

THE NONPARTISAN NORTH CAROLINA VOTING GUIDE



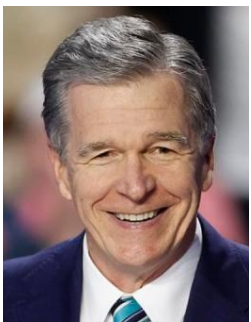
VOTE EARLY: OCT. 15-31

ELECTION DAY: NOV. 3

CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATE

U.S. Senators adopt laws, the federal budget, and presidential appointments. Choose 1 for N.C. in 2026.

ROY COOPER DEMOCRAT



- Former Governor and former Attorney General.
- Led state recovery through COVID period.
- Opposes tactics of ICE troops and supports civil rights protections.

- Emphasizes economic and healthcare reforms to address the affordability crisis.
- Opposes Trump's tariffs, corporate tax reductions, and pro-oil energy policies.

Website: roycooper.com

MICHAEL WHATLEY REPUBLICAN



- Former National Republican Party Chair.
- Led federal recovery efforts in Western N.C. after Hurricane Helene.
- Supports ICE and strong border control.

- Emphasizes being tough on crime and creating safer communities.
- Supports Trump's tariffs, corporate tax reductions, and pro-oil energy policies.

Website: michaelwhatley.com

OTHER CANDIDATES

Due to space limits, the guide does not profile candidates with less than 5% of support based on nonpartisan polling at the time of publication. Read about all the candidates on your ballot at ncvoter.org/guide.

Think Your 1 Vote Doesn't Matter?

In 2024, a top state official won by less than 1 vote per town in N.C. What you do matters!

N.C. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The N.C. Supreme Court has 7 Justices. Their rulings affect everything: racial discrimination, school funding, voting rights, water quality, worker safety, utility bills, your privacy, and more. Choose 1 Justice this year.

ANITA EARLS DEMOCRAT



- Now a Justice on N.C. Supreme Court and former civil rights attorney.
- Will "uphold the rights enshrined in our State Constitution – like access to healthcare, a sound basic education, and the right to vote."

- Says she is "fighting to protect and defend the freedoms of everyday North Carolinians."
- Endorsed by N.C. Association of Educators.

Website: earls4justice.com

SARAH STEVENS REPUBLICAN



- Former legislator in the General Assembly and chair of a House Judiciary Committee; attorney focused on family law.
- Will "respect our state's constitution and apply the principles of conserving liberty to every case."

- Says she is "a conservative voice for justice" and "an experienced conservative leader."

- Endorsed by N.C. Values Coalition.

Website: sarahstevensnc.com

For all the candidates on your own ballot, scan →



Send Your Choices to DC & Raleigh

You can choose legislators to represent your concerns in Congress and the N.C. General Assembly.
Vote for 1 candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, 1 for N.C. Senate, and 1 for N.C. House based on the Districts where you live. Some District lines are new this year; find yours at ncvoter.org/distr.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vote for 1 candidate in your District. Names are listed in their order on the ballot. See ncvoter.org/guide to learn about the candidates. D=Democrat, R=Republican; L=Libertarian

District 1

Don Davis (D); votedondavis.com

Laurie Buckhout (R);

lauriebuckhoutforcongress.com

Tom Bailey (L); facebook.com/tombaileyforushouse

District 2

Eugene Douglass (R); efdouglass.substack.com

Deborah Ross (D); deborahross.com

Matthew Laszacs (L); matt4nc.us

District 3

Daniel Cavender (L); lpnc.org/2026_candidates

Raymond Smith (D); raymondsmithfornc.com

Greg Murphy (R); murphy4congress.com

District 4

Valerie Foushee (D); valeriefoushee.com

Guy Meilleur (L); guyfornc.org

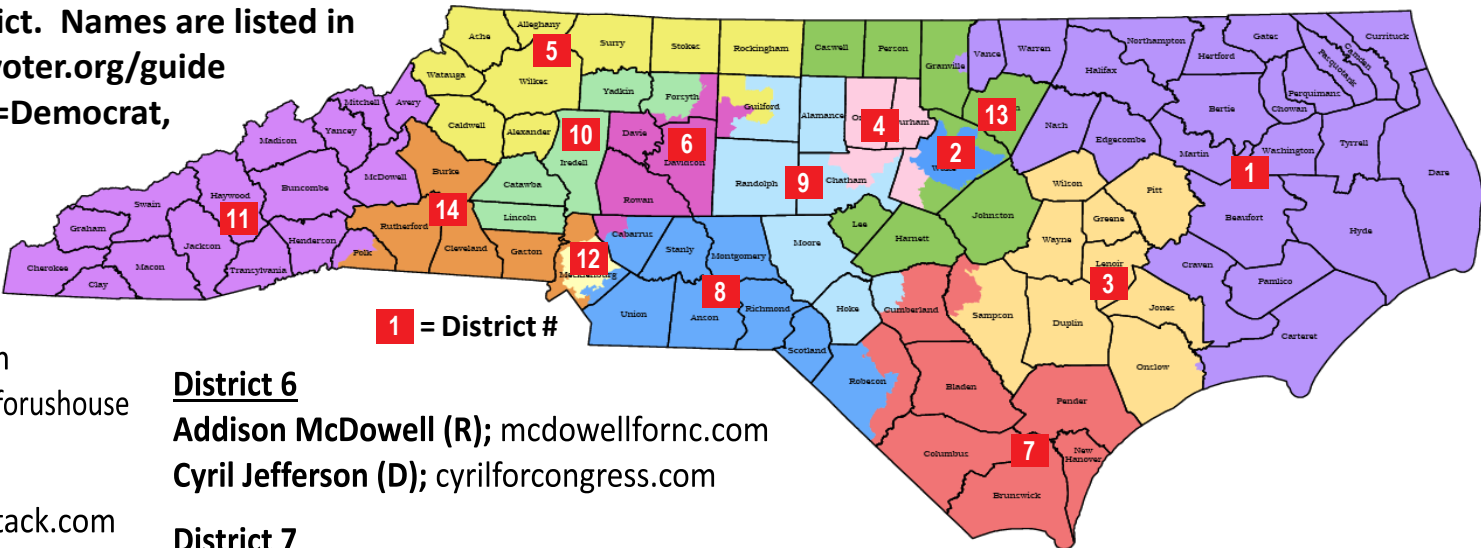
M. (Max) Ganorkar (R); maxforcongress.com

District 5

Virginia Foxx (R); virginiafoxx.com

Robert Luffman (L); luffmanforcongress.com

Chuck Hubbard (D); hubbardforcongress.com



District 6

Addison McDowell (R); mcdowellfornc.com

Cyril Jefferson (D); cyrilforcongress.com

District 7

Maad Abu-Ghazalah (L); getmaad.org

David Rouzer (R); davidrouzer.com

Kimberly Hardy (D);

kimberlyhardyforcongress.com

District 8

Colby Watson (D); colbyforcongress.com

Mark Harris (R); markharrisforcongress.org

District 9

Richard Ojeda II (D); ojedafornc.com

Richard Hudson (R); richardhudson.org

District 10

Steven Feldman (L); stevefeldmanforcongress.com

Ashley Bell (D); ashleybellforcongress.com

Pat Harrigan (R); harriganforcongress.com

District 11

Jennifer Balkcom (R); jenniferbalkcom.com

Jamie Ager (D); agerforcongress.com

Travis Groo (L); x.com/groofornc

District 12

Jack Codiga (R); codigaforcongress.com

Alma Adams (D); almaadamsforcongress.com

District 13

Paul Barringer (D); paulbarringer.com

Steven Swinton (L); swintonfornc.com

Brad Knott (R); bradknott.com

District 14

Lakesha Womack (D); womack4nc14.com

Tim Moore (R); timmoore.com

N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the N.C. Senate and N.C. House represent Districts across the state. Learn about the candidates for your Districts at ncvoter.org/guide and Vote411.org. All members are elected this year for a two-year term.

The members debate and adopt laws affecting healthcare, jobs, schools, taxes, racial justice, roads, voting, guns, climate change, abortion, and more.

Democratic and Republican candidates generally reflect the differing positions of their party leaders, like the positions of the current N.C. Senate leaders. ➡

Comparing Democratic and Republican Positions in the N.C. General Assembly

DEMOCRATIC SENATE LEADER SYDNEY BATCH vs. REPUBLICAN SENATE LEADER PHIL BERGER



Stop giving corporations tax cuts; invest the money in public schools and teachers.

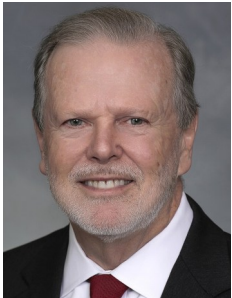
Support renewable energy and address climate change.

Restore the Earned Income

Tax Credit for working families.

Stop the sale of rapid-fire assault rifles.

Opposes Supreme Court rulings against women's access to healthcare and the Voting Rights Act.



Cut taxes on businesses and cut environmental and other regulations that slow economic development.

Increase public funding for students at private schools.

Do not restore the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Opposes a ban on rapid-fire assault rifles.

Approves Supreme Court ruling against women's access to healthcare and the Voting Rights Act.

You Be the Judge

This year, you can vote for 3 people to join the N.C. Court of Appeals, which has 15 judges. These judges decide appeals from local courts about property and personal disputes, civil rights, and criminal cases.

N.C. COURT OF APPEALS, SEAT 1



MICHAEL C. BYRNE REPUBLICAN

- Now an Administrative Law Judge hearing cases involving government agencies.
- Says he is “your conservative candidate” and will be a “conservative judge.”
- Endorsed by N.C. Fraternal Order of Police.

Website: mb4nc.com



JOHN S. ARROWOOD DEMOCRAT

- Now a Court of Appeals Judge.
- Says he is “committed to defending our democracy and protecting the rights of all North Carolinians.”
- Endorsed by N.C. AFL-CIO.

Website: keepjudgearrowood.com

N.C. COURT OF APPEALS, SEAT 2



GEORGE COOPER BELL REPUBLICAN

- Now a Superior Court Judge.
- Has presided over 100 felony jury trials, including many murder cases.
- Says he is “grounded in faith and service.”
- Endorsed by N.C. Values Coalition.

Website: judgegeorgebell.com



TOBIAS (TOBY) HAMPSON DEMOCRAT

- Now a N.C. Court of Appeals Judge.
- He ruled against disqualifying 65,000 voters in the Jefferson Griffin vs. Allison Riggs election.
- Endorsed by N.C. Sierra Club and Durham Committee on Affairs of Black People.

Website: judgetobyhampson.com

N.C. COURT OF APPEALS, SEAT 3



CRAIG COLLINS REPUBLICAN

- Now a Superior Court Judge; formerly an assistant district attorney.
- Says “conservative judges matter now more than ever.”
- Endorsed by N.C. Fraternal Order of Police.

Website: votecraigcollins.com



CHRISTINE MARIE WALCZYK DEMOCRAT

- Now a District Court Judge.
- Committed to “an independent judiciary” and to “apply the law equally without favoritism or bias.”
- Endorsed by N.C. Association of Educators and College Democrats of America.

Website: judgechristine.org

Why Change the N.C. Constitution

At the end of your ballot, you can vote Yes or No on 3 changes to the N.C. Constitution. The changes will last for generations.

Independent observers caution that the amendments may sound good, but they could create problems in the future.

♦ **Cap the income tax rate at 3.5%.** The current rate is 3.99%. A lower rate could benefit many taxpayers, especially those with high incomes and corporations. But over years, a maximum cap could lead to an increase in sales taxes, fees, and other taxes that fall heaviest on low- and moderate-income families.

♦ **Limit local property taxes.** Property taxes are a major way cities and counties pay for police, schools, sanitation, and other services. The amendment doesn’t say what the limit will be in future years. If passed, it could result in local governments increasing fees for water, sewage, and other services or increasing local sales taxes.

♦ **Require Photo ID for Voting.** This requirement is already state law for all voters in North Carolina. The proposed amendment may make people think that is not current law.

Local Offices

Your ballot includes candidates for important local offices, like the sheriff. Some counties elect their School Board this year, others don't. [See ncvoter.org/guide](https://ncvoter.org/guide) for who's on your ballot. The winners will directly impact your life, so it's important to understand their power and duties.

- **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.** The Board of County Commissioners oversees zoning, housing and transit options, conservation programs, and vital services like the health department. They set the budget for schools, the sheriff's department, and other agencies.

- **CITY COUNCILS.** Town officials have similar duties to county commissioners for overseeing zoning, taxes, the police, and other departments inside the city limits.

- **BOARD OF EDUCATION.** The Board hires the School Superintendent and oversees finances, pupil placement, school policies, and local curriculum choices.



- **SHERIFF.** The Sheriff directs the manner of law enforcement in the county by hiring, training and deploying officers, setting priorities for arrests and community outreach, and managing the county jail.



- **DISTRICT ATTORNEY.** The DA can influence public safety and equal justice by the choice of cases to prosecute, bail bond policies, plea deals, and alternatives to incarceration.

- **DISTRICT AND SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES.** These locally elected judges decide cases ranging from adoption and divorce to property disputes and first-degree murder. Their decisions may be appealed to higher courts in the state.

Successful Voting

Here are some tips for having a successful voting experience!

PLAN AHEAD

- ♦ **CHECK REGISTRATION.** Use this link to see your registration status or register at your home address, even if it's a dorm or nursing home: ncvoter.org/reg. If your reg. status says you are "Inactive," call the Hotline (888-OUR-VOTE) to learn if you need to do something before you vote.

- ♦ **VOTER ID.** You need a photo ID to vote in person or by mail, with some exceptions. Your N.C. driver's license is good even if the address is old; many student IDs work. See more at ncvoter.org/ID. If you don't have an acceptable ID, ask the poll worker for an ID EXCEPTION FORM.

- ♦ **ASSISTANCE.** Any voter can get help at the polls from a near relative. If you have a disability, you can get help from anyone except your employer or union agent; you can also vote from a car "curbside" or use the accessible voting



machine at each poll. Paid caregivers, including if you are in a facility, can help with mail-in ballots; you do not need a guardian's permission to vote. See more at ncvoter.org/disability.

- ♦ **PREVIEW YOUR BALLOT.** Learn about the candidates from ncvoter.org/guide, vote411.org and other sources. Take a list of your choices on paper or on your phone when you vote.

WHERE & WHEN

CHOOSE YOUR BEST WAY TO VOTE

- ♦ **EARLY VOTING: Oct. 15 to Oct. 31** This popular option offers flexible hours and places for voting. Find the schedule for your county at ncvoter.org/early. First and last days are busiest; mid-morning & mid-afternoon weekdays are less busy.

- ♦ **ELECTION DAY: Nov. 3, 6:30am-7:30pm** Vote at your precinct's designated polling place. Find your polling place (and view your ballot) at ncvoter.org/lookup.

- ♦ **VOTE BY MAIL:** This method has become pretty complicated. You need two witnesses or a notary, plus over \$1 in postage, plus a copy of your ID or extra paperwork, plus the risk of slow mail. Follow the directions very carefully and mail early. See ncvoter.org/absentee.

ASK FOR IT

- ♦ If you **make a mistake** or "spoil" your ballot, ask a poll worker for another one.

- ♦ A tiny percent of voters face issues with their ID or registration. Do not leave without voting. Ask for a **Provisional Ballot**, fill out the paperwork, and follow the instructions you receive. **Call the Hotline** for help: 888-OUR-VOTE.

- ♦ Useful guidance for **College Students** is at YouCanVote.org/students.

- ♦ **Criminal record?** Don't be locked out! See ncvoter.org/restore or call the Hotline.



QUESTIONS? Call or text the Hotline: 888-OUR-VOTE [888-687-8683]

This guide is produced by Disability Rights NC, Democracy NC, Common Cause, El Pueblo and other nonprofit groups.