

# 2010 Voter Guide

## HOKE COUNTY



### Your Vote Matters More Than Ever This Year!

Did you know that in a recent local election year, 25 races in North Carolina were decided by less than **THREE** votes? Your vote can really make a difference in local elections like the ones being held this year! Plus, your vote decides how your community will deal with important issues like taxes, better schools and more.

**Don't be left out! Your opinion counts. Weigh in on decisions that affect your life — and tell all of your friends and family members to vote, too!**

### Vote Early From October 14 to October 30

#### Hoke County One-Stop Early Voting Locations & Hours

**Questions about Early Voting or voting in general? Contact the**  
**Hoke County Board of Elections • 227 N. Main St • Raeford, NC 28376**  
**Phone: (910) 875-8751 Ext. 1550 • Fax: (910) 875-9084**

#### Hoke County Board of Elections Office

227 North Main Street  
Raeford

**Thurs. – Fri., Oct. 14 – 15**  
**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Mon. – Fri., Oct. 18 – 22**  
**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Mon. – Fri., Oct. 25 – 29**  
**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Sat., Oct. 30**  
**8:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

#### Puppy Creek Fire Department

445 N. Pittman Grove Church Rd.  
Raeford

**Thurs. – Fri., Oct. 14 – 15**  
**2:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Mon. – Fri., Oct. 18 – 22**  
**2:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Mon. – Fri., Oct. 25 – 29**  
**2:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Sat., Oct. 30**  
**8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

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# The Basics on Voting in NC

North Carolina makes it convenient for citizens to vote:

## You have the right to vote...



... if you can answer "Yes" to all three of these questions:

- 1) Are you a U.S. citizen?
- 2) Will you be at least 18 years old on Election Day, Nov. 2?
- 3) Will you have lived at your current address for at least 30 days before Election Day?

These are the basic requirements, and they mean that you can vote if you are a student living on campus; an ex-felon who has finished your sentence, including probation; a person awaiting trial or serving a misdemeanor sentence; a person who cannot read; or someone who has lived in NC for only a month before Nov. 2. **But you must register before you vote.**

## Registering to vote is easy!

To register, you fill out a form that asks for your name, address and birth date. You need to provide your NC driver's license number or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or another form of



identification (or be prepared to show ID when you first vote). Other acceptable forms of ID include a utility bill (phone, gas, etc.), bank statement, paycheck stub or any government document with your residential address on it. Homeless people can list a shelter as their address. You can ask for help filling out the form if you need it.

To obtain a form, call or visit your local Board of Elections or call 866-522-4723. You can also get a registration form at any public library, public high school, or Department of Social Services, Public Health or Division of Motor Vehicles office. Or you can print a form from this website: [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov). If the library or other office does not promise to mail in the form, mail it in yourself to your local Board of Elections. By two weeks later, you should receive a voter card with information about your precinct and where to vote.

## What if I'm a student?

If you are a college student, you may register in your old hometown and vote there – or you can declare your new address as your home, even if it's a dorm on campus, because that is where you go "home" day after day. See [www.NCElectionConnection.com](http://www.NCElectionConnection.com) for details.



**More questions about voting?**  
**Contact the Hoke County Board of Elections at (910) 875-8751 Ext. 1550.**

**Or write the Board at:**  
**227 N Main St**  
**Raeford, NC 28376**  
**Fax: (910) 875-9084**

## When to register:

There are two deadlines when it comes to registering to vote. If you choose to mail in your form or give it to another person to turn in, the form must be submitted to the Board of Elections by October 8. Or you can use Same Day Registration and register in person at a One-Stop, Early Voting site in your county from October 14 to October 30. See how to do this below.

**By the way, if you are a high school student who is 16 years old or up,** you can register now to vote in future elections. Many schools are holding registration drives this year. Registering now means you are automatically eligible to vote once you are of voting age.

## Using Same Day Registration

You can register (and vote on the same day) using Same Day Registration & Voting (SDR) during the statewide One-Stop, Early Voting period from October 14 to October 30. **But you cannot use Same Day Registration on Election Day.**

To use SDR, visit an Early Voting location in your county (see the cover of this guide for locations and hours). You need to show election officials one of these IDs with your name and current address: a NC driver's license, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck stub, student ID with a school document showing your address or a license, permit, bill or any other government document.

## Moved? Update your address!

You must change your voter registration when you move to a new county. And even if you've moved within the same county, you should update your registration. Use the same form as a new voter, but fill out the extra section asking for your old address so the state can cancel your old registration and assign you to a new polling place.



If you moved within the same county and forgot to change your registration, go to an Early Voting site during the Early Voting period to vote, or go to your old or new polling place on Election Day and update your information when you vote.

## What if I changed my name?

To avoid problems when you vote, you should fill out a new voter registration form whenever your personal information changes. If you haven't done this by October 8, it's best to vote at an Early Voting site where you can update your registration at the same time.

## Can I vote if I am an ex-felon?

Yes, you can vote. You temporarily lose your citizenship rights when you are convicted of a felony, but no matter where you were convicted, your rights are automatically restored in NC after you serve your complete sentence, including probation or parole. You don't need a special document – just register and vote like any other citizen. Misdemeanants can also vote, even from jail. They just need to request an Absentee Ballot (details on Page 3).

## In foreclosure? You can still vote.

Even if you are in danger of losing your house, no one can take away your right to vote. So long as you're living at the address where you're registered – or you intend to return there – your registration is valid. It doesn't matter if the bank now owns your house or you're involved in mediation or a court proceeding. However, if you don't plan to return to the house, you should change your registration address to where you regularly return. You can do this at any Early Voting site during the Early Voting period (see the cover of this guide for where and when). Or, if the new address is in the same county, you can go to either your old or new precinct on Election Day and update your address when you vote. If anyone gives you a hard time, ask for a Provisional Ballot; your vote will count after they verify your registration at the old address. Remember, the fact that your home is in a foreclosure proceeding is not enough to challenge your right to vote.

## Got kids? Bring 'em with you.

Don't let lack of childcare stop you from voting. You are allowed to bring your children with you. They can even go into the voting area when you vote. In fact, it's a good idea to do so: Many different studies have shown that the single biggest reason why people vote is that their parents voted and set a good example for them.



## Have a loved one serving in the military?

Voters outside the U.S. or in the military can vote using an Absentee Ballot. They have the option of faxing or scanning their Absentee Ballot request

and sending it in as an attachment to an email.

Call the Hoke Board of Elections at (910) 875-8751, Ext. 1550 for details or visit [www.overseasvotefoundation.org](http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org).



# There are 3 ways to vote in NC

## 1. VOTE EARLY IN PERSON.

From October 14 to October 30, you can vote by going to any One-Stop Early Voting site in Hoke county. All counties must open at least one Early Voting location during this period. Some are open on the weekend. Different sites have different hours. Check the list on the front of this guide carefully for the days and times sites will operate. Going to one of these sites is also the best way to vote if you have moved within your county or if you are not registered yet and want to use Same Day Registration (see Page 2).

## 2. VOTE BY MAIL.

From September 3 to October 26, you can request an Absentee Ballot – a ballot that is mailed to the address you specify and that you mail back after you complete it. You do not need an excuse to vote with an Absentee Ballot. To obtain an Absentee Ballot, you or a near relative must write the Hoke County Board of Elections (address on prior page); do **not** use a pre-filled-out form. Send a simple letter with the voter's name, address of registration and date of birth, where the Absentee Ballot should be mailed to, and the signature of the voter or the person making the request for the voter. If the request is from a relative, it must also include that person's name, address and relationship to the voter. It is also a good idea to include a phone number or email address in case the Board of Elections needs to contact you for any reason. Be sure to follow the instructions sent with the ballot very carefully.

## 3. VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.

On November 2, vote at your precinct's voting place (your "polling place") between 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM. Your precinct is based on your home address and appears on the voter card mailed to you when you registered. You do **not** need the card to vote. Call the Board of Elections at **(910) 875-8751, Ext. 1550** to find your polling place. If you are a first-time voter, you may be asked for identification, depending on how you registered. See the NC Voter Bill of Rights on Page 15 for details.

## The Provisional Ballot Solution

### If there's a problem...

If the poll worker can't find your name on the voter rolls or you accidentally go to the wrong voting location, or you are asked for identification and you don't have it with you – all is not lost! You have the right to ask for a "Provisional Ballot." You have to fill out a form in addition to the ballot so officials can verify your voter registration. But once your registration is verified, your ballot will count like any other ballot. You will also be given a way to find out whether your ballot counted and, if not, why not.

**If you ask for a Provisional Ballot and are not given one, please call this number for help:  
(919) 286-6000**

## What to Expect on the 2010 Ballot

**The people who win the 2010 elections will make the decisions that determine what happens in all parts of your life for years to come, including how much healthcare and gas cost... whether we have open lands in our communities... whether our public schools are adequately funded or not... who gets a tax break... whether communities offer safe, good-paying jobs... how our laws are applied... and much more.**

All of these things will be influenced by who gets elected to office this year. And while our representatives in government make these and other important decisions for us – **we are the ones who decide who our representatives are.** We live in a diverse society in America, and we know there is sometimes inequality. But at the ballot box, we all have an equal voice. That's the guiding principle of our democracy: one person, one vote. Use your voice! And remember this: if you don't vote, you give away your power and let others make the decisions that could change the course of your life.

**Use your power and vote!**

## For More Information

This guide provides you with an overview of the candidates on the ballot in 2010 along with guidance on who can vote and how you can vote. If you need more information, there are plenty of resources you can check out. If you don't have a computer at home, remember that your local library offers you free access to the Internet.

Visit [www.NCElectionConnection.com](http://www.NCElectionConnection.com) for complete details about voter registration and your voting options in NC, plus ideas on how you can help Get Out The Vote.

For more detailed information on candidates, visit:

- [www.uncvtv.org/election](http://www.uncvtv.org/election) (UNC TV Elections 2010)

For basic voting and election information, visit:

- [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) (State Board of Elections)
- [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org)
- [www.ncpolicywatch.com](http://www.ncpolicywatch.com)
- [www.ncvoterinfo.org](http://www.ncvoterinfo.org)

### Be Sure to Vote the Entire Ballot – From Top to Bottom!

North Carolina's ballot this year has four sections. You can vote in all of them:

1. **Partisan races**, from U.S. Senator to local races, such as County Commissioner.
2. **Non-partisan elections**, including judges on the state and local levels plus some local offices, like your School Board representatives.
3. **A special section** for a judge race in which Instant Runoff Voting is being used. See Page 11 for details.
4. **A referendum section** asking you to vote on an amendment to our state constitution that says no person convicted of a felony may serve as sheriff.

If you want to vote a "Straight Party" ballot (all the candidates of one party), remember that marking Straight Party does NOT include voting in non-partisan races. Remember to vote in those races separately.

# U.S. Senate Candidates

North Carolina's two U.S. Senators introduce and vote on bills in the U.S. Senate that guide federal law and determine how the federal government spends its budget. They also serve on committees that decide important U.S. policies in key areas such as foreign policy, healthcare, education and more. Senators serve 6-year terms. This year, you are voting to fill ONE U.S. Senate seat and may choose one candidate from among these three choices:

## Elaine Marshall: Democrat



Elaine Marshall has served as NC's Secretary of State since 1996 and was the first woman ever elected to statewide executive office in NC. As Secretary of State, she has made protecting consumers and creating jobs a top priority. She has cut the costs of doing business for companies and individuals, reformed the state's

ethics laws and used improved information technology to support 72% growth in private enterprise in NC. She has also received international recognition for her efforts to protect copyrights and has protected consumers, investors, and charitable givers against securities fraud and scams. Since early 2009, her efforts have led to the recovery of over \$500 million for NC investors from Wall Street banks. Prior to serving as Secretary of State, she served a term in the NC Senate and was a lawyer who specialized in representing victims of domestic violence.

Her priorities include creating and protecting jobs in North Carolina; standing up for working families, consumers, and local investors; protecting Social Security and Medicare benefits for senior citizens; improving the public school system as the foundation of a strong economy; securing quality affordable healthcare for North Carolinians; forging an energy policy that reduces pollution while lessening our dependence on foreign oil; and continuing to fight discrimination.

She holds a B.S. in textiles and clothing from the University of Maryland, earned her law degree from Campbell University and is an active member of various bar and professional associations.

[www.elainemarshall.com](http://www.elainemarshall.com)

## Richard Burr: Republican



Richard Burr was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives. When he was first elected to the House in 1994, he became the first Republican in 20 years to represent the 5th Congressional District of North Carolina. In the Senate, he serves as a ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

and is also a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee; the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee; and the Intelligence Committee.

His priorities include encouraging job growth by working to restore a strong economic environment in North Carolina. He is also a vocal advocate for veterans, the military and their families. He introduced the Caring for Camp Lejeune Veterans Act of 2009 in response to the large number of veterans and their families suffering from cancers and other diseases believed to be caused prior to 1988 by exposure to contaminated water. He also authored bills to address the issue of preventing veteran homelessness (signed into law in 2008) to support military family caregivers who help veterans meet their personal care needs (likely to be addressed in the next Senate session), and to provide residency rights for military spouses (the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act was signed into law in 2009).

Burr is a graduate of R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem and graduated from Wake Forest University, attending on a football scholarship. Prior to serving in U.S. Congress, he spent 17 years in business with Carswell Distributing, a wholesale commercial products company.

[www.burrforsenate.com](http://www.burrforsenate.com)

## Michael Beitler: Libertarian



Dr. Michael Beitler has been a member of the faculty of The Bryan School of Business & Economics at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro for the past 13 years. During his 30-year professional career, he has earned recognition as a leading business executive; business consultant; business professor; and author of three successful books,

two about business and one on politics. He is the host of "Free Markets," an internet-radio show that focuses on economic and political issues from a Libertarian perspective.

His platform includes supporting small businesses by reducing their taxes and regulatory compliance burdens; rapidly withdrawing all American forces from Iraq and Afghanistan; abolishing "corporate welfare" and government policies that favor big businesses over small business and taxpayers; offering amnesty and a pathway to citizenship for all immigrants; performing an independent audit of all federal government agencies and programs; requiring the federal government to operate within a balanced budget that includes a systematic reduction in the national debt; replacing the income tax and payroll tax with the FairTax or a national sales tax; and ending the "near-monopoly in education by government" in favor of alternatives for children and young people, including giving students the right to choose among competing schools. He supports the Libertarian Party stances on the decriminalization of marijuana, same sex marriage and a woman's right to choose.

He holds a Ph.D. in business, an M.A. in psychology and a B.S. in finance. He is a resident of Guilford County.

[www.beitlerforussenate.org](http://www.beitlerforussenate.org)

## Follow the Money...



According to [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org), a website of the Center for Responsive Politics, North Carolina's three Senate candidates had raised the following amounts of money from the following sources as of September 12, 2010 (see Page 16 for why we care!).

### Elaine Marshall

**Raised:** \$1,094,040 **Spent:** \$930,843

**PAC contributions:** \$27,100 (2%)

### Largest Sector Contributors

Lawyers & Lobbyists: \$166,955; Ideology/Single-Issue: \$88,500; Finance/Insurance/Real Estate: \$54,000; Misc. Business: \$35,200; Agribusiness: \$22,850; Health: \$18,260; Labor: \$17,500.

### Richard Burr

**Raised:** \$9,163,666 **Spent:** \$4,243,698

**PAC contributions:** \$2,833,890 (31%)

### Largest Sector Contributors

Finance/Insurance/Real Estate: \$1.2 Million; Health: \$1.1 Million; Misc. Business: \$914,000; Lawyers & Lobbyists: \$709,600; Energy/Natural Resources: \$526,000; Agribusiness: \$524,400; Ideology/Single-Issue: \$482,400

### Michael Beitler

**Raised:** \$3,228 **Spent:** \$2,868

**PAC contributions:** \$225 (7%)

### Largest Sector Contributors

Health: \$250; Lawyers & Lobbyists: \$200



# U.S. House Candidates

North Carolina has 13 members in the U.S. House, each representing a specific district in our state. These officials pass federal legislation that could include new laws, new policies or budget decisions. Any bill passed by the House must also be passed by the U.S. Senate before becoming law. Each representative serves for a 2-year term. The U.S. House also has the power to create new taxes, impeach officials and elect the President in case of Electoral College deadlocks. You only vote in the U.S. House race in the district where you live. All Hoke residents live in District 8.

## U.S. House of Representatives District 8 Candidates: Choose One

### Larry Kissell: Democrat

Larry Kissell was first elected to Congress in 2008. He is a member of the House Armed Services and House Agriculture Committees. He introduced the "buy American" provision into the stimulus bill requiring the Department of Homeland Security to purchase items produced in the U.S.; introduced the Repaying the American Taxpayer Act requiring the sale proceeds of TARP-related assets to be applied to the national debt; sought to establish a Strategic Gasoline Reserve system; won a tax deduction for teachers for out-of-pocket classroom supply expenses; and has been active in making military spending more efficient. He has obtained more than \$1 billion in federal funding for the 8th District since 2008, and his office handled nearly 3,000 constituent cases last year.

He is a native of Biscoe, NC, and had a 27-year career in the textile industry before becoming a social studies teacher prior to entering Congress. He holds a degree from Wake Forest University.

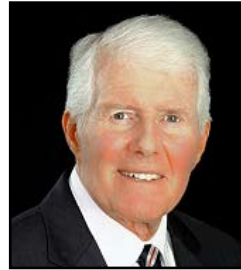


[www.larrykissell.com](http://www.larrykissell.com)

### Harold Johnson: Republican

Harold Johnson is a resident of Concord. His first priority is creating jobs to support economic growth for the 8th District. Other priorities include cutting federal spending; reducing the \$200 billion plus per year in interest the government pays on existing debt; and helping small businesses create jobs by reducing regulation and taxes. He supports legal immigration and reform of our current immigration system but is against any policies that encourage further illegal immigration. He supports building more nuclear plants and drilling for oil off of the NC coast.

He is a retired TV and radio broadcast journalist for WSOC Channel 9 and WBT 1110 and a four-time EMMY® winner as the Mid-South's Sportscaster of the Year. He graduated from Statesville Senior High School and earned his degree in economics from Lenoir Rhyne University. He served in the Marines at Camp Lejeune as an expert rifleman.



[www.voteharoldjohnson.com](http://www.voteharoldjohnson.com)

### Thomas Hill: Libertarian

Thomas Hill is a resident of Concord and past chair of the Libertarian Party of N.C. His priorities include reducing the federal debt and returning to a money system where currency is backed by gold or silver; supporting the right to keep and bear arms; passing a "Read the Bills Act," which would require members of Congress to read all bills before they are allowed to vote on them; closing America's military bases around the world and bringing troops home; pursuing a non-interventionist foreign policy; ending the war on drugs; and developing adequate safeguards to deter terrorists and other criminals from entering the United States while still "allowing honest people to enter our country."

He is Interim Chair - Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Cabarrus County, was a candidate for Cabarrus County Commissioner in 2002 and 2004, a candidate for Cabarrus County Board of Education in 2006 and 2008, and a candidate for NC Senate 36 in the 2008 GOP Primary.



[www.thomasbhill2010.com](http://www.thomasbhill2010.com)

### Why you won't see all of these names listed on your ballot:

When you go to vote, you won't see every NC Senate and NC House candidate shown in this guide listed on your ballot. That's because these officials do not represent specific counties. They represent special districts that can cross county lines. This means you can live in the same county as someone else, but be in a different district.

But don't worry: when you go to vote, only the races that apply to your districts will be on your ballot.

If you aren't sure what districts you live in, you can check the voter card you received when you registered to vote, visit the State Board of Elections at [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) or call the Hoke County Board of Elections at (910) 875-8751, Ext 1550.

### What do your local officials do for you?

In the pages that follow, you'll find profiles of local candidates on the Hoke County ballot. Some of these officials, if elected, will represent you in the General Assembly in Raleigh. These **NC Senate and NC House representatives** make state laws, decide budget priorities for North Carolina and craft public policy. Their decisions can really affect your life in many different ways. For example, they decide how much money NC public schools will get; set state tax policies, including how much you have to pay; create environmental regulations; and decide many other policies about healthcare, insurance, economic development, education and more.

Other elected officials will work with your county or town to set local policies. The tasks these officials do are vital to the health of your community: choose your candidates carefully! For example, your **County Commissioners** decide how county money (usually collected through taxes) will be spent and what kind of local services like sewer, water and garbage pick-up you will receive. They can also decide if land is used for residential or commercial purposes and other zoning issues. They also often work with the local **Board of Education**, whose members decide how the federal, state and local money earmarked for education will be spent within the Hoke County public school system, monitor the performance of schools and teachers and set policies that govern student and teacher behavior.

# NC General Assembly Candidates

## NC Senate District 13: Unopposed

### Michael Walters: Democrat

Senator Michael Walters was appointed to the NC Senate in 2009 and is vice chair of the Agriculture/ Environment/ Natural Resources Committee as well as a member of the Appropriations on Natural and Economic Resources Committee and the Select Committee on Energy, Science and Technology, among others.

Since 1978, he has been with Claybourn Walters Logging, a family company, and has served as its president since 2003.

He cites "creating good-paying jobs" as his number-one priority and believes that this will reduce the unemployment rate and jumpstart the local economy. He also recognizes the relationship between education, workforce and economic development and is dedicated to quality public education. As a member of the executive committee of the Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, he works to provide affordable, accessible health care to working families and the middle class. He is also open to innovative economic development in the area of agriculture and works with farmers to provide new opportunities for agricultural diversification.

He is a lifelong Robeson County resident who grew up on his family farm in Fairmont and earned a degree in agricultural education from NC State University. He is an active alumnus of NCSU and serves on the Board of Directors of the Wolfpack Club.

[www.waltersforsenate.com](http://www.waltersforsenate.com)



## NC House District 46: Choose One

### Douglas Y. Yongue: Democrat

"It has been an honor to represent the citizens of the 46th House District -which includes parts of Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland Counties. I have a bachelor's degree in industrial arts, and master's and doctoral degrees in school administration. Before retiring from the public school system in 1993, I served Scotland and Robeson Counties as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent. I am a former president of a local construction company that specialized in residential and light commercial projects. I have served on the following legislative committees: Appropriations, Co-Chair; Education, Member; Ethics, Vice-Chair; Rules, Member; State Government & Personnel, Member; Federal Relations and Indian Affairs, Member; Education Oversight, Co-Chair; Task Force on Childhood Obesity, Co-Chair.

My top priorities include:

**KEEP OUR TAXES LOW:** Provide the tools to help keep our local tax rates as low as possible while maintaining the necessary human services for our citizens.

**EDUCATION:** Maintain and expand financial assistance to low-wealth counties to ensure that equal educational opportunities exist for every student in our public schools, community colleges, and universities.

**JOB:** Work to ensure that the unemployed have every opportunity to grow, re-skill, train, and be placed in sustainable, quality jobs."

[www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us)



### Gaston Pridgen: Republican

Gaston L. Pridgen is a Robeson County native. He graduated from Littlefield High School and attended Robeson Community College. After retiring from a career at Bell-South Telecommunications, he started his own telecommunications company, CommCo. He now works in the IS department at Southeastern Regional Medical Center; CommCo. remains a family business.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, served in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star.

**Statement:** "I am a conservative Republican and I believe it is time for conservative leadership. I believe conservatism is a must, not an option, for our elected officials. The General Assembly must make private business job creation a top priority. We have to overhaul our existing tax system to reduce the tax burden on our working families and businesses.

I love this country and want to see it prosper once again. I grew up on a farm in Lumberton and I am a business owner. I want to see an America that once again respects the working person. I want to see an America that respects our military and our flag. I served in the Army and I believe in a strong military and in giving our soldiers the support and respect they deserve.

I also believe that every law abiding citizen has the right to own a gun to use in defense of his family, his home and himself."

[www.glpbridgen.com](http://www.glpbridgen.com)



## NC House District 48: Choose One

### Garland E. Pierce: Democrat

Garland E. Pierce has represented House District 48 since 2004. He chairs the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources and is vice chair of the Aging; Appropriations; and the Federal Relations and Indian Affairs Committees. He is also a member of the Commerce, Small Business, and Entrepreneurship; Insurance; and Juvenile Justice Committees.

During the last session, he was primary sponsor of over 50 bills, including bills to make it a crime to provide cell phones to inmates in correctional facilities, to make it unlawful to text while driving, and to secure funding for healthcare and other vital services for disadvantaged populations such as the frail elderly, people with disabilities and those suffering from dementia. He has also sponsored bills that address our state's emergency response capabilities, its need to prepare for an aging Baby Boomer population, juvenile justice, community development, ex-felon re-entry, small business entrepreneurship and combating poverty, unemployment and low wages with education and re-training.

He is a Baptist minister and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

[www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us)



### John F. Harry: Republican

John Harry is a sports official associated with the USSF/NFHS and a civilian retiree of the U.S. Army. He is also an Army Reserve retiree as well as a Vietnam and Iraq campaign veteran

who received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He holds an M.S. from Kansas State University, a B.S. in criminal justice from Michigan State University and an associate degree from Lansing Community College.

**Statement:** "As a Conservative Republican, I believe we must approach taxation and revenue growth (or decline) with conservative principles. Short- and long-term budget reforms must be addressed and positive, conservative alternatives be considered for our present method of taxation and revenue. This is a nonpartisan issue particularly important if we hope to support small business growth in NC. I will also strive to differentiate between mere information and academic growth in the development of our children and take the initiative in securing funding versus waiting for funding from the state and federal government. I will also support the academic pursuit of the individual to attend private institutions for elementary and secondary education."

[www.johnfharry.com](http://www.johnfharry.com)



## Hoke County Sheriff: Unopposed

### Hubert Peterkin: Democrat



Hubert A. Peterkin is running for re-election as Sheriff of Hoke County. He was first elected Sheriff in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. He has over 23 years experience in law enforcement. Prior to being elected Sheriff, he was an investigator for the Fayetteville Police Department and also served as Hoke County's Chief Deputy.

As Sheriff, he is responsible for managing a \$6.5-million-dollar budget and supervising 123 employees. His department provides security in the Hoke County Courthouse, transports inmates to municipal and superior courts, performs law enforcement duties, builds partnerships with citizens and other law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, and collaborates with government agencies and private organizations that share common goals such as reducing gang violence and combating drug traffic.

He earned an associate of arts and a B.S. in government/business administration from Liberty University and is currently pursuing a masters of management/public administration from the University of Phoenix. He also holds numerous law enforcement certifications and has completed workshops at the North Carolina Justice Academy and Fayetteville Technical Community College. Sheriff Peterkin has also won numerous awards for his service to the community and is a graduate of the Institute of Political Leadership at UNC-Wilmington.

[www.hpeterkin.com](http://www.hpeterkin.com)



# Hoke County Local Candidates

## Hoke County Commissioners At-Large: Choose Three Out of Four

### Tony Hunt: Democrat



Tony Hunt is running for re-election as a Hoke County Commissioner. If elected, he will be serving his third term in that office.

His priorities include improving public education; ensuring adequate resources for law enforcement; attracting new businesses; and increasing both jobs and county revenues.

He is pastor of Galilee Baptist Church in Red Springs. Before that, he was a schoolteacher at South Hoke Elementary School and at Hawk Eye Elementary School; and pastor of South Hoke Baptist Church.

His many professional, civic or political activities include membership in the Hoke County Civic League and the Hoke County Native American Association.

He is also a past or present member of the boards of directors of the N.C. Health Board, the Hoke County Health Board, Hoke County Native American Scholarship Foundation, the N.C. Indian Housing Authority and the Hoke County Mental Health Board.

He served a 5-year term as a Supreme Court Justice for the Lumbee Tribe and has served on state and local boards concerning American Indian issues.

He obtained a bachelor of arts in religion from Campbell University and is accredited as an ordained minister.

Hunt is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper and attaining the rank of Sgt. E-5.

### Ellen McNeill: Democrat



Ellen McNeill is running for re-election as County Commissioner. She was a City of Fayetteville employee for over 35 years, and a Hoke schools employee for six years. She was appointed to the State Human Relations Commission in 2008 and is a member of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Revitalization Committee and many other organizations. She is also a life member of Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church and an officer of the Hoke County Union. She graduated from Shaw University with a B.A. in business management.

**Statement** "Hoke County is among the fastest-growing communities in the nation and faced with providing water, sewer, schools, and other needs. My priorities are education, economic development, budgeting and finance, recreation and concern for the wellness of senior citizens. I desire to see federal and/or state funding come with any mandated programs from those agencies. We cannot afford mandates without money. Our Board of Commissioners must remain diligent in seeking grants, partnerships and low interest loans to meet growing needs. Long-range planning, a capital projects program, and employee training must become higher priorities.

New sources of income are needed. Property taxes cannot continue to fund the majority of our county's needs. Revised fee schedules must be adopted to fund those services used by only a few citizens. I will continue to work for these improvements in Hoke County."

### Jean Powell: Democrat



Born and raised in eastern North Carolina, Jean got her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Jean served as a Vista volunteer in Alaska and worked for a law firm before starting her career as a prosecutor. She served 11 years as an assistant district attorney in Cumberland and Hoke counties.

In 1988, Jean was elected as North Carolina's first female district attorney and served Hoke and Scotland counties for 12 years in that capacity.

Since her retirement, Jean has served as a Hoke County Commissioner for eight years and is currently seeking a third term.

#### Priorities

1. Careful management of our county finances.
2. Planning now for our future growth (schools, roads, facilities, economic development).
3. Seeing our wastewater treatment plant project through to fruition.

**Questions about voting?  
Contact the Hoke County  
Board of Elections at:  
(910) 875-8751 • Ext. 1550**

### Elda M. Thacker: Republican



Elda M. Thacker is a native of Colon, Panama and graduated from Official Secondary Night School in 1985. She received an associate's degree in general education from Fayetteville Technical Community College.

Mrs. Thacker's experiences as a military spouse have taken her around the globe. She has lived in Germany; Fort Irwin, CA; Fort Sill, OK; and Fort Bragg, NC. During this time, she volunteered for the American Red Cross, military health clinics and hospitals and the Department of Defense dependent schools.

She is bilingual in Spanish and English and has experience as a translator.

Her awards include the Very Important Parent Award, Operation Joint Guard Scroll of Appreciation and numerous certificates of appreciation.

Mrs. Thacker and her husband Harold reside in Raeford.

#### Priorities

1. Reach out to Hoke County residents and bring their agenda to the board.
2. Challenge residents of Hoke county to help their neighborhoods through volunteerism.
3. Motivate the county population to come together as one for the greater good of Hoke County and its residents.

**Elda M. Thacker on Facebook**

## County Coroner: Unopposed

### G. Franklin Crumpler: Democrat



Frank Crumpler is running for re-election as Hoke County's Coroner — a post he has held for over 50 years, making him one of the longest-serving public servants in the entire United States.

He graduated from Clinton High School in Clinton, NC, and attended the Cincinnati School of Mortuary Science, receiving his funeral service license in 1957. He was first elected Coroner in 1960. He is also Chief Medical Examiner of Hoke County, an appointed office he has held for a number of years.

As both Coroner and Chief Medical Examiner, he is responsible for officially determining the cause, time and manner of all deaths in Hoke County that do not occur when a person is under the supervision of a licensed physician, including those that occur under suspicious circumstances or as a result of violence, or unattended deaths that occur outside of rest homes, hospitals and terminal care facilities. He also recommends when an autopsy is needed to further pinpoint the cause of death.

He is founder of Crumpler Funeral Homes, a family-owned and family-operated business that includes facilities in Raeford, Red Springs and Aberdeen. He has been married to Dayne Crumpler for 54 years. The couple have three children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Clerk of Superior Court: Unopposed

### Russell Smith: Democrat



Russell Smith is running unopposed for Clerk of Superior Court. If elected, he will be the first practicing attorney to serve as Clerk in Hoke County. He has pledged to use his experience working with numerous NC clerk of court offices to make the Hoke County Clerk's Office the most efficient one in the state.

He is currently the Sr. Assistant Public Defender for District 16A. Prior to that, he was in private practice, served as an assistant dean with the Campbell School of Law and was a contract instructor to paralegals. He is also a former member and chair of the Hoke County School

Board. He earned his law degree at Campbell University, graduating magna cum laude and serving as editor-in-chief of Law Review. He also holds an MA Ed. from UNC-Pembroke and a B.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill.

The Clerk of Superior Court is authorized to perform many duties. Here are just a few of them: issue subpoenas to witness; administer oaths and issue citations and orders to show cause; certify all documents, papers or records used as court evidence; enter defaults or judgments in proceedings pending in his court; award costs and disbursements ordered to be paid personally or out of estates or funds; appoint and remove guardians and trustees; and audit the accounts of fiduciaries. Visit [www.aoc.state.nc.us](http://www.aoc.state.nc.us) for more on the Clerk of Court's role.

[www.russellforclerk.com](http://www.russellforclerk.com)

# Hoke County Board of Education At-Large: Choose Three Out of Four

Board of Education members decide how federal, state and local money will be spent within the Hoke public school system, monitor school performance and set policies that govern student and teacher behavior.

## Barbara Buie

"Re-election to the Hoke County School Board will give me the opportunity to tie together my formal education, experience and learning as a board member, 30 years in administration and education and my commitment to a stronger Hoke County.



Regardless of the diversity of the student body and staff, everyone must feel physically and emotionally secure.

Fiscal and physical assets must be used wisely to ensure that the academic needs of every student are met.

My experience includes working with a program that had much less funding than needed and far less than desired; I will spend your money only if it benefits the students. Every student must graduate from high school and graduate college- or workplace-ready.

Focusing on a more productive community and school relationship, I will work with parental, business, social/civic and faith-based groups and others to make Hoke County Schools totally inclusive.

I will work to make all policies governing the school system clear and fairly administered. Every faculty and staff member should (will) be highly qualified and serve as positive role models for our students.

School Board members are accountable to the public and should be available as well. I will be.

I am Barbara Buie, candidate for Hoke County School Board, and I ask for your vote."

## Della Maynor

"I began my political adventure in 1976 when I was elected Hoke County Register of Deeds. I gladly served the citizens of Hoke for 30 years. I retired in 2002 and began my life of leisure; or so I thought. I was not content sitting on the sidelines. In 2004, I was encouraged to run for the Hoke County Board of Education. I was unsuccessful, but in 2006 I was successful and began a different life working to ensure that all our children get a 21st Century globally-competitive education.



I have dedicated my life to igniting a passion for learning in all students by seeking funding that provides adequate resources to maximize educational achievement. I have also been a student of continuous education by attending NCSBA training workshops.

### Priorities

The three most important goals I hope to accomplish if re-elected to the Hoke County Board of Education family are:

1. Every student graduates from high school and has mastered the knowledge and skills to succeed in the 21st Century working environment.
2. Every student has a learning environment that is safe, orderly, healthy and caring.
3. The Hoke County schools will have quality staff and administration to produce globally-competitive men and women. They will work to build strong family, community and business support."

## Roosevelt McPherson

"I'm committed to helping students achieve their maximum learning potential and to helping teachers do what they love to do best— teach.



I understand thoroughly the process of educating children to make them successful citizens in a global society. I have more than 20 years of teaching and administrative experience in public schools.

I know how to work with various stakeholders to accomplish state and district goals. I served students, teachers, parents and the community in the public schools of Hoke and Cumberland.

I worked diligently to earn my bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees in education.

I'm uniquely qualified to serve on the school board because of my broad background of educational experiences and my passion for helping students, teachers and parents.

### Priorities

If I am elected to the Hoke County Board of Education, the citizens of Hoke County can be assured I will work vigorously and diligently to make Hoke County Schools the best place in America to send a child for an education. I am a strong advocate of:

- Getting gangs and crime out of schools.
- Closing the academic achievement gap.
- Building a new high school in Hoke County."

## Irish Pickett

Irish Pickett lives in Raeford. She is a retired educator, former teacher and assistant principal at West Hope Middle School as well as West Hope Elementary.



She has also been a mentor and tutor for students and has over 36 years experience in the Moore/Cumberland/Hoke County schools.

She is running for re-election to the Hoke County Board of Elections, having first been appointed in 2006 to fill a seat before being elected to a full term the following November.

She holds a B.S. in elementary education from Fayetteville State University and a master's in education from UNC-Pembroke as well as a master's in education administration, also from UNC-Pembroke.

### Priorities

Her priorities for the Hoke County school system includes:

- Improving literacy, from kindergarten through Grade 12.
- Developing 21st Century college- and work-ready students.
- Building leadership capacities at both the school and district level.
- Increasing 21st Century technology tools within the schools.

## Soil & Water Conservation Supervisors

### Andrew Gibson & James N. (Jimmy) Maxwell: Unopposed

There are two seats open for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor and both of the candidates are running unopposed: Andrew Gibson and Jimmy Maxwell. You may vote for both of them.

Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors play an important role in preserving the quality of life in Hoke County. Healthy soil, water and air quality all depend on having enough open farmland, open spaces and forestland surrounding our communities. It's the job of these supervisors to protect these areas in Hoke County. To do this, they must understand not only environmental issues but also grants and often complex financial issues like cost-share programs and conservation easements. They also help growing areas strike a balance between providing an adequate drinking-quality water supply while also preserving the watershed and developing programs to address flood prevention, sedimentation, water quality and agricultural water management. They may deal with other issues involving private and public forests, wildlife, public-owned parks and other natural areas.



Hoke County's supervisors also work with nearly 500 other district supervisors in NC to create local conservation programs that encourage Hoke County residents to protect, improve and sustain soil and water resources. Other tasks they perform include providing input into state legislation to promote conservation of natural resources, recommending needed research in the field of soil and water conservation and helping promote new technology in this area. Typically, supervisors must work with state and federal agencies, other interested organizations, the public and the media to make this happen.



# Non-Partisan Judicial Elections

Judges have a lot of power in our state. In many instances, they have the final say over decisions that affect people's lives dramatically. The state constitution gives voters the power to choose the judges, who run on a non-partisan basis.

## NC Supreme Court Justice: Choose One, Bob Hunter or Barbara Jackson

### Robert C. (Bob) Hunter



Judge Bob Hunter is seeking the NC Supreme Court seat after serving on the NC Court of Appeals since 1998. He was first appointed to the Court of Appeals by then governor Jim Hunt, elected to an 8-year term on the court later that year and, in 2006, re-election. Hunter has decided over 3,600 appellate cases and written over 1,200 opinions during his judicial career. He was NC House Representative for the 49th District from 1980 to 1998, helping pass such legislation as the Highway Trust Fund, Natural Gas Expansion Fund, NC Victims' Bill of Rights, NC Victims' Compensation Fund, Date Rape Bill and Establishment of Lake James State Park.

He was born and raised in McDowell County, NC, obtained a B.A. in Political Science and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and has also attended the National Judicial College. He spent the early part of his career as an Assistant District Attorney and went on to a 29-year career in private practice as an attorney, including serving as the McDowell County attorney from 1970 to 1994. He is a member of numerous professional associations, including the North Carolina Courts Commission, of which he is a past chair. He has received many awards and honors for his judicial, legislative and civic achievements. [www.judgebobhunter.org](http://www.judgebobhunter.org)

### Barbara Jackson



Judge Barbara Jackson has been a member of the NC Court of Appeals since her election to the bench in 2004. Since taking office, she has participated in writing and sitting on hundreds of cases. She began her career clerking for former Chief Justice Burley B. Mitchell, Jr. of the NC Supreme Court then went on to hold such positions as Deputy General Counsel to the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities; legal counsel to former NC Governor Jim Martin, dealing with a variety of issues including state and federal constitutional issues; and private practice where she represented clients in state and federal court. In 2001, she joined the NC Department of Labor as General Counsel before being elected to the NC Court of Appeals of 2004. She belongs

to a number of professional organizations and is active in groups advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

She was raised in Raleigh and obtained her undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. She worked as a paralegal in the Special Litigation Unit of the Attorney General's Office, assisting with complex litigation, prior to attending law school at the University of North Carolina, receiving her law degree in 1990. [www.judgebarbarajackson.com](http://www.judgebarbarajackson.com)

## NC Court of Appeals Justice: Choose One, Ann Marie Calabria or Jane Gray

### Ann Marie Calabria



"Judge Ann Marie Calabria was elected to the NC Court of Appeals in 2002 and is now seeking re-election. She was previously elected District Court Judge, 10th Judicial District (Wake County) in 1996 and re-elected in 2000. Prior to serving as a judge, she practiced law in Fayetteville and Cary and was the senior partner of her own law firm.

Judge Ann Marie Calabria graduated from Campbell University, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law in 1983. In 2007, she received the James Iredell Award. Judge Calabria has authored over 700 opinions which illustrate her belief in judicial restraint. She was named "2009 Volunteer of the Year" by the Literacy Council of Wake County for her work as Chairperson of the Juvenile Outreach Literacy Team. Judge Calabria helped facilitate direct one-on-one tutoring for students, ages 6-17. She currently lives in Wake County with her husband of 40 years, Dr. Robert D. Calabria, a retired Army Officer. They have three married children and three grandchildren.

Judge Calabria would be honored by your vote on Tuesday, November 2nd or at early voting."

[www.judgecalabria.com](http://www.judgecalabria.com)

### Jane Gray



Judge Jane Gray has been a District Court Judge in Wake County since 2002. She began her career as an attorney at the NC Department of Justice, served as its Special Deputy for Policy and Planning for eight years and was General Counsel to the Office of the Speaker of the NC House of Representatives before being appointed a District Court Judge in 2002. Two years later, she won re-election to the court and was again re-elected in 2008.

She belongs to numerous professional organizations, including the NC Courts Commission, a post she was appointed to in 2007 by NC Chief Justice Sarah Parker. She is also a former President of the Wake County Bar Association. Her civic involvement includes Altrusa, a community service organization with a focus on literacy; volunteering regularly at a local shelter for homeless women; and serving as a board member and chair of Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill.

Judge Gray was born in Virginia and received her B.A. in sociology from the University of Florida and her law degree from Campbell University School of Law. She is a Certified Juvenile Court Judge.

[www.judgejanegray.org](http://www.judgejanegray.org)

## NC Court of Appeals Justice: Choose One, Rick Elmore or Steven Walker

### Rick Elmore



Judge Rick Elmore has served on the NC Court of Appeals since he was first elected in 2002. During his tenure, he has heard approximately 2,100 cases and written 700 opinions. He is also the Court's appointee to the North Carolina Sentencing Commission and serves on the North Carolina Bar Association Appellate Rules Committee, working to monitor the rules governing our state appellate courts.

He resides in Greensboro, where he practiced law for twenty years, primarily criminal defense and real property law. He represented clients in both State and Federal Courts in cases ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder. In a number of cases, he represented indigent clients. He also served on the Guilford County Planning Board and fulfilled a four-year term on the Guilford County Board of Elections. He has been legal counsel for the Greater Greensboro Open and, more recently, was volunteer legal counsel for Greensboro AAU Basketball.

A 1974 graduate of Guilford College, Judge Elmore worked for the N.C. Department of Correction and the Muscular Dystrophy Association prior to receiving his law degree in 1982 from the NCCU School of Law where he served as a member of the Law Review.

[www.judgeelmore.com](http://www.judgeelmore.com)

### Steven Walker



"I was born and raised in Hendersonville, NC. My first summer job was picking cucumbers by day and packing cucumbers by night. I learned what hard work was all about. I worked hard in school, and graduated with honors from Clemson University and then went on to graduate with the highest honors from Campbell University's School of Law. For the last five years, I have worked in the chambers of the Honorable Edward Thomas Brady of the NC Supreme Court. On an almost daily basis, I have read and reviewed the decisions of the Court of Appeals and made recommendations to Justice Brady on how the cases should be handled. This experience has uniquely qualified me to serve on the Court of Appeals. As a native North Carolinian, I hold to North Carolina values of family, faith, and integrity. I am the only candidate in this race who has spent the last five years reading the opinions of the Court of Appeals and making recommendations on them to a member of the Supreme Court. I believe that judges should apply the law as it is written and not attempt to create new law. I will never put the prospect of personal or professional gain above the law. I am the only true conservative in the race, and a vote for me would be a vote towards restoring the judiciary to its proper place of interpreting the law rather than legislating from the bench."

[www.walkerforcoa.com](http://www.walkerforcoa.com)

# NC Court of Appeals Justice: Choose One, Martha Geer or Dean Poirier

## Martha Geer



Judge Geer was first elected to the NC Court of Appeals in 2002. Prior to her election, she was a founding partner of Raleigh-based Patterson, Harkavy & Lawrence and had been in private practice for 19 years. During her career, she represented large and small businesses, NC industries, executives, and workers in legal disputes at both the trial level and on appeal. Her practice focused on litigation with extensive appellate work in the areas of employment law, business litigation, constitutional law, and workers' compensation. Before becoming

a judge, she handled more than 50 appeals to the NC Court of Appeals, the NC Supreme Court, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Her earlier career included positions with Greensboro's Smith, Patterson, Follin, Curtis, James, Harkavy & Lawrence; and with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, a NYC corporate law firm.

She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College summa cum laude with honors in sociology and received her law degree from the UNC School of Law with high honors. She attended the Law School as a Morehead Fellow and served as the managing editor of the North Carolina Law Review.

[www.judgemarthageer.com](http://www.judgemarthageer.com)

## Dean R. Poirier



Dean R. Poirier is an Appeals Referee with the NC Employment Security Commission and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Mount Olive College, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Kaplan University and Liberty University. As an Appeals Referee, he has conducted over 13,000 contested case hearings to determine eligibility for unemployment benefits and rendered legal decisions on them. He has also conducted fraud hearings as a Special Deputy Commissioner. In his prior affiliations, he has taught courses in administrative, business, business ethics, criminal, constitutional and family law plus many courses in many other areas of law. He

also has three years experience training attorneys throughout the state in computerized legal research as a former training consultant for Lawyers Cooperative Publishing/West Publishing and four years in private law practice in the areas of real estate, wills, trusts and estates and business and corporate law. He is a graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law.

He believes that the essential role of a judge is to render a just and impartial decision, based on the facts and the law, and to remain mindful of the fact that decisions are not mere academic exercises, but seriously affect the lives of real people.

[www.Poirier4justice.com](http://www.Poirier4justice.com)

## NC Court Of Appeals: Choose One

### Sanford Steelman, Jr.: Unopposed



Judge Sanford Steelman was first elected to the NC Court of Appeals in 2002 and has since authored in excess of 700 opinions and dissents and participated in another 1,400 cases. He also supervises the Court of Appeals mediation program, which resolves civil cases in lieu of court litigation.

Prior to joining the Court of Appeals, he was Senior Resident Superior Court Judge in Stanly and Union Counties and assigned by the Chief Justice to hear "exceptional cases" under Rule 2.1 of the General Rules of Practice. These are the most difficult and complex civil cases heard in Superior Court. During his eight

years as a Superior Court Judge, Judge Steelman held court in 32 different counties and presided over four death penalty murder cases.

He is a cum laude graduate of Davidson College, where he majored in political science, attended the University of East Anglia, Norwich in England for several years, and obtained his law degree from the UNC School of Law in 1976.

[www.judgesteelman.org](http://www.judgesteelman.org)

## District Court Judges

District Court Judges are attorneys who are elected for 4-year terms. They preside over both civil and criminal cases heard in District Court. They usually handles cases where the disputes involve \$10,000 or less plus domestic relations cases involving alimony, child support, child custody, divorce, equitable distribution and juvenile matters.

When it comes to criminal cases, District Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases and most traffic offenses.

This year, Hoke has two District Court judges running for re-election to their seats: Regina Joe and William McIlwain. Both are running unopposed; you may vote for both of them. Their profiles appear below.



## Hoke County District Court 16A Judges: Two Seats

### Regina Joe: Seat 1, Unopposed



Judge Regina M. Joe, 47, graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1985 with a bachelor of science degree in administration of criminal justice. She received her juris doctor degree from Campbell University School of Law in 1988.

Judge Joe was an assistant district attorney in Greenville from 1989 to 1991 and in Raeford/Laurinburg (Hoke/Scotland counties) from 1991 to 1995. She became chief public defender for District 16A (Hoke/Scotland) and maintained that position until she ran for and won her current seat in office.

Judge Joe has twice made history. On July 1, 2005 she became the first female African-American chief public defender in our state's history. And upon winning the November 7, 2006 election, she became the first female and African-American District Court judge in the history of Hoke/Scotland counties.

Judge Joe is a member of Silver Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Raeford. She and her husband, Trooper Steve Joe of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, have one child, Christopher Isaiah Joe, age 6 1/2.

### William C. McIlwain III: Seat 2, Unopposed



Judge William C. McIlwain, 58, graduated in 1974 from Davidson College with a B.A. in history. He received his juris doctor degree from Wake Forest University in 1977.

Judge McIlwain practiced law with Walter Clark in Canton, N.C. from 1977-1980 and in the firm of Johnston and McIlwain in Laurinburg from 1980-1989.

He was appointed to the District Court bench in 1989 and has served continuously for the past 21 years, having been named Chief District Judge in 2007.

Judge McIlwain currently serves as a trustee for Scotia Village, the Scotland County Recreation Foundation, as a director for the Scotland County Highland Games and as a basketball coach for Scotland County Parks and Recreation.

Judge McIlwain has been married to his wife, Sherry, for 33 years. They have two children, Sydney and Will, who are currently students at UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State University.



# And a special election...

A North Carolina Court of Appeals judge was recently appointed to the federal bench, creating an opening on the state Court of Appeals. In August, Governor Beverly Perdue appointed Cressie Thigpen, a Raleigh Special Superior Court judge, to fill the vacancy. But now, under the NC Constitution, this office must be filled by a special election this November. Judge Thigpen plus 12 other candidates filed for this seat (their profiles follow) and, with that many candidates running, it is unlikely that any one candidate will be able to get more than the 50% needed to win outright by law. Since it's too late to hold a primary, this Court of Appeals seat election will use what is called the "Instant Runoff Voting" method. Voters indicate who they prefer among the candidates at the "instant" they vote, by ranking as many as three candidate choices.

For you, the voter, it's just like regular voting except you make the person you want to win your 1st choice and then you can select a back-up candidate as your 2nd choice, followed by your 3rd choice. Only your 1st choice is counted by election officials when they see if anyone has enough 1st choice votes to win outright. If no one gets a majority of 1st choices, then the two candidates with the most 1st choice votes go into an "instant runoff." If your 1st choice is in the runoff, he or she gets your vote and your back-up choices are never looked at. But if your 1st choice is not in the runoff, election officials will review your back-up choices to see if you ranked either of the candidates who is in the runoff. Your vote goes to the candidate in the runoff you ranked highest on your ballot. The winner is the runoff candidate who ranks highest on the most ballots.

## What you will see on the ballot:

If you vote by paper ballot, you will see three columns that look like the diagram below. Follow the instructions below to mark your first, second and third choices. **Touch-screen voters** will see a ballot design that follows the same layout; you just touch the candidate's name instead of filling in the oval next to their name.

**First Column**

Mark your 1st choice in Column 1. Choose the candidate you most want to win as your 1st choice.

**Second Column**

Mark a different candidate as your 2nd choice in Column 2. This is a back-up choice in case your 1st choice loses.

**Third Column**

You may mark a 3rd choice in Column 3. This choice should be different from your 1st and 2nd choices.

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE		
Fill in one oval per choice	Your 2nd or 3rd choices will not count against your 1st choice They will only be considered in a runoff if your 1st choice is not in the runoff	
1st ↓ Mark your 1st choice here	2nd ↓ Mark your 2nd choice here	3rd ↓ Mark your 3rd choice here
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Benjamin Franklin	<input type="radio"/> Benjamin Franklin	<input type="radio"/> Benjamin Franklin
<input type="radio"/> Thomas Jefferson	<input type="radio"/> Thomas Jefferson	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Thomas Jefferson
<input type="radio"/> Betsy Ross	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Betsy Ross	<input type="radio"/> Betsy Ross
<input type="radio"/> George Washington	<input type="radio"/> George Washington	<input type="radio"/> George Washington

Profiles of all candidates for this seat begin on the next page. If you are worried about getting this part right, remember that you can bring this guide into the booth with you; you can ask an elections official for help; or see Page 15 for the NC Voter Bill of Rights — it tells you who you can bring with you into the voting area to help you vote and when you can ask for a new ballot and start over voting.

## Plus a proposed Amendment to the NC Constitution at the end of your ballot:

When you are done voting for all of the candidates on your ballot, including the ones in the special Instant Runoff Voting election described on this page, there is still one more thing you will need to vote on: a special amendment to the North Carolina Constitution which says that no person who has ever been convicted of a felony is allowed to hold office as a sheriff in North Carolina.

REFERENDUM

Constitutional Amendment

Constitutional amendment providing that no person convicted of a felony may serve as Sheriff.

☐ For

☐ Against

If you agree with this new requirement, vote YES. If you disagree with it, vote NO. If the majority of people voting say YES to this referendum, it will become law.

Here's why: The most important changes in our state law are subject to referendum and, if approved, become part of the Constitution of the State of North Carolina — the highest legal document in our state. Our state constitution overrules all other state laws and governs the structure of our state government and what it does.

## What to Remember:

- 1) You may rank less than three candidates by leaving the 2nd and 3rd columns blank. But leaving a column blank means you will have no say in who wins if it turns out that your first choice candidate does not make it into the instant runoff.
- 2) If you select the same candidate in more than one column, your vote for that candidate will only count once.
- 3) Your 2nd and 3rd column choices are back-up choices. They are only looked at if your 1st choice is eliminated.

# NC Court of Appeals: Seat 5 — Select Your 1st, 2nd & 3rd Choices

## John F. Bloss

Place of residence: Greensboro

Education: B.S., College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1987 J.D., George Mason University School of Law, Arlington, Virginia, 1993

Occupation: Attorney

Employer: Robertson Medlin & Bloss, PLLC

Date admitted to the bar: 1993

Legal/judicial experience: I have been practicing law for nearly two decades and have been admitted to the bars of three states and 10 federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. I have represented clients in numerous complex civil actions and class actions, including cases that have generated opinions of statewide and national importance.

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

As a seasoned appellate attorney, I understand that each case that reaches the Court of Appeals is an extremely important event in the lives of the people involved. The Court of Appeals is the last real opportunity that most people have to be heard in our courts. I believe that every person who comes before the Court should be treated with fairness and respect. Judges should base their decisions on the law and not let their personal viewpoints influence their decisions. Moreover, cases should be decided on their merits rather than on procedural technicalities. The people of North Carolina expect and deserve hard work, experience, integrity, and respect from their appellate judges. I would be honored to receive your vote for the N.C. Court of Appeals. For more information, please visit my website: [www.johnblossforjudge.com](http://www.johnblossforjudge.com)



### Candidate's Personal Statement:

As an attorney and CPA, my unique background includes an advanced academic law degree, years of training and experience in finance, business, and commercial matters, as well as Accreditation in Business Valuation (ABV) and Certification in Financial Forensics (CFF) from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). My law practice has placed me before all divisions of our North Carolina Courts, including the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. I also have represented clients before the United States Bankruptcy Court and United States Tax Court. I lecture frequently on issues related to law, accounting, and taxation. I have worked with the Business Law Committee of the N.C. Bar Association (NCBA), and I presently serve on the Board of Directors of the N.C. Association of CPAs (NCACPA). Our Courts are arbiters of life altering issues, and I am privileged to have advocated issues that have influenced positively the lives of my clients. A seat on the Court of Appeals presents an opportunity to apply and shape the laws of this State for the protection and benefit of all of its citizens. Website: [www.casteen.org](http://www.casteen.org)



## Chris Dillon

Place of residence: Raleigh, NC

Education: UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law, J.D., 1990; B.S. in Business Administration, 1987

Occupation: Sr. Vice President at a North Carolina community bank

Employer: CapStone Bank

Date admitted to Bar: August 18, 1990

Legal/judicial experience: Ten years of private practice both with a 30-person firm and as a solo practitioner.

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

This race will be the most confusing on the ballot with 13 candidates seeking one judgeship. I ask that you consider voting for me, Chris Dillon. The Court would benefit having a judge with real-life experience beyond working in the legal community. At the community bank that I helped start, I interact with people from many walks of life, learning about every aspect of their business. I see first-hand how the law impacts all of our lives; whereas when I practiced law, my job was to advocate one side of an issue. I will apply the law impartially. I will not legislate from the bench. To paraphrase Chief Justice Roberts, a judge's job is to "call balls and strikes" without regard to who the teams are. Finally, I truly desire to serve the people in this capacity. One of my favorite lessons from the Bible is that those in positions of authority should strive to serve rather than be served. I am supported, not only by attorneys, but also by people from all walks of life. When you reach this "confusing" race on the ballot, consider voting for me, Chris Dillon. Visit [www.dillonforjudge.com](http://www.dillonforjudge.com).

## Jewel Ann Farlow

Place of residence: Guilford County, NC

Education: Wake Forest University School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1988; Duke University, Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, 1980.

Occupation: Attorney

Employer: Sole Practitioner

Date admitted to the Bar: August 19, 1988

Legal/judicial Experience: Attorney, Sole Practitioner, 1991 to present; Rivenbark, Kirkman, Alspaugh & Moore, Associate Attorney, 1988-1991.

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

The people of North Carolina expect and deserve fairness, integrity, solid work ethic, impartiality, and respect from their appellate judges. If elected to serve on the Court of Appeals, I will apply these qualities. I was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina. I am a graduate of Duke University and Wake Forest University School of Law. I have practiced law for over twenty-two (22) years. I have represented individual and business interests in many diverse areas. My experience includes extensive representation of clients in criminal and civil matters. My civil practice includes representation of clients in the areas of family law, domestic violence, contract, collection, personal injury, landlord/tenant, and bankruptcy law. All citizens are entitled to a fair, ethical, and courteous court system. My experience, dedication, and work ethic provide me with the skills to be a competent, knowledgeable, honest, and effective appellate judge. Thank you for your support. [www.farlowforjudge.com](http://www.farlowforjudge.com).



## Daniel E. Garner

Place of residence: Wake Forest, NC

Education: UNC, B.A. 1974; UNC, M.B.A. and J.D. 1982

Occupation: Attorney, Counsel to the NC Commissioner of Banks

Employer: Office of the Commissioner of Banks

Date admitted to the bar: Sept. 1982

Legal/judicial experience: From 1982-91, I enjoyed a varied private practice, including property, business, litigation, and some securities work. From 1991-99, I served as an unemployment hearings judge, deciding over 6,000 cases. Since 1999, I've worked on legislative matters, enforcement hearings and appeals, regulatory rule-making, and more as counsel to the NC Commissioner of Banks.



## J. Wesley Casteen

Residence: Wilmington

Education: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Taxation, with honors, Alabama (2010); Juris Doctor (J.D.), with honors, Campbell (1994); Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Accountancy, Wake Forest (1989). Certified Public Accountant (CPA, 1994).

Occupation: Attorney and CPA

Employer: Carolina Legal Counsel

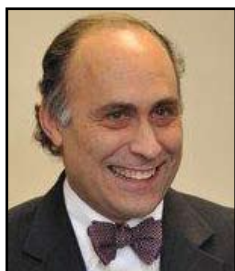
Date admitted to the bar: 1994

Legal experience: Carolina Legal Counsel (2004-Present); Wishart Norris Henninger & Pittman, Burlington (2001-04); Ludlum & Casteen PA, Duplin County (1995-2001). 5th District Bar: Secretary (2007), President-elect (2008),



### Candidate's Personal Statement:

I'm asking voters in North Carolina to hire me; I have the skills, experience, philosophy, and desire to serve them well on the Court of Appeals. My work over 28 years has not been very public nor glorious. It's been a broad, enriching experience, however, and great preparation. Voters should elect judges who understand that legislators legislate (make laws) and judges judge (interpret and apply law). Our federal and state Constitutions require a separation of powers; when a public servant in any branch casts off this constraint, he or she creates problems instead of fixing them. Judicial restraint serves the cause of justice more ably. My "judicial philosophy" rests on respect for other people, respect for the law, and a desire to "do right" – nothing less will do. Character matters! For 35 years, Cheryl and I have raised 11 children; home schooled them (two remain); sent them to college (seven graduates); seen four married (14 grandchildren). Now, I'd like to serve you on the Court of Appeals. Website: [www.GarnerforJudge.com](http://www.GarnerforJudge.com)



### Stan Hammer

Place of residence: Greensboro, NC

Education: B.A., University of South Carolina, Dec. 1974; M. Lib., University of South Carolina, 1977; J.D., Campbell University School of Law, 1984

Occupation: Attorney, litigation partner handling civil and criminal appellate and trial matters

Employer: Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler LLP

Date admitted to the bar: North Carolina, 1984; South Carolina, 1985

Legal/judicial experience: Litigation Partner, Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler LLP, 1995 to present; Instructor of Business Law, Guilford College, 2001-2005; Assistant Public Defender, 18th Judicial District, 1990-1995; Law Clerk to the Honorable Louis B. Meyer, Associate Justice, N.C. Supreme Court, 1986-1987; Director of Research and Assistant Professor of Law, Campbell University School of Law, 1985; President, Guilford Inn of Court, 2009 to present; Member, N.C. Bar Association Appellate Rules Committee, 1995-2010; numerous Continuing Legal Education presentations.

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

Our nation is built upon bedrock principles established in our national and state constitutions. The judiciary's job is to define government's role within these limits. I am committed to preserving the rule of law and protecting the rights and security of our citizens. I will be "forceful in the pursuit of justice." I have represented clients in over 40 appellate cases, tried countless cases in our Superior and District Courts, and for 15 years served on the Bar Association Committee that studies and recommends changes to the rules governing legal appeals. I have earned the highest review rating from my peers for competence and ethics (AV rating), and I routinely teach other attorneys in legal education seminars. Web: [www.hammerforjudge.com](http://www.hammerforjudge.com)

### Mark E. Klass

Place of residence:

Lexington, NC

Education: UNC Chapel Hill, Campbell Law

Occupation: Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

Employer: State of North Carolina

Date admitted to the bar: 1984

Legal/judicial experience: 1984-1986, Assistant District Attorney; 1986-1998, General trial practice; 1999-present, Superior Court Judge

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

Judges must treat all parties fairly, with respect, and free of outside influences. I believe in our system, founded on equal access to justice, and believe that judges must apply, not make, the law. I will continue upholding these principles as an appellate judge. I also feel there is a need for justices to have a wide variety of experiences. I hope to bring experience from the types of law that I've practiced, experience from working in the District Attorney's office, and also through the common sense experiences I have gained as a judge trying cases across the State. The attributes that qualify me to hold this position are that I am fair, even-tempered and hard working. I will give each case careful review, and I will render fair decisions; something I have done while serving as a judge for the past twelve years. Also, being a native North Carolinian from a small rural area, I can give a different perspective, as most of the current judges hail from metropolitan areas. I hope you will look at my record and see that I have the reputation of being fair, hard working, and willing to do what is right for the judiciary. I would be honored by your vote. Please visit my website at [www.voteklass.com](http://www.voteklass.com)



### Doug McCullough

Place of residence: Atlantic Beach, NC

Education: Swansboro High School, U.N.C., B.A. History; South Carolina School of Law

Occupation: Attorney

Employer: Stubbs & Perdue, P.A. New Bern, NC

Date admitted to the bar: 1982

Legal/judicial experience: U.S. Marine 1970-74; U.S. Dept. of Justice 1974-77; Counsel, U.S. Senate 1977-81; U.S. Attorney's Office EDNC 1981-96; Stubbs & Perdue 1996-2000, 2009-Present; Judge, NC Court of Appeals 2001-2008

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

I served on the North Carolina Court of Appeals from February 2001 until December 31, 2008. During those years I personally authored over 800 opinions and joined in several thousand more. I mediated over 40 cases, served on the Carolina Sentencing Commission, the Medico-Legal



Guidelines committee and taught two years in the UNC Law School. My legal experience includes service as a federal prosecutor where I was twice the Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina as well as private practice with the firm of Stubbs and Perdue. I also served in the U.S. Marine Corps reserve and retired with 29 years service as a Colonel. I would very much like to continue to serve the people of North Carolina and believe I have demonstrated the ability to perform as an appellate judge worthy of your support. During my service as a judge I treated all parties fairly and with respect. I believe I have the integrity, commitment and experience needed. I am raising funds to participate in the public financing program. More information about me can be found at [www.citizensforjudgemccullough.com](http://www.citizensforjudgemccullough.com).

### Anne Middleton

Place of residence: Raleigh, NC

Education: Wake Forest University School of Law, J.D. 1995; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A. 1982

Occupation: Appellate Attorney

Employer: NC Attorney General's Office

Date admitted to the bar: 1995

Legal/judicial experience: Appellate Section, NC Attorney General's Office 1999-present (lead appellate attorney, crimes against children); Revenue Section, NC Attorney General's Office 1997-99 (practiced in District Court, Superior Court, Court of Appeals and NC Supreme Court); Pitt County District Attorney's Office 1995-1997, Asst. District Attorney

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

I will bring three unique qualities to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. First, I am the state's lead appellate attorney regarding crimes against children. Of the 15 judges now serving on the Court of Appeals, only one has a victim-oriented background. My background will deepen, enrich, and balance the composition of the Court. Second, my practice of law, all day, every day, involves cases before the NC Court of Appeals and the NC Supreme Court. For the past 13 years, I have advocated in hundreds of cases before the Court of Appeals – far more than all other candidates for this position combined. Third, I am fair. Every person who comes before the Court deserves a judge who will be fair and impartial, and who will follow the law – not a personal or political agenda. I will treat every person fairly. You will not find another candidate for the Court of Appeals who is more family-oriented, experienced and fair-minded – or more devoted to the work of the Court of Appeals. Please visit [www.middletonforjudge.com](http://www.middletonforjudge.com)



**Remember: Voting a "Straight Party" ticket does not include the non-partisan races for school board or the judges. You must vote for them separately.**

## Harry E. Payne

Place of residence: Raleigh, NC

Education: BA Psychology, Political Science UNC-CH; JD, Wake Forest University

Occupation: Attorney

Employer: State of North Carolina

Date admitted to the bar: 1977

Legal/judicial experience: Private practice (became Scott, Payne, Boyle and Swart, Wilmington NC) 15 years; Legislator, NC House of Representatives (Six Terms); Commissioner, North Carolina Department of Labor, North Carolina Council of State (two terms); Chairman, (CEO) North Carolina Employment Security Commission (seven years); Manager of Compliance, NC OERI (Current)

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

Graduated Law Review from Wake Forest University, passed the bar and set up my own practice in Wilmington. Blended 15 years of growing a law firm in my hometown with 12 years of legislative service. I devoted every moment to keeping promises. My special focus was the law of the workplace. Running for NC Commissioner of Labor was the natural next step. My knowledge was shaped and tested there for eight years under a bright public light. I was then appointed to Chair (CEO) the North Carolina Employment Security Commission where I served seven years. I now manage NC legal compliance with respect to billions of recovery dollars. I am well prepared for service on the Court of Appeals and lay down my previous swords of advocacy and agenda fully understanding the role. I retain however, the depth of experience, judgment and reason that came while gaining a unique understanding of the laws that touch the lives of working people.



## John Sullivan

Place of residence:

Raleigh, NC

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, N.C.S.U., 1980; Juris Doctor, N.C. Central U. School of Law, 1985. Also attended classes at the law schools of U.N.C., Duke, and Harvard.

Occupation: Attorney in private practice

Employer: Solo Practitioner

Date admitted to the bar: March 20, 1993

Legal/judicial experience: Seven years with the state attorney general's office. Represented the State in labor law violation cases and prosecuted tax fraud cases; and represented the State in cases of violent crime where the defendants appealed their convictions to the Court of Appeals. Have had a general practice for 10 years.



### Candidate's Personal Statement:

My main interest in law has always been the prosecution of violent crimes. I can be a fair and effective judge on the Court of Appeals. I will apply the law as it has been handed down by the State and the U.S. Supreme Courts, but will do so on a case by case basis, ensuring that both the State and the appealing litigants are listened to carefully. Based on my experience and temperament I can be an excellent judge on the court. I will apply myself earnestly to each case before me to ensure that the law is properly and fairly applied.

## Cressie Thigpen

Place of residence: Raleigh, NC

Education: NC Central University, B.S., Business with a minor in Spanish, 1968; Rutgers University School of Law, J.D., 1973; National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Certificate, 1976

Occupation: Judge on the NC Court of Appeals

Employer: State of North Carolina

Date admitted to the bar: 1973

Legal/Judicial Experience: Judge – NC Court of Appeals, August 2010-Present; Special Superior Court Judge, 2008-10; President, NC State Bar, 1999-2000; Founding Partner – Thigpen, Blue, Stephens & Fellers, 1976-2008; Adjunct Instructor – NC Central University School of Law, 1991-1992; Solo Practitioner, 1974-1976; Staff Attorney – Durham County Legal Aid Society, July 1973-Dec. 1973

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

During my 35 years as a founding partner at Thigpen Blue Stephens and Fellers, I tried criminal, civil, domestic, real estate, and business cases. One of my historic cases lasted 15 years and went to the US Supreme Court. The court ruled unanimously for my clients. During my tenure as a Special Superior Court Judge, I heard civil and criminal cases in 39 counties. The lawyers, defendants and plaintiffs who appeared before me were treated fairly, impartially and with respect. I believe in the rule of law, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of North Carolina.

I am proud to be endorsed by former Chief Justices of the NC Supreme Court I. Beverly Lake, Burley Mitchell, and Henry Frye, and former NC Court of Appeals Judges Edward Greene and Gerald Arnold. [www.JudgeCressieThigpen.com](http://www.JudgeCressieThigpen.com). Find Judge Thigpen on Facebook.



**Is it worth it? Most people think so. Using instant runoff voting in this instance helps us comply with the law and will save North Carolina the millions of dollars that it would cost to hold a primary or runoff election for this seat.**

## Pamela Vesper

Place of residence: Raleigh, NC

Education: Tulane University, Juris Doctor 1993; Vanderbilt University, B.A. 1988

Occupation: Auditor/investigator/lawyer

Employer: NC Real Estate Commission

Date admitted to the bar: August 1998

Legal/judicial experience: North Carolina Real Estate Commission, auditor/investigator 2006-present. Investigate complex mortgage fraud cases as well as violations of the NC General Statutes and Administrative Code. Association of Real Estate License Law Organizations (ARELLO) Investigator of the Year 2008. North Carolina Real Estate Commission, assistant legal counsel 1999-2006. Handled the disposition of hundreds of cases and prosecuted on behalf of the state of North Carolina. NC Secretary of State, special projects counsel, Securities Division 1998-1999. Law Clerk, Judge Charles Ward, 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Volunteer, consumer foreclosure clinic.

### Candidate's Personal Statement:

I have dedicated my career to seeking justice for the people of North Carolina, both as a prosecuting attorney for the North Carolina Real Estate Commission and as an investigator for that same agency, where I gather and weigh the evidence in complex mortgage fraud and other cases and help people victimized by dishonest dealing. Anyone who appears before me will receive fair and unbiased justice. I will thoroughly research relevant legal precedent and weigh the issues before me to assure that all litigants receive thoughtful and well-reasoned decisions. I believe in giving back to my community. For the last 7 years I have been reading to the blind through the Triangle Radio Reading Service. My hobbies are competitive pistol shooting and historic preservation.

### Think you might need more time when you go to vote? Vote Early:

- ☒ If you are registered and want to avoid lines on Election Day.
- ☒ If you are not yet registered and you want to vote.
- ☒ If you work long hours or have an Election Day conflict.
- ☒ If you've moved within the same county since you last registered.
- ☒ If you have questions about your right or eligibility to vote.





# The NC Voter Bill of Rights

If anyone tries to deny you these rights, call Democracy North Carolina at (919) 286-6000.

**1. HOURS...** Each polling place is open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM on Election Day. If you are in line or inside the polling place by 7:30 PM, you must be allowed to vote.

**2. IDENTIFICATION...** In general, you do not have to show identification to poll workers when you vote. However, if you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail or who gave the form to another person to deliver, ID may be required. It makes sense to take a form of ID: a current NC driver's license or one of these documents with your name and current address: utility bill (electric, gas, phone, water, cable bill), pay-stub/W-2, bank statement, or a license, permit or other document from any government agency.

**3. PROVISIONAL BALLOT...** If any problem arises, you have a right to vote with a Provisional Ballot. Ask for a Provisional Ballot if you believe you registered but your name is not on the rolls; or if you question the voting district (or ballot) assigned to you; or if you are told you're in the wrong precinct. You must also be given a way to find out if your Provisional Ballot counted, and if not, the reason why it did not count.

**4. IF YOU MOVE...** If you have lived in your new home more than 30 days, you have the right to vote in your current precinct. If you have lived there less than 30 days, you should vote in your old precinct or cast a provisional ballot in your current precinct. If you have moved within your precinct, you have the right to update your information at the polls and vote.

**5. NAME CHANGE...** If your name has changed, you have the right to vote, even if you have not reported your name change to election officials.

**6. SPOILED BALLOT...** If you make a mistake and "spoil" your ballot, you have a right to a new ballot.

**7. ASSISTANCE...** You have the right to assistance from a family member or, if you have a disability, from any person of your choice, except your employer or union agent. You can also receive ballot instructions in Spanish.

**8. CURBSIDE...** If the polling place is inaccessible to you due to a disability, you have a right to vote at the curb, in the vehicle you came in, or at the door of the polling place. (See "**For Voters with Disabilities**" below.)

**9. EX-FELONS & MISDEMEANANTS...** You have a right to vote if you are in jail for a misdemeanor or if you are an ex-felon who has completed your sentence (including probation) and re-registered to vote.

**10. INTIMIDATION...** You have a right to vote without being intimidated or forced to vote for anyone you don't wish to vote for.

**You also have the right to take this Bill of Rights into the voting booth with you as well as a copy of this Voter Guide.**



## For Voters with Disabilities:

Sometimes access to your regular polling place can be difficult. If so, you may want to use Early Voting instead, since all Early Voting sites must be completely accessible. But if you prefer to vote on Election Day, you can vote from the curb without leaving your car. Polling places have a special spot for curbside voting near the front entrance. Simply pull up and wait and a poll worker will come out to assist you. (Usually, voters entering the polls will alert poll workers that a car is waiting.) Before you go to vote, you may also want to check the accessibility of the polling place by calling the Hoke County Board of Elections at 910-875-8751, Ext. 1550 or the State Board of Elections at 866-522-4723. You have the right to request another permanent polling place before

the election if yours is inaccessible. And remember that if you go to your polling place and find it is inaccessible, you can vote at any other polling place in the county by asking for a Provisional Ballot.

**For more information on disability rights in NC, call Disability Rights North Carolina at 877-235-4210 (voice) or 888-268-5535 (TTY) or visit [www.disabilityrightsn.org](http://www.disabilityrightsn.org).**

# Democracy North Carolina

## We Hope You Enjoy Our Voter Guide

For more than a decade, Democracy North Carolina has combined innovative research and grassroots organizing to improve the vitality of democracy in our state. On behalf of the people of North Carolina, our staff and volunteers have fought for and won many improvements to our electoral system, government ethics and the way public policy is decided.

We have helped to **pass legislation** that limits special interest influence over elections and public policies, **implement innovative public campaign financing programs** that have brought North Carolina national acclaim, **coordinate local coalitions** that educate and mobilize voters, expose corruption in public office, **train new generations of leaders** for our state, **track the connections** between big money donations and tax breaks or special favors, **advocate for Early Voting** as well as Same-Day Registration, **protect voter rights**, **educate citizens** on their rights as constituents, **bring reforms working elsewhere to our state** and **partner with civic organizations** that represent NC voters of many different backgrounds and political affiliations.

**Hoke County is an important area for Democracy North Carolina.** We are proud to be active in the greater Raeford area, empowering new civic leaders, organizing local activists and helping the people of Hoke County define and advocate for their government priorities.

## Thanks to Our Volunteers!

This voter guide was prepared with the help of many volunteers. Special thanks to Annette, Bessie, Betty, Beverly, Jan, Janet Z., Jim, Luci, Mabel, Margot, Mary, Reginald, Rosa, Tana and, most of all, Marla, Felicia and Nate.

# Support Voter-Owned Elections!

**Do you ever feel like politicians only pay attention to you at election time? That once they have your vote, they listen to what their big campaign donors want instead of what you want?**

At Democracy North Carolina, we are concerned about the growing power that money in politics has over who gets elected and what our public policies are. The cost of running for office has skyrocketed, closing the door to public service to many people who would be wonderful public servants but who lack access to wealth. Corporations can now donate endless amounts of money to political action committees, fueling attack ads and determining who wins elections. Public policies are being shaped and sometimes even written by special interests as we saw in the debates to reform healthcare, Wall Street and education, when lobbyists deeply influenced the new laws passed.

**It is time to change the system.** We must stop the interference of special interest money in our government before it is too late. We must change the way our

elections are financed so leaders who truly represent the people can win.

**BeHEARD**   
Support voter-owned elections.

## What We Do

Democracy North Carolina's activities include:

- ◆ **Research:** No other group in NC has done more to document the corrosive effect of special interest money, as well as identify practical solutions that increase voting and empower ordinary people.
- ◆ **Organizing:** Our organizers lead civic coalitions in cities like Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greenville and Fayetteville. Statewide, we have thousands of dedicated volunteers willing to speak up publicly or educate their peers and elected leaders about electoral reform issues.
- ◆ **Leadership Training:** North Carolina's future depends on our ability to inspire new leaders. That's why we target younger voters, conduct leadership training for our partners and educate North Carolinians on civic responsibility and advocacy. Each year, Democracy NC sponsors a training program for outstanding college students called Democracy Summer. The program has graduated more than 100 young leaders since its inception.

**To volunteer with Democracy North Carolina or order copies of this guide, please call 919-286-6000. To follow our activities:**

- ◆ **Join us on the web at [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org)** where you can sign up for our newsfeeds and receive updates automatically.
- ◆ **Join us on Facebook!** We're listed as Democracy North Carolina.



If you, too, are concerned about the growing role that access to money plays in our political system, join us in fighting for Voter-Owned Elections. Voter-Owned Elections allow people to run for office without accepting big donations. Candidates can qualify for public campaign funds and have an equal chance at holding office and an equal voice in government. Voter-Owned Elections work. They have already been used with success right here at home in North Carolina for statewide judge and Council of State races, gaining our state national recognition for innovation and a willingness to fight for democracy.

**Learn more about Voter-Owned Elections at [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org). Help us fight for the right of the people to be heard and to be recognized by their own government.**

## Democracy North Carolina

1821 Green Street • Durham, NC 27705  
919.286-6000 • [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org)

*Democracy North Carolina is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes a government truly of the people, by the people and for the people of North Carolina. We protect and educate the public on voting and constituent rights, advocate for legislation that eliminates barriers to running for office and work to reduce the corrosive effect of big money in politics. A belief in equality plus a respect for the civil rights of all citizens underpins our work.*