

Debate Questions for the 2024 Special Election

The Candidate Special Election Debate scheduled for 9/27/2024 was canceled due to Tropical Storm Helene, and the potentially dangerous conditions created by the storm. Instead, candidates were given just under 24 hours to answer the questions below. Candidates may answer none, any, or all of the questions below, at their discretion. Candidates are encouraged to reach out to Laney Buckley via phone for clarification on any question; Laney will attempt to answer all questions in as timely a fashion as practicable. Documents submitted will be published on the Catawba Nation website at Catawba.com/election.

Candidate Name: SAM BECK

Questions

1. What qualifications or experiences do you believe best prepare you to serve our Nation as an Executive Committee member?

I served on the EC committee from 2011 to 2023. In those 12 years I served the EC has completed several key initiatives. During my tenure, the citizens of the Nation had the dream of opening our casino come to fruition. I have brought numerous Representatives and Senators to the Nation to meet with our Executive Committee on behalf of the tribe. I served in the Navy for 4 years and served in Vietnam. I have been involved in Tribal government for 50 years.

2. What are your top priorities if you are elected to serve on the Catawba Nation Executive Committee?

To serve our culture and the youth and senior programs.

3. What, if anything, do you think you would like to do differently from the existing Executive Committee?

It is not being involved in EC decision making it will be difficult to answer.

4. Please discuss your understanding of the Catawba Nation Settlement Agreement.

1993 the Settlement Agreement was the worst agreement between the Government and the Indian Tribe (even Congress agreed) Limited sovereignty and too much control over the state of South Carolina

5. What is your position on the substance use disorder problem within the Catawba Nation?

When I served on the EC we worked closely with the county and state on solving substance abuse.

6. Regarding enrollment, do you believe DNA tests should be required regardless of whether the Catawba parent of the proposed enrollee is the mother or the father?

I believe D&A should be given to the father of the child in question if not married to the mother.

7. Do you believe there should be a timeframe for enrollment eligibility?

I do not believe there should be a timeframe for enrollment eligibility.

8. What is your approach to providing transparency regarding decisions made with tribal businesses, entities, funding, and staffing/staff engagement?

My approach to providing transparency is that it should be provided to all tribal entities.

9. What is your position on developing a cannabis industry on the Catawba reservation?

I do not think developing a cannabis industry on the Catawba Reservation would be a profitable business.

10. The Nation's government has had serious issues with turnover and employee morale. What do you believe is the cause of this and how would you address it?

I am not sure what the issues with turnover and employee morale, but I believe issues should be handled through the HR department and not the EC

11. As a Nation, unity is important for our prosperity and longevity. What is your approach to creating unity within our Nation?

Unity comes from within and is left up to the leaders of the tribe and community and leaders of families to move our tribe forward in a positive manner