

# THE PENDULUM

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# 2024 VOTER GUIDE



ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
ELISE WHITAKER

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THE **PENDULUM**

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**ELON NEWS  
NETWORK**

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Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu) as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

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**EDITORIAL POLICY:**

ENN seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

**CORRECTIONS POLICY:**

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact

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# Important Dates

## Oct. 11

Online voter registration closes at 5 p.m.

## Oct. 17

Early voting begins

## Oct. 29

Deadline to request an absentee mail in ballot

## Nov. 2

Early voting ends at 3 p.m.

## Nov. 5

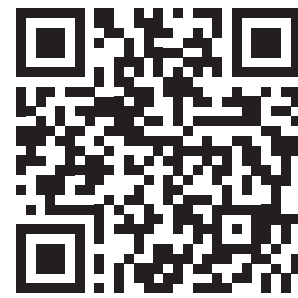
Election Day, polls are open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Absentee mail-in ballots must be received by this day

# Voter ID

People voting will need a form of photo identification to vote early or on Election Day. An Elon Phoenix Voter Card, which can be requested in the Phoenix Card office, a North Carolina driver's license, U.S. passport, state identification card or driver's license are acceptable forms of ID.

# More information

For more information or to check voter registration visit the Alamance County Board of Elections



For assistance voting or registering visit the Elon Votes office in Moseley Center 105 I



# ELECTION CENTER

Visit our website for full candidate profiles, election videos and election event coverage throughout the rest of election season.

[ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM/ELECTION2024](http://ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM/ELECTION2024)

### CORRECTIONS

There are no corrections from the last edition of The Pendulum.

# Voting Locations

Alamance County is split into two voting districts, 63 and 64. Elon University and the town of Elon is in 63. Each registered voter is assigned a location, visit Alamance County Board of Elections for specifics. For District 64 voting locations visit our website.

Alamance Civitan Club House  
Elon Elementary School  
Trinity Worship Center  
First Baptist Church of Elon  
Twin Lakes Center  
Smith Elementary School  
St. Mark's Community Church  
Beth Schmidt Park Comm. Center

St. Luke's Community Church  
Lakeview Community Church  
Pleasant Grove Elementary School  
Hillcrest Elementary School  
Elmira Community Center  
Baptist Temple  
Mayco Bigelow Center

# Position Descriptions

## President | pg. 9

The President is the head of state and head of government of the U.S., as well as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The President is responsible for the execution and enforcement of the laws created by Congress. Presidents can serve up to two four-year terms.

## North Carolina House of Representatives | pg. 12

Those who serve on the North Carolina House of Representatives serve two-year terms and are not subject to term limits. North Carolina legislators assume office Jan. 1 the year after the election. Representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

## District 17 Court Judge | pg. 15

District courts hear civil, criminal, juvenile and magistrate cases. North Carolina is divided into 41 district courts across the state. The district court judge manages the courts administrative duties.

## State Commissioner of Labor | pg. 17

The commissioner of labor is the head of the North Carolina Department of Labor and a member of the Council of State. The department provides education and training, as well as administers regulatory mandates related to labor. This is a statewide vote and the commissioner serves for four years.

## State Auditor | pg. 18

The North Carolina General Statutes gives the auditor broad powers to examine all books, records, files, papers, documents and financial affairs of every state agency. The auditor also has the power to summon people to produce records and to answer questions under oath.

## State Court of Appeals Judge | pg. 19

The North Carolina Court of Appeals is the state's intermediate appellate court. Most cases that are appealed from superior and district courts are heard by the Court of Appeals. Judges hear cases in panels of three, and if one member of the panel disagrees with the majority decision, there is a right of appeal to the state Supreme Court. Judges serve eight-year terms.

## State Governor | pg. 10

The governor heads the government's executive branch in each state or territory. The North Carolina governor has power of appointment of executive branch officials, certain judges, members of boards and commissions and the power to grant pardons and veto legislation.

## ABSS School Board | pg. 13

The Alamance-Burlington Board of Education governs the Alamance Burlington School System and is made up of seven members. The school board sets policy for the school system and the direction of the school system through planning. The board also sets an annual budget made up of local, state and federal funds.

## State Attorney General | pg. 16

The attorney general provides legal opinions to the general assembly, the governor or any other public official when needed. They also consult and advise judges, district attorneys, magistrates, municipal and county attorneys.

## State Treasurer | pg. 17

The treasurer is the state's chief financial officer, official banker and a member of the Council of State. The treasurer's office manages the state's pension and healthcare plans, investments and unclaimed property, and provides financial support to local governments.

## State Commissioner of Agriculture | pg. 18

The commissioner of labor is the head of the North Carolina Department of Labor and a member of the Council of State. The department provides education and training, as well as administers regulatory mandates related to labor. This is a statewide vote and the commissioner serves for four years.

## State Senate District 25 | pg. 11

North Carolina's 25th Senate district is one of 50 districts in the North Carolina State Senate. The state senate is the legislative branch of the state government and works alongside the governor to create law and establish a state budget.

## Alamance County Board of Commissioners | pg. 14

The board's duties include adoption of the annual budget, establishment of the tax rate, appointment of the country manager as chief administrator, establishing and enacting local ordinances and appointment of representatives to boards and commissions.

## State Lieutenant Governor | pg. 16

The North Carolina lieutenant governor has several statutory duties. These include serving as state senate president, and leading on education, energy, military affairs and domestic violence.

## State Secretary of State | pg. 17

The secretary of state is in charge of administrative services such as business registration, notary services, securities regulations, lobbying regulations and state publications. This person helps to ensure businesses, nonprofits and governmental activities are transparent, regulated property and publicly accessible.

## State Commissioner of Insurance | pg. 18

The State Commissioner of Insurance is the head of the North Carolina Department of Insurance. They serve as a member of the Council of State, and is also the state fire marshal. Among its duties, the Department of Insurance regulates the insurance industry, handles insurance-related complaints and licenses insurance agents.

## U.S. House of Representatives | pg. 11

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are elected to a two-year term and serve the people of a specific congressional district by introducing bills and serving on committees.

## Register of Deeds | pg. 14

The Register of Deeds is a custodian and manager of public records who accounts for documents such as marriage certificates, birth and death certificates, and lists of notaries. According to North Carolina law, no one in the Register of Deeds office can practice law.

## Alamance County Soil and Water Supervisor | pg. 16

The district board of supervisors is made up of three elected board members and two appointed board members who provide direction to protect and improve natural resources. The Board of Supervisors meets to establish local soil and water conservation priorities based on the needs of the county.

## NC Superintendent of Public Instruction | pg. 17

The North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for overseeing the state public school system. The superintendent works to improve educational outcomes for students, supports local school districts and serves as a key advocate for education in the state. The superintendent is a member of the council of state and a member of the State Board of Education.

## State Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 6 | pg. 19

A North Carolina Supreme Court Justice is a member of the state's highest court, which is responsible for deciding cases appealed from lower courts. The Supreme Court's justices are elected in non-partisan statewide races and serve eight-year terms. The court consists of one Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. This is the highest state court and often upholds state-wide laws.

# ALAMANCE COUNTY BALLOT OVERVIEW

Alamance County, North Carolina	November 5, 2024	Ballot Style B0002
<b>NC District Court Judge District 17 Seat 4</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<b>Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor</b> (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="radio"/> Kathryn Whitaker (Katie) Overby Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/> David Michael Spruill	
<b>NC District Court Judge District 17 Seat 5</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Andrew Carroll	
<input type="radio"/> Meredith Tuck Edwards Republican Party	----- Write in	
<input type="radio"/> Natalie R. Jones Democratic Party	<b>REFERENDA</b>	
<b>NC District Court Judge District 17 Seat 1</b> Unexpired term ending 2027 (You may vote for ONE)	<b>Constitutional Amendment</b>	
<input type="radio"/> R. Bryan Norris, Jr. Democratic Party	Constitutional amendment to provide that only a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age and otherwise possessing the qualifications for voting shall be entitled to vote at any election in this State.	
<input type="radio"/> Bryan Ray Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> For	
<b>Alamance County Board of Commissioners</b> (You may vote for THREE)	<input type="radio"/> Against	
<b>End of Ballot</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Carissa Graves Democratic Party		
<input type="radio"/> John Paisley, Jr. Republican Party		
<input type="radio"/> Anthony Pierce Democratic Party		
<input type="radio"/> Ed Priola Republican Party		
<input type="radio"/> Chris Smith Democratic Party		
<input type="radio"/> Pamela Tyler Thompson Republican Party		
<b>Alamance County Register of Deeds</b> (You may vote for ONE)		
<input type="radio"/> David Barber Republican Party		
<b>NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS</b>		
<b>Alamance-Burlington Board of Education</b> (You may vote for FOUR)		
<input type="radio"/> Sandy Ellington-Graves		
<input type="radio"/> Tameka Harvey		
<input type="radio"/> Peter Morcombe		
<input type="radio"/> Tara Raggett		
<input type="radio"/> Seneca Rogers		
<input type="radio"/> Corrie Shepherd		
<input type="radio"/> Avery Wagoner		
<input type="radio"/> Donna Davis Westbrooks		
----- Write in		

DESIGN BY ABIGAIL HOBBS, LILLY MOLINA

FIND YOUR  
SAMPLE BALLOT



The sample ballot for Alamance County's District 63 can be found on the Alamance County's Board of Elections website. Sample ballots are listed on its homepage under "2024 General Presidential Election." For people voting on campus or in the town of Elon, B0002 Notice lists the 15 polling locations on Election Day for people with this ballot.

Candidates and their respective parties can be found on the sample ballot. Voters can pick one candidate per race to vote for, except for board of commissioners and board of education, where voters can pick three and four candidates, respectively. There are 28 races on the ballot this November.

**Sample Ballot**  
Alamance County, North Carolina  
November 5, 2024

**B0002**

**BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS**

A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.

B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line.

C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

PARTISAN ELECTIONS	NC Attorney General (You may vote for ONE)	NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 6 (You may vote for ONE)
<b>President and Vice President of the United States</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Jeff Jackson Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Dan Bishop Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> Jefferson G. Griffin Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Allison Riggs Democratic Party
<input type="radio"/> Kamala D. Harris Tim Walz Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Chase Oliver Mike ter Maat Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/> Jill Stein Rudolph Ware Green Party <input type="radio"/> Randall Terry Stephen E. Broden Constitution Party <input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump JD Vance Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Cornel West Melina Abdullah Justice for All Party  ----- Write in	<b>NC Auditor</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<b>NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 12</b> (You may vote for ONE)
<b>US House of Representatives District 9</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Bob Drach Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/> Jessica Holmes Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Dave Boliek Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> Tom Murry Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Carolyn Jennings Thompson Democratic Party
<input type="radio"/> Shelane Etchison Unaffiliated <input type="radio"/> Richard Hudson Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Nigel William Bristow Democratic Party	<b>NC Commissioner of Agriculture</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<b>NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 14</b> (You may vote for ONE)
<b>NC Governor</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Sean Haugh Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/> Sarah Taber Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Steve Troxler Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> Ed Eldred Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Valerie Zachary Democratic Party
<input type="radio"/> Mark Robinson Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Mike Ross Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/> Vinny Smith Constitution Party <input type="radio"/> Josh Stein Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Wayne Turner Green Party	<b>NC Commissioner of Insurance</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<b>NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 15</b> (You may vote for ONE)
<b>NC Lieutenant Governor</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Natasha Marcus Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Mike Causey Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> Chris Freeman Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Martin E. Moore Democratic Party
<input type="radio"/> Rachel Hunt Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Wayne Jones Constitution Party <input type="radio"/> Hal Weatherman Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Shannon W. Bray Libertarian Party	<b>NC Commissioner of Labor</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<b>NC State Senate District 25</b> (You may vote for ONE)
	<input type="radio"/> Luke Farley Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Braxton Winston II Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/> Amy Scott Galey Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Donna Vanhook Democratic Party
	<b>NC Secretary of State</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<b>NC House of Representatives District 63</b> (You may vote for ONE)
	<input type="radio"/> Elaine Marshall Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Chad Brown Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> Stephen Ross Republican Party <input type="radio"/> Robin Wintringham Democratic Party
	<b>NC Superintendent of Public Instruction</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; font-size: 8px;">Alamance County encompasses North Carolina House Districts 63 and 64. Depending on your address, your ballot may have District 63 listed instead. District 64 candidates will appear in order, Dennis Riddell of the Republican Party and LeVon Barnes of the Democratic Party. You may vote for one. Elon University falls under District 63.</div>
	<input type="radio"/> Maurice (Mo) Green Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Michele Morrow Republican Party	<b>NC District Court Judge District 17 Seat 2</b> (You may vote for ONE)
	<b>NC Treasurer</b> (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Larry Brown Jr. Democratic Party
	<input type="radio"/> Wesley Harris Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Brad Briner Republican Party	<b>NC District Court Judge District 17 Seat 3</b> (You may vote for ONE)
		<input type="radio"/> Doug Green Democratic Party <input type="radio"/> Craig Turner Republican Party
		<b>CONTINUE VOTING NEXT SIDE</b> →

# Campus political engagement surges as Elon Votes mobilizes students



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon Votes coordinator and junior Lindsay Bialecki, right, helps junior Elina Shah register to vote during a voter registration drive Oct. 8.

Students adjust voter registration for biggest impact: North Carolina considered swing state

**Cassie Weymouth**  
Elon News Network

Senior Lydia Cohen recently changed her voter registration from New Jersey to North Carolina. Cohen, who is planning on voting for Democratic candidates, felt it made more sense to vote in North Carolina.

“New Jersey is a consistently blue state, so I felt like my vote would have a bigger impact in North Carolina specifically,” Cohen said. “I’ve wanted to switch my registration since freshman year, and then especially this year, was my big motivating factor of, like, ‘OK, I have to do it.’”

Lindsay Bialecki, a coordinator for Elon Votes, has seen this in registrations.

“We’ve definitely seen an uptick in registering in North Carolina, specifically when different articles come out about how important this state is and how close this race is going to be,” Bialecki said. “It’s

been exciting, the amount of students who are getting involved in the community that they live in.”

“

IT’S BEEN EXCITING, THE AMOUNT OF STUDENTS WHO ARE GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THEY LIVE IN.

**LINDSAY BIALECKI**  
ELON JUNIOR

According to Bob Frigo, assistant dean of campus life and director of the Kernodle Center for Civic Life, in the 2020 election, almost 90% of Elon students were registered to vote and 74% cast their ballots. In the 2016 election, almost 79% of Elon students were registered and 49% cast their ballots.

“I can tell you that student energy was extremely low last spring,” Frigo said. “However, the series of events that has taken place over the past few months — including debates, additions of vice-presidential running mates, assassination attempts and the addition of Harris to the top of the Democratic ticket — has significantly increased student enthusiasm coming into this fall. The overwhelming student turnout at this month’s debate watch event in the Moseley Center was a reflection of that.”

Cohen said voting is essential, particularly in a battleground state like North Carolina to her.

“I feel like there’s a lot on the line and with two candidates that are so vastly different,” Cohen said. “I think it’s really scary to think about the person that I am not siding with as much being back in the presidential seat. And I feel like it’s really powerful to be able to vote, and being in a place where it feels like your vote really does matter is really cool, and I want to be part of that.”

Frigo also spoke on how he’s seen an uptick of student involvement in politics

due to North Carolina’s swing state status.

“With North Carolina being a swing state, we are seeing many opportunities for individuals in our state to attend candidate rallies and be involved in the democratic process,” Frigo said. “I know a number of students who have attended events with candidates and are actively involved with their political parties. All of this is a good thing for students who may be voting for the first time.”

North Carolina is considered a swing state in the 2024 election, Trump won North Carolina by just 1.3% in 2020, and could be crucial to either campaign.

“

IT’S REALLY POWERFUL TO BE ABLE TO VOTE.

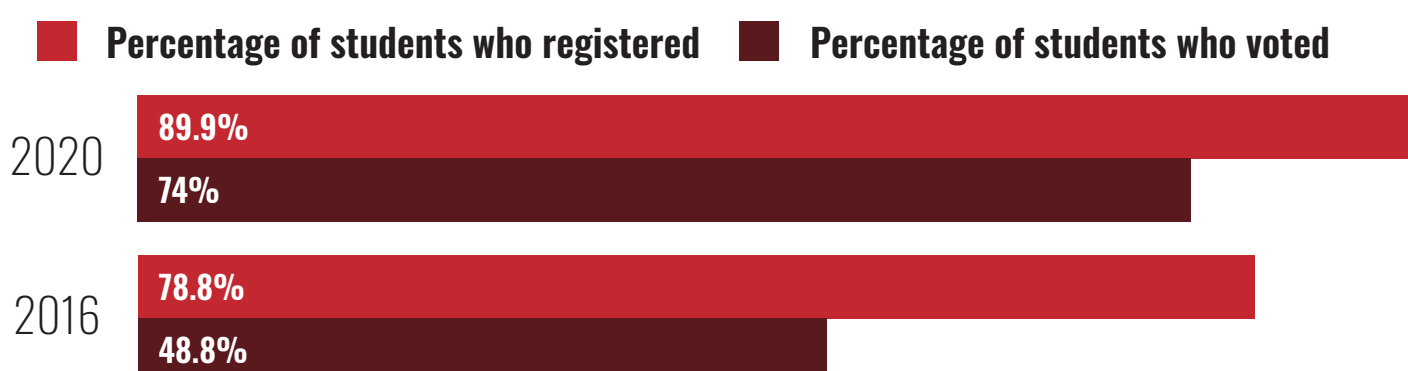
**LYDIA COHEN**  
ELON SENIOR

Students can visit the Kernodle Center for Civic Life located in the Moseley Center in room 232 for assistance with their voter registration and absentee ballots forms. Out of state students are also able to vote in North Carolina if they choose.

Stress over the upcoming election is also not uncommon, Bialecki said she has seen this in Elon Votes members and other students.

“A lot of these policy topics can be very personal, but also hard to understand, and so being overwhelmed, frustrated, scared, those are all very normal emotions that I’m sure a lot of your fellow students are going through, and the people at Elon Votes,” Bialecki said. “Take the second to recognize you are not in this alone. We are here for you as a campus community.”

## Elon Student Registration History



DATA VISUALIZATION BY NEIL PARMAR

Data from Bob Frigo, director of the Kernodle Center for Civic Life. The number of students registered to vote and who voted increased from 2016 to 2020.

# Freshman finds passion in local politics, community engagement



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Micah Ash McFadden on Oct. 7 sits at the Democratic Headquarters office in Burlington. Ash McFadden serves as the third vice-chair of the Alameda County Democratic Party.

Micah Ash McFadden serves as 3rd vice chair of Alameda County Democrats

Sarah T. Moore  
Elon News Network

When he was 13, Elon freshman Micah Ash McFadden found himself in front of the Green Level's town council delivering a speech on "stayers" and "leavers." Ash McFadden defines "stayers" as people who grew up in a town such as Green Level — 10 miles from Elon University — and decide to, well, stay. They stay to build their families, their lives, their careers. Their hometown is still home. "Leavers," Ash McFadden said, are fixated on the idea of "getting out."

"For me then, it was important to bring to their attention," Ash McFadden said. "If they don't give young people — young voters — the attention that they deserve, we might end up with a community filled with leavers."

Ash McFadden said he sees this throughout Alameda County. He said he believes if more

politicians listened and responded to the needs of young people, more people would want to stay.

"There's a perception amongst young people that you can't thrive and can't be yourself in rural communities like here," Ash McFadden said. "Over the past couple of decades, the county's experienced a lot of change and a lot of evolution, and maybe where that may have been the case before, it doesn't necessarily have to be in the future."

The speech was only the beginning of Ash McFadden's political engagement. In 2021, he interned with the town of Green Level. Next, he managed Patricia Jones' 2021 Green Level town council campaign. Then he was a community organizer for Ricky Hurtado's North Carolina state house reelection campaign in 2022. Ash McFadden said he's spent hundreds of hours canvassing across different corners of the county.

"We cared so much about our community," Ash McFadden said. "It was really hard for a lot of people, especially for people like me that had been out in the sun and cold working for him over that year, so it was very sad to see him lose his reelection."

This election season, Ash McFadden's been running Bryan Norris' campaign for Alameda County District Court judge. Ash McFadden also serves as third vice-chair of the Alameda County Democratic Party. He said he got the offer on his 18th birthday after Seneca Rogers, the previous third vice-chair, began to focus on his board of education campaign.

"The underlying drive for the activism that I've done has been making the world more habitable for people who have less than me," Ash McFadden said. "What can I do to use my privilege and my skills to make the world a better place for everyone else to live? Local politics is really where a lot of that happens. Totally matters who the president is. Totally matters who is in state government. But, people who decide which schools get funded or which roads get paved, that's your local government."

In high school, Ash McFadden participated in Elon University's Freedom Scholars, a civic-engagement initiative for seniors in the Alameda-Burlington School System. Ash McFadden, a "stayer" himself, now attends Elon with plans to study political science.

Entering the Elon "bubble" from the wider community, Ash McFadden said he was met with political apathy from many students.

"The students here, they don't come from the same backgrounds of the people that live here," Ash McFadden said.

Out-of-state students make up 79% of Ash McFadden's peers in the class of 2028. Elon is also ranked 345th out of 433 in social mobility — how well schools graduate economically disadvantaged students — by the U.S. News and World Report.

Ash McFadden, who is originally from Virginia Beach, Virginia, said he wasn't particularly engaged with politics before he moved to Alameda County either.

When he first moved here, Ash McFadden said it was staggering to see how "blatant" economic and racial inequality was in the county. The shock served as the call-to-action that led him to speak to the Green Level town council when he was 13.

"The things that we do really can make an impact on the world that we live in, and it can be made better," Ash McFadden said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICAH ASH MCFADDEN

Left, freshman Micah Ash McFadden poses with former state Rep. Ricky Hurtado. Middle, Ash McFadden takes a photo with the Chair of Alameda County Senior Democrats Peter Schay. Right, Ash McFadden poses with state Rep. Allen Buansi.

# 2024 election candidates utilize digital advertising to reach first-time voters

Insider Intelligence reports digital advertising spending will increase 156% from 2020 elections

**Nia Bedard**  
Elon News Network

Forty-one million members of Generation Z will be voting in the 2024 election, including 8.3 million new eligible voters since the 2022 midterm election, according to Tufts University.

With this influx of new voters, candidates are now allocating large amounts of money into digital advertising to reach Gen Z voters using social media. It was predicted that digital advertising for the 2024 presidential election would increase 156% compared to the 2020 presidential election, making the total spending \$3.46 billion, according to a report released by Insider Intelligence.

Politicians have to start utilizing digital advertising, Michele Lashley, professor of strategic communications, said.

"They can't afford not to do it," Lashley said. "Young voters are getting the majority of their news, it's not on broadcast television, it's on social media. You have to advertise where your audience already is."

Aside from reaching younger voters, digital advertising is less expensive than traditional advertising, Lashley said. But, she said digital advertising still has issues.

"There's so much being thrown at people that the campaign ads are also competing against everything else that is filling up our social media feeds," Lashley said. "It's not like you can just throw an ad on social media and

think that it's going to get attention."

In addition to the competitiveness of digital advertising, social media algorithms play a large role in what content you see on social media. Junior Lily Nordheimer said she likes how candidates are using social media to connect with young voters.

"Obviously they didn't grow up with it," Nordheimer said. "This is the best way to reach out to the younger generations who are new to voting, so I think it's really smart."

Lashley said she thinks candidates using social media allows for them to connect with their electorate on a human level rather than broadcast advertising.

These politician content channels shift the focus of the advertisements to the politician and what work they are currently doing, according to Lashley. This is different from traditional advertising, which can promote the candidate, attack their opponent or contrast between the two. Kamala HQ, a content channel created as a part of Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential campaign includes memes about what's happening in politics, statistics about Harris' campaign and statements from other politicians who are in favor of Harris.

"Content channels like Kamala HQ give candidates a chance to provide their human side," Lashley said. "They can get online and do fun things that make them look more human and tell their stories."

Kamala HQ isn't the only example of politician content channels. North Carolina state representative Democrat Jeff Jackson has 2.2 million followers on TikTok and creates content describing issues currently taking place in American government and the House of Representatives, including government shutdowns, Supreme Court decisions and

most recently Hurricane Helene relief.

Biotech CEO Vivek Ramaswamy, one of the former 2024 Republican presidential candidates, has also been utilizing TikTok as a way to reach younger voters. With 696,600 followers on TikTok, Ramaswamy creates content supporting other candidates, branding himself and talking about his personal life.

"We're in this to reach young people, to energize young people," Ramaswamy said in his first TikTok announcing his campaign for the 2024 presidential election. "You can't play in the game and then not play in the game."

Aside from the humanity that social media can provide for candidates, Lashley said social media and digital advertising can also be used for spreading unintentional branding.

"Whether it's a scandal or leaked video or audio, or if a candidate says something, maybe they shouldn't have," Lashley said. "Then those can be taken out of context, and they can become viral."

Junior Kayla Berkoff said she thinks social media is a better platform for campaign advertising instead of broadcast advertising.

"Those commercials where they just try to take jobs at each other is so pointless and so annoying to have to rewatch them over and over and over," Berkoff said. "Social

media is so big now especially with Gen Z. This is their first election and that's how they can get a hold of them and get information out."

Despite the amount of money the Harris and Trump campaigns are spending on digital advertising for social media platforms, Lashley said she thinks traditional advertising will never go away completely.

"As long as there are potential voters who are using traditional media, like broadcast television, newspapers, talk radio, I think that campaigns will see a need to continue putting money toward ads on those platforms," Lashley said.

However, Lashley said she does see a future election where the same amount of money is being spent on digital advertising than traditional advertising.

"I think that we're going to be moving more and more to digital formats, but I don't think we're there yet, maybe in three cycles," Lashley said. "I think that maybe it equals out where there's an equal amount of resources being put toward traditional advertising with traditional media, and equal amount being put into digital media."



DESIGN BY LILLY MOLINA

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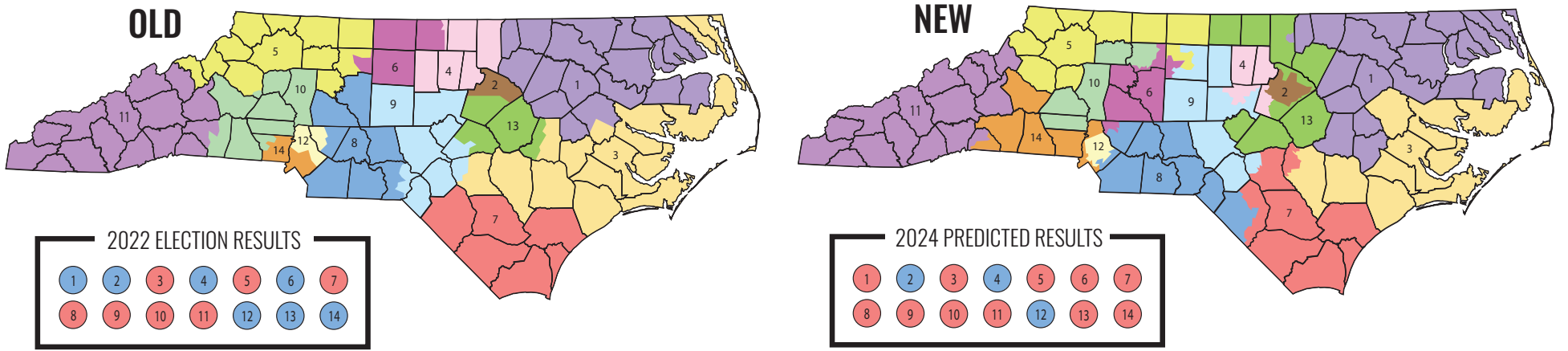






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# State voting maps to potentially affect election



VISUALIZATION BY ERIN MARTIN

A visual comparison between the 2024 congressional district map and its 2022 counterpart. The 2024 map is likely to grant Republicans a majority in North Carolina's congressional delegation. Election results and predicted results from Common Cause North Carolina.

## Redrawn legislative maps may allow for a Republican-majority representation in U.S. House

**Madison Powers**  
Elon News Network

North Carolina congressional maps may allow for as much as a 10-4 or 11-3 Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives as opposed to the current 7-7 split, according to Dillan Bono-Lunn, professor of political science and public policy and faculty fellow for civic engagement.

Bono-Lunn said gerrymandering, which is a term that describes how voting districts are drawn, has been done for years by both Republicans and Democrats.

"The connotation is that the districts are being drawn in a way to preference one party over another," Bono-Lunn said. "There are more and less acceptable forms of gerrymandering. There's sort of an understanding that whichever party is in control, will likely draw the districts in a way that's going to preference them."

As of Oct. 5, there were 2,418,633 registered Democrat voters, 2,298,019 registered Republicans and 2,912,447 unaffiliated voters, according to the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

However, Bono-Lunn said because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, there are strict rules against drawing district lines around race and ethnicity.

She said because of the Supreme Court Case *Shelby County v. Harper*, which was decided in 2013, North Carolina and other southern states no longer have to get their voting maps approved by the courts.

"Since then, there's been this back and forth of boundaries have been drawn, and they've been then challenged in the courts, including in the Supreme Court," Bono-Lunn said.

The North Carolina congressional maps, which were approved by the North Carolina

General Assembly on Oct. 25, 2023, were challenged in the courts on grounds of racial gerrymandering, which is illegal because of the 1993 SCOTUS case *Shaw v. Reno* and the Fourteenth Amendment. In March, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected an emergency challenge to the legislative maps. In June, three North Carolina Superior Court judges granted defendants' motion to dismiss a racial gerrymandering case since it was partisan, and thus "non-justiciable." According to Bono-Lunn, two more racial gerrymandering cases will be dealt with in February.



THE MAPS AREN'T EVERYTHING. IT REALLY DEPENDS ON HOW MANY FOLKS TURN OUT TO VOTE. THAT WILL ULTIMATELY DETERMINE WHICH CANDIDATES WIN OFFICE, AND THAT'S HOW WE NORMALLY THINK ABOUT HOW CONSEQUENTIAL THESE VOTING MAPS ARE, IS HOW IT AFFECTS WHO'S REPRESENTING US AT THE STATE OR THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

**DILLAN BONO-LUNN**  
POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

Normally, redistricting happens every 10 years, after the U.S. decennial census. These

versions of the maps were the third drawn in three years.

While Gov. Roy Cooper is a Democrat, Republicans have a supermajority in the North Carolina General Assembly — which Bono-Lunn said means they can override a gubernatorial veto.

She said this breakdown is unlikely to change in this election, where she predicts Democratic candidate Josh Stein will win the governor's seat and Republicans will keep the North Carolina House and Senate.

However, as three maps were redrawn — the North Carolina House and Senate maps and congressional map, which determines the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate — they could have both local and national effects.

"With the new maps, it's almost certain that we're going to continue to have a Republican-controlled General Assembly, but the supermajority may or may not be there," Bono-Lunn said. "That's where it could end up being very consequential, depending on which issues the General Assembly chooses to hear in the next session. Where the new maps might play in as well is at the federal level."

Bono-Lunn said though gerrymandering prioritizes one party over another, redistricting can be important because it allows for minority candidates to get elected.

"It's quite interesting, actually, because there is some degree where that is desirable, because it increases the likelihood that you have candidates of color who get elected," Bono-Lunn said. "It's always had this interesting tension."

Alamance County is divided into two districts — the town of Elon and Elon University are represented by North Carolina House District 63, while southern Alamance County is located in District 64. Bono-Lunn said university students voting here could have an effect on the outcome of local elections.

"That still remains to be seen," Bono-Lunn said. "How many students from Elon are voting locally, as opposed to in their home state or their home district But it could

influence things."

Bono-Lunn said redistricting happens all over the U.S., but North Carolina is unique in its history of disenfranchising Black voters, like many other southern states historically.

"We have another dynamic, because we are a southern state that has this history with the Voting Rights Act and federal involvement in how we draw our districts," Bono-Lunn said. "But gerrymandering happens elsewhere in the United States and is not unique to the Republican Party. Democrats will engage in gerrymandering, too."

She said though the maps may have an effect, voter turnout will decide the election.

"The maps aren't everything," Bono-Lunn said. "It really depends on how many folks turn out to vote. That will ultimately determine which candidates win office, and that's how we normally think about how consequential these voting maps are, is how it affects who's representing us at the state or the federal level."



DESIGN BY ERIN MARTIN

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# Campaigning for President

## Donald Trump

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT SHEALAH CRAIGHEAD

Republican Donald Trump served as the 45th president of the U.S. His main platforms include closing the border, extending tax cuts for workers and ending inflation, according to his website.

As president, Trump implemented tax cuts, particularly corporate income tax, and began funding a border wall for the U.S.-Mexico border. He is also the only U.S. president to have been impeached twice and was acquitted in both cases. Trump ran for reelection in 2020 but lost to President Joe Biden.

“President Trump’s vision for America’s economic revival is lower taxes, bigger paychecks, and more jobs for American workers,” according to his campaign website.

## Kamala Harris

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT LAWRENCE JACKSON

Democrat Kamala Harris, the 49th vice president of the U.S., is the first woman, Black or Asian American person to serve as vice president.

Some of her main platforms include cutting taxes for middle class families, strengthening medicare, supporting abortion rights and changing the country’s immigration system. Her plans for a new immigration system include stronger border security and creating a pathway to citizenship, according to her website. When Harris visited Greensboro in September, she said during the event she would focus on expanding abortion access and decreasing North Carolinians’ cost of living.

“That is my pledge to you,” Harris said during the event. “I will always put country above party.”

## Jill Stein

Green Party



PHOTO CREDIT GAGE SKIDMORE

Green Party candidate Jill Stein previously ran for president in 2012 and 2016. In 2016, Stein typically received about 1% support in national polls, according to Ballotpedia.

Her main platforms are people, planet and peace. She is campaigning on ending discrimination of groups such as women, people of color, immigrants and people in the LGBTQ+ communities. She also is in support of a Green New Deal, which includes investments in green jobs, industries and technology.

## Randall Terry

Constitution Party



PHOTO CREDIT MARC NOZELL

Randall Terry is a member of the Constitution Party but ran in the Democratic Party presidential primaries in 2012. Terry is on the ballot in 13 states, including North Carolina.

He founded Operation Rescue, an anti-abortion organization, which has been known for blocking entrances to abortion clinics.

## Chase Oliver

Libertarian Party



PHOTO CREDIT GAGE SKIDMORE

Libertarian Chase Oliver was born in Nashville, Tennessee, but currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Oliver joined the Libertarian Party in 2010 and previously ran for Congress in Georgia’s 5th District in 2020 and for the U.S. Senate in 2022.

According to his policy platform on his campaign website, he supports easier access to work visas for immigrants, is pro Second Amendment, a staunch anti-war advocate and advocates for the abolition of the Department of Education. He is present on the ballots of 47 states — outnumbering any other third party candidate — and will be a write-in candidate for the remaining three.

## Cornel West

Justice for All Party



PHOTO CREDIT AAS.PRINCETON.EDU

Cornel West is running as a Justice for All Party candidate after previously announcing he was looking to seek the Green Party nomination, and before that he announced his candidacy as a People’s Party candidate. West is the Dietrich Bonhoeffer professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary. Formerly, he was a professor at Harvard University and Princeton University.

His campaign is working to empower poor and working people, according to his website. West will be on the ballot in 15 states.

# North Carolina governor race defined by stark contrast, serious consequences



ENN FILE PHOTOS

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson is running against Attorney General Josh Stein for the upcoming governor election.

## Attorney General Josh Stein runs against Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson in governor election

**Miles Hayford**  
Elon News Network

North Carolina's general election for governor is a battle between contrasts. Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson will face off against Attorney General Josh Stein on Nov. 5, along with Libertarian Mike Ross, Green Party's Wayne Turner and Constitution Party's Vinny Smith. Ross, Smith and Turner are all polling at 3% or less, according to data from Sept. 25 to 29 in a Quinnipiac University poll.

The two main candidates disagree on a number of issues.

One of Josh Stein's main running points is focusing on making sure that the economy works for everyone by lowering costs, raising the minimum wage and cutting taxes for working families. Stein plans to do this through the Working Families Tax Cut that he has proposed.

Stein was not available for an interview but his campaign spokesperson Morgan Hopkins sent a statement to Elon News Network.

"Josh Stein introduced the Working Families Tax Cut to put more money in the pockets of working families, lift children out of poverty, and stimulate local economies," Hopkins wrote. "Specifically, the Working Families Tax Cut would benefit more than 2 million North Carolinians, including 1.2 million children. At 20 percent of the federal credit, it would put \$520 dollars on average back into the pockets of working families and for a family with three children or more, it would credit them up to \$1,486."

Robinson also wants to cut taxes through reforming the Regulatory System, which calls for removing "any regulation in any industry that hinders business and does not provide a meaningful impact on consumer protection." Robinson and his communications team were not available for comment.

Duke University public policy professor Asher Hildebrand said he believes Robinson's experience could help him convince voters that he's the right candidate to improve the economy.

"He does have a history of having been more of an entrepreneur, managing different businesses, being a factory worker, he's done things that Stein hasn't," Hildebrand said.

Both campaigns have prioritized improving education but in vastly different ways. North Carolina is 44th in K-12 public school funding across each state in 2024, according to the Education Data Initiative, and Stein has argued for increased public school funding. According to Hopkins, Stein will aim to raise teacher pay to at least the national average and to provide teachers with a \$300 stipend to help cover the cost of school supplies.

Robinson, on the other hand, has claimed "school systems get better results on less money," when speaking to the East Wake Republican Club in December 2023. Some of Robinson's goals for improving education include increasing teacher pay and advocating for career technical education.

Another key issue that Robinson and Stein have focused on throughout the campaign process is increasing public safety. Robinson has promised to reduce violent crime and protect law enforcement while holding them to a high standard through training. Stein, the state's chief law enforcement officer since 2017, has campaigned on the idea of recruiting "public-spirited" officers that are able to be held accountable while trying to uphold the highest commitment to justice. Stein also plans to focus on cracking down on fentanyl.

There are also a number of issues where the two of them are on two opposite sides of the spectrum. Stein supports student loan forgiveness, where Robinson doesn't. Robinson is in favor of looser gun regulations, as opposed to Stein who advocates for universal background checks and raising the age required to buy an AR-15 rifle. The two are also diametrically opposed on the issues of abortion and climate change.

According to Hopkins, Stein is running to make a safer, stronger North Carolina.

"Josh is running for Governor because he believes in North Carolina's promise — that if you work hard, where you come from should never limit how far you can go," Hopkins wrote. "To deliver on that promise, he is committed to investing in the people of North Carolina and their futures to ensure that our economy works for everyone, our public schools are fully funded, our neighborhoods are safe, and our personal freedoms are protected."

Hildebrand said he believes the differences between Robinson and Stein are unprecedented.

"I'm not sure we've ever had a race in the history of the state where the contrast between the two candidates is starker," Hildebrand said.

Hildebrand said Stein fits very much into the Democratic mold, but Robinson — who

only joined the political scene in the last decade — is a different candidate in many aspects. Part of Robinson's stylistic difference with Stein is his tendency to make controversial remarks. Robinson, who has extreme positions on abortion, gay marriage and other cultural topics, has made past comments that led to much controversy around his campaign. He has made antisemitic remarks, as well as comments degrading women and LGBTQ+ communities. In 2021, he associated gay and transgender people with the word "filth," while also saying that they shouldn't be allowed in public restrooms. Robinson has also supported limits of birth control in the past.



I'M NOT SURE WE'VE EVER HAD A RACE IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE WHERE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES IS STARKER.

**ASHER HILDEBRAND**  
DUKE UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY PROFESSOR

His most recent remarks, however, were revealed in a CNN report released Sept. 19 about alleged comments he made on a pornography's website message board between 2008 and 2012. According to the report, Robinson expressed support for reinstating slavery, disparaged Martin Luther King Jr., referred to himself as a "black NAZI!" and made sexually offensive comments. Robinson denied these comments during an interview with CNN.

Hildebrand said Robinson appealed to voters in the primaries due to his willingness to challenge political correctness, but says that it's looking more like a liability now.

"It's looking more like a liability because it's led him to say a series of very inflammatory and in some cases, outright offensive things," Hildebrand said. "He's kind of turned off enough people through that and there seem to be more people repelled from it by the type of outlandish things that he says."

According to Hildebrand, this has also made Stein's advertisements extremely effective and easy to make since most of Stein's

ads are just replaying controversial comments Robinson made.

Stein hasn't avoided criticism, though. As the state's top lawyer, Stein is typically asked to defend controversial laws passed by the general assembly. However, during his time in office he refused to defend the state against several political lawsuits involving abortion, elections and gerrymandering. He also refused to defend the state's 12 week abortion ban. Stein has received criticism from many North Carolinian politicians including state senate leader Phil Berger.

This election is extremely important for North Carolina, Abdullah Antepli, Duke University public policy professor and Director of Polis: Center for Politics, said.

"This particular election in November is historical because its impact, its potential consequences, its potential gains and loss have been incredibly critical," Antepli said. "It's important because the issues that are being debated and discussed in this particular election and the somewhat contradictory visions of each candidate are so starkly different."

Hildebrand said he sees this election as an extremely important one for the state because of its potential consequences. He said that North Carolina Republicans will almost certainly maintain their majority in the general assembly, even possibly maintaining their super majority in the House of Representatives. A win by Robinson combined with the Republican majority in the North Carolina House would lead to a severe lack of checks and balances, according to Hildebrand.

"The governor is really the only check and balance on the Republicans' governing power in North Carolina," Hildebrand said. "And if you look back at the last few years, you see the period in which Republicans have had a veto proof supermajority, and current governor Roy Cooper has therefore been much less powerful. You could only imagine with a Republican governor, and especially one as extreme as Mark Robinson, just how the legislative agenda would be produced."

Antepli encourages young voters, like college students, to go out and vote in this election to make sure North Carolina is in good hands.

"None of the negative, discouraging futures of this election and the candidates should discourage them," Antepli said. "It should make them more committed and if they feel the system is not allowing the best of North Carolina to rise to power, this is a call for moral action, for them to commit and fix it."

## Campaigning for North Carolina State Senate District 25

### Amy Galey

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT AMYGALEY.COM

North Carolina State Sen. Amy Galey is running for reelection.

Galey was raised in Alamance County and was elected as county commissioner in 2016. She was chair of the board of commissioners from 2017-20. She has served in state senate since 2020.

Galey said she is working to change public school system funding allotment. She said charter schools have proven to be successful because they have more flexibility with their funds, which has not been translated back to public schools.

"The charter school movement was partly premised on the idea that it would be an innovation lab, a way to look at different parts of education in new ways," Galey said. "And they have, and they've shown some great improvements, but those

have not been translated back to traditional public education."

During her tenure, Galey also sponsored the Parent's Bill of Rights — a law that expanded right for North Carolina parents to be notified if their child changes pronouns at school, allows parents to challenge school material and prohibits instruction on "gender identify, sexual activity, or sexuality" for students in kindergarten through fourth grade — which passed in 2023.

The bill has caused controversy over limiting teachers' autonomy in the classroom, which Galey said comes after parents' wishes.

"When we have a choice between the parents knowing what's going on in the classroom, the parents being advised of their rights and having a way to exercise them that is communicated to them, versus teacher autonomy, I'm going to choose the parents and their ability to advocate for their children," Galey said.

Galey also secured funding for the district for the 2021-22 budget, including \$15 million for an emergency services facility in Alamance County, \$15.8 million for water and sewer projects in Burlington and more.

Galey said she works to serve all of her constituents — even those who did not vote for her.

"I represent all the people in my district, no matter whether they voted for me or not, and it's very important to me that the people of my district know that they can contact me if they have a concern or a problem, and they will be listened to," Galey said. "That's why we're here. We're here to help people break through the bureaucracy and make the bureaucracy work for the people that work hard to pay the taxes that support it."

### Donna Vanhook

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT DONNA VANHOOK | FACEBOOK

Donna Vanhook '07 is running for North Carolina State senator for District 25.

Vanhook was elected as a supervisor for Alamance County's soil and water conservation commission in 2022. Prior, she was a law enforcement officer, and she has graduate degrees in theology and nonprofit management, which she said will help her if she were to be elected.

"I do a lot of community work as a community strategist. I'm on the ground a lot, talking to people, knowing what the issues are first hand, and finding ways in order to fund things that we could improve on," Vanhook said. "If there's a gap in services in Alamance County, I'm able to verbalize that with the persons who are providing services, and we try to make ways in which to fund them."

Vanhook said she wants to change the voucher system — a way for families to pay for tuition, transportation and other expenses for private schools.

"There was a constructed and systematic way that funding was being diverted from the public schools, and I think it would continue and get worse, so that many public schools may end up closing," Vanhook said.

Along with doing away with the voucher system, Vanhook said she wants to repeal the Parent's Bill of Rights that State Sen. Amy Galey sponsored in 2023.

"It's infringing upon what schools can be doing, and rather than taking time to make a notification to numerous parents about things that they had not been having to do," Vanhook said.

Vanhook said one of her strengths is understanding the struggles her constituents go through, while other people may not.

"Unfortunately, we have some people who are in the general assembly who have no idea how to relate to persons who may have experienced poverty or may have experienced days when they lost their job and didn't know how they were going to get their next meal," Vanhook said. "There are some people that just cannot relate to that, and they may be ones that are maybe writing bills that are against persons who don't have the resources they need, or lack the access to those resources, well, then I have a problem with that."

Vanhook said she is running based off a passion to help people.

"I am already an elected official, and I could have been good with that. However, I found that I have a passion to do some things that are more efficient and more supportive of young people in public schools as well," Vanhook said. "I have a passion to do that, and I think we need a change in leadership, quite frankly."

## Campaigning for U.S. House of Representatives District 9

### Nigel Bristow

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT NIGELBRISTOWFORCONGRESS.COM

Democrat Nigel Bristow was born and raised in Staten Island, New York, and has served the public throughout his life, from working for the State of North Carolina Department of Adult Correction as a probation officer to working with the New York City Police Department as a detective for 20 years.

Outside of his career, Bristow is currently chairman of the board of directors for New Horizons, an agency that serves domestic violence survivors in Richmond County. He is endorsed by organizations including the Committee to Protect Health Care, Alamance County Democratic Party and Moms Demand Action.

Some issues Bristow is focusing on are affordable healthcare, raising the minimum wage and codifying Roe v. Wade, according to his campaign website.

### Richard Hudson

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT HUDSON.HOUSE.GOV

Richard Hudson is the Republican incumbent representing North Carolina's 9th District, first elected in 2012. He serves as the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, which focuses on electing Republicans to the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his time as representative, Hudson acted as a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, working to cut federal spending and reduce drug prices for seniors. He has been rated the most effective legislator from North Carolina and the 12th most conservative member of the house.

According to his website, he wants to protect the border from opioids and crime, which he is looking to do through supporting law enforcement, securing the border and reinstating border policies.

### Shelane Etchison

Independent



PHOTO CREDIT SHELANE ETCHISON | X

Shelane Etchison served in the U.S. military for 11 years, including a deployment to Iraq with the Army and time with Special Operations programs in the Middle East. She earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School and Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

According to her website, Etchison has an anti-corruption platform, and upholds the Second Amendment and abortion-rights. She also supports securing the border while implementing reform supporting immigrants.

She is committed to "restoring faith in our institutions by fostering transparency, protecting our voting rights, combating partisan gerrymandering and holding our officials accountable for their words and actions," according to the issues section of her website.

# Campaigning for North Carolina House of Representatives

On the ballot this year in the upcoming election, North Carolina residents will vote for the state's house of representatives, who will represent their districts in Raleigh. The North Carolina House of Representatives consists of 120 members and is a part of the legislative branch in North Carolina. The house has a responsibility to introduce new bills, vote on them and then pass

them on to the state senate or vote on bills that have already been approved by the state senate. Some key laws that the state government is in charge of include: specific gun regulations, minimum wage, sales tax and abortion laws.

The Republican Party currently has a supermajority in North Carolina. This means that Republicans take up over half

of the seats in both the house, 69/120, and senate, 30/50. An overrule of a veto made by the governor requires three-fifths of votes from both the House and Senate, a supermajority means that one party has enough to make up three-fifths of the votes.

In a 2024 Harvard Youth poll of Americans aged 18 to 29 some of the top issues included: inflation, housing, gun

violence, reproductive rights and climate change.

Depending on where you live in Alamance County either district 63 or 64 will be on the ballot. Below are the candidates for Districts 63 and 64. Each candidate's profile will highlight their stance on key issues in this election and their campaign platforms.

## Campaigning for District 63

### Stephen Ross

Republican Party

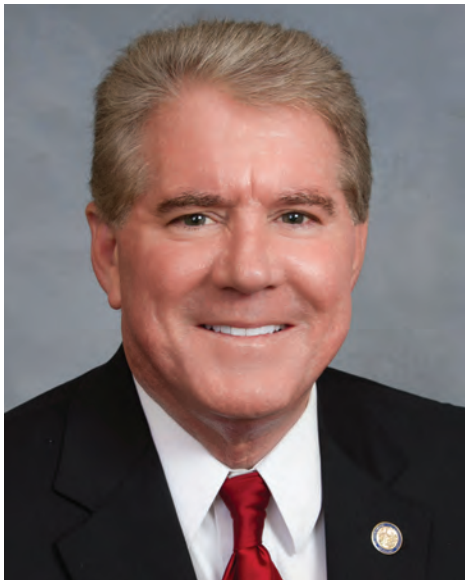


PHOTO CREDIT NCLEG.GOV

Stephen Ross did not respond to Elon News Network's multiple requests for comment.

Ross served as the state house representative for District 63 from 2013 to 2021 then lost the 2020 election and won the 2022 election.

"Steve Ross has always been committed to conservative common sense policy-making which benefits all North Carolinians," according to his website.

Ross served as chairman for three different committees in the 2023-24 session: commerce, finance and house select committee on substance abuse.

He also served on the Pensions and Retirement, State Government and Transportation committees.

Ross is a Burlington native and graduated from Williams High School and Elon University. He also previously served as mayor of Burlington for four terms, Burlington City Council for two terms and served on the Elon Board of Visitors, according to his website.

The last bill he sponsored was NC H942, or the Shalom Act, which amends the state's definition of antisemitism, to include strong critiques of Israel as antisemitic.

Previously, Ross also sponsored legislation to develop human trafficking awareness training.

### Robin Wintringham

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT ROBIN WINTRINGHAM | FACEBOOK

This is Robin Wintringham's first time running for office. She has a long history of involvement within many different non-profits in Alamance County and hopes to bring this experience to Raleigh if elected.

Wintringham has four areas of focus are affordable housing, improving the local school system, women's reproductive rights and raising the minimum wage.

Wintringham has an extensive history working with Habitat for Humanity in Alamance County, working to provide affordable housing. She would like to see additional affordable housing developments start in Alamance County.

"So that they can become homeowners and feel secure in their home and not have to worry every week about where the money is going to come from," Wintringham said.

Wintringham doesn't have a clear stance on gun control in North Carolina, but she said she thinks better mental health counseling in high schools could help reduce school shootings.

Wintringham believes women should have complete bodily autonomy and said she would work to protect access to safe and legal abortions in North Carolina.

On her website, Wintringham considers abortion-rights a part of comprehensive healthcare service, and vows to protect access to contraception and support maternal health programs.

Wintringham said she would like to help improve the schools in the Alamance area, to encourage more families to stay enrolled in local public schools rather than private or out of state options.

Wintringham said she is running to give the people of Alamance County a representative who can speak for them and solve issues that matter to them. She also considers her work in non-profits to be a big influence on why she's running.

"This is a crucial election in our history," Wintringham said. "I don't know that I've ever seen one that has been so publicized and charged as this one as far as what we need to achieve, so regardless of your status, vote, vote, vote, it's going to take all of us showing up at the polls."

## Campaigning for District 64

### Dennis Riddell

Republican Party

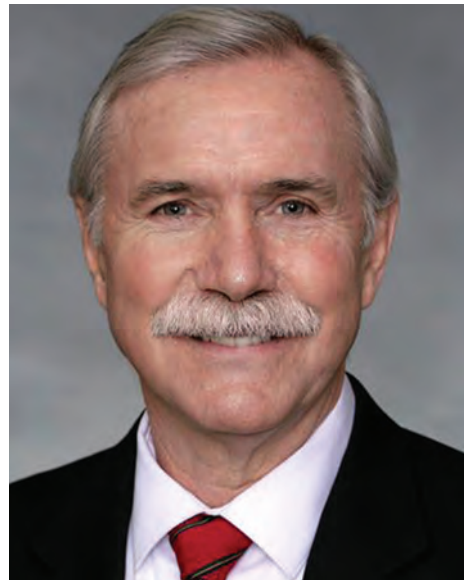


PHOTO CREDIT NCLEG.GOV

Dennis Riddell is running for reelection for the District 64 North Carolina House of Representatives seat. If elected this will be Riddell's seventh term in office.

Something Riddell's been focused on for several years is working on organizing a convention of states, which allows for states to propose amendments that can then be added to the Constitution if ratified by 38 of the 50 states.

Riddell thinks a convention of states is necessary to approve a balanced budget plan for the federal government. The balanced budget would reduce the size and cost of the federal government, by cutting the budgets of federally funded things.

"That's one thing that I consider to be unfinished business, that I think would revolutionize the relationship of the states to the federal government," Riddell said.

Riddell supports lowering income tax rates. He said the best way to help ease the burden of inflation and the high cost of living is to allow people to keep as much of their income as possible.

Riddell said the Second Amendment should be protected and supports tighter laws on the misuse of guns but doesn't see the need for punishing law abiding gun owners.

On the issue of abortion access, Riddell said he is comfortable with the current 12-week ban, and supports the exceptions up to 20 weeks for rape and incest.

Riddell said he is skeptical of claims of rising sea levels and global warming but still cares about the environment and thinks it's important to maintain a healthy environment with clean water.

"I think climate change is something that is used to scare people, to frighten them, to worry them," Riddell said.

If elected Riddell wants to focus on maintaining a strong economy. North Carolina ended the 2022-23 fiscal year 9.9% above budget. Riddell said he credits this to the Republican supermajority in the legislature.

"We have done far more good for North Carolina over the last 12 years than I even imagined possible," Riddell said.

### LeVon Barnes

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT LEVONFORNC.COM

Democrat LeVon Barnes is running for the District 64 North Carolina House of Representatives seat. He previously ran for Durham City Council and Durham County Commissioners, but did not win either. Barnes has worked for 20 years in public education in the North Carolina school system.

Barnes said he is running for his seat because of community members and caucus leadership within the Democratic Party.

"When people ask you and because they see something in you, you either run to the fight or you run away from it, and I've never been afraid to run into a fight when I know it's for the right reasons," Barnes said.

The three biggest areas Barnes campaign is focusing on are fully funding North Carolina public schools, abortion-rights, raising the minimum wage and government transparency, Barnes said.

Barnes said he wants to make sure people pay their fair share in taxes, as well as tax increases for wealthier citizens and large companies. Barnes also supports raising the minimum wage in North Carolina from \$7.25 to \$17 an hour.

If elected, Barnes would like to focus on repealing Session Law 2023-106, also known as the Parents Bill of Rights — a bill that was passed in 2023 that details that any pronoun or name changes a student conveys to their teacher must be shared with the student's parent, as well as prohibits any instruction from teachers on the topics of gender identity, sexual activity or sexuality for kindergarten through fourth graders.

"These bills are aggressive and hurtful," Barnes said. "They're not inclusive, they're exclusive."

Barnes also said he will focus on fully funding public schools and protecting abortion-rights within his first year if elected.

In North Carolina there is a 12 week abortion ban with exceptions. Barnes believes women should have the right to make decisions about their bodies, and that the government should not play a role in that decision.

"This election is going to come down to young people. It's going to come down to folks who have felt disenfranchised," Barnes said.

# Campaigning for ABSS Board of Education

## Donna Westbrooks



PHOTO CREDIT DONNA WESTBROOK | FACEBOOK

Donna Westbrooks is for reelection for the Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education, focusing on both financial management and educational quality. Westbrooks serves as vice chair and was elected in 2020.

After the financial issues after mold was found in 32 of the 36 ABSS schools, Westbrooks said she is optimistic after hiring an executive director and director of finance for the county, both set to begin this month.

"We have to make sure that we are good stewards of the money that we do have so that we don't find ourselves going back into what we've had to experience last year," Westbrooks said.

She also said she will ensure quality education for students.

"Whatever we have to do to make sure that they feel safe," Westbrooks said, "That they have all of the tools and resources that they need to be successful."

## Sandy Ellington-Graves



PHOTO CREDIT ALLENTATE.COM

Sandy Ellington-Graves is running for reelection and serves as board chair on the Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education. According to her campaign website, Graves has been engaged in ABSS for 26 years, participating in committees such as the Joint Facilities Task Force and local parent advocate group, VOICE.

Ellington-Graves said effective financial management is important, particularly with the issues the district is facing after the mold issue at schools throughout the Alamance-Burlington School System.

"We put our people through a lot last year, and I want to make sure that we don't repeat that again," Ellington-Graves said.

Ellington-Graves also identifies academic performance as a key priority.

"Really get back to the basics, which is teaching and learning and that's what's really gonna drive the success for our students," Ellington-Graves said.

## Avery Wagoner



COURTESY OF AVERY WAGONER

Burlington resident Avery Wagoner is making his second bid for public office as he campaigns for a seat on the Alamance-Burlington School Board. Serving as the vice president of wholesale marketing with Cary Oil Company, Wagoner is a father of two, both of whom attended and graduated from Walter M. Williams High School.

Wagoner previously ran for the ABSS School Board in 2022 but did not win. Wagoner's decision to run is driven by a desire to ensure that all students receive the support they need.

"I saw children being left behind that I wanted to help and support," Wagoner said.

With ABSS's financial strain from last year's mold crisis, he emphasized he understands the budget process.

"Here in Alamance County, we have to fund our students," Wagoner said. "It's not like you just cut the budget in half. You can't do that. You got to be creative."

## Seneca Rogers



PHOTO CREDIT ALAMANCEVOTES.COM

Seneca Rogers is a member of the Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education, after unsuccessfully running for a seat in 2020 and 2022. He was later appointed by the board to fill the vacancy left by retiring board member Patsy Simpson.

Rogers said his commitment to public education is rooted in his own experiences growing up in Alamance County.

"I have so much to give back to them," Rogers said. "In any way that I can always advocate for our next generation, advocate for our public education, advocate for our educators. I'm willing to do that. I'll step up seven days of the week."

Rogers said funding issues are part of a broader state issue.

"I feel like as a board member going forward, I need to do more advocacy work at our state level to make sure that we're getting the funding resources that we need," Rogers said.

## Tameka Harvey



PHOTO CREDIT TARA RAGGETT | LINKEDIN

Mother and leader of the academic boosters club at Cummings High School Tameka Harvey is making her first run for public office.

In spite of the issues facing ABSS schools such as the mold crisis and budget deficit, Harvey said she wants to prioritize the children and parents of Alamance County.

Harvey also said that she wants ABSS schools to be more united across the district.

"There are 38 schools within our district but it seems like on one side they might get more than the other," Harvey said. "I don't want that, I want us to feel like one as one family, one ABSS."

Harvey said she also has a plan to improve the current \$2 million deficit that ABSS is facing.

"We always have to go back to our county commissioners," Harvey said. "Teachers were cut, social workers were cut, I hate that. I'm hoping that at some point we can find our way back out of that."

## Peter Morcombe



PHOTO CREDIT CO2COALITION.ORG

Peter Morcombe, who has developed six charter schools in North Carolina including River Mill Academy and Clover Garden School, said during the ABSS Board of Education candidate forum on Sept. 30 that his main complaint with the school board is that they are more focused on getting more money rather than how to best work with the money they have.

"I want to change that to getting better results and having safer schools," Morcombe said during the event. "With regard to the amount of money that they get, last year they spent \$310 million to educate 21,932 students. That works out at about \$14,600 per student, per year. That is more than enough. The charter schools can do it with about two and a half thousand less, and they get better results."

Morcombe did not respond to Elon News Network's request for a comment.

## Tara Raggett



PHOTO CREDIT TARA RAGGETT | X

Orange County English teacher Tara Raggett is running for one of the four open seats on the Alamance-Burlington Board of Education.

Raggett was not present at the ABSS candidate forum on Sept. 30, and according to the event organizers, Raggett did not RSVP for the event.

Raggett did not respond to Elon News Network's request for a comment.

## Corrie Shepherd



COURTESY OF CORRIE SHEPHERD

Operations manager for the North Carolina Values Coalition Corrie Shepherd is running for the first time because she was frustrated with the ABSS board not addressing issues that she feels are important.

Shepherd also said she decided to run for the ABSS Board because she is concerned about student's learning development.

"I'm just not seeing our schools produce kids that can have strong, critical thinking skills and writing skills, and that's concerning me," Shepherd said.

Financially, Shepherd said she thinks rather than cutting programs and staff the board should be looking at cutting administrative roles.

A mother of two, Shepherd said she hopes to be an advocate for students with disabilities — as well as for parents.

"My oldest has special needs, he's autistic," Shepherd said. "I am really familiar with the needs of special needs children, so I want to be an advocate for them."

Campaigning for Alamance County Board of Commissioners

Campaigning for Register of Deeds

**Anthony Pierce**  
Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT ANTHONY PIERCE | FACEBOOK

Democrat Anthony Pierce has run for the position of county commissioner before but is now running because he said it feels like there is a lot at stake — specifically education. Last year, Alamance-Burlington School System faced a two week delay because of the mold outbreak throughout 32 out of 36 of its schools. Pierce said the bigger issue is looking at how this happened.

“This is decades of neglect,” Pierce said. “What I saw from our county leaders and working with the ABSS school board is they refuse to work and compromise and come up with a solution.”

Pierce also wants to fund first responders. He said Alamance has about eight ambulances to cover 423 square miles of the county.

“We need a commissioner on board that wants to truly invest in our first responders to make sure that regardless of where you at in Alamance County,” Pierce said.

**Pamela Tyler Thompson**  
Republican Party



ENN FILE PHOTO

Republican Pamela Tyler Thompson was first elected to county commissioners in 2020. She is running for reelection with one of her main platforms being supporting veterans. Thompson said her son and father are veterans, making the issue more personal to her. She specifically wants to help veterans who are homeless get back on their feet.

“Nobody goes to deployment and comes back from deployment the same,” Thompson said.

Thompson also works with drug addiction and wants to help people on a larger level who struggle with addiction, she said. The Alamance Behavioral Health Center offers mental health services, substance use recovery support and support for people with disabilities.

“Jail is good for what jail needs to be, but for folks who have real severe mental illness, it’s just a place where they can hold their breath and they get out and they get right back to it,” Thompson said.

**Chris Smith**  
Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT CHRIS SMITH | FACEBOOK

Democrat Chris Smith has four children, who were all scheduled to begin school for the first time in the Alamance-Burlington School System when the school year was delayed due to a mold outbreak in 32 out of 36 of the schools. This led Smith to begin attending county commissioner meetings and school board meetings.

“I started to ask myself, ‘What is going on?’” Smith said. “It always comes back to funding, the lack of funding, from the county level, and the state level.”

Smith said he also wants to change the voting-at-large system to a district-based voting system in order to improve representation.

“Right now, we have five Republican commissioners that all live within a seven mile radius around the Burlington area,” Smith said. “Having all five year commissioners live in such a tight little pocket just doesn’t make sense, and that’s because of the at-large voting system.”

**David Barber**  
Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT DAVID BARBER | FACEBOOK

Republican David Barber, Elon alumnus class of ’72 is running unopposed in the Alamance register of deeds election. Barber was elected in 2004 and served until 2012. He also ran and won for clerk of the superior court of Alamance County in 2010 and 2014 before failing to secure reelection for a third term.

Barber went on to work as a private practice attorney until 2020, when he was elected as register of deeds.

During his time in office, Barber has worked to computerize the extensive collection of documents and re-open the deeds office to the public following COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020.

**Carissa Graves**  
Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT CARISSA GRAVES | FACEBOOK

Democrat Carissa Graves has previously served as a mayor of Green Level and served on the board for 12 years. After seeing issues, such as healthcare facilities, school board and overall budgeting for the county — she was interested in serving on a larger scale.

“I’ve been here for 24 years, and I served in a political arena, but Alamance County still feels like home,” Graves said.

The school system is an issue Graves specifically cares about, as she used to be a seventh grade math teacher and said she saw first hand how problems affected students and teachers.

“People going to a building, they have to feel comfortable so just funding and making sure those areas, make sure the funding is allocated and then actually implemented,” Graves said.

**John Paisley Jr.**  
Republican Party



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Republican John Paisley Jr. was appointed to the board of commissioners in 2014, then ran later that year for a two-year term — but lost by eight points. Paisley has served a total of five years on the board and is running for reelection this year.

To adapt to the growth of the county, Paisley said the commissioners created the Behavioral Health Center and added training for law enforcement.

In the future, Paisley said he hopes to increase spending for the school system, sheriff’s department and emergency services — but said doing it carefully is important.

“We had previously a school board and school system that was throwing, in my opinion, throwing money away, not spending it wisely, not completing projects in a timely fashion,” Paisley said.

**Ed Priola**  
Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT ALAMANCEVOTES.COM

Republican Ed Priola is running to be a county commissioner because he feels taxpayers have had enough — particularly with increases in property taxes.

Priola said property taxes have risen higher than necessary, making it difficult for people to pay their bills.

Priola said another issue was paying bonuses for school employees. He said he supports educators, as he is one himself. Priola said the money that the board of education was allocated for HVAC repairs after mold was found in 32 out of 36 ABSS was used for other things, including bonuses.

Priola said across the board he wants to look over every line item on the budget and ensure that everything makes sense.

“We got to look at every nickel we spend, every penny we spend, turn it over till they scream, pinch them ‘til they scream,” Priola said.

# Campaigning for North Carolina District Court Judge District 17

## Bryan Norris Jr.

Democratic Party | Seat 1



ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR

Incumbent Bryan Norris was initially appointed to the seat by state Gov. Roy Cooper in March 2024.

Norris attended the University of North Carolina's School of Law after graduating from Davidson College. Norris served for seven years as a judicial law clerk with North Carolina's Court of Appeals and the state's Supreme Court.

In the courtroom, Norris said he tries to embody five main principles: hard work, efficiency, equity, empathy and respect.

"In terms of compassion, equity and fairness, my big concern for everyone in my courtroom — and in every courtroom I preside over — is I want our courts to be a place where we are able to minimize harm in our communities and then maximize help for the people that need it," Norris said.

## Bryan Ray

Republican Party | Seat 1



PHOTO CREDIT BRYAN RAY | FACEBOOK

Bryan Ray grew up in Burlington and attended Coastal Carolina University, transferring to the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and graduating from Elon Law school in 2013. He then interned with a local attorney, where he became a partner in 2016.

With a background in family law, Ray has served on Alamance County's Board of Elections for six years, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for three years, Teen Court for the past nine years and the Bar Association for the past 11 years.

Ray said he can bring a unique perspective to the bench coupled with empathy and understanding.

"I have a unique perspective, because a lot of family law attorneys don't run," Ray said. "I think I can now apply that to the other side of the bench."

## Larry Brown Jr.

Democratic Party | Seat 2



PHOTO CREDIT LARRY BROWN | FACEBOOK

Larry Brown Jr. runs uncontested for Alamance County's second out of five district judge seats.

Brown did not respond to Elon News Network's requests for an interview.

Having graduated from North Carolina Central University School of Law, Brown currently serves on a district court seat for North Carolina's District 15A — where he was appointed in 2017 and is serving his second term — which was redistricted to District 17. He is also the first Black District Court judge in Alamance County, according to Branch.vote.

Brown previously worked as an assistant district attorney with the Alamance County District Attorney's Office, as well as an adjunct professor at Elon University School of Law.

## Kathryn Overby

Democratic Party | Seat 4



PHOTO CREDIT KATHRYN OVERBY | FACEBOOK

Incumbent Kathryn Overby completed her undergraduate degree at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill before attending Campbell University Law School. From there, she went to work in the Alamance County District Attorney's Office where she was an assistant district attorney for 11 years.

First appointed to the bench in January 2011, Overby was the first and only female judge in Alamance County. Having been on the ballot in 2012, 2016, 2020 and now 2024, her only contested election took place in 2012.

"When I had a contested election ... I had a really high rating from other lawyers that came before me as far as my integrity and my legal ability," Overby said. "I think I bring something to the bench that only I can bring as a woman. I bring a mom's perspective, and I think that it's the fact that I haven't had any contested elections now in three cycles speaks a lot for the job that I'm doing."

## Doug Green

Democratic Party | Seat 3



RYAN KUPPERMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Incumbent Doug Green was appointed to the bench by Gov. Roy Cooper in February 2024.

Green graduated from Duke University in 1987 before getting his MBA from Elon's Love School of Business at Elon. He attended North Carolina Central's School of Law where he graduated from in 1998.

Green said he has been practicing law for over 25 years and has a focus in youth advocacy and protecting victims of domestic violence. He also advocates for mental health resources.

"Judges on this level can be an advocate," Green said. "If you look in the courtroom and if you can at least have an idea of what the pattern of abuse is, you are able to help those who are abused — even when they sometimes are not willing to help themselves."

## Craig Turner

Republican Party | Seat 3



RYAN KUPPERMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alamance County Commissioner Craig Turner graduated from Williams High School in 1991, Turner went to the Naval Academy and graduated from Annapolis in 1995 before serving two tours in the Persian Gulf. After returning home, Turner went to Elon's School of Law where he graduated in 2010.

Turner said he is drawing from both his experience in litigation — having served as a law clerk to two business court judges and assistant district attorney in Alamance County — and his experience as a county commissioner.

"The way that I approach that is the way that I would approach the work on the bench, which is to be prepared for meetings, to treat everybody who is in front of you with respect, but to also ask hard questions when needed to get to the heart of a matter," Turner said.

## Meredith Tuck Edwards

Republican Party | Seat 5



PHOTO CREDIT MEREDITH TUCK EDWARDS | FACEBOOK

Meredith Tuck Edwards serves as Alamance County Clerk of Superior Court. Traditionally holding four district court seats, the state legislature approved a fifth district court judge seat effective Jan. 1, 2025.

Edwards did not respond to Elon News Network's requests for an interview.

According to previous Elon News Network coverage, Edwards got her law degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2007 and went on to work as a prosecutor in Alamance County for 10 years.

When she campaigned for county clerk, Edwards said she approached her role as a public official with empathy and compassion.

"No one ever comes to the clerk's office having a great day, right? It's always something really difficult in their lives," Edwards previously told Elon News Network. "I love being the clerk and I love the opportunities that it gives me to be able to advocate for better services for our citizens."

## Natalie Jones

Democratic Party | Seat 5

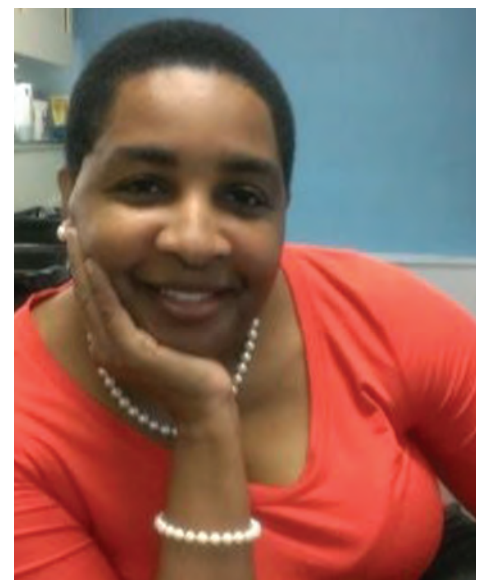


PHOTO CREDIT NATALIE JONES | LINKEDIN

Natalie Jones has practiced law in Alamance County since 2002 and served in the U.S. Navy. Traditionally holding four district court seats, the state legislature approved a fifth district court judge seat effective Jan. 1, 2025.

"I'm the most suited candidate for this position because I have practical, legal experience," Jones said. "As a judge, I could fill right into the role, step right into the role, because I've basically seen it and done it for 22 years."

With varied experience in Superior Court doing jury trials; criminal court working abuse, neglect and child support cases; and civil court representing both the defense and plaintiff, Jones said her work ethic and background set her apart.

"When it's time to have a trial, I buckle down and get ready," Jones said. "You don't ever find that I shy away from any hard work."

# Campaigning for North Carolina Lieutenant Governor

## Rachel Hunt

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT NCLEG.GOV

Democrat Rachel Hunt has served as a state senator for North Carolina's 42nd District since 2023 and previously served as a state representative from 2019 to 2023. Hunt has also worked as an attorney in a private practice, owns her own educational consulting business and served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children.

As lieutenant governor, Hunt would support affordable healthcare and support abortion-rights. She would also invest in small businesses, rural North Carolina and quality education, according to her website.

## Hal Weatherman

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT HAL WEATHERMAN | FACEBOOK

Republican Hal Weatherman is a North Carolina native who received an undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and a master's from Wheaton College. He is a published author and the founder and President of the Electoral Education Foundation. He has served as chief of staff to former North Carolina Lt. Gov. Dan Forest and former U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick.

Weatherman believes in strengthening emergency response with a stockpile of resources, as well as putting armed resource officers in all North Carolina schools, election integrity, a "Heart Beat" abortion bill, lower taxes on an individual and corporate level and reducing the stigma of trade work.

## Wayne Jones

Constitution Party



PHOTO CREDIT NEWS & OBSERVER

Constitution Party candidate Wayne Jones worked in telecommunications for 35 years and is now retired, according to the Raleigh News and Observer's voter guide.

Jones does not have any prior government or civic involvement, and he wants to reform the State Board of Elections.

## Shannon Bray

Libertarian Party



COURTESY OF SHANNON BRAY

Libertarian Shannon Bray is running for lieutenant governor of North Carolina. Bray was born in Louisiana and lives in Wake County. Bray received his doctorate in computer science from Missouri University of Science and Technology. Bray served for six years in the U.S. Navy. Bray previously ran for the U.S. Senate in 2020 and 2022.

His policy platform includes abortion access without restrictions until the 16th week, after which in cases of rape, incest or fetal abnormalities a woman can terminate a pregnancy up until 24 weeks. After being charged with misdemeanor possession in August, Bray is supportive of decriminalizing marijuana in North Carolina and pardoning those in jail for possession charges.

## Campaigning for North Carolina Attorney General

### Jeff Jackson

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT JEFFJACKSON.HOUSE.GOV

Democrat Jeff Jackson is running for North Carolina attorney general and represents North Carolina's 14th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jackson has served in the military for 22 years and was elected to Congress in 2022. Prior to that, he served in the state senate from 2014 to 2022. While in Congress, Jackson scored in the top 5% for the most bipartisan members of Congress, according to his website.

Jackson wants to be a bipartisan voice for North Carolina and is running on issues such as tackling the fentanyl epidemic, defending constitutional rights and protecting air and water.

### Dan Bishop

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT DANBISHOP.HOUSE.GOV

Republican Dan Bishop, who has represented North Carolina's 8th District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2023, is running for state attorney general. Before serving in Congress, Bishop was a state senator, where he gained attention for authoring HB2, or the "bathroom bill," which required individuals to use public restrooms based on their biological sex as listed on their birth certificates. He also served as state representative.

With nearly 30 years of experience as a commercial litigator, Bishop emphasizes his legal background in his campaign. According to his campaign, he is running for attorney general to "defend the rule of law and protect North Carolina."

## Campaigning for Alamance County Soil and Water

### Andrew Carroll



COURTESY OF ANDREW CARROLL

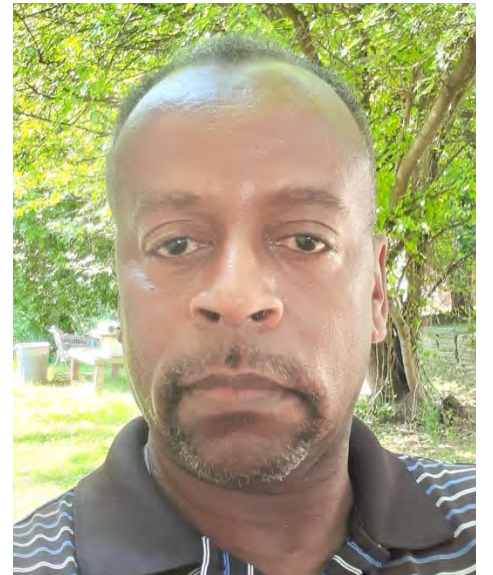
Andrew Carroll has been a teacher and soccer coach in Alamance County for 18 years. A high school earth and environmental science teacher at Southern Alamance High School, Carroll said running as the Soil and Water Supervisor felt like an area he has expertise in.

Using his teaching experience, he is looking forward to educating the local community or providing support for what they need.

One of the initiatives that he hopes to implement if elected is minimizing the amount of invasive species within Alamance County, whether that is helping a farmer or someone's yard, Carroll said.

"We got a lot of farmland that is changing," Carroll said. "We are losing biodiversity. We are losing a lot of native land."

### David Spruill



COURTESY OF DAVID SPRUILL

David Spruill said his mission as a soil and water supervisor candidate is to help the farmers. From fashion designer to former soil and water supervisor for eight years, Spruill wants to make sure farmers get what they need.

"I know what to do and how to do it," Spruill said. "Now I want to go back in there and do it like it's supposed to be done."

Spruill has served on the Social Services Committee, former president of Martin Luther King Coalition of Alamance County and more. He has previously run for Alamance County Commissioner in 2012 and North Carolina House of Representatives in 2021.

Besides working with farmers, Spruill has plans to work with kids and educate them on agriculture. He wants to take them to farms and teach them about soil, chickens and bees.



## Campaigning for Commissioner of Labor

### Braxton Winston II

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT VOTEBRAXTON.COM

Braxton Winston II has held several leadership roles throughout his life, such as an active member and mayor pro tem of Charlotte City Council from 2017 to 2023. He has also worked for the Delaware College Scholars Program as the Charlotte liaison, college counselor and humanities instructor.

Winston's mission is to focus on fair wages, fully staffing the workforce post pandemic and enforcing workers rights.

Winston also believes in the "whole worker" approach, described as an acknowledgment of the department of labors responsibility to workers safety during and after their shifts. Winston also addresses access and affordability for things such as health care, child care and housing.

Winston's website describes him as an experienced leader with an intent to connect with the community.

### Luke Farley

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT LUKE4LABOR.COM

Luke Farley is a Christian, conservative, North Carolina local who wants to keep workers safe, healthy and employed. He has been endorsed by former Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry.

Farley's main goals are to improve workplace safety, support vocational and technical education, and overcome legislation Farley believes limits productivity and workers individual rights. For example, Farley is against company mandated COVID-19 vaccinations and President Joe Biden's heat stress regulations — a law that requires companies to give additional break time and limits based on temperatures.

As labor commissioner, Farley also intends to keep North Carolina a right-to-work state by maintaining laws that prevent employers from requiring workers to join unions or pay union fees as a term of employment.

## Campaigning for North Carolina Treasurer

### Brad Briner

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT BRAD BRINER | LINKEDIN

Republican Brad Briner is from Dallas, Texas, went to boarding school in New Hampshire and obtained a Bachelor's in Finance from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a master's from Harvard University.

Briner's platform includes a plan to fix the retirement system, which focuses on a change of investment strategy through co investment, economies of scale and reduced constraints.

Briner said on his website, "I believe that my background in finance, deep interest in these topics (which I recognize many find mind-numbing), and stubbornness in pursuing the right answers all make me the best candidate to fix our Retirement System's problems."

### Wesley Harris

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT NCLEG.GOV

Democrat Wesley Harris received his bachelor's degree in economics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. at Clemson University. In 2018, Harris ran and won a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Harris has been endorsed by the NC Police Benevolent Association, Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of NC, North Carolina Association of Educators Great Public Schools Fund and SEANC State Employees PAC.

He is running to "make sure that information about our state's financial situation is easily accessible to any North Carolinian," according to his policy platform. Part of his policy platform includes instituting work privileges, such as healthcare and retirement benefits, in an effort to attract workers to public service jobs.

## Campaigning for North Carolina Secretary of State

### Chad Brown

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT GASTONGOV.COM

Republican Chad Brown has served as the mayor of the town of Stanley and on the Gaston County Commission, where he has served for three terms. As of now, Brown is chairman for the board of commissioners in Gaston County, where he grew up.

As secretary of state, Brown wants to protect elections, ensure every vote is counted and promote innovation and small business growth, according to his campaign website.

### Elaine Marshall

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT ELAINE MARSHALL | FACEBOOK

Democrat incumbent Elaine Marshall has served as North Carolina secretary of state since 1996. She is not only the first woman to be elected to North Carolina's secretary of state, but is also the first woman elected to statewide executive office.

In her time as secretary of state, Marshall has helped small businesses create jobs, enabled free enterprise and capital formation, reformed lobbying laws, made public information transparent and accessible to businesses, investors and individuals, according to her campaign website.

## Campaigning for Superintendent

### Mo Green

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT MOGREENFORNC.COM

Democrat Mo Green has served as superintendent of Guilford County schools for seven years and later executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation — a foundation in North Carolina that supports public education — from 2016 to 2023.

Green wants to prepare children for the next phase of their lives, invest more funding in public education, ensure safe learning environments and enhance a student's community support, according to his campaign website.

### Michele Morrow

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT MICHELE MARRROW | FACEBOOK

Republican Michele Morrow has home-schooled several of her children and joined teaching coalitions to help other families' home-school their children who could not attend public schools.

Morrow wants to ensure safe learning environments, funding for education goes into classrooms and parents are involved in their children's education, according to his campaign website.

Morrow has received backlash for previous controversial social media comments, suggesting the execution of both President Joe Biden and former President Barack Obama on different occasions.

Campaigning for North Carolina Auditor

**Bob Drach**

*Libertarian Party*



PHOTO CREDIT ELECTDRACH.COM

Libertarian Bob Drach is running for auditor of North Carolina. Drach graduated with a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary and received a graduate degree from Stanford University. Drach is a certified management accountant, with management experience in Deloitte and Rain Bird.

Drach believes his political standings will ensure he does an unbiased job of regulating finances, according to his website.

**Dave Boliek**

*Republican Party*



PHOTO CREDIT DAVE BOLIEK | LINKEDIN

Republican Dave Boliek is running for North Carolina state auditor. Boliek was an assistant district attorney in Cumberland County. He has experience as a litigator in both state and federal courts. As chairman of the University of North Carolina Board of Trustees, Boliek formed the university's first audit committee, balanced the budget and eliminated the operating deficit. He also led UNC's efforts to end diversity and equity policies and established the School of Civic Life and Leadership.

As state auditor, Boliek intends to implement conservative policies based on his experience in organizational leadership, according to Ballotpedia's candidate connection survey.

**Jessica N. Holmes**

*Democratic Party*



PHOTO CREDIT AUDITOR.NC.GOV

Democrat incumbent Jessica N. Holmes is running for North Carolina state auditor and has served since 2023. Holmes graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, earning her bachelor's and law degrees. She was the youngest commissioner ever elected in Wake County in 2014 and served two terms as chair. Holmes is also a labor and employment attorney and formerly served as a North Carolina industrial commission deputy commissioner.

She is committed to improving government services, public health, education and economic growth, understanding "the value of a dollar and the impact of government services on our everyday lives," according to her website.

Campaigning for state  
Commissioner of  
Insurance

**Natasha Marcus**

*Democratic Party*



PHOTO CREDIT NCLEG.GOV

Democrat Natasha Marcus is a three-term state senator running to be North Carolina's commissioner of insurance. Marcus is a former litigation attorney and currently serves on the senate committees of commerce and insurance, judiciary, education, budget and election and redistricting.

Marcus plans to end excessive rate hikes and overcharging, ensure fair and high quality coverage, strengthen North Carolina against natural disasters and crack down on insurance fraud, according to her campaign website.

**Mike Causey**

*Republican Party*



PHOTO CREDIT NCDOTCOMMUNICATIONS

Republican Mike Causey is the current commissioner of insurance. He is from Guilford County and was first elected to the position in 2017 and reelected in 2020. Causey has worked for more than 25 years in the insurance industry as an agent, manager, supervisor and agency owner.

He wants to help the North Carolina consumer by fighting for more competition in the industry and combating insurance fraud to drive rates lower, according to his North Carolina Department of Insurance biography.

Campaigning for Commissioner of Agriculture

**Sean Haugh**

*Libertarian Party*



PHOTO CREDIT RACHEL MILLS

Libertarian Sean Haugh is running for commissioner of agriculture. As a Durham resident of almost 40 years, he believes that he understands the people of North Carolina and sees them more interpersonally through seven years of delivering pizzas, according to his website.

His major platform is "people, not politics" and believes libertarians have a better understanding of the people. Haugh is running on ideals of greater education opportunities, stronger economic potential, better healthcare options and equal justice for all, according to his campaign website. According to the Raleigh News and Observer elections guide, Haugh said his top priority is the full legalization of marijuana.

**Steve Troxler**

*Republican Party*



PHOTO CREDIT STEVETROXLER.COM

Republican Steve Troxler, current commissioner of agriculture, is running for another term. He has served in this role since 2005 and is a graduate of North Carolina State University, studying conservation and environmental studies. He is also the owner and operator of Troxler Farms and grows tobacco, wheat, vegetables and soybeans.

Troxler currently serves on the board of the North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, the Rural Economic Development Center and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

His website states, "Agriculture is our state's leading economic driver. Our farmers feed the world. When I began my first term as Commissioner, agriculture was a \$59 billion industry for our state. Today, I am proud to say that we have grown that number to over \$103 billion."

**Sarah Taber**

*Democratic Party*



PHOTO CREDIT TABERFORNC.COM

Democrat Sarah Taber is running for North Carolina's commissioner of agriculture. Taber grew up in Kentucky, where she gained experience working in fields and factories. She received her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Brigham Young University and her doctorate in plant medicine from the University of Florida. She now lives in Fayetteville. She has spent 27 years in the agricultural field and 10 years helping small farmers expand their operations.

Taber has a three step plan to expand North Carolina's agriculture industry: prioritizing "high value" crops such as berries, hemp and tree nuts, opening up avenues for more people to become farmers and increasing farm ownership in rural North Carolina.

## Campaigning for North Carolina Supreme Court

### Jefferson Griffin

Republican Party | Seat 6



PHOTO CREDIT JEFFERSON GRIFFIN | FACEBOOK

Republican Jefferson Griffin was born and raised in Red Oak, North Carolina. In 2010, Griffin joined the Wake County district attorney's office where he prosecuted cases from infractions to first degree murder. Griffin was elected to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in November 2020. He also served as a District Court Judge in 2015.

According to his website, Griffin believes the Constitution means what it says. He believes in the separation of powers, judicial restraint and the independence of the judiciary.

### Allison Riggs

Democratic Party | Seat 6



PHOTO CREDIT RIGGSFOROURCOURTS.COM

Democrat Allison Riggs is running for the North Carolina Supreme Court associate justice seat 6. Riggs was the co-executive director for programs and chief counsel for voting rights at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, as well as a staff attorney and senior staff attorney. Riggs is a civil rights litigator and community lawyer who has served as lead counsel in numerous voting rights cases and has argued twice in front of the Supreme Court. Justice Riggs was appointed to the Supreme Court by Gov. Roy Cooper in 2023. She previously served as a judge on the Court of Appeals.

Riggs wants to maintain the principles of integrity, transparency, consistency and empathy in the judicial system, according to her campaign website.

## Campaigning for Court of Appeals Seat 12

### Tom Murry

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT NCLEG.GOV

Republican Tom Murry is running for seat 12 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Murry is a veteran, attorney and state prosecutor. Murry is an Arkansas native and received his law degree from Campbell University and his Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. He has previously served on the state House of Representatives representing District 41 from 2011 to 2015.

Murry is running as a self-proclaimed "common sense candidate," and his philosophy for the judiciary is "believing in the original meaning of the Constitution and that the plain meaning of words should guide Constitutional and statutory interpretation," according to his campaign website.

### Carolyn Thompson

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT CAROLYN THOMPSON | FACEBOOK

Democrat Carolyn Jennings Thompson is running for seat 12 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She received her bachelor's degree from Hampton University and her J.D. at North Carolina Central University. Thompson is a previous District Court judge, Superior Court judge and Deputy Commissioner for the Industrial Commission. She is endorsed by Planned Parenthood, Equality North Carolina, Pro-Choice North Carolina and Gov. Roy Cooper.

On her campaign website, she wrote, "I can make a difference in the service of equal justice as required by our laws and Constitution. True justice is independent of party affiliation, divisive ideologies, and social differences. I have taken and believe in the oath to consistently uphold our laws and Constitution."

## Campaigning for Court of Appeals Seat 14

### Ed Eldred

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT ELDREDFORJUDGE.COM

Democrat Ed Eldred is running for seat 14 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. He received both his bachelor's degree and J.D. at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and serves as an attorney at Parry Law in Chapel Hill. Eldred is endorsed by Planned Parenthood, Equality North Carolina, Pro-Choice North Carolina and Gov. Roy Cooper.

His platform is based on equality, and he believes that "as a Democrat vying for this crucial position, Ed will preserve the rights of all North Carolinians and restore balance to the Court," according to his campaign website.

### Valerie Zachary

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT REELECTJUDGEZACHARY.COM

Republican Valerie Zachary, a republican, is running to be reelected to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Zachary has served in this position since being appointed by former Gov. Pat McCrory and then was elected for an eight year term in 2016. She graduated from Harvard Law School and Michigan State University as an undergraduate.

On her website, Zachary wrote, "My record is one of consistently applying the constitution to the facts of a case and not one of judicial activism from the bench. I look forward to campaigning across our great state and reconnecting with the wonderful people of North Carolina."

## Campaigning for Court of Appeals Seat 15

### Chris Freeman

Republican Party



PHOTO CREDIT CHRIS FREEMAN | FACEBOOK

Republican Chris Freeman is running for seat 15 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Freeman has served for 17 years as District Court judge for Rockingham and Caswell counties. Prior, he was assistant district attorney for eight years. Freeman has also served in the U.S. Air Force and now is a reservist in the JAG Corps.

Freemam wants to serve North Carolina with his "conservative judicial philosophy," according to his website.

### Martin Moore

Democratic Party



PHOTO CREDIT BUNCOMBECOUNTY.ORG

Democrat Martin Moore is running for seat 15 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Moore graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for both his bachelor's degree and law degree and was formerly a public defender. He now runs a mediation and appellate law practice. Moore has been endorsed by organizations including the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood and the Black Political Caucus of Cabarrus County. He has served as a county commissioner for Buncombe County since 2022.

He "believes local leadership must prioritize the health, safety and quality of life of Buncombe residents while making sustainable choices for our community," according to his biography on the county commissioners website.

Register and find your polling place at [nextgenamerica.org/vote](https://nextgenamerica.org/vote)



# Be like Taylor.

# Be a voter.

"I've done my research, and I've made my choice. **Your research is all yours to do, and the choice is yours to make.** I also want to say, especially to first time voters: Remember that **in order to vote, you have to be registered!** I also find it's much easier to **vote early.**"

- Taylor Swift

**Registration Deadline in NC:  
October 11, 2024 or in-person  
during Early Voting**

**Early Voting Ends:  
November 2, 2024**

**Election Day:  
November 5, 2024**

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