

2010 Voter Guide

NORTH CAROLINA



Your Vote Matters More Than Ever This Year!

Did you know that in a recent election year, 25 races in North Carolina were decided by a margin of less than THREE votes? Your vote can really make a difference in local elections, like the ones being held all across North Carolina this year! Plus your vote in 2010 will decide how your community deals with important issues like taxes, better public schools, small business regulation and more. It will also determine who represents NC in Washington, D.C. where the fate of healthcare reform, financial industry oversight and more will be decided in the coming year. **Vote and weigh in on decisions that affect your life — and tell all of your friends and family members to vote, too!**



Vote Early From Oct. 14 to Oct. 30

There are One-Stop Early Voting locations in all counties. Call your local Board of Elections or visit the state BOE at www.ncsbe.gov for more information on Early Voting sites in your area, your polling place for Nov. 2 and to view sample ballots. You can also call us at (919) 286-6000.

This many voters can easily decide a local election in North Carolina.

VOTE!



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 your 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 3).

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 your local Board of Elections; 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 when it arrives.

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 your local Board of Elections 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 10 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 community... 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 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 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.unctv.org/election (UNC TV Elections 2010)

For basic voting and election information, visit:

- www.ncsbe.gov (State Board of Elections)
- www.democracy-nc.org
- www.ncpolicywatch.com
- 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 the School Board members.
3. **A special section** for a judge race in which Instant Run-Off Voting is being used. See Page 15 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.

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. 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 for details.

? Got more voting questions?
Call the North Carolina
State Board of Elections at
(866) 522-4723.

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 details below.

By the way, if you are a high school student, you can register now to vote in future elections so long as you are 16 years old or up. 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 2).

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. See Page 11 for details.

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.

Do you 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 NC Board of Elections at (866) 522-4723 for details or visit www.overseasvotefoundation.org.

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

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

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

Follow the Money...



According to 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 20 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

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 preside over North Carolina's courtrooms. Judges run for office without party labels, on a nonpartisan basis.

NC Supreme Court and the NC Court of Appeals

The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are the highest courts in the state. They are called Appellate Courts because they review cases that were first tried in lower courts and have been appealed to these higher courts. Specifically, they review court cases in which one of the parties is appealing a decision of the judge or jury in a lower court trial. These higher court judges then either affirm or reverse the lower court decision.

NC Supreme Court justices serve 8-year terms. You will vote on only one NC Supreme Court race this year.

The NC Court of Appeals decides questions of law in cases appealed from North Carolina's Superior and District Court, except for death penalty cases. This means that the decisions these judges make can shape the level of justice our state delivers in everything from minor cases to murder cases. The 15 members of the NC Court of Appeals sit in rotating groups of three and hear thousands of cases a year. This year, you are being asked to decide five seats on the NC Court of Appeals, with each judge elected to an 8-year term. Four of the races are described here; the fifth is described on Page 15.

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

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

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

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 J.D. from Campbell University School of Law. She is a Certified Juvenile Court Judge.

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

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

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

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

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

Help Democracy NC Get Out The Vote!

Are you concerned about low voter turn-out? Do you want to reach out to young people, ex-felons or members of your faith community? If so, we'd like to help.

In addition to distributing this voter guide and working with GOTV coalitions in many NC counties, Democracy North Carolina is providing free Early Voting and Same Day Registration hand-outs in 57 counties, offering free brochures on ex-felon and misdemeanor voting rights, and has free college and faith community GOTV guides plus other materials for people who are interested in helping to Get Out The Vote.

If you share our goals, give us a call at (919) 286-6000 to discuss how we can be of help to you.

Instant Runoff Voting: A Special Election

Why are we doing this?

A North Carolina 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 judge, to temporarily fill the vacancy. However, under the NC Constitution, this office must be filled by a special election this November. Judge Thigpen and 12 other candidates filed for this seat (their profiles follow). Since it's too late to hold a primary, this election (and the Superior Court District 12A race) will use what is called the "Instant Runoff Voting" method, which combines the primary and general election together. Voters indicate who they prefer among the candidates at the "instant" they vote, by ranking as many as three candidate choices. This page explains how Instant Runoff Voting works.

What is Instant Runoff Voting?

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 wins 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 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. Just go to the 1st column and fill in the oval beside the name for the person who is your first choice for this seat. Then go to the 2nd column and fill in another oval for your second choice and, finally, go to the 3rd column and fill in the oval next to the name of your third choice candidate.

For touch-screen voters: The ballot design follows the same layout that you see below; you just touch the square by 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

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 1st 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 not in the runoff.

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 19 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.

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



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



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.

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.



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),



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.

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



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

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



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.

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.



Remember: Voting a "Straight Party" ticket does not include the non-partisan races such as 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. Find Judge Thigpen on Facebook.

Is it worth it? Most people think so — using Instant Run-Off Voting in this instance helps us comply with the law AND will save North Carolina millions of dollars that it would cost to hold a primary or run-off 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 the 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 local Board of Elections 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.

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.

Civic engagement is an important part of Democracy North Carolina's mission. We are proud to have been active in many local NC communities for years, empowering new leaders, organizing local activists and helping the people 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.

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** where you can sign up for our newsfeeds and receive updates automatically.
- ◆ **Join us on Facebook!** We're listed as Democracy North Carolina.



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.



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. 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

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.