

CIVICS 101

YOUR STATE SENATE CANDIDATES: DISTRICT 11

The North Carolina state legislature will determine if a president’s policies are enacted or stonewalled at the state level in North Carolina. Bills that are passed in the NC legislature have the most direct impact on our lives.

To help you make that big decision on Election Day, we’ve provided bios of the state senate candidates on your ballot below.



DEMOCRAT JAMES MERCER (CHALLENGER)



REPUBLICAN LISA BARNES (INCUMBENT)

James Mercer is a Nash County native and founder of The Mercer Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding veterans and underprivileged children. A retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, Mercer also works as the director of Military Studies at North Carolina Wesleyan University.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: “I want everybody to know that my agenda includes economic development and raising the minimum wage, expanding access to affordable housing, and investing in local infrastructure.”¹

POSITIONS:

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: “Investing in public education serves as a cornerstone for a more robust North Carolina. By fully funding public education, families gain the option to select public schools, providing access to high-quality education that lays the foundation for their children’s future success.”²

ABORTION: Mercer has been endorsed by Planned Parenthood Votes, which advocates for access to safe and legal abortion and reproductive healthcare.³

GUNS: Mercer has been endorsed by Gun Sense Voter, which supports commonsense gun safety measures like background checks.⁴

Endorsements:

- AFL-CIO North Carolina • Climate Cabinet PAC • Gun Sense Voter • Planned Parenthood Action Fund • Sierra Club • VoteVets

Website: www.votejamesmercer.com

Citations:

1. Rocky Mount Telegram, 3/22/24
2. <https://www.instagram.com/jamesmercercnc>
3. <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-votes-south-atlantic/fight-repro-freedom-nc/north-carolina-endorsement-candidates-24>
4. <https://gunsensevoter.org/states/nc/?electionYear=2024&officeLevel=state&state=nc>

Lisa Barnes represents Nash, Franklin, and Vance counties as a state senator. Barnes has recently come under media scrutiny following the death of a farm worker on a farm owned by her husband, Johnny Barnes. As of this writing, Barnes has not commented on claims of OSHA violations by her husband’s business.⁹

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: “I have always been steadfast in my values. I am pro-life, pro-Trump, pro-guns, pro-lowering taxes.”⁵

POSITIONS:

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Supported vouchers for private schools.⁶

ABORTION: Supported statewide abortion ban.⁷

GUNS: Opposed universal background checks and prohibiting domestic abusers from owning guns.⁸

Endorsements:

- National Federation of Independent Businesses 100% voting record in NC Senate 2023-2024 session
- NRA Political Victory Fund
- NC Values Coalition

Website: www.lisabarnesfornc.com

Citations:

5. Twitter, 2/28/20
6. HB 10, Senate Roll Call Vote #661, 9/9/24
7. Senate Roll Call vote #215, 5/16/23
8. Senate Vote #16 2/16/23
9. WRAL, 9/8/2023

There are two important things to remember about voting:

First, **who you vote for is completely private, but whether or not you vote is in the public record.** Voting records show that people in Nash, Franklin, and Vance counties typically vote in presidential election years. This November, make sure to vote, so your public record shows that you are a good neighbor!

Second, **your vote matters!** A difference in just **4 votes per precinct** would have changed the outcome of the last presidential election in North Carolina.

Vote in Person on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5

Polling places will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Any voter in line at their assigned polling place at 7:30 p.m. will be able to vote.

Vote Early October 17 through November 2

Find your early voting location and times at vt.ncsbe.gov/EVSite/

CIVICS 101

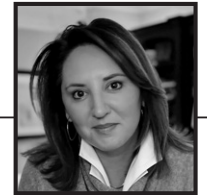
YOUR STATE SENATE CANDIDATES: DISTRICT 18

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DEMOCRAT TERENCE EVERITT
(CHALLENGER, CURRENT STATE HOUSE REP.)



REPUBLICAN ASHLEE ADAMS (CHALLENGER)

Democrat Terence Everitt has served as a representative for House District 35 since 2018. Prior to entering politics, Everitt served as a member of the Wake County Transit Advisory Committee; he additionally owns a law practice in Wake Forest dedicated to representing small businesses and facilitating new business development.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: “It is time to start investing in our public schools, in our children, and in our future. Instead of taxpayer-funded private school vouchers, we need to raise teacher pay, bring more technical education programs into our schools, and invest in quality pre-K.”¹

POSITIONS:

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Opposed vouchers for private schools.²

ABORTION: Opposed a statewide abortion ban.³

GUNS: Supported universal background checks and prohibiting domestic abusers from owning guns.⁴

Endorsements:

- AFL-CIO North Carolina • Climate Cabinet PAC • Communications Workers of America (CWA) • Gun Sense Voter • North Carolina League of Conservation Voters

Website: www.terenceeveritt.com

Citations:

1. <https://www.terenceeveritt.com/issues>
2. HB 10, House Roll Call Vote #795, 9/11/24
3. House Roll Call Vote #380, 5/16/23
4. House Roll Call Vote #140 3/29/23

Former nurse Ashlee Adams currently serves as director of the Wake Forest Junior Cotillion Program and is co-owner of The Sutherland, a former plantation estate that now operates as a wedding and corporate events venue.

IN HER OWN WORDS: “By advocating for fiscal responsibility, reduced ‘red tape’ regulations, and lower taxes, I aim to create an environment where personal freedoms flourish and economic opportunities abound.”⁵

POSITIONS:

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: “By championing school choice, I believe in providing families the opportunity to access high-quality, tailored learning environments, fostering innovation, and ensuring that every child has the chance to reach their full potential.”⁶

ABORTION: Adams has so far refrained from clarifying her stance on abortion.

GUNS: Adams has so far refrained from clarifying her stance on guns.

Endorsements:

- Granville Co. Conservative Voter Guide

Website: www.ashleefornc.com

Citations:

5. <https://www.ashleefornc.com/issues>
6. www.ashleefornc.com

There are two important things to remember about voting:

First, **whom you vote for is completely private, but whether or not you vote is in the public record.** Voting records show that people in Granville and Wake counties typically vote in presidential election years. This November, make sure to vote, so your public record shows that you are a good neighbor!

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YOUR STATE SENATE CANDIDATES: DISTRICT 13

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DEMOCRAT LISA GRAFSTEIN (INCUMBENT)

Democrat Lisa Grafstein has been focused on combating inequality and discrimination as a state senator. Policy priorities include affordable housing, public education, and affordable healthcare. She previously served as a civil rights lawyer at Disability Rights North Carolina and at the North Carolina State Personnel Commission.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: “Together, we can work toward economic justice, affordable housing, workers’ rights, public education, access to healthcare, and voting rights.”¹

POSITIONS:

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Opposed vouchers for private schools.²

ABORTION: Opposed a statewide abortion ban.³

GUNS: Supported universal background checks and prohibiting domestic abusers from owning guns.⁴

Endorsements:

- AFL-CIO North Carolina • Climate Cabinet PAC • Gun Sense Voter • LGBTQ PAC (LPAC)
- NCAAT • North Carolina League of Conservation Voters • Planned Parenthood Action Fund
- Sierra Club

Website: www.lisagrafstein.com

Citations:

1. Twitter, 4/7/22 2. HB 10, Senate Roll Call Vote #661, 9/9/24 3. Senate Roll Call vote #215, 5/16/23 4. Senate Vote #16 2/16/23



REPUBLICAN SCOTT LASSITER (CHALLENGER)

A former teacher, school administrator, and assistant principal, Republican Scott Lassiter is currently the president of the Lassiter Education Foundation. Lassiter recently garnered media attention for his support of state superintendent candidate Michele Morrow, a January 6 attendee who in 2020 made comments on X (formerly known as Twitter) calling for President Barack Obama to be shot by firing squad.⁵

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: “Serving in the state legislature requires a candidate with a broad breadth of experience in various aspects of life, government, and service. I encourage voters to research their candidates and make rational choices that reflect their values.”⁶

POSITIONS:

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: “Dollars should follow the students. Tax credits, scholarships, and educational savings accounts can be used to support parents who choose private school options.”⁷

ABORTION: “Abortion is not birth control and should not be used as such. I believe current NC law addresses the issue appropriately.”⁸

GUNS: When asked if he supported expanding background checks on gun purchases, Lassiter said, “No. I believe that our current laws, if appropriately applied and enforced, appropriately criminalize violent behavior regardless of the type of weapon.”⁹

Endorsements:

- NRA Political Victory Fund • Carolina Teachers Alliance Votes • Communications Workers of America (CWA) • Raleigh Police Protective Association • Teamsters Local 391

Website: www.votescottlassiter.com

Citations:

5. CNN, 3/15/24 6. <https://indyweek.com/news/nc-house-district-tk-scott-lassiter/> 7. <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/election/voter-guide/article292568709.html#storylink=cpy> 8. <https://ivoterguide.com/candidate/60722-race/8466/election/> 9. <https://indyweek.com/news/nc-house-district-tk-scott-lassiter/>

There are two important things to remember about voting:

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YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS YOU CAN USE

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OCTOBER 2024



FALL FESTIVALS

The leaves are changing, days are getting shorter, and weather's getting cooler: it's finally fall. But as always, autumn will seem to go by in a flash. To help you and your family get the most out of the season before winter arrives, we've compiled fall festivals coming soon near you.

Falling for Local at Dorothea Dix Park

2105 Umstead Dr., The Big Field at Dix Park, Raleigh, NC 27603

Oct. 5, 11am-6pm

Complete with a pumpkin patch, hay rides, and over 150 independent merchants, Falling for Local at Dorothea Dix Park is a classic autumn festival. And with free live music and lawn games for the whole family, Falling for Local is the perfect way to kick off the fall season!

<https://shoplocalraleigh.org/slr-events/falling-for-local-dix-park/>

Clayton Harvest Festival

301 E. Main St., Clayton, NC 27520

Oct. 24-27

With roots going back nearly 80 years, the Clayton Harvest Festival is a tried-and-true Clayton tradition. Over 30,000 attendees are expected to come enjoy the festival's midway carnival rides, delicious food, and children's Halloween games.

<https://claytonharvestfestival.com/>

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2024 N.C. State Fair

4285 Trinity Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607

Oct. 17-27

The North Carolina State Fair is one of the biggest events of the year. You won't want to miss 11 full days of high-flying amusement rides, daring horse shows, and NC's finest deep-fried food. There are also special days of honor. October 22 is Senior Citizens Day, where seniors age 65+ get free admission. October 23 is Military Appreciation Day, when the fair pays tribute to members of the U.S. military for their service with a parade!

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/ncstatefair/2024/general%20info/parking#Address-9303>

HollyFest

2401 Grigsby Ave., Holly Springs, NC 27540

Oct. 26

An annual family event, HollyFest down in Holly Springs has a long tradition of displaying local artists, businesses, food merchants, children's activities, and entertainment. HollyFest is a great way to get your final October kicks in before November rolls through!

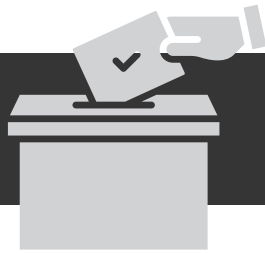
<https://www.hollyspringsnc.gov/356/HollyFest>

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The Community News Center
3064 Wake Forest Road, #1294
Raleigh, NC 27609

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EARLY VOTING IN NORTH CAROLINA

The 2024 elections are right around the corner. But did you know you can vote early and avoid those Election Day crowds? By following these simple steps, you can vote before Election Day at your own convenience:

Early Voting begins on Thursday, October 17 and ends on Saturday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Registered to vote?

If you are not registered to vote or not sure, you can register to vote and vote early on the same day! If you are registering to vote for the first time, you will need some form of identification.

IDs that are accepted include a North Carolina voter photo ID card issued by your county board, a NC driver's license, state ID, military ID or a passport. **These will need to be included on the form when you fill it out.**

ID Requirements?

When you check in to vote, you will need to show your identification. A driver's license, state ID, military ID or passport are accepted.

Why Vote Early?

The biggest reasons to vote early are convenience and the ability to avoid the long lines on Election Day. This is going to be a big election and turnout will be high. So get your vote in early.



REMINDER: VOTER ID REQUIREMENT

As of 2023, all North Carolina voters are required to present a photo ID to vote. Acceptable IDs include but are not limited to:

- North Carolina driver's license
- State ID from the NCDMV
- U.S. passport or U.S. passport card
- Military or veteran ID card (with photo)
- Tribal enrollment card (with photo)

Where can I get an ID?

You can get a free ID from your local county board of elections. Find their information at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo>.

I need extra help getting an ID.

Call the Voter Assistance Hotline at 888-687-8683. Or call the VoteRiders Hotline at 866-432-8683.

I couldn't get to the DMV by Election Day, or I am waiting on an ID.

You can still vote! You just need to fill out the Voter ID Exception Form at the polls and select "Other" for the reason you don't have an ID.

Additional Voter ID Resources

Democracy NC: <https://www.ncvoter.org/voter-id/>
VoteRiders: <https://www.voteriders.org/freehelp/>
State Board Facts on Voter ID: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id>

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NORTH CAROLINA & PROJECT 2025

One of the biggest stories of the election has been the Republicans' controversial "Project 2025" policy plan, a far-reaching set of proposals to change the role of the federal government. But how would Project 2025 actually affect North Carolina?

Tax Increases For Middle-Class Families

Under Project 2025, middle-class tax bracket families would see a tax increase of \$2,713 per year; meanwhile, families that earn over \$10 million a year would see a tax cut of nearly \$1.5 million.

Social Security Age Increase & Benefit Cut

The authors of Project 2025 propose raising the retirement age from 67 to 69. In effect, Social Security benefits would drop by \$4,100 to \$8,900 after just one year—meaning that a regular median-wage retiree would lose \$46,000 to \$100,000 over a decade.

Medicare & Health care

Under proposed limits and lifetime caps on Medicare, 911,500 low-income Medicaid enrollees may be at risk of losing their coverage. And, by eliminating out-of-pocket Medicare drug cost limits, over 600,000 North Carolinians would pay more for their prescription drugs.

Abortion Rights

In one of Project 2025's most controversial policies, the federal government would misapply the 1873 Comstock Act law, which would effectively ban abortion across the nation by criminalizing the shipment of abortion medication. Project 2025 further instructs the Department of Justice to open cases against local officials and doctors who violate state abortion bans, such as North Carolina's 12-week abortion ban.

Child Care

Head Start, which provides free child care services to nearly 20,000 children across the state, would be eliminated. This would particularly affect low-income and rural communities, which tend to lack preexisting child care infrastructure.

Public Education

Under Project 2025, the Department of Education would be completely eliminated. Title 1, which helps provide critical funding for low-income schools, would also be eliminated, leading to the loss of 6,417 teaching positions that serve 98,823 students across the state.



To learn more about the specifics of these landmark infrastructure bills, and see where the money was invested in your local community, visit:



NORTH CAROLINA INFRASTRUCTURE

Roads, railways, bridges, and dams keep our state and nation moving, but ever wonder how much it costs to keep them operational? Over the last several years, the Biden-Harris administration proposed and Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which have unleashed a flurry of public and private investments into our nation's infrastructure.

In your county and those nearby, these infrastructure investments have been as follows:

Franklin: \$1,541,000

Granville: \$787,132

Nash: \$23,492,574

Vance: \$117,000

Wake: \$850,837,056



https://stock.adobe.com/images/view-on-downtown-raleigh-nc-usa/87797341?prev_url=detail



https://stock.adobe.com/images/halloween-or-autumn-decoration-at-carnival/296311780?prev_url=detail

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=118953417317365&set=a.118953420650698>
<https://www.facebook.com/votescottlassiter/>

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<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/biden-administration-investment-tracker/>]