

**KIDS
VOTING
DURHAM**



FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH

KIDSVOTINGDURHAM.ORG

Welcome to the Kids Voting Durham 2020 Candidate Guide!

The Kids Voting Durham Election Guide is the only one of its kind: written by youth, for youth. Learn more about the candidates, positions, and issues in both the national and local elections as well as what you can do to be engaged in elections and government.

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About Kids Voting Durham

Founded in 1999, **Kids Voting Durham (KVD)** helps youth develop the **skills, knowledge, and agency** needed to become **fully empowered citizens**. KVD provides resources for youth, families, and educators to engage as citizens and understand how the government and election work, providing hands-on activities, curriculum, and election guides that are informative for all ages. Since becoming part of the Durham Cooperative Extension in 2005, **more than 200,000 youth have cast a vote** in Kids Voting Durham elections and **over 3000 youth leaders and adult volunteers** have given their time to creating a more informed, powerful youth citizenry.



Kids Voting Durham is a program of the Durham County Cooperative Extension.



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A Letter to Durham's Youth

Kids Can Vote Too!

Through KVD Elections, contacting our representatives, talking with adults about voting, and much more, WE can make a difference!



As the next election approaches, it is important to understand your role in it. **Youth 18 and under make up more than 20% of Durham County's population.** We can create meaningful change through youth participation in the election.

Local, State, and Federal government all play important roles in our lives, making **voter awareness and participation in 2020 very important.** Our elected officials vote on policies which affect your friends, your family, and your future. That is why it is important to stay aware of elections, issues, and candidates.

As the future of Durham, elected officials will listen to us. Local officials care for and listen to youth. They answer our questions, talk with us, and do their best to help us in our everyday lives. Elected officials have listened to us before and they will continue to talk with us in the future, but **we must use our voice.**

– 2020 KVD Youth Leadership Interns

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN ELECTIONS AS A YOUTH?



1 Make sure the adults in your life make an informed decision about their vote

Make sure the adults in your life know about the candidates, issues, voting dates, and requirements. Read and talk about the 2020 KVD Election Guide with them.

2 Use your voice

Talk about issues you care about, contact elected officials, and share what is important to you, and stand up for your beliefs.

3 Throw a different Election Party

Voting is a thing to celebrate! Get people of all ages together to talk about candidates, elections, and voting in a virtual party!

4 Vote and volunteer with Kids Voting Durham

Students K-12 can vote in KVD Youth Elections to share what they think about the same candidates adults are voting for. There are also many opportunities for youth leadership and volunteering!

5 Get out the vote

Host virtual "Pledge the Vote" drives to help get all eligible voters to vote at elections. You can also volunteer with other organizations that do this, like YouCanVote.org.

Message for Parents

YOU are the most important influence on how your child views community engagement and voting. The biggest indicator of whether or not a child will grow up to be an engaged and informed voter is not race, gender, or education level; it is whether or not a trusted adult in their life valued voting and shared that with them while they were young. According to the Constitutional Rights Foundation, “Parents are crucial in helping their children develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with effective citizenship.”

We encourage you not only to be involved in the elections yourself, but to share that engagement with your child. Here are some tips:

- **Talk politics at the dinner table.** Use this candidate guide to spark conversations about the issues and candidates not only in the Presidential election but in NC State and local Durham races as well. What issues are most important to your family? **How do national, state, and local government affect your daily lives?**
- **Engage in the elections together.** Take your child to meet the candidates at a community forum or event. Encourage others to vote: throw a **family voting celebration** or have a **get-out-the vote** drive with tips from kidsvotingdurham.org/parents.
- **Go beyond the elections.** Talk with your kids about who won the elections and about how to hold the candidates accountable for their election promises and getting input from all those affected by their decision-making. Get involved in local government or volunteer together with a group that works on one of the issues that is most important to your family. Write a family letter to the County Commissioners or the Durham Youth Commission about an issue you'd like to see them address.

Get more tips on being involved in elections as a family by signing up for KVD's **[“Countdown to Election Day 2020”](#)**, containing weekly election activities, resources, and pointers for all ages. Kids Voting Durham is excited to work with you to inspire a lifetime of civic engagement and informed voting for your child.

Happy voting!

Mensaje para padres

Usted es la influencia más importante en la opinión que tendrá su hijo sobre la participación comunitaria y la votación. El factor principal que ayuda a determinar si su hijo será un votante comprometido e informado no es su raza, género o nivel de educación; ¡Lo que tiene un mayor impacto es si un adulto de confianza en su vida valoró o no el voto y lo compartió con ellos cuando eran jóvenes. Según la Fundación de Derechos Constitucionales, "Los padres son esenciales para ayudar a sus hijos a desarrollar el conocimiento, las habilidades y las actitudes asociadas con ser un ciudadano comprometido".

- **Hable sobre política durante la cena.** Use esta guía de candidatos para iniciar conversaciones sobre no sólo la elección presidencial, sino también en las elecciones estatales y locales de Durham. ¿Cuáles asuntos son los más importantes para su familia? ¿Cómo influyen en su vida diaria los gobiernos nacionales, estatales y locales?
- **Participen juntos en las elecciones.** Lleve a su hijo a conocer a los candidatos en un foro o evento de la comunidad. Anime a otros a votar. Organicen una celebración de votación familiar o hagan una campaña para sacar el voto con consejos de kidsvotingdurham.org/parents/
- **El trabajo continúa aun después de las elecciones.** Hable con sus hijos sobre quién ganó las elecciones y hable con ellos acerca de cómo asegurarse que los candidatos cumplan sus promesas electorales y sigan escuchando directamente de la comunidad que es impactada por las decisiones que ellos toman. Participe en el gobierno de la ciudad o sea voluntario en algún grupo que trabaje para mejorar algunos de los asuntos que sean de importancia para su familia. Escriba una carta en familia al alcalde o al Concejo Municipal de Durham sobre algún tema que le gustaría ver que el Gobierno de la ciudad trabajase para solucionar.

Obtenga más consejos sobre cómo participar en las elecciones en familia inscribiéndose a la " Cuenta regresiva para las elecciones 2020" de KVD, que contiene actividades electorales semanales, recursos e ideas para todas las edades. Kids Voting Durham está muy contento en trabajar con usted para inspirar toda una vida de participación cívica y votación informada para su hijo.

¡Feliz votación!

Kids Voting Elections

Kids Voting Durham is dedicated to providing youth under 18 the opportunity to participate in the election process and vote on the same candidates and issues as adults. For young people under the age of 18, your vote does not determine who is elected, but **your vote does count**: we share the results of the youth election throughout the Durham community, including schools, elected officials, and with all the candidate who ran, so **your voice is heard**.

This candidate guide—along with exploring candidates and issues on your own and talking to family & friends – can help you make an informed voting decision. You can **vote online from the beginning of early voting through Election Day, November 3 at 7:30 PM** or through your school if it offers Kids Voting.

Mindful of the health of both youth and adult voters, KVD will not offer voting in precincts in the Fall of 2020.

Kids Voting Durham se dedica a brindar a los jóvenes menores de 18 años la oportunidad de participar en el proceso electoral y de votar por los mismos candidatos y asuntos que los adultos. Para los jóvenes menores de 18 años, su voto no determina quién es elegido, pero su voto sí cuenta: compartimos los resultados de la elección juvenil con toda la comunidad de Durham, incluyendo las escuelas, los funcionarios electos y con todos los candidatos que se postularon, para que su voz sea escuchada.

Además de conocer más sobre los candidatos y los asuntos por su cuenta y de hablar con su familia y amigos, esta Guía de candidatos puede ayudarle a tomar una decisión informada sobre su voto. Puedes votar en línea a partir del momento que comienza el periodo de votación temprana hasta el día de las elecciones, el 3 de noviembre a las 7:30 PM o a través de tu escuela si ellos participan en las votaciones de Kids Voting.

Teniendo en cuenta la salud de los votantes jóvenes y adultos, KVD no ofrecerá la posibilidad de votar en persona en los recintos en el otoño de 2020.

A promotional graphic for Kids Voting Durham. The top section is yellow and features the text "YOUTH VOTE TOO!" in white, the Kids Voting Durham logo (a blue silhouette of a person with arms raised), and the website "KIDSVOTINGDURHAM.ORG". Below this are social media handles for Instagram (@kidsvotingdurham) and Twitter (@kidsvotingdurha). The middle section is orange and contains the text "VOTE ONLINE" in white, followed by the dates "OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 3, 7:30 PM" and the website "kidsvotingdurham.org/elections". It also provides instructions: "Click on VOTE HERE and enter voter ID '000' when prompted". The bottom section is orange and features the text "VOTE IN PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS" in white, along with contact information: "Call 919-560-7321 or email info@kidsvotingdurham.org to become a participating school!"

YOUTH VOTE TOO!  **KIDS VOTING DURHAM**
KIDSVOTINGDURHAM.ORG

 @kidsvotingdurham  @kidsvotingdurha

VOTE ONLINE **OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 3, 7:30 PM**
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Click on **VOTE HERE** and enter voter ID "000" when prompted

VOTE IN PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS
Call 919-560-7321 or email info@kidsvotingdurham.org to become a participating school!

First-time NC Voters

After years of voting in KVD Elections, are you ready for your vote to determine who gets elected? Here's what you need to know:

Voter Eligibility

You are eligible to vote if you are **18 of older** on November 3, 2020, **a citizen** of the United States, **have lived in North Carolina for at least 30 days**, AND are **not currently serving a term for a felony conviction** include probation or parole.

9 OCTOBER LAST DAY TO REGISTER	15-31 OCTOBER ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING
ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3, 2020 POLLING SITES OPEN 6:30 AM-7:30 PM	
4 SEPTEMBER ABSENTEE VOTING STARTS	27 OCTOBER ABSENTEE REQUEST DEADLINE

Registration

You must be registered in order to cast a vote. If you are 16 or older, you can register **Online** at dcovotes.com with a current NC Driver's License or by **printing out a registration form**, filling it in, signing it, and **mailing or hand delivering** it to the Durham Board of Elections (faxes and emailed forms are not permitted for registrations) The deadline for registering to vote is **5pm October 9, 2020** to vote on Election Day. (You can still register and vote during One-Stop/Early Voting.) **Not sure if you are already registered?** Check at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>

Voting by Mail/Absentee – dcovotes.com/voters/voting/absentee-voting

Voting by mail, also called absentee ballot voting, is available to every registered voter in North Carolina. To vote by mail you **must fill out an absentee ballot request form and mail or email it to the Durham Board of Elections by October 27, 2020.** Once you receive your ballot in the mail you must fill it out and mail it back to the board of election, postmarked by November 3, 2020.

One-Stop Early Voting - dcovotes.com/voters/voting/early-voting

- Runs from **October 15-31**; eligible voters can vote in person at any location
- Allows same-day registration, meaning you can register and vote at the same time

Voting on Election Day

- Election Day is November 3, 2020
- Polling sites are open from 6:30 am-7:30 pm
- You **MUST** vote at your assigned polling site on Election Day; look up your polling site at vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/
- Only voters who are already registered can vote on Election Day

Voting Rights

Not everyone in the United States can vote or has always had the right or been allowed to vote. Women, black & brown Americans, Indigenous people and others had to fight long & hard to be given the right to vote.

You can view KVD's **A History of U.S. Voting Rights** at kidsvotingdurham.org/voting-rights

Despite the progress that has been made, there are still limits on who can vote and the efforts to expand voter rights continue.

Some groups – **those under 18, non-citizens, citizens from US territories, and felons** – are not permitted to vote in North Carolina and the US.

There are efforts working to expand suffrage (the right to vote) for many of these groups below. In recent years, some have had successes, with 16-years old now able to vote in local elections in a few US municipalities and legislation pending to expand voter rights to youth, long-time foreign residents, and others.

Voting rights can be impacted even for those who have the legal right to vote. **Voter purging** -- cleaning up voter registrations lists to remove those may have died or moved – in some states can also affect those who simply do not vote frequently and means these voters will not be eligible to vote until they re-register. (Voters should always check their registration before voting to make sure it is up to date!)

There has been much controversy over **Voter ID** laws and whether they put unfair restrictions on who can vote. In 2018, NC voters passed a Constitutional Amendment to require an approved photo ID for voters, but the courts stopped the law from being implemented until they can review its validity. Currently, voter photo ID is not required to vote in NC but it is required in 18 other US states.

If you cannot vote, you still have influence! You can make sure the eligible voters in your life are voting and that they are making informed decisions about current issues. You can also write to those in power and protest - people in charge often listen to young people when we speak up!

In NC, you cannot vote if you are:

- **under the age of 18**
- **not a US citizen**
- **a US citizen living in a US territory**
- **considered mentally unfit**
- **a felon who is still serving their sentence**

MODERN DAY SUFFRAGE MOVEMENTS

[Vote 16 USA](#) works to support efforts to lower the voting age in cities, states, & nationally.

[Unlock Our Vote](#) is a Forward Justice NC campaign to support restoring voting rights for felons.

[Equally American](#) promotes full citizenship rights for those who live in US territories.

[UNC TV VOTING RIGHTS COVERAGE](#) news relating to voting rights in NC

ISSUES

In 2020, CIRCLE “asked youth to name the top issues that would determine their vote for President in 2020.” The most cited issues were the environment/climate change, racism, and health care access/affordability (12%)—all of which were named the single most important issue by 12-13% of youth. Getting back to normal after the coronavirus (9%) and police treatment of communities of color (7%) were also frequently cited.

KVD has focused on these issues for this Election Guide, but CIRCLE also noted “no single issue was chosen as most important by more than 15% of youth further illustrates that young people care about a variety of public matters.” This same trend was noted in KVD’s 2019 Durham Youth Survey when many youth commented that there was no one issue that was most important to them, but that they cared about a broad range of issues. So while we offer this as a guide, we are also sharing resources where you can see where the candidates stand on any issues that are important to you.

For more information on the CIRCLE study of Youth & Elections, [click this link.](#)

ISSUE INFORMATION

I SIDE WITH

isidewith.com/polls

Find out where candidates, US parties, and the US or NC public stand on issues that are important to you.

ALL SIDES

allsides.com/

Balanced news coverage and media bias ratings.

PEW RESEARCH ON ELECTION ISSUES

pewresearch.org/topics/political-issue-priorities/

Racism & Racial Equity

Racism and Racial Equity are immense and complicated topic that cannot be summarized into just one page. Still, it is very important to begin to understand different forms of racism and how people are affected by them. **Individual racism** is specific beliefs, attitudes, and actions of individuals that support or perpetuate racism in conscious and unconscious ways.

Systemic (or institutional) racism is what we talk about in terms of elected official and policies. Per the [Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change](#), *“the term structural racism refers to a system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity.”* In systemic racism, institutions themselves are designed to perpetuate unequal outcomes for people of color regardless of the individual biases of the people in those institutions.

Racism affects every institution and elected office, and it is apparent in the difference in outcomes for white people versus people of color in our healthcare, social services, policing, education, and other government and societal systems. These are just a few:

- In Durham, 96% of white residents have a high school diploma compared to about 86-88% of black and American Indians/Alaskan Natives.
- In 2018, 59% of traffic stops were of black drivers compared to 27% of white drivers in Durham, while only 38% of the population of Durham County is black.
- 49% of black Durham County residents and 56% of Hispanic/Latino residents were asset poor compared to only 21% of their white counterparts.
- In Durham, for every 4.43 businesses owned by whites, there is one business owned by a black person

Want to know more about systemic racial equity and policy making and elections?

[What is Systemic Racism](#) 8-part video series by raceforward.org that shows how racism shows up in institutions and society in wealth, employment, housing, incarceration, immigration, and infant mortality.

[News Podcasts with a Racial Equity Focus](#) The Hub’s list of teen-friendly news podcasts that look at current events from a racial equity perspective

[AllSides.com Racism Coverage](#) Looks at news on racism from across the political spectrum


[KQED Youth Reporting on Racism & Racial Equity](#)

Racism isn't something a singular part of government or department can simply fix. Racial Equity needs to be part of the decision-making in all government policies to make a difference. One way to look at progress toward that is to look at the racial makeup and lived experience of the elected officials who make these decisions.

According to the [American Bar Association](#), here are some questions you can ask to evaluate Candidates on racial equity:

- Who have they professed solidarity with?
- Who benefits from the policies that they advocate for?
- Who finances their campaign?
- Do they seem to understand the interconnections of racism, sexism, and economics?
- Will they represent the interests of the most disenfranchised groups in the community?
- Are they willing to work for long-term, structural change in our society?

Racism - Who Decides?



You vote for: EVERY elected and appointed government official has a role in deciding	They work on: Developing government structures, laws, service and education programs that have been parts of structural racism
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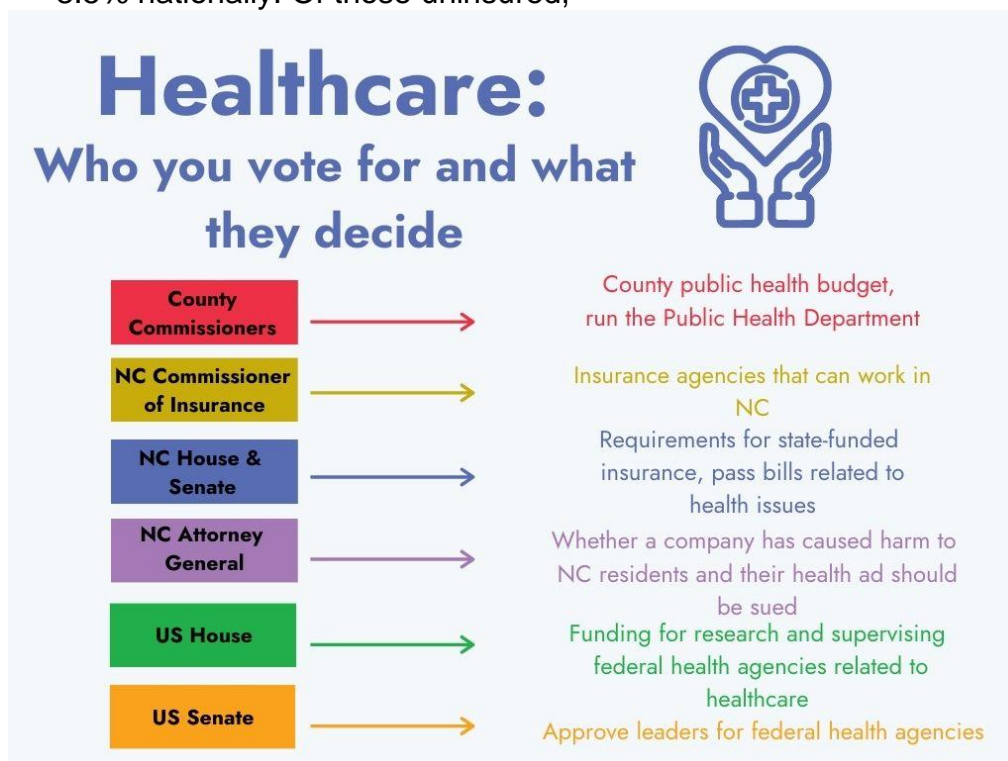
Racial breakdown of government:

US Senate 3% Black, 5% Latinx, 91% White	Presidents 1 Black, 44 White (in all time)	NC Senate 0% Latinx, 20% Black, 80% White
US House of Representatives , 9% Latinx, 12% Black, 77% White	Durham County Commissioners 0% Latinx, 40% Black, 60% White	NC House 0% Latinx, 21% Black, 78% White

Healthcare Access & Affordability

When healthcare is referred to as an election issue, it can refer to a wide variety of issues such as **universal healthcare, insurance coverage, health inequities** based on race, ethnicity, and location, or other current health problems facing America.

- 1 in 4 Durham Public School high school students reported having feelings of depression in 2015.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Durham, followed by heart disease.
- An estimated 14.2% of Durham residents are uninsured, compared to 8.5% nationally. Of those uninsured, 4,425 were children and adolescents under 19 years old.
- Life expectancy differs between races in Durham too, with white people averaging 82.4 and black people averaging 77.1.



In order to get a better understanding of what healthcare issues face our nation, state, and county, these resources provide background information:

[NPR Overview of 2020 Election Healthcare Issues](#)

Government Agencies

[Durham County Health Department](#)

[North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services](#)

[US Department of Health & Human Services](#)

Environment/Climate Change

The environment as an election issue looks at how human, government, and company activities affect **nature, sustainability, and climate change**. The issue of climate change looks at how human activities, like burning oil, gas, and coal, are changing Earth's climate at a faster rate and presenting new environmental challenges.

- Sea level rise, ice loss and extreme weather – all signs of climate change – increased during 2015-2019; this period is also going to be the warmest five-year period on record, according to the World Meteorological Organization.
- Durham has had a 129% increase in heavy rains since 1950, believed to be an effect of climate change. This can lead to constant heavy flooding in the area.
- North Carolina's per person waste creation is much lower than the national average (.94 tons vs. 1.28 tons per person per year respectively for 2008)!
- Durham is in the top 15 counties in NC in recycling common household items, recycling 137.28 lbs per person in 2018.

KQED Youth Reporting on Climate Change States at Risk Climate Change Data for NC
<https://statesatrisk.org/north-carolina/all>
Nasa Climate Reports <https://climate.nasa.gov/>

Environment - Who Decides? 	
You choose:	They decide:
County Commissioners, Mayor, City Council	Decisions about county and city environmental impact
Commissioner of Agriculture	Promotes agriculture, soil and water conservation, and forestry protection
NC House and Senate	Pass environmental laws for the state
NC Attorney General	Can bring lawsuits against companies harming the environment
Governor	Declares states of emergency, chooses heads of state environmental agencies
US House and Senate	Control federal funding, approves leaders of federal agencies like the EPA, pass environmental laws for the nation
President	Determines how the federal government prioritizes different environmental issues, chooses leaders of federal agencies like the EPA

Coronavirus Response

Everyone across the world has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and Durham is no different. As counties, states, and countries start to open up again, people have wondered how we can go about our daily activities while staying safe and healthy. COVID Response covers a wide range of topics including:

Reopening Schools: Currently, North Carolina's plan for reopening public schools allows individual school districts to choose between in person learning with social distancing and safety requirements, online instruction or a combination.

Technology and Internet Access For Students: All across the country, programs have been created to give all children access to proper resources for their education (technology, internet). All estimates suggest that low-income, rural, and minority families are more likely to have unequal access to the technology needed to participate in distance learning

Stabilizing the Economy: Unemployment has gone up sharply since March when many states began putting restrictions in place.

Resources

[COVID Equity Considerations from the Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Allsides.com Coronavirus page](#)

[Ballotpedia: Presidential Candidates on Coronavirus Recovery](#)

[ProCon.org on School Reopening during Coronavirus](#)

[KQED Youth Reporting on Coronavirus](#)

COVID-19 - Who Decides?



Many governing bodies are making decisions about COVID-19:

Federal Government

Air travel, travel between states, use of emergency funds and medical resources, national mandates, unemployment,

State Government

Travel within and out of state, reopening schools
o businesses,
mask requirements

County/Local Government

Reopening schools and businesses, mask requirements in addition to State mandates

It is important to follow these guidelines and stay informed about what is going on.

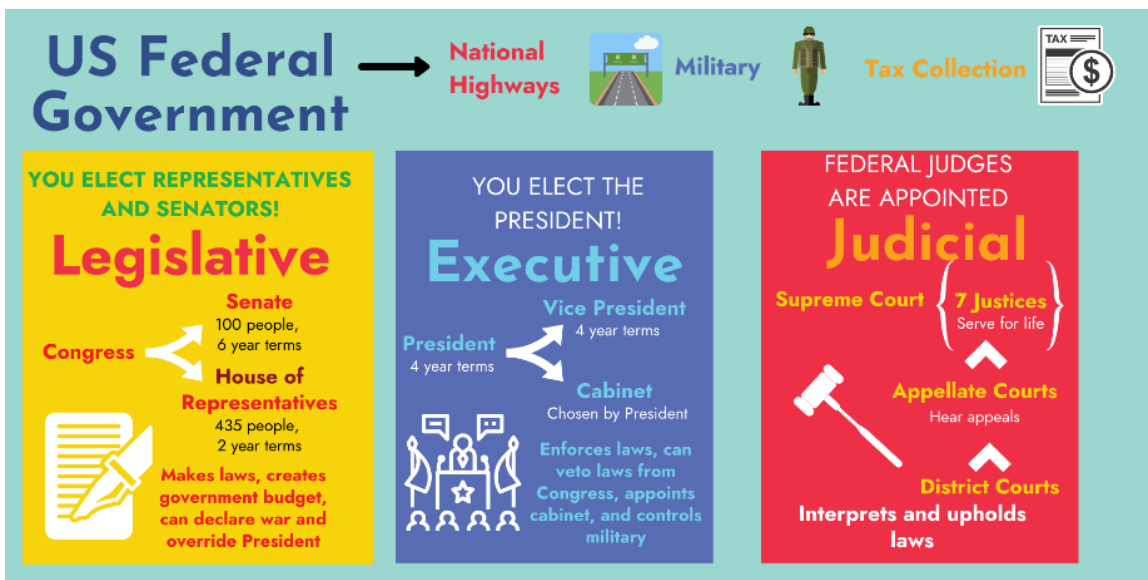


Federal Government

What Does It Do?

Have you ever mailed a letter, visited a national park, seen a member of the US The **Federal Government** is the largest government in the US and manages many important programs, such as the **national highways, US Post Office, Social Security, foreign relations, the military**, and more. In order to fund its programs, the Federal Government collects taxes from the citizens of all the states.

How Is It Run?



Legislative Branch

- The **US Congress** has the authority to write the laws Congress is made up of two elected houses: the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate** which create the laws for our country. In order for a new law to pass, both the House and Senate must give their approval.
- The **House** has **435 elected members**, raises money through **taxes** & creates the national budget.
- The **Senate** has **100 elected members** (2 from each state) and is responsible for approving treaties and appointments.

Executive Branch

- This branch is led by the **president**, who is elected together with the vice president every 4 years. The president serves as the head of state and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.
- The **vice president** presides over the Senate and assumes the duties of the president if necessary.
- The **cabinet members** manage the major federal agencies and serve as advisors to the president. These officials are appointed by the President and confirmed (approved) by the Senate.

Judicial Branch

- The **Supreme Court** is the highest court in the country, and wields the power of **judicial review** in order to determine if the other branches' actions have violated the Constitution.
- The **Lower Courts** are responsible for trying and hearing appeals for the majority of federal cases.
- Members of the federal judicial branch are appointed (selected) by the president and confirmed (approved) by the Senate.

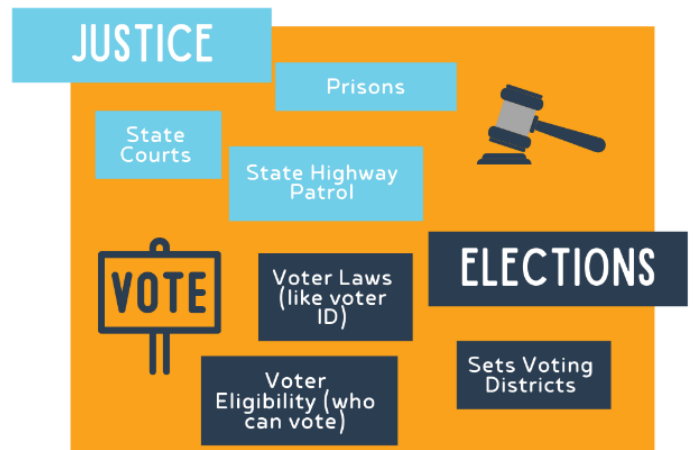
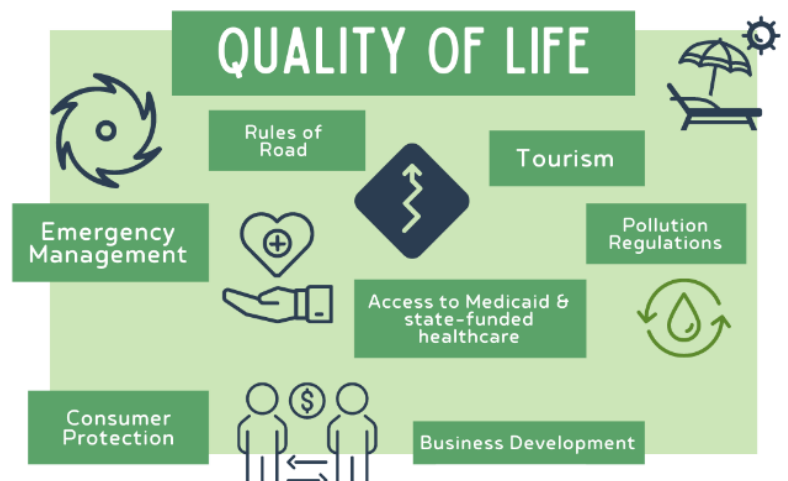
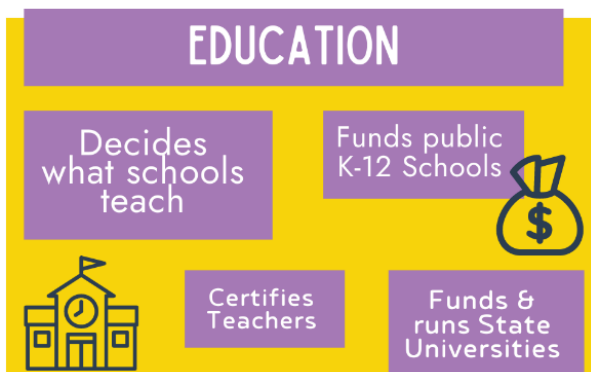
State Government

What does it do?

Have you ever seen a state trooper on the highway? Have you gone with an older family member to vote? If so, you saw the state government at work!

The state government does many different things. It uses tax money to **create a budget** each year to **build roads, run elections, fund state universities, and manage prisons**.

It **passes laws** to decide the **rules of the road (like the speed limit), the things your teacher needs to teach, and the tests people have to take to become a teacher or electrician**. And, the state government promotes the state of North Carolina to **encourage tourists, residents,**



and businesses to come here.

How is it run?

The state government has three branches. The **General Assembly** is the legislative branch. It makes laws. It has two houses: the Senate (50 members) and the House of Representatives

(120 members). Members of the General Assembly represent their home districts. The **Governor** leads the executive branch. The Governor signs or vetoes laws. The Governor also works with statewide elected officials and appointed officials to carry out laws. The executive branch carries out most of the actual activities of the state government. Finally, the judicial branch has state courts, which hear criminal and civil court cases.

NC STATE GOVERNMENT



Durham County by the Numbers

2,244

inspections
(construction,
health, etc.)

127,641

dispatch calls
processed

Over 400

homeless people
provided with shelter

Over 450

acres of public
park spaces



190,000

materials lent out by
Durham County Library

Over 25

exhibits funded at
the Museum of Life
and Science



DURHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT

What did you do this morning? If you **went to school**, used a **library**, voted in Kids Voting or as an adult, visited the school **nurse**, or interacted with your **school SROs**, Durham County Government was affecting you every step of the way. It provides funding for our schools, runs our library system, oversees foster care & adoptions, manages juvenile justice, and provides community health & safety services.

How is it Run?

Durham is led by **5 County Commissioners**. Durham County Commission elections are held every **4 years**, and each Commissioner is elected to a **4-year term**. Commissioner Candidates run in **partisan races**, where they are affiliated with a political party. As no candidates from other parties ran in the March Commissioner primary election, the 5 Democratic candidates on the November ballot are the only choices for the 5 available County Commissioner seats and will likely be elected.

Durham County Commissioners are responsible for making policy for the County Government and hire & oversee the **Durham County Manager**, who runs the day-to-day operations of the county.

ABOUT POLITICAL PARTIES



There are 5 Political Parties on the November ballot in North Carolina, though not every party has a candidate in every race. Each party has a **platform** that outlines their stand on issues and governing.

Constitution Party

“We declare the platform of the Constitution Party to be predicated on the principles of: The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution of the United States and The Bill of Rights. The sole purpose of government, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, is to secure

our unalienable rights given us by our Creator. When Government grows beyond this scope, it is usurpation, and liberty is compromised.” [Read Full Platform](#)

Democratic Party

“Above all, Democrats still believe in the American idea—its principles, its purpose, and its promise. [Read Full Platform](#)

Green Party

“We propose a vision of our common good that is advanced through an independent politics free from the control of corporations and big money, and through a democratic structure and process that empowers and reaches across lines of division to bring together our combined strengths as a people.” [Read Full Platform](#)

Libertarian Party

“As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and are not forced to sacrifice their values for the benefit of others.” [Read full platform](#)

Republican Party

“We believe in American exceptionalism. We believe the United States of America is unlike any other nation on earth. We believe America is exceptional because of our historic role — first as refuge, then as defender, and now as exemplar of liberty for the world to see.” [Read full platform](#)

Candidates

Name, party affiliation, and social media is included for all candidates. Profiles are included for those candidates who responded to the KVD candidate questionnaire. Video responses for those candidates can also be found in the online version of the candidate guide at kidsvotingdurham.org/2020-election-guide and on the [KVD YouTube channel](#).

US President



Donald Trump

Republican
donaldtrump.com
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#) • [YouTube](#)



Joseph Biden

Democrat
joebiden.com
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#) • [YouTube](#)



Jo Jorgensen

Libertarian
joj2020.com
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)



Howie Hawkins

Green
howiehawkins.us
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)



Don Blankenship

Constitution
donblankenship.com
[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [Vimeo](#)

US Senate



Thom Tillis

Republican
thomtillis.com
[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •
[YouTube](#)



Shannon W. Bray

Libertarian
shannonbray.us
[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •



Cal Cunningham

Democrat
calfornc.com
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)



Kevin E. Hayes

Constitution
hayesforussenate.com
[Facebook](#)

US House of Representatives, District 4



David Price

Democrat

priceforcongress.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#)

• [Instagram](#) • [YouTube](#)



Robert Thomas

Republican

robertthomasforcongress.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •

NC Governor



Al Pisano

Constitution

alpisanoformcgovernor.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •
[Instagram](#) • [YouTube](#)



Roy Cooper

Democrat

roycooper.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •
[Instagram](#)



Stephen DiFiore

Libertarian

stevenfornorthcarolina.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)



Dan Forest

Republican

danforest.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •
[Instagram](#) • [YouTube](#)

Stephen DiFiore

NC Governor Candidates



Watch Video Response

Social Media:

stevenfornorthcarolina.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I've lived in North Carolina since 18 and I'm proud to call NC my home. There is no better place to live, work, and raise a family. I know that with good leadership we can ensure equality of opportunity for everyone. I joined the Libertarian Party in 2008 because I felt that the politics of Team Red and Team Blue had done a disservice to the people. I'm motivated to change the status quo and foster more community based solutions to solve the issues facing our state.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

North Carolina K-12 public education reforms to offer greater equality of opportunity for families of limited means.

1. Raise the cap on charter schools to provide more options for parents to send their child to a public school of their choice. The opportunity to grow and develop a charter school system that provides more opportunity and choice for students, parents, and educators can't be ignored. 2. Fund and expand the state's opportunity scholarship program. Options like homeschooling, private schools, or a home in an expensive zip code may not be a feasible option for working class families. The Opportunity Scholarship program gives parents another option to educate their children. 3. Promote and expand vocational education and trade school

opportunities. Our state's economy has expand and our cities have grown. We need a skilled workforce to keep pace with this much needed growth. North Carolina needs more electricians, plumbers, carpenters, etc., and we need to provide opportunities for meaningful and gainful employment.

Bringing North Carolina's skyrocketing healthcare costs under control by repealing Certificate of Need laws.

Repeal of Certificate of Need (CON) Laws, which are an example of bad state regulations intended to protect those in power at the expense of innovation and affordability. CON laws require healthcare providers, such as independent doctors offices, to prove to the state that there is a public need for an additional health service in their area before they are allowed to either buy a major piece of medical equipment, like an MRI machine, or offer a vital medical service, like cataract removal. These regulations prevent qualified independent doctors from competing with hospitals, ensuring the cost for care stays high and patient choice for care stays limited.

COVID-19 relief for small businesses and the working people of North Carolina.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented disaster. Both the pandemic itself and the government's response has turned the lives of millions upside down. All across our state, hundreds of thousands have seen their livelihoods and life's work put on the precipice of destruction by a government mandated shutdown. Our Governor and Legislature have told many of our fellow citizens that their job is non-essential, but then fail to advise which of our bills or taxes are likewise non-essential. If the government is to prevent North Carolinians from earning a living, we ought not be obligated to pay the taxes the State demands of us. Raleigh needs to pass a full property tax holiday for all small business owners and furloughed employees until this pandemic is over. The government must abolish all occupational licensing requirements that don't directly involve health and safety, and all fees associated with working, earnings a living, or owning a business need to be repealed.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

Fortunately I have the company of my girlfriend Mariana and our Basset Hound, Pimienta, to keep the boredom of lock-down at bay. Walking the dog around the apartment community helps get us out in the sunlight and stretch our legs. To keep up with our core group of friends we have a weekly game of D&D over Zoom that help us stay in touch while doing something fun. Reading, writing, or listening to music are also ways I use my sparse free time until the lock-down is lifted.

NC Senate District 20 Candidate

John Tarantino



Party: Republican
Social Media:
None given

Natalie Murdock



Party: Democrat
Social Media:
natalie-murdock.com
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

Natalie Murdock

Candidate NC Senate



[Watch Video Response](#)

Party: Democrat

Social Media:

natalie-murdock.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I am a daughter of North Carolina. My grandparents were domestic workers, construction workers and farmers. The hard and back breaking work of my ancestors grounds my work. Working and serving my community to help others is all that I know. I am a young woman of color. It's time for my generation and those that will follow me to carry the mantle that our ancestors held for centuries. I am a passionate public servant that believes in building a more equitable society with better public policy.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Our Education - Lucas & Parker Education Plan

Public Schools in our district need adequate funding to provide our children with the education and tools they need to compete upon graduation. We must work to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow. I am a product of North Carolina public schools—from

kindergarten to college. I take pride in my North Carolina education, and am committed to ensuring this state provides all children the opportunity to get the best education possible.

- Implement high quality remote learning instruction.
- Ensure that schools can be safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Raise wages.
- Meet national staffing standards.
- Restore benefits.
- Fund early childhood education.
- Increase funding to HBCUs & community colleges.
- Address infrastructure.
- End the school to prison pipeline

Our Health - The Christine Murdock Plan

According to the United Health Foundation, North Carolina ranks 33rd overall for indicators of health and well-being. Over 13% of Durham County residents lack health care. Racial inequity plays a part in access to health care and overall health in Durham County.

- Ensure that all healthcare workers have access to personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Implement safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Expand Medicaid.
- Improve data collection.
- Provide health care in every county by 2025.
- Invest in care at school.

We need to fund the education budget so that nurses, school psychologists, and social workers serve every school. - Provide access to reproductive health care for all North Carolinians. - Expand health care services for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Our Community

We all have a right to clean air and water. North Carolina is ranked 22nd in the nation for air quality and our water quality suffers from lack of regulations and aging infrastructure. We need legislators that know climate change is real and are willing to do something about it. I am committed to implementing evidence-based solutions to address our gaps in air and water quality, and will increase state investment in renewable energy and programs that preserve and conserve our water. - Create 100% renewable energy by 2050. - Higher water treatment standards. - Expand mass transit. - Greater energy efficiency. - Repeal harmful policies. - Invest in STEM.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

I have enjoyed getting a bit more rest during the pandemic, so I do feel recharged. I am also reading more, cooking and listening to music. I want to acknowledge that it is a privilege to provide this response, so many people and families are really struggling and they inspire my current service as a state senator.

NC Senate District 22 Candidates

Ricky Padgett



Party: Republican

Social Media:

rick4ncsenate.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

Mike Woodard



Party: Democrat

Social Media:

Mikewoodard.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

Ray Ubinger



Party: Libertarian

Social Media:

governyourself.com

[Twitter](#) •

Mike Woodard

Candidate for NC Senate



Watch Video Response

Party: Democrat

Social Media:

Mikewoodard.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

Mike Woodard is the North Carolina State Senator representing District 22: Durham, Granville, and Person counties. Before joining the General Assembly in 2013, he served on the Durham City Council for seven years. Senator Woodard currently serves on the Health Care, Finance, Budget, Transportation, and Agriculture & Environment committees. He is co-chair of the Life Sciences Caucus and of the Arts Caucus, as well as an active member of the Agriculture-Rural Caucus.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Providing a first-class system of public education

- Raise teacher and principal compensation to the national average
- Protect and expand use of teachers' assistants
- Provide more nurses and healthcare resources
- Universal Pre-K
- Enhance racial equity efforts.

Accessible, affordable healthcare for all North Carolinians

- Expand Medicaid
- Implement Medicaid Transformation
- Enhance rural healthcare, especially medical specialties
- Enhance behavioral health

A strong economy that works in every part of the state

Rebuild and expand infrastructure

- o Transportation
- o Water/Sewer
- o Broadband Expand opportunities for work o Economic development projects
- o Training, retraining, and apprenticeship projects
- o "Ban the Box" and other programs to hire formerly incarcerated people

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

Binge watching TV; catching up on reading.

NC House District 30 Candidates



Gavin

Bell

Libertarian

No web or social media
available



Marcia Morey

Democrat

marciamorey.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •

NC House District 31 Candidates



Sean Haugh

Libertarian

seanhaugh.com

[Twitter](#) • [YouTube](#)



Zack Hawkins

Democrat

zackhawins.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

Sean Haugh

Candidate for NC House



[Watch Video Response](#)

Party: Libertarian

Social Media:

seanhaugh.com

[Twitter](#) • [YouTube](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I've lived in Durham for 35 years and love it here. We currently live in the Oak Grove area in eastern Durham County with two dogs and at least six cats.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Reparations for Victims of the War on Drugs

We must end the War on Drugs in North Carolina. Release and pardon everyone in prison for nonviolent drug offenses, and give them reparations for time served. It's not enough to simply free people who should have never been charged with a crime in the first place. We must clear their records entirely and compensate people for time stolen from them with imprisoned.

Education in a Pandemic

The current pandemic will have a major impact on the coming school year. It is entirely possible that traditional schooling will be completely unsafe. We simply can't turn our K-12 facilities into coronavirus hotspots. That means we have to be ready to empower teachers to

provide remote learning and every other way they can recommend to keep in contact with their students in the coming year. This process should be driven from the ground up, not the top down. We should listen to teachers, parents, and students and apply their recommendations, rather than thinking we as legislators have all the answers.

Healthcare Reform

The pandemic has exposed many deep systematic flaws in our health care system. Many laws that restrict access and raise prices, such as Certificate of Need and restrictions on licenses to practice medicine, have proven to be obstacles to health care, and should be repealed permanently. We specifically need to support and in some cases reopen rural hospitals, and in general ensure that all North Carolinians have easy access to life saving care when they need it. Another area where large-scale deregulation would save money while expanding access to health care is in Medicaid. People who could be served by the program have to endure a bureaucratic nightmare, and doctors who would accept Medicaid patients are discouraged from seeing them.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

Doing my best, but to be honest it's a little depressing. Especially as a candidate, I miss going out and being with other people. At least I have Ms Sweetie and all our critters to keep me company.

Zack Hawkins

Candidate for NC House



[Watch Video Response on YouTube](#)

Party: Democrat

Social Media:

Mikewoodard.com

zackhawins.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I am a dad to three amazing boys, Zachari (18), James Preston (6) and Adam (4) and golden retriever, Sophie (11). My wife, Tracey, are proud Durham residents. I am a fighter for equity, equality and making sure that all kids are given the right tools and the opportunity to maximize their potential..

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Education

Simply put, we need to make sure that we increase per pupil spending, raise teacher pay above the national average, fix crumbling infrastructure and teach accurate history in our curriculum.

Voting Rights & Equal Rights

Even before I joined the General Assembly, I helped push Same Day Voter Registration and One Stop Early Voting. Since 2019, my focus is to create Election Day as a holiday, automatic voter registration, and a stronger vote by mail system. I also want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly under the law, especially in our courts and by law enforcement.

Environment

I am fighting for clean water, air and to push our state to stay in the fight to combat climate change.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

In the month of May, I ran 31 miles across district 31 to get exercise. Caught on reading and opportunity to spend more time with my kids. We've gone fishing, car rides, thrown frisbee, and watched movies.

NC Secretary of State Candidates



H.C. Sykes

Republican

ecfornc.com/

[Twitter](#) • [YouTube](#) •

[Facebook](#)



Elaine Marshall

Democrat

elainemarshall.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#)

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction



Catherine Truitt

Republican

catherinetruitt.com

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#)



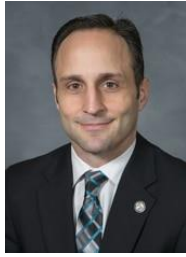
Jen Mangrum

Democrat

jenmangrumfornc.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)

NC Commissioner of Labor Candidates



Josh Dobson
Republican
joshforlabor.com
[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#)



Jessica Holmes
Democrat
jessicaholmesnc.com
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)

NC Attorney General



Josh Stein

Democrat

joshstein.org

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •
[YouTube](#)



Jim O'Neill

Republican

jimoneillnc.com/

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)

Josh Stein

Attorney General Candidate



Party: Democrat

Social Media:

joshstein.org

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [YouTube](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

Before my first term as North Carolina's Attorney General, I served nearly four terms in the State Senate and served eight years as a Senior Deputy AG for consumer protection. Before that, I was a teacher and a developer of affordable housing. My family moved to North Carolina just after I was born so my father could co-found the state's first integrated law firm. My wife Anna and I have been married for more than 20 years and we have three children – Sam, Adam, and Leah, all of whom attend or attended North Carolina public schools, just like we did.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Protecting North Carolina families

overseeing criminal appeals, overseeing the State Crime Lab, and assisting local law enforcement. I've targeted robocallers preying on vulnerable North Carolinians, fought hard to combat our state's opioid epidemic, and worked to enact policies that will make our justice system fairer for communities of color. More recently, I have gone after price gougers and scammers who are trying to take advantage of vulnerable people during COVID.

Defending people's access to health care

Access to healthcare can be a matter of life and death and is absolutely crucial in the effort to build a stronger North Carolina. During my time in office, I have consistently fought to protect the Affordable Care Act, maintaining health insurance coverage for millions of North Carolinians. I was also the first state Attorney General in the country to sue the e-cigarette manufacturer JUUL, which has aggressively and illegally targeted minors.

Protecting our environment

As AG, I have not hesitated to hold polluters accountable and protect North Carolina's amazing natural resources. For example, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Quality, my office came to a historic agreement with Duke Energy in January 2020 resulting in the excavation of nearly 80 million tons of coal ash in North Carolina to preserve water quality. And when the federal government has rolled back vital environmental protections, I have sued to preserve these important safeguards for our state so that the air we breathe and the water we drink are clean.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

The COVID-19 pandemic has been disastrous in so many ways, but there have been silver linings. It's given me so much more time with my family — relaxing and cooking at home. When it's not too hot, I love to ride my bike for exercise. And on Netflix, I've enjoyed The Last Dance, the documentary miniseries about Michael Jordan. I love college basketball!

NC Supreme Court Chief Justice



Cheri Beasley

Democrat

www.chiefjusticebeasley.com

/

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) •



Paul Newby

Republican

www.paulnewby.com/

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •

[Facebook](#)

Durham County Commissioners

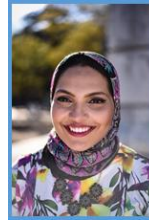
For full profiles of Durham County Commissioner Candidates from the Spring 2020 primary go to www.kidsvotingdurham.org/



Brenda Howerton

BRENDAHOWERTON.COM

t @Darmont65 f CommissionerBHowerton



Nida Allam

NIDAALLAM.COM

t @NidaAllam c @NidaAllamNC f NidaAllamNC



Heidi Carter

HEIDICARTER.COM

f HeidiforDurhamCC



Wendy Jacobs

WENDYJACOBSFORDURHAM.COM

t @JacobsforDurham f WendyJacobsforDurham



Nimasheena Burns

BURNSFORDURHAM.COM

Durham Soil & Water Conservation Supervisor



Patrick Poer



Terence Priester



Jillian Riley

jillianriley.org/
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#) • [TikTok](#)



Anjali Boyd

anjali4durham.com/
[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) •
[Facebook](#)



Jan Cromartie

Terence Priester

Soil & Water Supervisor Candidate



Social Media:

terencefordurhamsoilandwater.com

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#) •

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I come from a heritage of farmers and truck drivers. I'm married and have three children. I'm a Pastor and I love community service! I enjoy traveling, gaming, movies, fishing and helping my grandfather with his farm. I have lived in Philadelphia, PA; Halifax, NC and Durham, NC. As a child my neighborhood parks were not safe or fun. Therefore it is very personal to me to make sure that all children have access to safe and fun parks regardless of what side of town you live.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Increase incentives for conserving water

I would like to work with the City of Durham to expand its Toilet Rebate Program by offering incentives to Durham County residents for upgrading plumbing and water appliances that preserve and conserve water resources..

Create and enhance safe community parks and play zones

I would like to work with Durham Parks and Recreation and others to create and enhance safe and fun parks around Durham County.

Offer student incentives and keep them excited about STEM and expand the BETC Program

I would like to offer students incentives for participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), keeping them excited about the program, and expand the Bionomic Education Training Center (BETC) Program.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

I have been having fun playing video games, board games, watching movies, fishing and feeding ducks with my family.

Jillian Riley

Soil & Water Supervisor Candidate



<https://youtu.be/CZflfHypHd0>

Social Media:

jillianriley.org/

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#) • [TikTok](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I'm an environmental justice activist who began taking a stand on environmental issues when I was 15 years old. Since then I've been fighting against corporate pollution in order to protect clean water, air, and fight for renewable energy. As an activist I understand the importance of having an advocate on the local level, I'm running to be that advocate.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Sustainability in Schools

A stormwater restoration project was completed at Southern High School. The water runoff from Southern High School property leads into the Chunky Pipe Creek which flows into the Little Lick Creek, leading into Falls Lake. Through the Little Lick Creek Local Watershed Plan, water reuse ponds were built on the Southern High School property. These ponds provide a natural water source, reducing the dependency on potable water and saves the school \$15,000 per year. Currently, the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District is beginning a similar project at Riverside High School. I will actively support the completion of this project, that puts money back into schools while conserving our natural resources.

Innovation in Agriculture

Currently, industrial hemp farms are leading the nation in economic opportunities and environmental conservation. Hemp is used in food, as CBD oil, and the hemp fibers for clothing. Recent studies show that hemp can help prevent soil erosion and absorb Co2 emission, therefore improving the overall health of air, water, and soil quality. As a Board Supervisor, I will work to support current and new industrial hemp farmers. In particular, I will bring more attention to the racial discrimination that is currently preventing farmers of color from accessing hemp licensures. This is an innovative economic opportunity and I'll make sure that all farmers have the tools and resources needed to start their new business venture.

Protect Clean Water

Clean water is a basic human right that needs to be protected. The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District has the duty of making sure all residents in Durham have clean water for drinking, cooking, showering, and yard or agricultural use. I have worked with communities all across the state of North Carolina to advocate for clean water, fighting corporate pollution, and holding companies accountable for their actions. I did this through protests, petitions, town halls, and speaking at statewide meetings held by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Utilities Commission. Dominion Energy had [proposed a pipeline](#) that would have gone through the American Tobacco Trails in Durham, they have now receded that plan. I [submitted an op-ed](#) in opposition to the proposed pipeline and will continue fighting any proposed projects by the fossil fuel industry for both environmental justice and conservation concerns.

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

During quarantine, I've enjoyed spending time outside planting in my flower beds and going on walks. I've also been experimenting with making my own ice cream! So far, I've made strawberry, peach, banana, and cherry flavored ice cream. My family all has their favorite flavor. Lastly, I curl up on the couch with my trouble-making cat named Booger.

Anjali Boyd

Soil & Water Supervisor Candidate



[Watch Video Response on YouTube](#)

Social Media:

anjali4durham.com/

[Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

What would you like to tell us about your identity?

I'm a #DurhamNative, a DPS graduate, a Black woman, a millennial, and a marine scientist. I was born and raised in Durham, NC, and attended Creekside Elementary, Shepard IB Middle & Jordan High School. I received my B.S. in Marine Science and I am currently a Ph.D. at Duke University from Eckerd College in Florida. I am committed to using my experience, knowledge, the formal education I've been blessed to obtain and my love for my hometown to connect with and promote advocacy for Durham County.

What will be your Top 3 issues if elected?

Education

It is my responsibility to properly equip generations and communities with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions on the management and conservation of Durham's natural resources. It's also my responsibility to listen to these same communities and learn from their perspectives on Durham's natural resources and how their relationships to them could be augmented. I will go about doing this, using the following guidelines; - Create programs to employ Durham Public Schools high school students on environmental restoration projects. - Partner with educators to 1) raise awareness of Soil & Water, our missions, and values, 2) ensure that local educators and our youth know about

and have access to Soil & Water education funds and 3) incorporate environmental conservation and AgScience into their yearly curriculum.

Economic Justice

Agriculture and agribusiness is the #1 industry in North Carolina and contributes billions to the state's economy. I will work to ensure that this continues and that marginalized communities know about the economic opportunities available to all in Agriculture. Simultaneously, I will advocate for; increased funding for financial assistance programs, such as the Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant and the expansions of Farm-to-Table programs, which bring locally grown food to local restaurants and businesses. Furthermore, I will work to build partnerships with Duke University, NCCU, DPS, and local businesses/organizations to develop and implement stream and stormwater restoration projects throughout the county.

Environmental Justice

Environmental racism is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of Color. It is often called the 'forgotten' sector of social justice, as it is often left off of the list of social injustices that people of Color face (such as income inequality, education, health care, racial discriminations, etc.). However, I believe it is one of the most deadly injustices people of Color face, as there is a direct link between environmental condition and human health. I will work to: - Protect and conserve Durham's natural resources - Work with our communities, especially marginalized communities, to combat food insecurities and water pollution and prepare for extreme weather events. - Poor food and water = decrease in human health - Creating proactive solutions to prepare for extreme weather events. - Extreme weather events (e.g. heat waves) threaten our youth's ability to play outdoor sports - Proactive solutions: planting trees & restoring eroding creeks

How are you relaxing or having fun during quarantine?

During quarantine, I have been spending my time hanging with my family, watching my younger siblings and cousin make social media videos and binge watching new shows and movies on various streaming platforms. My family and I have been playing a bunch of games, like Monopoly, Mancala, UNO, Connect4, and air hockey. My younger cousins and my brother & sister have been keeping me amused with their social media stories. Of the movies and shows I've watched lately, Hamilton is my favorite so far.

Additional Resources

Youth Resources

Youth often feel like there is nothing they can do but the reality is quite the opposite. There are many programs set around Durham, North Carolina, and the United States whose purpose is to inform Youth and create a new generation of Americans that are informed and participate in our social, economical, and political environment (that includes voting!). Below are just a few of the programs/organizations in Durham that are targeted at youth.

Durham Office on Youth (<https://durhamnc.gov/1350/Office-on-Youth>)

“The Office on Youth is a division in the City Manager’s Office that provides direction on youth initiatives in Durham. The office works with youth, City and County staff, elected officials, and community partners to elevate youth voices and enhance services and programs for youth.”

- **YODurham Text Line:** Youth in Durham can sign up for text alerts to receive information relevant to them regarding food, events, and employment information
- **Durham Youth Commision:** A group of highschool-aged students that bring the perspectives of Durham Students to Durham’s leaders. They also lead an annual “advocacy project that aims to identify and address the barriers youth face in Durham” along with attending conferences (meetings) with other youth councils around the state.

Made in Durham (<https://madeindurham.org/>)

“A community partnership of educators, business, government, youth-serving nonprofits and young people mobilized around a shared vision that all of Durham’s youth will complete high school and a post-secondary credential and begin a rewarding career by the age of 25.”

- **The Youth Network:** A group of nominated (selected) youth between the ages 14-24 that watch and provide feedback (advice) on the work that Made in Durham is doing. The youth are connected to people with influence (power) in the Made in Durham organization along with the Durham community. These youth will also serve on Made in Durhams’s board of directors, advisory team, and task forces. (Stipend provided)
- **Durham Futures:** A partnership between Made in Durham and the Durham community to provide “at risk” youth with the resources needed to obtain education and employment by 25

Durham Youthwork Internship Program (<https://durhamnc.gov/2972/Apply-For-An-Internship>)

“The Durham YouthWork Internship Program offers Durham youth ages 14-24 the opportunity to gain work experience and develop skills through paid summer internships in local businesses, nonprofits and City and County government.”

- Students in Durham get the opportunity to have an internship (like a job) during the summer ranging 6-8 weeks where they can work up to 30 hours a week.
- This Internship builds “soft skills,” introduces them to new fields and careers, and helps them build a work history.

Durham Public Schools Foundation Youth Advisory Council

<https://www.bullcityschools.org/yac>

“This Youth Advisory Council will be an integral leadership team for the DPS Foundation, working in collaboration with DPSF’s Board to guide and help implement DPSF’s strategy.”

- A group of middle school and highschool-aged students in the Durham Public Schools System that helps and advises Durham Public Schools Foundation (DPSF). With the experiences of the youth on this board they will “directly impact equity in their school district”. (Stipend provided)

