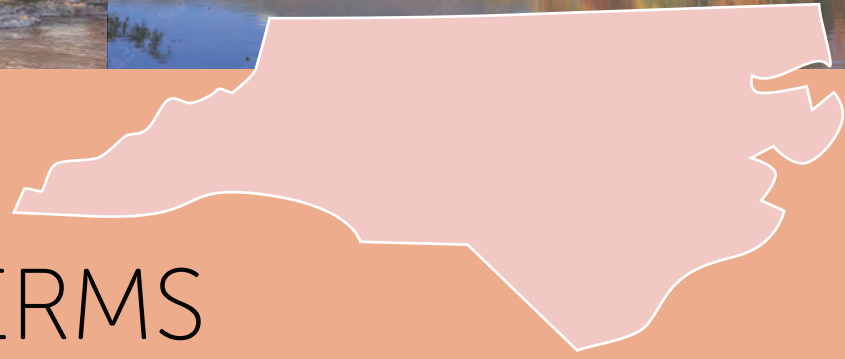




# State of Play

## NORTH CAROLINA MIDTERMS



The rights of North Carolinians are under threat by candidates out of the mainstream with North Carolinians' common sense views on our basic freedoms, our schools, and our democracy itself. Abortion rights, book bans, voting rights, and public education are just some of the key issues at stake.

This guide is a snapshot of who's running and why it matters.



**Talk to all your  
friends, let us help you.  
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## Who & What's On The Ballot?



# State Supreme Court

## HOW IT WORKS & WHAT'S AT STAKE:

7 members are elected by North Carolina voters for 8-year terms.

Each state's own high court has final authority over how state law and state constitutions are interpreted.

**Retaining the current Democratic majority is a top priority**  
*The court could be the final word on abortion bans and the freedom to vote*

## Current Situation

4 **DEMOCRATS**

3 **REPUBLICANS**

2 **DEMOCRATIC-HELD SEATS ARE UP IN 2022**



Justice Sam Erving IV



Trey Allen



Justice Sam Ervin is running for re-election. From one of the proudest North Carolina legal families, Ervin grew up learning about the evils of segregation and the power of moms who care. His mother was a school board member who worked to desegregate North Carolina schools in the 1960s and he is still working to make her proud. He's running against Republican Trey Allen.

Judge Lucy Inman Judge Richard Dietz



Judge Lucy Inman has used her time on the North Carolina Appeals Court to leave politics on the courthouse steps and provide justice for all people. She raised her family in North Carolina, and spent her legal practice advocating for mental health services and helping victims of sexual assault. She's running against a hardline Republican extremist who would curtail our rights and freedoms.

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER NOW?

GOP leaders have implied or outright stated that if they win a Supreme Court majority, they will:

- Declare that the NC Constitution requires the state to spend taxpayer money on religious private schools that may discriminate against children based on their race, religion, sexuality or disability.
- Change the state Supreme Court's recent finding that gerrymandering is unconstitutional, and allow Republican majorities in the Legislature to draw new maps ensuring that Democrat votes will have as little effect as possible.
- Allow restrictions on voting that are meant to make it harder for elderly, rural, poor, and Black and Brown people to vote.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES



# State Legislature

## Current Situation

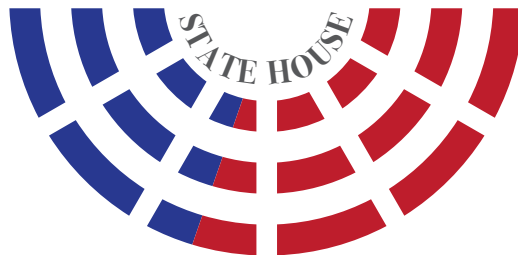


**27 REPUBLICANS**  
**22 DEMOCRATS**

All **49 seats** are up for election, plus 1 additional vacancy to fill, for a **total of 50 seats**

**69 REPUBLICANS**  
**51 DEMOCRATS**

All **120 seats** are up for election



**Republicans need 2 Senate seats and 3 House seats to consolidate a legislative supermajority**

## HOW IT WORKS & WHAT'S AT STAKE:

Extreme Republicans control the state Senate and state House of Representatives in Raleigh. It's unlikely Democrats will be able to flip either chamber, but they must stop the GOP from winning a supermajority that would enable them to override Democratic Governor Roy Cooper's ability to veto bad laws and return the legislative districts to an extreme gerrymander that defies the will of the people.

***If GOP Wins Supermajority -***

***Governor Loses Power to Veto Bad Laws***

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER NOW?

- The North Carolina Republican party has followed its national leadership in becoming more extremist, and often it's the Democratic Governor's veto that keeps the most extreme policies from becoming law.
- GOP Leaders have already announced that if they win back a supermajority, they will:
  - Completely eliminate abortion rights in North Carolina.
  - Keep defying a court order to provide constitutionally adequate funding for public schools, and instead accelerate spending on private school vouchers - including schools that discriminate against children for being gay, disabled, or a religion that the school doesn't prefer.
- Some of the kinds of laws GOP legislators have already proposed include:
  - Authorizing the use of "deadly force" to prevent an abortion, functionally making it legal to murder abortion providers and/or people seeing abortions.
  - Enact a version of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill, (with provisions to force teachers to "out" students or disclose sensitive personal information regardless of whether doing so would put those students in danger).
  - Force school systems to set up censorship committees where any member of the public could seek to have any learning materials - books, worksheets, anything - permanently banned from classrooms.
  - Provide legal protection for people who run over protestors with their cars.
- Additionally, Republican party leadership is currently leading a legal challenge (Moore v. Harper) that will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, that essentially seeks to remove any judicial oversight or protection of state elections. The irreparable implications could range from further election district gerrymandering to harmful restrictions on voting rights.



# U.S. Congress

## HOW IT WORKS & WHAT'S AT STAKE:

### U.S. House

All of the 435 elected officials who represent each state in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC are up for election every 2 years.

Democrats now have an overall slim majority 220 - 211 in the House (with 4 vacancies). North Carolina has 13 members (8 R's 5 D's).

### U.S. Senate

2 Senators represent every state and they serve for 6 years. The Senate is split 50-50 but Democrats have a slight majority now because VP Harris can offer a tie-breaking vote.

There are 48 Democrats with 2 Independents who vote with the Democrats and 50 Republicans.

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER NOW?

If Republicans gain control of the house, they will pass a national abortion ban.

- They also have vowed to hold Biden impeachment hearings for the Justice Department's actions to recover classified docs that Trump took to Mar a Lago
- They've recently voted against lowering the price of insulin for Americans, protecting birth control, marriage equality, and interracial marriage.

### Current Situation

Cheri Beasley



Ted Budd



Democrat Cheri Beasley, former NC Supreme Court Chief Justice, is running against extremist Republican Rep. Ted Budd for the open senate seat.

Ted Budd might be the deciding vote for a national abortion ban. He wants to ban abortion, and opposes exceptions for rape or incest. He is a millionaire gun store owner who opposes most common-sense gun measures – even voting against requiring safe storage around children.



# School Boards

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER NOW?

Outside extremist groups are targeting North Carolina schools through school board candidates— even running Proud Boys for office.

Aside from your child's teacher, principal, and district superintendent, school board members have the greatest influence on your child's education because they decide on how to spend a district's public school funds and set its governing policies.

You need leaders on your school board who share your values and goals, and are willing to stand up to the politically-motivated extremists who are trying to tug us back 50 years (or more).



# Voter Deadlines

**September 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Absentee ballots will start to be mailed out to voters.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>:** Voter registration must be completed if registering online; mail-in registrations must be postmarked by October 14.

**October 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Early voting begins. You can register and vote on the same day during early voting.

**November 1<sup>st</sup>:** The last day to request an absentee ballot.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>:** Early voting ends. Same-day, in-person voter registration ends at 3 pm.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>:** Voted ballots are due by 5pm. Ballots must be postmarked by this day in order to be counted. Ballots without postmarks or with unclear postmarks must be received by this day.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Mail-in ballots that are postmarked by November 8 will be accepted up until 5pm.

