<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julia Howard</td>
<td>Republican/Incumbent</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Appraiser, Realtor</td>
<td>Salem College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Townsend</td>
<td>Democrat/Challenger</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Retired history teacher</td>
<td>Western Carolina University, UNC-Greensboro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**NC House District 77**

**What are the three most important issues facing your district/constituents?**

If re-elected, Howard wants to focus efforts on recovery from the COVID-19 impact, broadband expansion and getting people back to work safely.

If elected, Townsend wants to prioritize funding public school education, expanding Medicaid and “giving working class people a chance.”

**Is the governor responding appropriately to the COVID-19 pandemic? Why or why not?**

“I know it was very harmful to some businesses but I believe with all my heart that Roy Cooper did the best he could. Made the best decisions that he could at the time.” She said she believes things are getting better and sees Cooper lifting restrictions.

While Townsend feels for business owners at this time, he supports cautious reopening across the state. “This is very likely to get very bad again. I think that whoever’s in charge needs to look first at the dynamics before they force these openings.”

**How would you work to enhance economic development in the district?**

Howard wants to continue supporting tax incentives and tax credits to recruit businesses to the district.

“I think the best thing we can do is to give working class people a chance. If you want to stimulate the economy, help the people who don’t have the resources because they will immediately put that into the economy. They don’t have any other option.”