

## 2022 NORTH CAROLINA PRIMARY ELECTION UPDATE

May 18, 2022

### **Introduction**

Primary elections were held across the state yesterday, as North Carolinians cast their ballots for various local, state and federal races. Originally scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>, the primaries were postponed by the North Carolina Supreme Court as part of the litigation challenging the new legislative and congressional maps approved by the North Carolina General Assembly. The North Carolina Supreme Court, in a 4-3 opinion that broke along party lines, rejected all three of the original maps and ordered the Republican leaders in the state legislature to redraw them. The replacement maps for the state House and state Senate were approved, but a three-judge panel rejected the redrawn congressional map and adopted an interim congressional map that will be used for the 2022 elections only.

### **Impact of Redistricting**

The redistricting effort, which utilizes the most recent decennial census data to ensure that each district contains roughly the same number of people as other districts in the same legislative body, produces new districts that are responsive to the population growth and shifts that have occurred in the state over the past ten years. Given the high rate of growth in and around the urban areas of the state and the more modest growth or loss in population in the rural areas, more lawmakers will represent urban areas while fewer legislators will be elected from rural regions of the state. In addition, there are several instances where two incumbent legislators are drawn into the same Senate or House district. Republican state legislators from rural parts of the state are most likely to be impacted, as the size of the districts in these areas had to be enlarged to include an appropriate number of voters. Incumbents who are “double bunked” face the prospect of facing off against each other, retiring, or filing to run for another office.

An unsurprising result of composing such a large number of new districts (170 total in the North Carolina Senate and House) is that a reasonable number of the newly-drawn districts are moderately to substantially different than the current districts. Incumbents may benefit from or be disadvantaged by these changes. Those in the latter category could face uphill battles in primaries or general elections, or, as with double bunked incumbents, they could retire or run for a different office.

### **U.S. Senate**

Current Congressman Ted Budd outpaced his primary opponents to collect 58.6% of the vote in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate. The Davie County native was the benefactor of at least \$15 million in ad spending by the Club for Growth, a conservative super PAC supporting his candidacy, and the endorsement of former President Trump. Former Governor Pat McCrory (24.6%), former U.S. Rep. Mark Walker (9.2%) and political newcomer Marjorie Eastman (2.9%) could not keep pace.

Budd moves on to face former North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, who easily won the Democratic primary after securing over 81% of the vote.

### **U.S. House**

As a result of North Carolina’s population growth, the state has gained a 14th congressional seat. As discussed above, the congressional map that will be used in this year’s primary and general elections was drawn by a special master and approved by a three-judge panel after those judges rejected the redrawn map from the General Assembly. Due to retirements and the

addition of the 14<sup>th</sup> seat, there are four open seats. There are a large number of candidates in many of these open seat primaries, and the top vote-getter must garner more than 30% of the votes cast to avoid a July 26<sup>th</sup> runoff with the second-place finisher. Other than the Republican primary in the 11<sup>th</sup> District, all the incumbents had a fairly easy path to securing their party's nomination.

## **1<sup>st</sup> District**

Businesswoman Sandy Smith defeated Rocky Mount Mayor Sandy Roberson and six other candidates to claim the Republican primary in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. This district, which covers much of the northeast part of the state, is an area currently represented by retiring Congressman G.K. Butterfield. State Senator Don Davis, who Congressman Butterfield endorsed, secured the Democratic nomination. Davis beat out Erica Smith, a former state Senator who also ran for U.S. Senate in 2020, and two other candidates.

## **4<sup>th</sup> District**

Aside from one term (1995-1997), Congressman David Price has served in this seat since 1987. His retirement announcement last October opened the seat. State Senator Valerie Foushee from Orange County secured the Democratic nomination by besting seven other candidates, including American Idol contestant Clay Aiken and Durham County Commissioner Nida Allam, the first Muslim woman to ever hold office in the state. Foushee moves on to face Courtney Geels, the winner of the Republican primary, in the general election in this heavily Democratic district.

## **11<sup>th</sup> District**

Freshman Congressman Madison Cawthorn lost in an eight-person Republican primary in the 11<sup>th</sup> District. Controversy has surrounded Cawthorn as he attempted to take a loaded gun through security in an airport, referred to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as a "thug," and has been accused of insider trading. Conservative state Senator Chuck Edwards, with the support of prominent Republicans like U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, NC Senate leader Phil Berger and NC House Speaker Tim Moore, was able to unseat Cawthorn by claiming 33.4% of the vote as compared to Cawthorn's 31.9%. Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, a Buncombe County Commissioner and Executive Director of the Campaign for Southern Equality, awaits Edwards in the general election in this Republican-oriented district.

## **13<sup>th</sup> District**

There is no incumbent in the newly drawn 13<sup>th</sup> District, which looks to be one of the most competitive congressional districts this fall. This district includes the southern half of Wake, all of Johnston, and portions of Harnett and Wayne Counties. On the Democratic side, state Senator Wiley Nickel, a criminal defense attorney and former staffer in the Obama White House, bested former state Senator Sam Searcy and three others. Republican primary voters selected Bo Hines, the 26-year-old newcomer who was endorsed by former President Trump and benefited from roughly \$1.25 million in political ads from the Club for Growth. Hines finished with 32.1% of the vote, while Johnston County businessman DeVan Barbour captured 22.7% of the vote. Kelly Daughtry, the daughter of longtime state House member Leo Daughtry, garnered roughly 17% of the primary vote.

## **14<sup>th</sup> District**

The 14<sup>th</sup> District, which includes much of Charlotte and a large section of Gaston County, is another district with no incumbent. State Senator Jeff Jackson, who initially ran for the U.S. Senate seat, obtained over 86% of the vote in the Democratic primary and prevailed over Ramin

Mammadov. Pat Harrigan garnered 75.7% of the Republican primary vote to claim that party's nomination over Jonathan Simpson. Jackson and Harrigan will square off this fall in the general election in a district that tends to favor a Democrat.

Here is a chart of the congressional primary winners:

District	Republican	Democrat	Libertarian
1	Sandy Smith	Don Davis	
2	Christine Villaverde	Deborah Ross*	
3	Greg Murphy*	Barbara Gaskins	
4	Courtney Geels	Valerie Foushee	
5	Virginia Foxx*	Kyle Parrish	Thomas Watercott
6	Christian Castelli	Kathy Manning*	
7	David Rouzer*	Charles Graham	
8	Dan Bishop*	Scott Huffman	
9	Richard Hudson*	Ben Clark	
10	Patrick McHenry*	Pam Genant	
11	Chuck Edwards	Jasmine Beach-Ferrara	David Coatney
12	Tyler Lee	Alma Adams*	
13	Bo Hines	Wiley Nickel	
14	Pat Harrigan	Jeff Jackson	

\*incumbent

### **State Senate**

Of the 50 state Senate districts, there are ten open seat districts as well as two districts where Republican incumbents are double bunked. In one of the double bunked districts, Norm Sanderson (55.5%) bested Bob Steinburg (45.5%) in the Republican primary in District 1. This district includes a large area of the Outer Banks and northeast North Carolina. In the other double bunked district in the northwest part of the state, Ralph Hise (50.65%) defeated Deanna Ballard (49.35%) in District 47.

In District 19, Senator Kirk deViere lost in the Democratic primary. In an uncommon maneuver, Governor Cooper endorsed one deViere's challengers, former Fayetteville City Council Member Val Applewhite. DeViere was one of a handful of Democrats who worked with Republican leaders on budget negotiations and other major legislative issues, but the only one that Cooper chose to oppose publicly.

The only other incumbent to lose was District 3 Democrat Ernestine Bazemore, who was defeated by Warren County native Valerie Jordan by a vote of 59.7% to 40.3%.

## **State House**

On the House side, redistricting and retirements produced 20 open seats and two districts where Republican incumbents are double bunked. In District 52, which encompasses Richmond County and part of Moore County, Ben Moss (53.4%) surpassed Jamie Boles (46.6%). Jake Johnson (65%) outpaced David Rogers (35%) in District 113, which includes Polk County and parts of Henderson, McDowell and Rutherford Counties. The only other incumbent who lost was Republican Pat Hurley who was knocked off in District 70. Randolph County Schools board member Brian Biggs defeated Hurley by a vote of 52.3% to 47.7%.

## **Judiciary**

As referenced in the introduction, Democrats currently have four of the seven seats on the state Supreme Court. This fall Republicans hope to take the majority by winning one or both of the two seats that are being contested in the general election. There is a Republican primary for one of these seats, Associate Justice Seat 5, which is currently held by Democrat Sam Irvin IV. Trey Allen, the General Counsel for the NC Administrative Office of the Courts, defeated two opponents to win the primary and will face off against Justice Irvin in November.

The 15-member NC Court of Appeals, where Republicans hold 10 of the 15 seats, has four contested races in the general election. There were Republican primaries for two of these seats. Incumbent Court of Appeals Judge Donna Stroud bested Beth Freshwater Smith, a district attorney from eastern North Carolina. Lawyer and former state legislator Brad Salmon will be Judge Stroud's opponent in the general election this fall for Seat 9 on the NC Court of Appeals. Mecklenburg County District Court Judge Michael Stading defeated North Carolina Industrial Commission Chairman Charlton Allen in the Republican primary for NC Court of Appeals Seat 11 and will square off against incumbent Judge Darren Jackson this November.