District 1 in 2017
- **Civic, community affiliations:** Member, N.C. State Board of Community Colleges; member, board of the Outer Banks Community Foundation, past commander and member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10950
- **Family:** Wife, Anna, 2-year-old daughter, Elyse

throughout the district, and has offered years of diligent service in his House district, he said Friday.

"I have a good feeling for where we were, where we are now, and where we're going," Steinburg said. "My greatest asset is I'm already going to hit the ground running."

Through tax and regulatory reforms over the years, Steinburg said he and other lawmakers have greatly improved the state's business climate. North Carolina is among the best states to do business in, according to Forbes magazine, Steinburg said. He also noted the region is benefiting from inclusion in the Foreign-Trade Zone around Virginia's ports, an initiative Steinburg promoted in the House.

Steinburg also defended his support of financial incentives or subsidies for businesses. Steinburg conceded they are "distasteful" to conservatives, but said every state now has to offer incentives to attract major business investment and needed jobs.

"We're either going to be

in the game, or we're going to be out of the game," Steinburg said.

He also claims Twiddy has a "shallow perspective" on incentives and subsidies, which, in the case of major employers, attract additional businesses while supporting current ones.

As for his support for renewable energy, Steinburg said the only "subsidy" provided now to renewable energy companies is the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard that requires utilities to generate a portion of their power through renewables. He said Duke Energy and fossil fuel industries enjoy far greater subsidies.

"It's a big misnomer that renewable energy receives incentives and no one else does," Steinburg said.

On education, Steinburg also supports certain additional investments. Like Twiddy, he didn't rule out another state bond for school construction. The state may be able to support the additional debt, he said.

However, Steinburg said his priority is to restore capital funding to counties

through the NC Education Lottery. Lawmakers over the years have diverted lottery proceeds from capital projects. Lawmakers took steps last year to start restoring the money.

Steinburg also said the state needs to change how its schools are funded. Funding based on "average daily membership" worked when schools had stable enrollment, Steinburg said. Now, though, it's not doing enough for rural schools that aren't seeing major growth like urban ones are, he said.

Steinburg also said teachers still need more raises, but the state also had an obligation to other state employees, such as correctional officers and highway patrolmen he said are greatly underpaid.

Steinburg said he stands by his criticisms of Twiddy's donations to Cooper, as well as his Twiddy's donations to Marc Basnight when he was still an influential Democratic leader in the Senate. Those donations supported Cooper and Basnight in opposing Republican policies and their efforts to retake the General Assembly, Steinburg claims.

Steinburg also claims Twiddy is running for office without a clear vision or purpose — "He doesn't know what he's for," Steinburg said.

As for Twiddy's support from Republican senators, including Brown and Cook, Steinburg called that a "weak argument" to elect Twiddy. He also alleged Twiddy would be a "rubber stamp" for Brown's policies and even easily manipulated by lobbyists.

Twiddy said Thursday he's declined to criticize Steinburg, and wants to run a positive campaign.

VOTING

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said James' name will still be on the May ballot, but a vote for him won't count.

"It's too late to take him off (the ballot)," Hunter said. The ballots were printed more than two weeks ago and the decision on James didn't happen until April 12.

The decision to eliminate James from the race means Washington County Commissioner Cole Phelps, will be the presumed winner of the Democratic primary for the 11-county Senate District 1 seat.

Phelps will face either Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan or Clark Twiddy, a Dare County businessman, in the general election. The two Republicans are on the May 8 ballot. There is no incumbent in the Senate race because new district maps excluded sitting Senator Bill Cook.

There are races both Republicans and unaffiliated voters can vote for like the Congressional race.

Republican Congressman Walter Jones is being challenged by Republicans Phil Law and Scott Dacey for the District 3 Seat. The winner of the GOP primary in May will be presumed to be the winner of the seat since no Democrats or others have filed to run.

There is also a race next month for the Republican

MORE INFO

■ Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites. For additional information, please call the elections office at 426-5598

nomination for the N.C. House District 1 seat. Steinburg had held the seat, but he's running for Senate.

The GOP challengers for the House seat are Candice Hunter of Perquimans County and Eddy Goodwin of Chowan County. Hunter has never run for public office before. Goodwin held a seat on the Chowan County Commission in 2008-12 and ran unsuccessfully for N.C. Secretary of State in 2012.

The Republican winner in May will take on Democrat Ron Wesson, a Bertie County commissioner, in the November general election.

The rest of the Perquimans County races will be decided in November.

Incumbent Commissioners Wallace Nelson, a Republican, and Fondella Leigh, a Democrat, filed, as did Alan Lennon, who's running in November as

a Libertarian. Like the school board race, there are three people running for these seats so short of a huge write-in vote, all three should win.

Two years ago, Lennon ran for a county commission seat as a Republican and lost.

Sheriff Shelby White, a Democrat, will face a challenge from Republican Jim Bray in November. White was appointed to the job and will be running for the first time. Bray is a retired N.C. Highway Patrolman who is also seeking his first election win.

Todd Tilley is running unopposed for re-election to his job as clerk of Superior Court.

One-stop early voting will be open from 8 a.m. Thursday until 1 p.m. on May 5. The hours are as follows: April 19-May 2, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., May 3-4, 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. and May 5, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

One-stop early voting will be held at the Perquimans County Board of Elections office 601 S. Edenton Road St. in Hertford.

The primary will be May 8. The precinct of West Hertford has been changed from the Hertford Grammar School to Louise's Event Center, 1132 Don Juan Road.

Voters in the West Hertford precinct who present to vote on Election Day must now report to Louise's Event Center. Voting will no

longer be held at the Hertford Grammar School.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election May 8.

The election canvass will be held in the Perquimans County Board of Elections office at 11 a.m. on May 18.

Absentee voting by mail is available. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made on an absentee request form (available at ncse.gov and at the county board of elections office), and must be returned to the Perquimans County Board of Elections office by May 1 at 5 p.m.

Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed by two qualified persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the board of elections by 5 p.m. on election day (ballots received by mail after this time will be considered timely if they are received within three business days and postmarked on or before Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice.

All persons who are registered to vote with Perquimans County may vote in this election. Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by Friday, April 13 to be eligible to vote in this election. Voters who

are not registered in the county by that deadline may register and vote during one stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Voters who wish to change party affiliation or who have changed name or address must do so by the registration deadline. Voters who fail to timely make a change in name or address in the county must update the information when presenting to vote and may be required to vote a provisional ballot. Because this is a primary election, voters will be required to vote the ballot

of the party they are registered as. Unaffiliated voters may choose their ballot when they present to vote. To check your voter registration, please visit www.ncsbe.gov or call the Board of Elections office.

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THE PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners will convene as the Board of Equalization and Review. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from all citizens who request a hearing on property tax assessments. Appeals will be received by the Perquimans County Tax Department. The Board of Equalization and Review will meet May 7, 2018. You must have an appointment to appear at this meeting. Appointments may be arranged by contacting the County Assessor on or before April 30, 2018. Our office hours are 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday. Telephone numbers are 252-426-7010 or 252-426-5564.

Expected adjournment date: June 4, 2018
Tax Administrator and Clerk to the Perquimans County Board of Equalization and Review
Bill Jennings

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