

**Questions for Moses Carey**

**General Economic:**

How close are we to entering a depression?

What is the government doing to stimulate the economy?

Why can't we do what FDR did back then to get the economy back into shape?

What is the Social Safety net?

What, for you personally, will signal the bottom of the economic downturn?

What jobs suffer fewer layoffs: Doctors, Lawyers, Carpenters?

Is self-employment better in today's economy?

President Obama yesterday said the stimulus package was working in America. What types of benefits has it provided to North Carolina?

When do you expect the economy to turn up?

What changes is North Carolina taking to improve the economy?

How long is it going to take for the economy to improve or is it going to get worse?

Recently, to provide money needed by businesses and to account for unemployment, the Federal Reserve has been pumping money into the states. How is this possible to do and simultaneously avoid inflation?

What made North Carolina decide to accept Federal Aid to help pay unemployment checks (as opposed to SC who didn't)?

**Personal:**

What do you do on a daily basis? How has this changed since the recession?

What job opportunities are out there for people majoring in International Studies?

## **Measuring unemployment:**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics doesn't include those not seeking employment in the official count of unemployed members of the labor force. How and where could an accurate measure of the "true" number of unemployed people who would prefer to have a job, regardless of the status of job-seeking, be found (or taken)?

Why is the unemployment rate so high?

Do people that don't receive unemployment benefits still count in the unemployment rates?

How do you determine if a person has been actively seeking employment?

Were the criteria for measuring unemployment different in the past? If so, when did they change and what were they previously?

How are employment rates for undocumented workers measured?

How does North Carolina factor in "discouraged workers" when they calculate the state's unemployment rate?

Have recent rises in state unemployment rates caused the state to consider further immigration reform to ensure available jobs go to North Carolina residents, rather than legal or illegal immigrants?

In your personal opinion what effect do you think illegal immigration is having on the ability for legal citizens unemployed to find jobs and what do you think can be done in order to help stop this issue?

Do you believe that welfare is part of the problem in causing unemployment by encouraging people not to work?

For how long have the "discouraged" workers been excluded in counting the unemployment rate?

Why was the window of 4 weeks searching for a job chosen as an indicator of unemployment? Why not make the time frame larger or smaller?

Should the definition of "unemployed" be reviewed to include those who have simply given up looking for work?

## **Unemployment benefits:**

If the state keeps lengthening the period of time that the unemployed receive unemployment benefits, doesn't this mean that their eagerness to find a new job will decrease and they will remain unemployed for a very long time?

What are reasons that leave someone ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits in NC?

Shouldn't those who receive unemployment benefits be those who are actively looking for a job and not those who have given up? (2 times)

Approximately what percent of the unemployed file claims for unemployment insurance benefits? (2 times)

What happens when someone exhausts their benefits?

Do Ebay businesses pay unemployment contributions?

I know that Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington has introduced a bill to provide an extra 13 weeks of benefits to the unemployed in states with huge unemployment rates, which is great. But what can we do to make sure we are able to provide these benefits long-term?

Are there any incentives we can provide for "discouraged workers," who've stopped looking for work, to encourage them to keep actively looking?

How is continued eligibility verified for those receiving benefits? (2 times)

Do unemployment benefits include re-training opportunities, such as tuition for school?

Are unemployment benefits different for people living in small towns with less diverse economies (for example a textile worker after a factory closes)?

Could a potential extension of federal funding for unemployment benefits be defended as a means to temporarily reduce (or decelerate) the rate at which social security claims are being filed? What are some of the less-than-obvious benefits and downsides to an extension?

Can someone receive Social Security and Unemployment Benefits?

How many people could be employed with the worker re-training program?

What is being done to address under-employment?

Does going back to school really change lives for people over 35 who go to community college to enhance their trade or learn a new one?

The state offers unemployment insurance to workers who are considered unemployed through no fault of their own: what are some of the reasons people might receive this?

Do you think the US should/will extend unemployment benefits for unemployed people?

What percentage of past income do unemployed people receive in unemployment benefits? Are there different rates for different people, depending on salary? (3 times)

What are the requirements to get an unemployment check?

When people know that they have the security from unemployment benefits their eagerness to find a job is not as high as it could be. If this is the case, why does the state want to continue lengthening the unemployment benefits period?

### **Contributions to Trust Fund**

Are companies really aware of the fact that they did not pay their taxes (feel guilty) or do most companies not pay with no intention of ever paying?

If an employer is delinquent in making unemployment insurance taxes and “goes under” before doing so, can their (former) employees receive unemployment benefits? If so, who pays for the benefits in such a case?

Do you think the tax rate for businesses to pay unemployment benefits will need to be raised?

What happens to unemployment benefits if the state isn’t able to fund them? Will we receive money from the Federal government or make cuts?

What future policies could we implement to insure that companies won’t fall behind on paying unemployment insurance contributions?

What are the unintended consequences of borrowing so much money? Do you think that the fund will reach a surplus and be able to pay back the debt before it gets out of hand and interest has to be paid?