

Jennifer Balkcom (NC-11) Research Report

Significant Findings

Balkcom Praised Legislation That Was Projected To Kick Nearly 39,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In NC-11, Threaten Food Assistance For More Than 33,000 Households In The District, And Raise Annual Energy Costs For North Carolinians By Nearly \$500

- ✓ Balkcom praised the One Big Beautiful Bill and said she was “working together” with National Republicans on her campaign after House Republicans passed the federal spending plan.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill enacted the largest cuts to Medicaid in history, slashing local hospital revenue, and was projected to kick nearly 39,000 people in NC-11 off their health insurance.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill threatened to reverse North Carolina’s 2023 Medicaid expansion, garnering opposition from Republican Senator Thom Tillis.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill threatened the closure of vital rural hospitals, including MH Angel Medical Center and Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in NC-11.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill enacted the largest SNAP cuts in history, forcing nearly 73,000 North Carolinians off the program.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill rapidly phased out clean energy tax credits, raising North Carolinians’ energy costs, slashing manufacturing jobs, and forcing an Asheville-based solar company to declare bankruptcy.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill gave billions in tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy at the expense of working families.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill would add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt.

Balkcom Voted Against Expanding Medicaid In North Carolina And Called It “A System That Is Already Broken” Even Though It Covered Nearly 30,000 People In NC-11, And She Praised Legislation That Drove Up Monthly Premiums For North Carolinians

- ✓ 2023: Balkcom voted against expanding Medicaid in North Carolina, which covered nearly 30,000 people in NC-11 and more than 730,000 people statewide, including hundreds of thousands from rural counties.
- ✓ Balkcom called Medicaid “a system that is already broken.”
- ✓ Balkcom praised the One Big Beautiful Bill, which let ACA tax credits expire, driving up health care costs for more than 74,000 individuals in NC-11 on marketplace plans.
- ✓ 2025: Balkcom abstained from voting on a bill to make it easier for physicians and physicians assistants to become licensed in North Carolina.

Balkcom Was Backed By DC Politicians That Were Raising The Cost Of Living For North Carolinians, By Voting To Continue Reckless Policies Like The Iran War And Harmful Tariffs

- ✓ August 2026: Balkcom said she was “working together” with national Republicans, who supported her congressional run.

- ✓ House Republicans voted multiple times to keep the Iran War going, despite it contributing to the price of a gallon of gas rising more than \$1 in North Carolina and increasing inflation.
- ✓ House Republicans voted multiple times to keep tariffs in place that raised prices on essential goods for North Carolina families.

Balkcom Was Bad For North Carolina Farmers, Supporting Funding Cuts For Programs Supporting Local Farmers And Working With Politicians That Voted For Tariffs And Policies That Hurt North Carolina Farmers

- ✓ Balkcom supported DOGE, which slashed more than \$30 million in funding for North Carolina food banks, including ones serving areas affected by Helene, to purchase produce from local farmers.
- ✓ Balkcom was “working together” with DC politicians that backed policies such as tariffs and the Iran war, causing fertilizer and agricultural diesel prices to skyrocket in North Carolina.

Balkcom Supported Efforts That Hindered Helene Recovery And Response In Western North Carolina, Supporting Cuts To Food Banks In Impacted Areas, Weather Services That Helped Emergency Preparedness, And Programs To Rebuild Homes And Provide More Efficient Energy In Areas Recovering From Helene

- ✓ Balkcom expressed support for the Trump administration and DOGE.
- ✓ DOGE hurt Helene recovery by cutting funding for local food banks and volunteers, serving affected areas, threatening to close a local office giving farmers aid, and firing forestry employees responsible for recovery efforts.
- ✓ DOGE made cuts to the National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service that could leave Western North Carolina nonprofits unprepared to respond to future disasters.
- ✓ DOGE cut billions in EPA funding meant for rebuilding homes and providing more efficient energy in areas recovering from Helene.

Balkcom Voted Twice For A Bill That Was Projected To Cut Corporations’ Utility Bills While Increasing Costs On Duke Energy Customers And Households, While She Took Thousands Of Dollars From Their Corporate PAC

- ✓ 2025: Balkcom voted twice for a bill that was projected to cost Duke Energy ratepayers up to \$23 billion through 2050, cutting electricity costs for corporations at the expense of North Carolina families.
- ✓ S.B. 266 changed how Duke Energy distributed the cost of electricity by decreasing the amount corporations paid for electricity at the expense of household and residential users.
- ✓ 2022-2026: Balkcom took more than \$5,000 in campaign cash from Duke Energy’s corporate PAC, as Duke Energy was tied to dark-money mailers supporting S.B. 266.

Balkcom Was An Anti-Abortion Extremist Who Said She Supported Banning Abortion With No Exceptions, Including To Save The Life Of The Woman, And Voted To Ban Abortion At 12 Weeks In North Carolina

- ✓ 2026: Balkcom said she supported banning abortion in all cases and said, “abortion is never medically necessary,” even “for the purpose of saving the life of the mother.”
- ✓ 2023: Balkcom voted to ban abortion at 12 weeks in North Carolina with limited exceptions, causing reproductive health providers to leave the state.

- ✓ 2023: Balkcom was the primary sponsor of a bill to require doctors to inform women about medically unsound and potentially dangerous so-called abortion pill “reversals” before performing abortions.
- ✓ 2025: Balkcom was the primary sponsor of a bill to create a 72-hour waiting period before doctors could mail, provide, or supply abortion medication.
- ✓ When asked what changes she would support to North Carolina’s abortion laws in the wake of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, Balkcom said, “I am pro-life and I will vote accordingly if I am elected.”
- ✓ Balkcom said she strongly supported protecting human embryos created through artificial methods, which would end IVF treatment.
- ✓ 2025: Balkcom repeatedly voted to defund Planned Parenthood and restrict it from participating in Medicaid, which would have prevented North Carolinians from receiving affordable preventative health and reproductive care.
- ✓ Balkcom was been endorsed by extreme anti-abortion groups North Carolina Right To Life and NC Values Coalition.

Balkcom Led The Diversion Of Hundreds Of Millions Of Taxpayer Dollars From Public Schools To Fund Private School Tuition For North Carolina’s Wealthiest Families And Supported Eliminating The Department Of Education

- ✓ 2023: Balkcom repeatedly voted to expand North Carolina’s school voucher program, taking away hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars from public schools to fund private school tuition for North Carolina’s wealthiest families.
- ✓ 2023: Balkcom cosponsored and voted for H.B. 823, which would provide an additional \$463.5 million in private school voucher funding in the 2024-2025 and 2026-2027 school years.
- ✓ 2023: Balkcom voted for the expand state’s voucher program to the North Carolina’s wealthiest families beginning in the 2024-2025 school year and eliminated the prior public school enrollment requirement.
- ✓ 2024: Balkcom voted for H.B. 10, which increased funding for private school vouchers to \$625 million in FY 2025-2025 and set automatic annual funding increases through FY 2032-2033 and beyond.
- ✓ Balkcom cosponsored a joint resolution to urge Congress to eliminate the U.S. Department Of Education, which would threaten more than \$24 million in funding to public schools in NC-11.

Balkcom Said She Was Voting For Mark Robinson For North Carolina Governor Even After He Was Discovered To Have Posted Disturbing Messages On A Pornography Forum, Called Himself A “Black Nazi,” And Proposed Bringing Back Slavery

- ✓ October 2024: Balkcom said she was voting for Mark Robinson for governor.
- ✓ September 2024: News reports showed Robinson made a series of inflammatory comments on a pornography website, including calling himself a “Black NAZI,” proposing bringing back slavery, and calling Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A “commie bastard.”
- ✓ July 2020: Robinson said “there is no compromise on abortion,” and advocated for a complete ban with no exceptions.

Balkcom Drew Criticism From Henderson County Commissioners For Voting To Remove More Than \$12 Million From An Edneyville Sewer Project Without Contacting Them

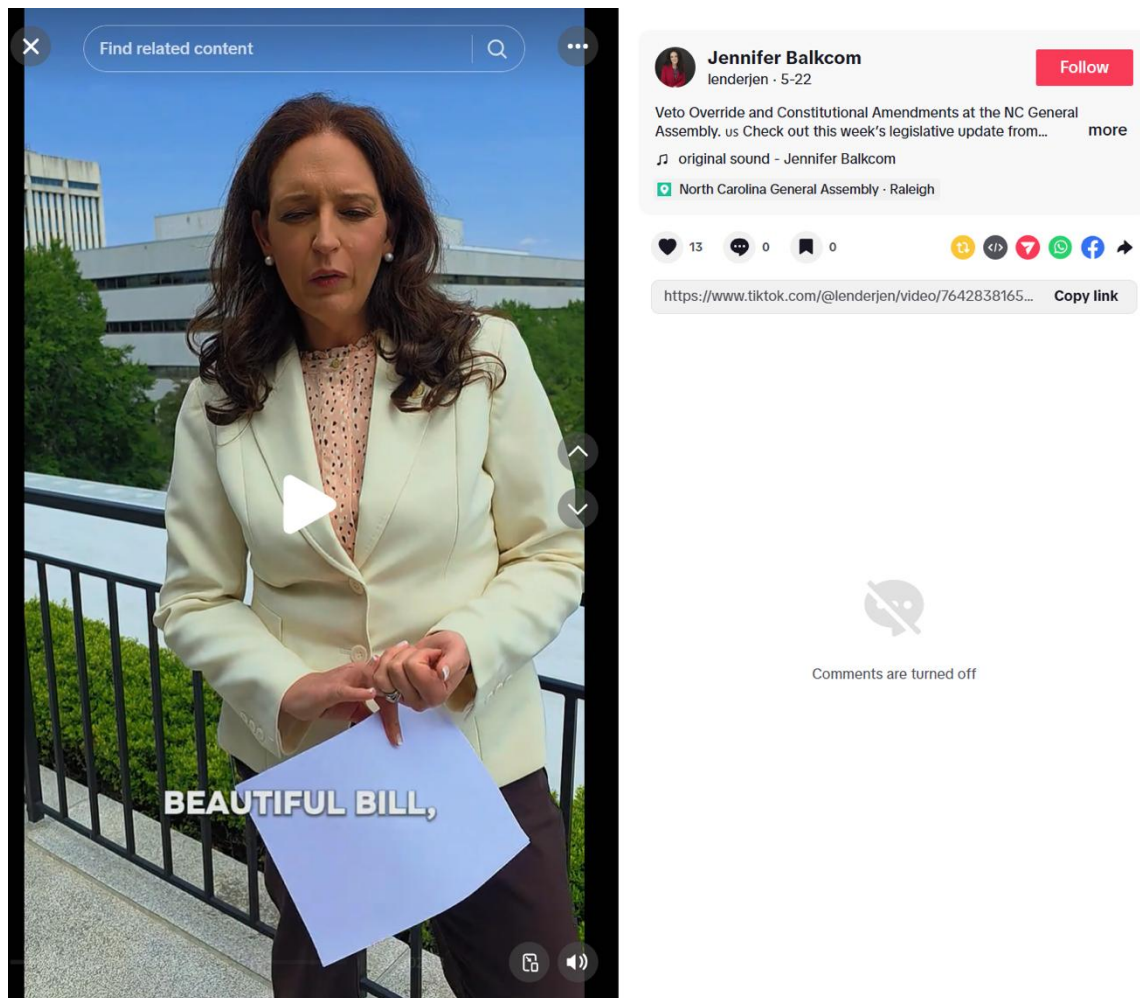
- ✓ October 2025: Balkcom voted to require Henderson County to spend funds on the Etowah wastewater treatment system that were previously allocated for Edneyville wastewater treatment.
- ✓ 2025: Henderson County commissioners “blasted” Balkcom for her vote to remove more than \$12 million in funding from an Edneyville sewer project without contacting them.
- ✓ November 2025: Balkcom reportedly told commissioners she decided to support the funding change after hearing from Edneyville landowners concerned about increased development along the new sewer line.

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Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill And Said She Was “Working Together” With National Republicans On Her Campaign After House Republicans Passed The Federal Spending Plan

April 2026: Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill

May 2026: Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill. “Everyone, it is Representative Jennifer Balkcom, House District 117. This has been an override veto override week, so it's exciting. House Bill 87, that's the educational tax credit. Thanks to the beautiful, beautiful bill that was passed in the federal government, we now are setting up an opportunity for scholarships and donors to get that tax credit in North Carolina. So that was exciting.”
[@LenderJen, TikTok, [5/22/26](#)]



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- Balkcom: “Thanks To The Beautiful, Beautiful Bill That Was Passed In The Federal Government, We Now Are Setting Up An Opportunity For Scholarships And Donors To Get That Tax Credit In North Carolina.”** “Everyone, it is Representative Jennifer Balkcom, House District 117. This has been an override veto override week, so it's exciting. House Bill 87, that's the educational tax credit. Thanks to the beautiful, beautiful bill that was passed in the federal government, we now are setting up an opportunity for scholarships and donors to get that tax credit in North Carolina. So that was exciting.” [LenderJen, TikTok, [5/22/26](#)]

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was Working With The NRCC To Fundraise And “Get Out The Message” Of Who She Is

VIDEO: August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was “Working Together” The NRCC To Fundraise And “Get Out The Message” Of Who She Is. INTERVIEWER: “Can you briefly tell me how will the fundraising piece work? And I forgive me if I mess up. The NRCC, is that the that's the acronym? Can you tell me what that is? What kind of money are they pledging? And I know you're working with them closely.” BALKCOM: “We are working together. Um hopefully something will be coming out soon because we want to make sure we're gathering all this right now to uh to kind of announce that sooner than later.” INTERVIEWER: “Can you explain what that is to the public?” BALKCOM: “Just uh working with them to uh get on the fun phone call, raise money, work with uh supporters and getting out the message of who I am.” [WLOS News 13, YouTube, 3:11, [8/13/26](#)] (VIDEO)

August 2026: The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) Congratulated Balkcom And Encouraged People To Vote For Her. “Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom! Balkcom will deliver results for

Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border. Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3.” [NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]



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8:25 PM · Aug 10, 2026 · 11.5K Views

[NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]

July 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill

July 4, 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill. “President Trump on Friday signed a massive spending and tax bill that the White House has dubbed the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ to implement much of his domestic policy agenda. The bill passed Thursday after Republican leaders in the House of Representatives convinced holdouts in their own party to get in line behind the controversial legislation.” [NPR, [7/4/25](#)]

May 2025-June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill “The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda” And Praised House Republicans For Passing It

June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill “The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda To Very Simply Make America Great Again!” “The One Big Beautiful Bill will Secure our Borders, turbocharge our economy, and bring back the American Dream. This is the ultimate codification of our agenda to very simply Make America Great Again!” [Donald J. Trump, Truth Social, [6/26/25](#)]



The One Big Beautiful Bill will Secure our Borders, turbocharge our economy, and bring back the American Dream. This is the ultimate codification of our agenda to very simply Make America Great Again!



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May 2025: The Hill: “Trump Sent Kudos To House Republicans” After They Passed The One Big Beautiful Bill. “President Trump sent kudos to House Republicans after they worked late Sunday evening and narrowly cleared a key hurdle to advance the ‘big, beautiful bill’ that contains most of his legislative priorities. ‘CONGRATULATIONS REPUBLICANS!!!’ the president posted on Truth Social just before 1 a.m. EDT on Monday. ‘MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!’” [The Hill, [5/19/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Slashing Local Hospital Revenue, And Was Projected To Kick Nearly 39,000 People In NC-11 Off Their Health Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In The Program’s History

The Hill: Republicans Passed “The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960s.”

“Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

- **The Hill: The Republicans’ Reconciliation Bill Made About \$1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** “Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick Nearly 39,000 People In NC-11 Off Their Health Insurance

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated Nearly 39,000 People In North Carolina’s 11th Congressional District Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans’ Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. “According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO)’s most recent analysis, President Trump and Congressional Republicans’ cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would result in 16 million people losing their health insurance by 2034. Using CBO’s analysis released June 4 and other research, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority calculated new estimates of

the number of people who would lose health insurance.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

NC-11: Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
20,200	18,757	38,957

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

KFF: “CBO Estimates Show That The Number Of Uninsured People Will Increase By More Than 14 Million In 2034.” [KFF, [8/20/25](#)]

Rolling Stone Headline: “Congress Officially Passes Trump’s Bill To Kick Millions Off Medicaid.” [Rolling Stone, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cut More Than \$36 Million In Revenue To Hospitals In NC-11

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill, Hospitals In NC-11 Were Projected To Lose More Than \$36 Million As A Result Of Medicaid Cuts. [Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

Projected Cuts To NC-11 Hospital Revenue From Medicaid Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Hospital	City	Projected Cut To Hospital Revenue
Mission Hospital Inc.	Asheville	\$24,803,858.00
AdventHealth Hendersonville	Hendersonville	\$2,739,351.00
Harris Regional Hospital	Sylva	\$2,348,992.00
The McDowell Hospital	Marion	\$1,535,303.00
Margaret R. Pardee Memorial Hospital	Hendersonville	\$976,071.00
Blue Ridge Regional Hospital	Spruce Pine	\$955,098.00
MH Angel Medical Center LLLP	Franklin	\$865,978.00
Transylvania Community Hospital	Brevard	\$719,514.00
Haywood Regional Medical Center	Clyde	\$623,442.00
Swain County Hospital	Bryson City	\$392,421.00
Murphy Medical Center	Murphy	\$274,002.00
Highlands Cashiers Hospital	Highlands	\$108,627.00
Charles A. Cannon Memorial Hospital	Linville	\$45,751.00
Total:		\$36,388,408.00

[Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

July 2025: News & Observer: In North Carolina, Hospitals Absorbed 70% Of The Medicaid Cuts Under The One Big Beautiful Bill. “Republican state leaders have backed the federal spending bill, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill. Congressional Republicans in North Carolina also supported it, with the exception of U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis — who is not seeking re-election — and who criticized its Medicaid cuts and voted against the spending bill. [...] Key changes include new federal work requirements for Medicaid expansion recipients, restrictions on provider taxes that fund expansion, elimination of an over \$6 billion hospital payment program, and new state obligations to contribute to food assistance programs. These pieces do not all take effect at once, with varying enactment dates. DHHS estimates all these changes could translate to a \$50 billion loss in Medicaid funding for North Carolina over 10 years, with hospitals absorbing over 70% of the cuts, according to a forecast dated July 9 provided by DHHS. A new \$50 billion rural health fund is included in the federal bill, but how much North Carolina would receive remains unknown.” [News & Observer, [7/22/25](#)]

The Reconciliation Bill's Cuts To Medicaid Would Particularly Impact Rural Communities

NBC Headline: “Rural Communities Brace For Medicaid Cuts In Republicans’ Big Bill.” [NBC, [6/25/25](#)]

The Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Result In 1.8 Million Individuals In Rural Communities Losing Their Medicaid Coverage. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened To Reverse North Carolina’s 2023 Medicaid Expansion, Garnering Opposition From Republican Senator Thom Tillis
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The One Big Beautiful Bill Risked Triggering The Reversal Of North Carolina’s Medicaid Expansion

June 2025: North Carolina Health News Headline: “‘Big Beautiful Bill’ Could Unravel NC’s Medicaid Expansion: Officials Say Proposed Changes Would Set Off A Trigger Law, Potentially Ending Coverage For Hundreds Of Thousands Of Residents.” [North Carolina Health News, [6/27/25](#)]

North Carolina’s 2023 Medicaid Expansion Law Contained A Provision That Would Automatically End The Program If The Federal Government Stopped Covering 90% Of Its Cost. “Tillis explained in a floor speech Sunday evening that he’d reached out to North Carolina legislators, the N.C. Healthcare Association, and Gov. Josh Stein's administration to gather estimates on the bill’s Medicaid impact locally. He said all agreed that the bill’s cuts to Medicaid funding would mean more than 600,000 people in his state would lose healthcare. That’s because when the Republican-led state legislature enacted Medicaid expansion in 2023, it included a provision that would automatically end the program if the federal government stops covering 90% of its cost. Tillis warned his fellow Republicans that the move could damage their party’s election prospects. He argued that a broken promise on Medicaid would be similar to former President Barack Obama’s claim that ‘if you like your health care plan, you can keep it’ under the Affordable Care Act. Tillis says Obama’s statement led to GOP victories.” [WUNC, [6/30/25](#)]

June 2025: North Carolina Health News: The One Big Beautiful Bill Would “Effectively Kill” North Carolina’s Medicaid Expansion And Strip Coverage From Hundreds Of Thousands Of People Who Only Recently Became Eligible. “More than 670,000 North Carolinians have enrolled in Medicaid since the state expanded access to the government-funded health insurance program in December 2023. Medicaid expansion, which passed with bipartisan support after years of resistance from most Republicans in the N.C. General Assembly, raised the state’s strict income threshold for Medicaid. That opened up the program to many working adults with lower incomes who previously made too much money to qualify. The measure has been hailed as a landmark policy change that is reshaping North Carolina’s health care landscape and closing long-standing coverage gaps, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Now, state health officials are warning that President Donald Trump’s so-called One Big Beautiful Bill, a version of which is expected to go before the U.S. Senate for a vote as early as this weekend, would effectively kill North Carolina’s expansion — stripping coverage from hundreds of thousands of residents who only recently became eligible for it.” [North Carolina Health News, [6/27/25](#)]

North Carolina Republican U.S. Senator Thom Tillis Said He Voted Against The One Big Beautiful Bill Because It Would Effectively End North Carolina’s Medicaid Expansion

June 2025: WUNC Headline: “Senate Megabill Could Kill NC’s Medicaid Expansion, Prompting Tillis Opposition.” [WUNC, [6/30/25](#)]

June 2025: WUNC: “U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis Says The Senate’s Current Megabill Would Effectively End Medicaid Expansion In North Carolina — And That’s The Main Reason He’s Opposing The Bill.” “U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis says the Senate’s current megabill would effectively end Medicaid expansion in North Carolina — and that’s the main reason he’s opposing the bill. Tillis’ decision to vote against the bill triggered a primary threat from President Donald Trump, which was followed by the senator’s Sunday announcement that he won’t run for re-election next year. Tillis explained in a floor speech Sunday evening that he’d reached out to North Carolina legislators, the N.C. Healthcare Association, and Gov. Josh Stein’s administration to gather estimates on the bill’s Medicaid impact locally. He said all agreed that the bill’s cuts to Medicaid funding would mean more than 600,000 people in his state would lose healthcare. That’s because when the Republican-led state legislature enacted Medicaid expansion in 2023, it included a provision that would automatically end the program if the federal government stops covering 90% of its cost.” [WUNC, [6/30/25](#)]

- **Tillis Voted Against The Passage Of The One Big Beautiful Bill.** “North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis announced Sunday afternoon that he will not be seeking reelection in 2026. This comes after receiving backlash from President Donald Trump for voting against the ‘One Big Beautiful’ bill, which passed 51-49 overnight Saturday. Tillis released a Sunday statement, saying in part: ‘In Washington over the last few years, it’s become increasingly evident that leaders who are willing to embrace bipartisanship, compromise, and demonstrate independent thinking are becoming an endangered species.’” [ABC7 Eyewitness News, [6/29/25](#)]

NOTE: In April 2026, NC lawmakers approved legislation to fully fund the state’s Medicaid program through the end of the fiscal year. Balkcom voted for the legislation.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened The Closure Of Vital Rural Hospitals, Including MH Angel Medical Center And Blue Ridge Regional Hospital In NC-11

North Carolina Rural Hospitals Could Lose \$3.7 Billion In Medicaid Payments Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill

August 2025: Asheville Citizen Times: North Carolina Rural Hospitals Could Lose \$3.7 Billion In Medicaid Payments Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill. “Rural hospitals were already struggling financially when Trump signed his signature tax bill into law July 4. Nearly 200 across the country — including 12 in North Carolina — have closed in the last 20 years, according to UNC-Chapel Hill’s Sheps Center for Health Service Research, which tracks closings. With Trump’s ‘One Big Beautiful Bill,’ researchers estimate another 300 are at risk of shuttering. [...] A little more than a week later, in a briefing with state lawmakers, officials said the state’s rural hospitals could lose \$3.7 billion in Medicaid payments. Only up to half that amount could be offset by a five-year, \$50 billion rural hospital fund Senate Republicans set up as a safety net to mitigate the bill’s impact, according to the agency. One Republican lawmaker, Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, has already filed legislation to double it.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [8/8/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Result In \$50.4 Billion Reduction In Spending For Rural Hospitals Over The Next Ten Years. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The Cuts To Medicaid And Other Federal Health Programs In President Trump’s Budget Plan Would “Rapidly Push” More Than 300 Financially Struggling Rural Hospitals Toward A Fiscal Cliff. “Cuts to Medicaid and other federal health programs proposed in President Donald Trump’s budget plan would rapidly push more than 300 financially struggling rural hospitals toward a fiscal cliff, according to researchers who track the facilities’ finances. The hospitals would be at a disproportionate risk of closure, service reductions, or ending inpatient care, according to a report authored by experts from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services

Research following a request from Senate Democrats, who released the findings publicly Thursday. Many of those hospitals are in Kentucky, Louisiana, California, and Oklahoma, according to the analysis.” [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

Two Rural Hospitals In NC-11 Were At Risk Of Closing Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill

2025: NC-11 Had Two Rural Hospitals Listed As At-Risk Of Closing Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill Based On Financial Vulnerability. “In order to understand in greater detail how rural communities could be impacted by health care cuts contained in the reconciliation package, we requested the attached data from the Sheps Center on the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and potential impacts on their viability. These hospitals have been identified as at-risk hospitals based on financial data, including: whether the hospital has been unprofitable for the last three years; whether the hospital is at risk of financial distress relative to peer hospitals; and whether the hospital serves a disproportionately high share of Medicaid patients. The findings demonstrate that hundreds of rural hospitals across the country would feel pain from the House-passed reconciliation bill.” [Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, Letter on Rural Hospitals, [6/12/25](#)]

2025: At-Risk Rural Hospitals In NC-11			
Hospital	City	Top Medicaid Provider	Three Consecutive Years Of Negative Margins
MH Angel Medical Center LLLP	Franklin	No	Yes
Blue Ridge Regional Hospital	Spruce Pine	No	Yes

[Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, At-Risk Rural Hospitals List, [6/12/25](#)]

Cuts To Health Care Funding In The OBBB Could Drive Up Costs Of Care And Threaten North Carolina’s Rural Hospitals After “Helene Overwhelmed Hospitals And Healthcare Providers” In The Region. “Helene overwhelmed hospitals and healthcare providers in our region, where residents are older, poorer, and sicker than in many other parts of America. People without health insurance often skip seeing a doctor for preventative services and use hospital emergency rooms for their primary healthcare. Our hospitals in western North Carolina are already struggling with staffing and low government reimbursement rates. The left-leaning Center for American Progress projects that the Medicaid cuts, along with the House refusing to extend the enhanced premium tax credits of the Affordable Care Act, could drive up uncompensated care costs in North Carolina by \$1.48 billion by 2034, threatening the financial viability of the state’s rural hospitals, 12 percent of which are already at immediate risk of closure.” [Asheville Watchdog, Peter H. Lewis Op-Ed, [7/21/25](#)]

Mitchell County Residents Expressed Concerns That The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Shut Down Blue Ridge Regional Hospital

Asheville Citizen Times Headline: “In Mitchell County, Residents Fear The ‘Big Beautiful Bill’ Will Shut Down Their Hospital.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [8/8/25](#)]

Daniel Barron, A Retired Professor Living In Rural Mitchell County, And Other Mitchell County Residents, Expressed Concern That Blue Ridge Regional Hospital In Spruce Will Financially Suffer, Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill. “When Daniel Barron had a double hernia repaired in late June, the 80-year-old retired professor only had to drive about 20 minutes from his home near Bakersville, in rural Mitchell County, to Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine. [...] But Barron and other Mitchell County residents fear for the future of their hospital, now that President Donald Trump signed his sweeping domestic policy legislation into law in July. With cuts to Medicaid expected to total \$1 trillion across the U.S. and nearly \$50 billion in North Carolina over 10 years, critics and health advocates warn that Trump’s ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ will lead to the loss of health coverage for some of the nation’s most vulnerable people. They also worry the rural hospitals that care for them, like Blue Ridge Regional in Spruce Pine — which provided critical life-saving care in the wake of Tropical Storm Helene — will financially suffer, forcing hospitals to shutter and devastating the communities they serve even further.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [8/8/25](#)]

- **Blue Ridge Regional Hospital Was A “Critical Access Hospital Care In Spruce Pine And The**

Surrounding North Carolina Mountain Communities Of Mitchell County.” “Critical access hospital care in Spruce Pine and the surrounding North Carolina mountain communities of Mitchell County: Blue Ridge Regional Hospital features 25 patient beds and a variety of medical services for both children and adults. Some of these services include cardiology, emergency care, imaging, infusion services, obstetrics and gynecology, oncology, orthopedics, pregnancy care, rehabilitation, surgery, wound treatment and women's care.” [Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cuts In History, Forcing Nearly 73,000 North Carolinians Off The Program

The House Reconciliation Bill, Known As The One Big Beautiful Bill, Enacted The Largest SNAP Cut In The Program’s History

Center On Budget And Policy Priorities Headline: “House Reconciliation Bill Proposes Deepest SNAP Cut In History, Would Take Food Assistance Away From Millions of Low-Income Families.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/28/25](#)]

Center For American Progress: The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program’s History. “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program’s history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version’s nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut SNAP By Around \$186 Billion. President Trump's massive tax and spending bill, which is advancing through the House after surviving its Republican push through the Senate, would slash food benefits for thousands. The big picture: It would mark a historic cut to the social safety net that Republicans claim weeds out waste, fraud and abuse — but experts say the restructuring of assistance programs could leave more people hungry and uninsured. [...] By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]

April 2025-April 2026: United States Department Of Agriculture: The Number Of Households Participating In SNAP In North Carolina Dropped By More Than 10% As Nearly 73,000 People Lost Benefits

April 2025-April 2026: United States Department Of Agriculture: The Number Of Households Participating In SNAP In North Carolina Dropped By More Than 10% As Nearly 73,000 People Lost Benefits. According to July 2026 data from the United States Department of Agriculture, SNAP enrollment in North Carolina fell by 10.2% between April 2025 and April 2026. [United States Department Of Agriculture, [7/10/26](#)]

July 2026: Number Of North Carolina Households Receiving SNAP Food Assistance			
April 2025	April 2026	Change In Total Participation	Percent Change In Total Participation
713,077	640,266	-72,811	-10.2%

[United States Department of Agriculture, [7/10/26](#)]

The Reconciliation Bill’s Cuts To SNAP Would Disproportionately Impact Rural Communities

Center For American Progress: “The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program’s History According To Center For American Progress Estimates.” “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program’s history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite

the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version’s nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

NC Newline Headline: “GOP Cuts To Food Assistance Would Hit Rural America Especially Hard.” [NC Newline, [6/5/25](#)]

2024: More Than 33,000 Households In NC-11 Received SNAP Benefits

2024: According To The U.S. Department Of Agriculture, More Than 33,000 Households Participated In Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In NC-11. [USDA, [2024](#)]

Number Of NC-11 Households Enrolled In SNAP	
District	Households Enrolled in SNAP
NC-11	33,238

[USDA, [2024](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Rapidly Phased Out Clean Energy Tax Credits, Raising North Carolinians’ Energy Costs, Slashing Manufacturing Jobs, And Forcing An Asheville-Based Solar Company To Declare Bankruptcy

The One Big Beautiful Bill Rapidly Phased Out Clean Energy Tax Credits Passed Under The Inflation Reduction Act, Which Spurred \$24 Billion In Planned Investment In Clean Energy Manufacturing Projects In North Carolina

The One Big Beautiful Bill Rapidly Phased Out Clean Energy Tax Credits Passed Under The Inflation Reduction Act

McDermott Will & Emery: Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Accelerated Phase-Outs To The Inflation Reduction Act Of 2022 (IRA) Energy Tax Credits. “On July 4, 2025, US President Donald Trump signed into law a budget reconciliation bill known as H.R. 1: the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). The OBBBA generally accelerated phase-outs to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) energy tax credits, dictated shortened deadlines for project credit qualification (particularly targeting solar and wind facilities), broadened domestic content restrictions, and most prominently, restricted credit availability to ‘prohibited foreign entities’ of concern (FEOCs) – all of which raises important project planning considerations for developers, energy producers, and investors in the US renewables energy space.” [McDermott Will & Emery, [7/7/25](#)]

- **The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Require Solar And Wind Projects To Either Start Construction Within A Year Of The Bill’s Passage Or Start Service By The End Of 2027 To Receive The Tax Credits.** “The Senate bill passed Tuesday would require solar and wind projects to either start construction within a year of the bill’s passage or start service by the end of 2027 to receive the tax credits. Those that begin construction after this calendar year would be subject to ‘foreign entity of concern’ restrictions so difficult to comply with that experts have said they amount to a ‘backdoor repeal.’ Batteries, nuclear, and geothermal have a longer runway to claim the credits but would have to deal with the same unworkable foreign-entity strictures.” [Canary Media, [7/3/25](#)]

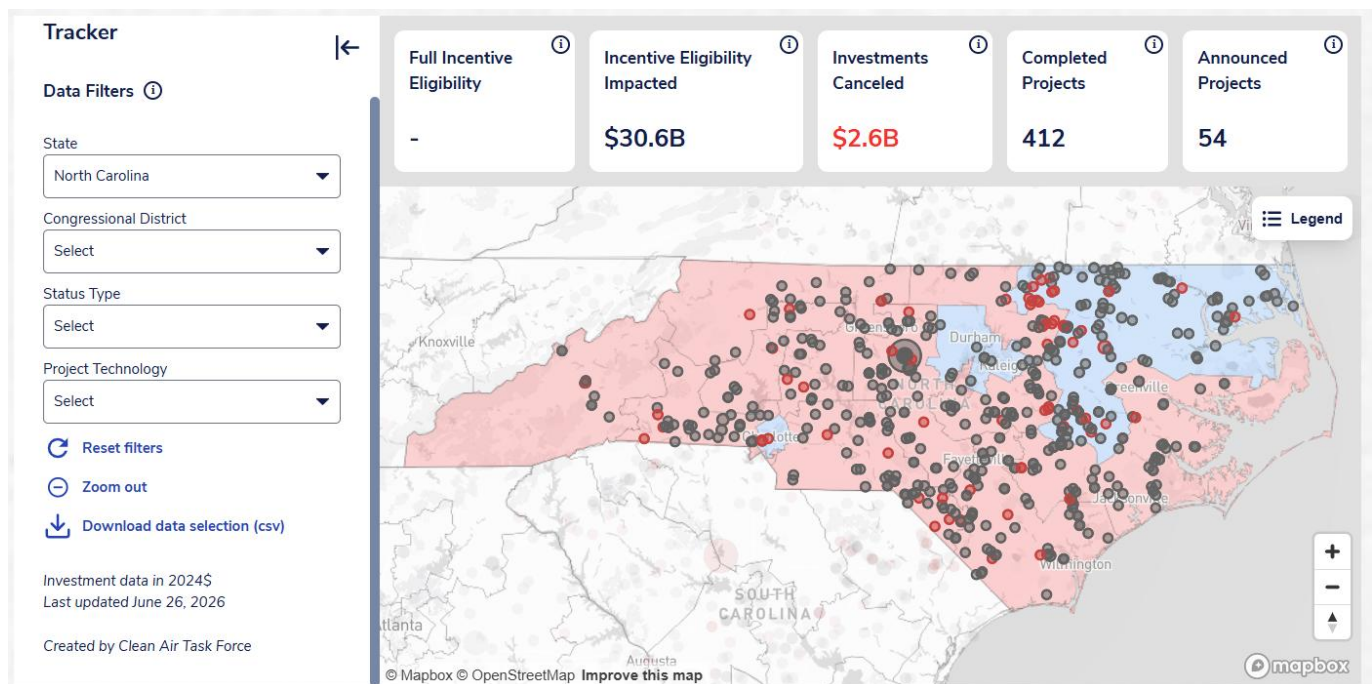
Inflation Reduction Act Clean Energy Tax Credits Incentivized \$24 Billion Dollars Of Investment Into Clean Energy Production In North Carolina

2022-2025: News & Observer: \$24 Billion Was Invested In NC’s Clean Energy Sector, Creating More Than 20,000 Jobs. “Companies announced plans for more than 20,000 clean energy jobs in North Carolina over eight years, with \$24 billion in planned capital spending, according to a list released by state government in December under then-Gov. Roy Cooper.” [News & Observer, [6/14/25](#)]

- **2022-2025: Carolina Forward: The Inflation Reduction Act Invested Billions Of Dollars In North Carolina And “Unlocked Many Billions More In Private Capital.”** “Despite the political divide in Washington, the IRA invested billions of dollars in North Carolina, and unlocked many billions more in private capital. Its resulting job creation and infrastructure have been a boon for North Carolina’s economy. The Trump administration’s push to reverse the IRA would threaten to reverse those benefits. According to E2, a nonprofit that tracks the impact of laws on the environment and economy, the IRA’s passage in 2022 has led directly to 24 new economic development projects totaling roughly \$21 billion in investment and almost 12,000 new jobs in North Carolina. Texas, Michigan, South Carolina, and Georgia are the only states with more such projects.” [Carolina Forward, [2/3/25](#)]

June 2026: Companies Had Cancelled \$2.6 Billion In Clean Energy Projects In North Carolina, As The Loss Of Cost-Saving Clean Energy Tax Credits Disincentivized Investment

June 2026: Clean Air Task Force: \$2.6 Billion In Clean Energy Investments In North Carolina Had Been Cancelled. “This map shares information about local private investments stimulated by federal incentives across the United States, including tax credits, grants, and loans. The map provides data of investments filterable by state, congressional district, technology, and status. Status options include: Full Incentive Eligibility: Announced investments proceeding as planned and not expected to be impacted by recent federal policy changes. Incentives Eligibility Impacted: Federal incentives (such as grants, loans, and tax credits) have been narrowed or withheld due to federal (legislative or executive) actions. Canceled: Investments that have been publicly announced as canceled.” [Clean Air Task Force, updated [6/26/26](#)]



[Clean Air Task Force, updated [6/26/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Undercut The 176 Announced Projects In North Carolina, “Threatening Billions In Investments, Holding Back Economic Growth, Costing Jobs, And Forcing Families And Businesses To Pay Higher Energy Bills.” “On May 22, the United States House of Representatives passed its 2025 budget Reconciliation legislation entitled the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA); the bill has now moved on to the U.S. Senate for committee markups and an eventual vote. The legislation repeals multiple federal policies, funding programs, and tax credits that drive American energy manufacturing and deployment. As passed, the text claws back unobligated funding, expands new oil and gas leasing, changes and eliminates existing energy and manufacturing tax credits, and repeals certain Clean Air Act programs. In particular, the bill drastically changes and terminates existing clean energy tax credits passed by Congress in 2022, which to date have generated \$16.2

billion in new private-led investment across 68 domestic energy and manufacturing facilities in North Carolina.¹ An additional \$7.02 billion of outstanding private investment has been announced across 108 facilities in North Carolina. As passed in the House, the OBBBA would undercut these 176 projects, threatening billions in investments, holding back economic growth, costing jobs, and forcing families and businesses to pay higher energy bills.” [Energy Innovation, [June 2025](#)]

CNBC: Cuts To Clean Energy Tax Credits Would Cause Factories To Close And Decrease The Likelihood Of Future Project Development. “President Donald Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act ends long-standing federal support for solar and wind power, while creating a friendly environment for oil, gas and coal production. [...] A related tax credit for using U.S.-made components in solar and wind farms ends for projects that enter service after 2027. A carveout allows projects that start construction within one year of the law’s enactment to claim the credit. The credit was designed to spur demand at U.S. factories in order to break the nation’s dependence on equipment from China. ‘If nothing changes, factories start to close,’ Michael Carr, executive director of the Solar Energy Manufacturers Association, told CNBC. ‘Factories that are on the drawing board that probably penciled [favorably] two weeks ago, maybe don’t pencil now. We’ll see investment slow down in the sector going forward.’” [CNBC, [7/3/25](#)]

- **The Atlantic: Future Clean Energy Projects Would Cost About 50% More Than Those That Received Tax Credits.** “The Senate version of Donald Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill repeals the clean-energy tax credits in the IRA for all wind and solar projects that don’t begin construction within a year of the bill’s passage or become fully operational by 2028. (And even if a project begins construction in the first half of 2026, it will need to meet extremely onerous domestic-sourcing requirements that many experts believe will be nearly impossible to satisfy.) As a result, future clean-energy projects, including many that have been announced but not yet built, will cost about 50 percent more than those that received the credits, according to an analysis by Jesse Jenkins, who leads the Princeton ZERO Lab. The inevitable result is that far fewer will come into existence. ‘It’s hard to think of a bigger self-own,’ Jenkins told me. ‘We’re effectively raising taxes on the country’s main sources of new power at a time when electricity prices are already rising.’” [The Atlantic, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Cuts To Clean Energy Tax Credits Were Projected Raise The Annual Average Energy Bill For North Carolina Households By Nearly \$500 By 2035 As Energy Production Capacity Decreased

2025-2035: Energy Innovation Projected That Annual North Carolina Household Energy Bills Would Increase By 110 Percent, Or \$490 Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill

2025-2035: Energy Innovation Projected That Annual North Carolina Household Energy Bills Would Increase By 110 Percent, Or \$490 Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill. “The ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act’ was signed into law by President Trump on July 4th after being passed by the United States Congress. [...] The bill will reduce additions of new, cost-effective electricity capacity in North Carolina, raising power prices for consumers and decreasing the state’s GDP and job growth in the coming years. This summary of impacts is an addendum to our national and state-by-state modeling of the House-passed text released on June 11th. [...] The loss of low-cost renewables and the resulting increase in gas prices would increase electricity prices in North Carolina. We forecast that wholesale electricity prices increase by 49 percent by 2030 and 110 percent by 2035. Wholesale electricity costs in North Carolina would balloon from \$5.1 billion in 2035 with current policies to \$10 billion in the Senate scenario, a 110-percent increase over current policies. Utilities are expected to pass these costs on to consumers; we forecast the bill will raise electricity rates by 22 to 35 percent for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers in North Carolina. Households in North Carolina will face significantly increased energy costs: We find \$220 annual increases in household energy bills by 2030 and \$490 by 2035.” [Energy Innovation, [7/1/25](#)]

2025: Joint Economic Committee Minority: The Average Energy Bill For A North Carolina Household Was \$40 Higher Than In 2024

2025: Joint Economic Committee Minority: The Average Energy Bill For A North Carolina Household Was \$40 Higher Than In 2024. “While campaigning in 2024, President Donald Trump repeatedly promised that if he was elected, energy bills across the country would be ‘cut in half’ within 12 months. However, this updated Joint Economic Committee – Minority analysis finds that electricity costs increased significantly in 2025, with households in nearly every state paying more for electricity in 2025 compared to 2024. The Committee measured state-level electricity costs for 2025 using monthly electricity bill data from the federal Energy Information Administration (EIA). On average, the Committee finds that American households paid approximately \$110 more in electricity costs in 2025 compared to 2024. This is even higher than the increase the Committee projected last November, prior to the release of data for all of 2025. The Committee also finds that annual electricity costs were higher in 2025 in nearly every state, and were at least 10 percent higher in 12 states and D.C.” [Joint Economic Committee, [3/17/26](#)]

2024-2025: Change In Average Total Electricity Expenses Per Household In North Carolina			
2024	2025	Difference In Annual Spending	Percent Change In Annual Spending
\$1,720	\$1,760	\$40	2.3%

[Joint Economic Committee, [3/17/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Slashed Clean Energy Tax Credits, Leading To Decreased Energy Supply And Higher Prices

July 2025: Energy Innovation: Decreased Energy Capacity Due To Cuts To Clean Energy Tax Credits In The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Increase Annual Household Energy Bills. “The ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act’ was signed into law by President Trump on July 4th after being passed by the United States Congress. The final text slightly modifies the version passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in June, adjusting the timeline for repeal of some energy tax credits, changing domestic sourcing requirements, and excluding the repeal of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tailpipe rules, which the Senate Parliamentarian ruled could not be included in reconciliation. The bill will reduce additions of new, cost-effective electricity capacity in Florida, raising power prices for consumers and decreasing the state’s GDP and job growth in the coming years. This summary of impacts is an addendum to our national and state-by-state modeling of the House-passed text released on June 11th.” [Energy Innovation, [7/1/25](#)]

- **July 2025: Energy Innovation: “By Quickly Phasing Out Technology-Neutral Clean Energy Tax Credits And Adding Complex Material Sourcing Requirements,” The One Big Beautiful Bill “Will Significantly Hamper The Development Of Domestic Electricity Generation Capacity.”** “By quickly phasing out technology-neutral clean energy tax credits and adding complex material sourcing requirements, the bill will significantly hamper the development of domestic electricity generation capacity. By 2035, we forecast a 3.5 gigawatt decrease in generation capacity in Minnesota due to the measures in the reconciliation bill.” [Energy Innovation, [7/1/25](#)]

July 2025: Canary Media: Increasing The Nation’s Energy Supply Was Critical To Preventing Energy Price Hikes, As Demand For Electricity Rose Nationwide Due In Large Part To Data Centers. “Clean energy is the cheapest and easiest way to get power onto the grid. With demand for electricity nationwide rising due in large part to AI data centers, swiftly bringing affordable energy online is more crucial than ever. But if tax incentives are repealed, fewer solar, wind, and storage projects will be built. Between now and 2035, the U.S. could see 57% to 72% less new clean-energy capacity come online than it would have with the tax credits in place, according to Rhodium Group. Meanwhile, new gas construction likely can’t make up the difference in the near term: Developers who want to build new gas power plants face wait times of up to five to seven years for turbines.” [Canary Media, [7/3/25](#)]

The Mayor Pro-Tem Of Waynesville Warned That One Big Beautiful Bill Cuts To Clean Energy Tax Credits Would Drive Up Electricity Costs By 15-20 Percent, Jeopardize Clean Energy Manufacturing Projects, And Cut Incentives For The Town’s Energy Upgrades

Chuck Dickson, Mayor Pro-Tem Of Waynesville, NC Said One Big Beautiful Bill's Cuts To Clean Energy Tax Credits "Will Hurt North Carolina And The Town Of Waynesville If They Become Law." "On May 22, the House of Representatives voted to pass a budget bill (The One Big Beautiful Bill) that drastically cuts America's clean energy tax credits. Make no mistake: these cuts will hurt North Carolina and the Town of Waynesville if they become law." [Chuck Dickson Letter to the Editor, Smoky Mountain News, [6/10/25](#)]

- **Waynesville Was Located In North Carolina's 11th Congressional District.** "In the state of North Carolina, the counties where Trump lost his biggest vote share from 2020 to 2024 were Henderson (Hendersonville; 2.2% leftward shift), Buncombe (Asheville; 1.8% leftwards shift), and Transylvania (Brevard; 1.8% leftward shift)—all counties in the 11th located relatively near the liberal anchor of the region—Asheville. Madison (Mars Hill), Avery (Banner Elk), Polk (Tryon), Mitchell (Spruce Pine), Haywood (Waynesville), and Macon (Franklin) counties were also among the NC-11 counties that moved left from 2020 to 2024." [UVA Center for Politics, [6/17/26](#)]

Dickson Said Cuts To Tax Credits Will Increase Electricity Prices By 15-20 Percent And Jeopardize Clean Energy Manufacturing Projects, Including For Solar, EV, And Batteries. "If the cuts become law, energy prices will rise. Rolling back these tax credits means North Carolina (including Town of Waynesville) electricity users will face prices that are 15-20% higher in the coming years. Manufacturing will slow. Phasing out tax credits that support clean energy manufacturing will jeopardize long-term projects like battery plants, solar panel plants, and vehicle manufacturing facilities. Eliminating clean vehicle tax credits could put up to 100% of planned EV plant construction and a significant portion of existing capacity at risk, according to industry analysts." [Chuck Dickson Letter to the Editor, Smoky Mountain News, [6/10/25](#)]

Dickson Warned That Waynesville Stood "To Lose Up To \$500,000 In Federal Incentives That Would Help Pay For Energy Upgrades For Town Facilities." "Experts say that these changes will raise energy costs for our households, increase pollution in Western North Carolina, and threaten the growing economic investments we've seen in our state. The Town of Waynesville stands to lose up to \$500,000 in federal incentives that would help pay for energy upgrades for town facilities. These savings for the town taxpayers will be gone unless the tax credits are preserved." [Chuck Dickson Letter to the Editor, Smoky Mountain News, [6/10/25](#)]

The House-Passed Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Put About 76,500 Jobs In North Carolina At Risk, And The Legislation Had Already Resulted In The Loss Or Delay Of More Than 10,000 Jobs

Blue Green Alliance Projected That The House Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Put About 76,500 Clean Energy Manufacturing Jobs In North Carolina At Risk. "The direct jobs totals in this brief are calculated from announced job numbers from press releases that the BlueGreen Alliance has collected from several sources. These include: BlueGreen Alliance and Atlas Public Policy's EV Jobs Hub, Climate Power's Clean Energy Boom Reports, and the Clean Investment Monitor. This excludes construction jobs building or expanding facilities as well as all the other jobs associated with deploying clean technologies. We focus specifically on manufacturing locations. These are likely to have received either the 48C Qualifying Advanced Energy Project Tax Credit, the 45X Advanced Manufacturing Production Tax Credit, or are in the supply chain for electric vehicles and thus benefit from increased household demand thanks to the 30D New Clean Vehicle Consumer Tax Credit. The indirect and induced jobs numbers in this brief are estimates, calculated by multiplying direct numbers by jobs multipliers published by the Economic Policy Institute. These numbers are a standard product of input-output modeling, which is a common technique used to estimate the impacts of economic development strategies. Input-output models use detailed data about the observed inputs and outputs of different economic sectors. This kind of data shows, for example, how much steel is purchased by durable goods manufacturers and how much employment is required by the steel mill to produce that steel. These numbers shed light on how the economic activity that creates a direct job in manufacturing stimulates economic activity in the supply chain and the economy at large, with that economic activity creating employment of its own." [BlueGreen Alliance, [6/12/25](#)]

BlueGreen Alliance: Projected Clean Energy Manufacturing Job Losses Due To The One Big Beautiful Bill

Announced Direct Manufacturing Jobs	Indirect Jobs	Induced Jobs	Total Jobs
16,481	36,233	23,813	76,527

[BlueGreen Alliance, [6/12/25](#)]

- **BlueGreen Alliance: “The House Budget Bill, If Enacted, Puts At Risk More Than Two Million U.S. Jobs From The Provisions To Repeal Manufacturing Tax Credits Alone.”** “The House budget bill, if enacted, puts at risk more than two million U.S. jobs from the provisions to repeal manufacturing tax credits alone. If the provisions in this bill become law, workers will be the ones to pay the price. It sells them out to foot the bill for a massive tax break for billionaires. Across the country, and in red states especially, this bill would spell the loss of massive job creation and economic stimulus.” [BlueGreen Alliance Research Brief, accessed [10/22/25](#)]

2026: Climate Power: North Carolina Had More Than 10,000 Clean Energy Jobs Lost Or Delayed, The Third Most In The Country, Since Trump’s Election. “43,775 clean energy jobs have been lost or delayed between Trump’s election and June 1, 2026. Companies have canceled, delayed, lost grant funding, or laid off staff at 382 energy projects in 49 states, representing over \$69 billion in lost investment.” [Climate Power, [6/8/26](#)]

10 STATES WITH THE MOST CLEAN ENERGY JOBS LOST			
STATE	# OF PROJECTS	JOBS LOST OR DELAYED	INVESTMENTS LOST OR DELAYED
NEW MEXICO	4	17,085	\$3,363,550,000
MASSACHUSETTS	19	17,014	\$8,608,600,000
NORTH CAROLINA	12	10,135	\$2,440,500,000
NEW YORK	28	9,196	\$3,900,122,000
ARIZONA	7	8,907	\$3,661,200,000
NEW JERSEY	8	8,519	\$3,696,000,000
MICHIGAN	24	7,916	\$1,193,900,600
OHIO	13	7,165	\$1,282,900,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	8	5,220	\$3,600,900,000

[Climate Power, [6/8/26](#)]

November 2025: The One Big Beautiful Bill Forced Asheville-Based Solar Development Firm To Declare Bankruptcy, Causing More Than 800 People To Lose Their Jobs

November 2025: Asheville-Based Pine Gate Renewables Filed For Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

November 2025: “Asheville-Based Pine Gate Renewables Files For Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, Plans To Sell Assets.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [11/6/25](#)]

November 2025: Pine Gate Renewables Was “One Of The Leading Solar Development Firms In The U.S.” And Employed More Than 300 People. “Pine Gate Renewables, the Asheville-based renewable energy developer and owner-operator that grew rapidly since opening in 2016, has initiated Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and will sell its assets and operations, the company announced Nov. 6. As one of the leading solar development firms in the U.S., Pine Gate Renewables employs over 300 people in the United States and has closed on approximately \$10 billion in project financing and capital investment since it was founded in Asheville, according to its website. It has developed over 100 new solar facilities. The company has more than 30 gigawatts of solar power in development.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [11/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill's Cuts To Clean Energy Tax Credits "Bankrupted Pine Gate"

November 2025: Benzinga Headline: "Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill' Just Bankrupted Pine Gate — As Solar Energy Dominoes Are Starting To Fall." [Benzinga via Yahoo Finance, [11/11/25](#)]

- **November 2025: Benzinga Called Pine Crest's Bankruptcy "The First Major Casualty" Of The One Big Beautiful Bill's Cuts To Clean Energy Tax Credits.** "When President Donald Trump signed the 'One Big Beautiful Bill' on July 4, he called it a patriotic win for U.S. energy independence. For the solar industry, it's been anything but. The legislation gutted clean-energy tax credits and tightened rules that once made renewable projects viable. Now, the first major casualty has occurred: Pine Gate Renewables LLC, a North Carolina-based solar developer with over 100 plants and 30 GW in the pipeline, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, citing the sudden collapse in project valuations after the policy change." [Benzinga via Yahoo Finance, [11/11/25](#)]

Bloomberg Law Headline: "Pine Gate Files Chapter 11 As Trump Policies Hit Solar Firms." [Bloomberg Law, [11/7/25](#)]

PV Magazine: Pine Gate Renewables "Cited Mounting Legislative And Regulatory Challenges" Including The "Impact Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Curtailed Federal Tax Credits And Increased Project Costs" As The Reason Behind Its Bankruptcy Filing. "The acquisition comes just eight weeks after Pine Gate Renewables filed for Chapter 11 protection on November 6, 2025. At the time of the filing, the developer cited mounting legislative and regulatory challenges, citing the impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which curtailed federal tax credits and increased project costs. Before the filing, the company's EPC subsidiary Blue Ridge Power laid off over 500 employees." [PV Magazine, [1/2/26](#)]

- **Pine Gate's Chapter 11 Filing Came As The One Big Beautiful Bill's Sunsetting Of Clean Energy Tax Credits Left Some "Companies That Developed Around Government Incentives Bracing For Impact."** "Pine Gate's Chapter 11 filing comes as the solar industry has faced headwinds under President Donald Trump. With the July passage of the 'One Big Beautiful Bill,' tax credits for the industry's industrial and consumer-level products are set to wind down in 2025 and 2026, leaving some companies that developed around government incentives bracing for impact." [Asheville Citizen Times, [11/6/25](#)]

2025: Pine Gate And Its Subsidiary, Blue Ridge Power, Laid Off More Than 500 Employees

November 2025: Business North Carolina Headline: "Pine Gate Laid Off 500 Workers In October, Another 223 Face Job Losses Amid Bankruptcy." [Business North Carolina, [11/10/25](#)]

September 2025: Blue Ridge Power, A Subsidiary Of Pine Gate Renewables Announced The Lay Off Of More Than 500 Staffers, Citing "Market Headwinds" "Impacting The Entire Renewable Energy Industry." "In September, Blue Ridge Power, a subsidiary of Pine Gate Renewables, issued a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification, indicating the company would lay off approximately 517 staffers, the Citizen Times reported. At that time, Pine Gate spokesperson Kristen McKenzie said the move came amid 'market headwinds similar to those impacting the entire renewable energy industry.'" [Asheville Citizen Times, [11/6/25](#)]

November 2025: Charlotte Observer Headline: "NC Solar Plant Closing And Cutting 220 Jobs Amid Trump Policies, Bankruptcy." [Charlotte Observer, [11/11/25](#)]

November 2025: The Closure Of Pine Gate's Asheville Facility Caused 223 People In Buncombe County To Lose Their Jobs. "A leading solar energy development firm in North Carolina is closing its Asheville plant and laying off more than 78% of its workforce as it files for bankruptcy due to renewable energy policy changes under the Trump administration. Pine Gate Renewables in Asheville filed a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification report with the state on Friday, saying that 223 people in Buncombe County will be impacted by the closure of its Asheville facility. The site will shutter starting on Jan. 5, according to the WARN database." [Charlotte Observer, [11/11/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Revoked Unspent Funding Under The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Stalling A Program To Upgrade Municipal Energy Systems To Reduce Utility Bills In Western North Carolina

A Provision In The OBBB Rescinded Unspent Funds In The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. SEN. SHELTON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI): “But today, I want to focus on section 60002 of the so-called ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act,’ which repealed and rescinded all unobligated funds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. There has been some spin put on this section, including in court filings. And so I aim to fix some misconceptions, with the help of the Congressional Budget Office and the relevant Republican House subcommittee chair.” [Congressional Record, [7/9/25](#)]

- **Congress Revoked Unspent Funding Under The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.** “An EPA spokesperson said the agency is working to rescind the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund since Congress voted to revoke unspent dollars last month — congressional Democrats dispute that the action applied to obligated funding. The spokesperson highlighted \$409.4 million that EPA approved last week for improving the state's drinking water infrastructure.” [Politico, [8/22/25](#)]

A Program From Mountain BizWorks “To Provide Low- To No-Interest Loans To Help Towns Pay For Energy Efficiency, Solar And Battery Upgrades To Reduce Municipal Utility Bills” Was Stalled When It Never Received Its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Award. “Community lender Mountain BizWorks had planned to provide low- to no-interest loans to help towns pay for energy efficiency, solar and battery upgrades to reduce municipal utility bills, said Christine Laucher, the nonprofit's strategic partnership manager. But that program is stalled because the towns backed away when the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund dollars and Mountain BizWorks' \$11 million award never materialized. ‘One piece that's been a challenge with some of these smaller towns is that their community isn't necessarily clamoring for clean energy, but they would be really excited by cost savings,’ Laucher said. ‘That money would have really gone a long way in supporting the rebuilding of western North Carolina.’” [Politico, [8/22/25](#)]

- **Mountain BizWorks Was An Asheville-Based Community Development Financial Institution.** “We’re building a vibrant and inclusive entrepreneurial community in Western North Carolina. Mountain BizWorks was founded by entrepreneurs in Asheville, NC in 1989. We believed in the WNC region way back then— before it was a nationally acclaimed destination for outdoors, tourism, food and beer. We knew it was possible, so we set out to create a supportive local business environment where entrepreneurs could thrive. And it worked! We are a U.S. Treasury certified non-profit Community Development Financial Institution or CDFI— what’s a CDFI?” [Mountain BizWorks, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Gave Billions In Tax Breaks To The Ultra-Wealthy At The Expense Of Working Families

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The House-Passed Reconciliation Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026. “The House of Representatives today narrowly passed a massive tax and spending reconciliation bill that now heads to President Trump’s desk. Please see below for a statement from ITEP and our latest updated analysis of how the bill’s tax provisions will affect families at different income levels nationally and in every state. [...] The richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a total of \$117 billion in net tax cuts in 2026. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers on the income scale, a group that has 20 times the number of taxpayers as the richest 1 percent, would receive less than half that much, \$53 billion in net tax cuts that year.” [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, [7/3/24](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill's Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest Giving Them Tax Cuts Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans

The One Big Beautiful Bill's Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest. “The One Big Beautiful Bill includes the largest tax cuts in U.S. history. Whether it’s actually ‘beautiful’ is in the eye of the beholder. At every income level taxes should subside. That’s a big selling point from President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans who pushed the law through Congress with no Democratic support. It will benefit everyone. But the biggest cuts go to the wealthiest taxpayers – the ones who pay the lion’s share of taxes. For most families the savings will be miniscule in comparison, in raw dollars and as a share of income. And millions will lose subsidized health insurance and other benefits. Critics see a plan that widens income inequality and, worse, offsets tax cuts for the wealthy with draconian spending cuts that hit lower-income households.” [Cronkite News, [7/16/25](#)]

The House-Passed Republican Reconciliation Bill Extended The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Which Skewed In Favor Of The Wealthy By Providing Them Tax Cuts That Were Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans. “The tax provisions of the House Republican reconciliation bill double down on the failures of the 2017 tax law, which was skewed in favor of the richest people in the country, further eroded the nation’s revenue base, and didn’t produce the promised economic gains for working people.[1] Instead of changing course and prioritizing people with low and moderate incomes as House Republicans’ rhetoric about supporting hard-pressed working families would suggest, the House Republican tax bill only offers more of the same. The bill is heavily skewed to the wealthy: Under the bill, the top 1 percent of people would receive tax cuts three times the size of those for people with incomes in the bottom 60 percent, measured as a share of after-tax income. (See Figure 1.) The top 0.6 percent of people — the 1.2 million people with annual incomes above \$1 million — would receive more total tax cuts than the 127 million people with incomes below \$100,000. [...] The bill extends and expands the 2017 tax law’s increase in the estate tax exemption, boosting the cut in estate taxes for the 1 in 1,000 wealthiest estates to \$6.3 million.[3] Next year a couple could pass on an estate worth up to \$30 million tax free, \$1.7 million more than under a simple extension of the 2017 law.” [CBPP, [5/22/25](#)]

CBS: “Like Penn Wharton, Other Researchers Have Said The Republican Bill Is Likely To Benefit Wealthy Americans At The Expense Of People Lower Down The Ladder.” “Like Penn Wharton, other researchers have said the Republican bill is likely to benefit wealthy Americans at the expense of people lower down the ladder. The measure would likely reduce the financial resources available to the lowest-earning 10% of U.S. households by \$1,600 per year, or almost 4% of their annual income, according to a report published earlier this month by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. White House officials have previously questioned the CBO's scoring of the bill. But the highest-earning 10% of households would see a gain of \$12,000 per year in resources, while middle-income households would see a gain of \$500 to \$1,000, the CBO projected. Its analysis is based on the bill's tax breaks, as well as reductions for federal programs and reductions in state funds for safety net programs such as Medicaid and food stamps. In considering the impact of higher U.S. debt on future generations, the cost would come in the form of lower wages and higher costs, such as more expensive mortgages, Smetters said.” [CBS News, [6/26/25](#)]

The Hill: “The Republicans’ ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make The Poorest Americans Even Poorer, While Padding The Wallets Of The Highest Earners The Most, According To An Analysis Released Monday By Congress’s Budget Arm.” “The Republicans’ ‘big, beautiful bill’ will make the poorest Americans even poorer, while padding the wallets of the highest earners the most, according to an analysis released Monday by Congress’s budget arm. The assessment, conducted by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) at the request of top Democrats, found that the top 10 percent of earners in the country will see an average boost of \$13,600 per year over the next decade as a direct result of provisions in the law, while the bottom 10 percent will see an average annual decrease of \$1,200. The report challenges the arguments made by President Trump and other Republicans that the massive domestic policy package would benefit workers at all levels of wealth and income. And it’s given fuel to the attacks from Democrats that the legislation was, all along, designed to help the wealthiest people at the expense of the working poor.” [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

- **The Hill Headline: “Budget Office Says GOP’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make Rich Richer, Poor Poorer.”** [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Decade

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Ten Years.

“President Donald Trump’s ‘big, beautiful bill,’ which he signed into law this month, will add \$3.4 trillion to the U.S. national debt over the next decade, according to a report the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office published Monday.” [NBC News, [7/21/25](#)]

Balkcom Voted Against Expanding Medicaid In North Carolina And Called It “A System That Is Already Broken” Even Though It Covered Nearly 30,000 People In NC-11, And She Praised Legislation That Drove Up Monthly Premiums For North Carolinians

2023: Balkcom Voted Against Expanding Medicaid In North Carolina, Which Covered Nearly 30,000 People In NC-11 And More Than 730,000 People Statewide, Including Hundreds Of Thousands From Rural Counties

March 2023: Balkcom Voted Against Medicaid Expansion In North Carolina

March 2023: Balkcom Voted Against H.B. 76, “An Act To Provide North Carolina Citizens With Greater Access To Healthcare Options.” In March 2023, Balkcom voted against H.B. 76, “an act to provide North Carolina citizens with greater access to healthcare options.” The bill passed by a vote of 92-22-0-5. [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 76, 2/16/23](#)]

- **March 2023: H.B. 76 Expanded Medicaid In North Carolina.** “Today, Governor Roy Cooper signed House Bill 76, Access to Healthcare Options, into law. The legislation will expand Medicaid, which is expected to provide health coverage to over 600,000 people across North Carolina and bring billions in federal dollars to the state. North Carolina is the 40th state to expand Medicaid.” [North Carolina Office of the Governor, Press Release, [3/27/23](#)]

2023: North Carolina Expanded Medicaid Under The Affordable Care Act, Granting Coverage To More Than 730,000 Statewide, Including Nearly 30,000 People In NC-11 And Hundreds Of Thousands From Rural Counties

December 2023: NC Medicaid Expanded To Cover People Ages 19 Through 64 Up To 138% Of The Federal Poverty Line. “On December 1, 2023, NC Medicaid expanded to cover people ages 19 through 64 up to 138% of the federal poverty line. That’s about \$1,800/month for singles and \$3,065/month for families of three. NC Medicaid covers most health services. It includes doctor visits, check-ups, emergency care, dental care, vision and hearing services, prescription drugs, maternity and postpartum care, hospital services, behavioral health, preventive and wellness services, medical-related devices and more. There is no monthly fee and copays are never more than \$4.” [North Carolina Medicaid Division Of Health Benefits, accessed [8/22/25](#)]

April 2025: KFF: 29,800 Adults In NC-11 Received Medicaid Coverage Under The Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid Expansion. [KFF, [4/11/25](#)]

April 2025: Medicaid Recipients In NC-11	
Medicaid Recipients	Number
Adults	54,700
Seniors	19,700
Children	65,200

Individuals with Disabilities	26,800
ACA Adults	29,800
Total:	196,200

[KFF, [4/11/25](#)]

August 2026: According To The North Carolina Department Of Health And Human Services, More Than 730,000 People In North Carolina Gained Health Care Coverage Through The State’s Medicaid Expansion.
[North Carolina Department Of Health And Human Services, [8/1/26](#)]

Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Dashboard

On December 1, 2023 more people became eligible for NC Medicaid through Medicaid expansion. Under expansion, NC Medicaid covers people ages 19 through 64 years with higher incomes. Many North Carolinians who did not qualify for health coverage prior to expansion now do.

This dashboard, updated monthly, tracks how many people are enrolled in NC Medicaid as a result of Medicaid expansion. View and filter below by health plan, demographics, or county.

Medicaid Expansion Enrollment... Definitions

NC Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Dashboard

Last Update: August 1, 2026
Updated Monthly

NC Medicaid Expansion Enrollment as of August 1, 2026: **734,903**
Note: Enrollments processed after this date are not reflected in this dashboard.

[North Carolina Department Of Health And Human Services, [8/1/26](#)]

- **August 2025: Since North Carolina Expanded Medicaid Expansion In 2023, More Than A Third Of The New Enrollees Came From Rural Counties.** “Since Medicaid expansion began in 2023, more than a third of the nearly 680,000 new enrollees have come from rural counties. That has brought new revenue to struggling hospitals. ‘The increased revenue from larger Medicaid populations has helped improve their financial performance, and in some cases actually reduced the risk of closure,’ says Debra Farrington, North Carolina’s deputy secretary of health.” [WFAE, [8/25/25](#)]
- **North Carolina Health News: “A Disproportionate Share Of [North Carolina’s New Medicaid] Enrollees Are Residents Of Rural, Economically Distressed Counties.”** “People who were not part of the initial wave of automatic enrollments have been signing up for Medicaid at a steady clip since expansion launched. Ludlam said DHHS is adding an average of 1,000 beneficiaries to the rolls each day — a number he believes will taper off in the coming weeks. A disproportionate share of the state’s new enrollees are residents of rural, economically distressed counties. That isn’t entirely surprising, according to Ludlam. He said expansion was expected to have an outsize impact in rural areas. ‘Broadly, in some of these communities, we would have anticipated high enrollment,’ he said. ‘These are areas where individuals are working potentially more than one job to make ends meet.’” [North Carolina Health News, [2/15/24](#)]
- **2023: North Carolina Health News: At The Time Of Medicaid Expansion, “North Carolina Ranked Among The States With The Most Uninsured Residents, With 11.1 Percent Of Residents Between The Ages Of 18 And 64 Lacking Access To Health Coverage.”** “Right now, North Carolina ranks among the states with the most uninsured residents, with 11.1 percent of residents between the ages of 18 and 64 lacking access to health coverage, according to the U.S. Census. That number is somewhat lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, during which Congress ordered states not to kick anyone who had qualified off of the Medicaid rolls.” [North Carolina Health News, [12/28/23](#)]

North Carolina's Expansion Of Medicaid Brought Revenue To Rural Hospitals, Increased Access To Prenatal And Postpartum Care, And Led To Declines In Infant Mortality, Neonatal Deaths, And Overdose-Related Deaths

WFAE: Medicaid Expansion Increased Revenue To Rural Hospitals That Were Struggling, And In Some Cases Reduced Their Risk Of Closure. “Since Medicaid expansion began in 2023, more than a third of the nearly 680,000 new enrollees have come from rural counties. That has brought new revenue to struggling hospitals. ‘The increased revenue from larger Medicaid populations has helped improve their financial performance, and in some cases actually reduced the risk of closure,’ says Debra Farrington, North Carolina’s deputy secretary of health.” [WFAE, [8/25/25](#)]

ABC: “State Health Officials Say The Historic Decline Reflects The Impact Of Medicaid Expansion, Which Has Provided Health Care Coverage To More Than 700,000 North Carolinians And Increased Access To Prenatal And Postpartum Care.” “New data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services show major declines in infant mortality and overdose-related deaths across the state. North Carolina's infant mortality rate fell 8.7% from 2023 to 2024, dropping from 6.9 to 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births. Neonatal deaths also declined 14.9%, meaning more babies survived the earliest and most vulnerable weeks of life. State health officials say the historic decline reflects the impact of Medicaid expansion, which has provided health care coverage to more than 700,000 North Carolinians and increased access to prenatal and postpartum care.” [ABC, [4/28/26](#)]

The North Carolina Department Of Health And Human Services (NCDHHS) Announced Declines In Infant Mortality, Neonatal Deaths, And Overdose-Related Deaths, Which State Officials Said Reflected The Impact Of Investments In Health With Medicaid Expansion. “New data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services show major declines in infant mortality and overdose-related deaths across the state. North Carolina's infant mortality rate fell 8.7% from 2023 to 2024, dropping from 6.9 to 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births. Neonatal deaths also declined 14.9%, meaning more babies survived the earliest and most vulnerable weeks of life. State health officials say the historic decline reflects the impact of Medicaid expansion, which has provided health care coverage to more than 700,000 North Carolinians and increased access to prenatal and postpartum care.” [ABC, [4/28/26](#)]

- **ABC: “State Health Officials Say The Historic Decline Reflects The Impact Of Medicaid Expansion, Which Has Provided Health Care Coverage To More Than 700,000 North Carolinians And Increased Access To Prenatal And Postpartum Care.”** “New data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services show major declines in infant mortality and overdose-related deaths across the state. North Carolina's infant mortality rate fell 8.7% from 2023 to 2024, dropping from 6.9 to 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births. Neonatal deaths also declined 14.9%, meaning more babies survived the earliest and most vulnerable weeks of life. State health officials say the historic decline reflects the impact of Medicaid expansion, which has provided health care coverage to more than 700,000 North Carolinians and increased access to prenatal and postpartum care.” [ABC, [4/28/26](#)]

North Carolina's Expansion Of Medicaid Invested In Health Pilot Programs (HOP) That Connected Western North Carolinians To Healthy Food, Transportation To Medical Appointments, And Housing Upgrades

Medicaid Expansion Dollars Funded North Carolina's “Healthy Opportunities” Pilot Programs, Which “Connected People To Healthier Food, Transportation To Medical Appointments And Housing Upgrades.” “A lot has happened in the world of health care since September 2023, the last time the North Carolina General Assembly passed a comprehensive budget bill. [...] Medicaid expansion went live in December 2023, and now 730,000 more NC residents have been enrolled and now have access to health care coverage. The state's Healthy Opportunities Pilot, funded by expansion dollars, connected people to healthier food, transportation to medical appointments and housing upgrades.” [NPR, [7/10/26](#)]

- **North Carolina Department Of Health And Humans Services (NCDHHS) Headline: “New Research**

Showing Critical Impact Medicaid Expansion And Healthy Opportunities Pilots Have In Creating Healthier North Carolina.” [North Carolina Department Of Health And Humans Services, [5/28/25](#)]

- **NCDHHS: “Healthy Opportunities Addresses People’s Social Needs With Services Like Food, Housing, Transportation And Assistance Related To Interpersonal Violence And Toxic Stress.”** “Additionally, the innovative first of its kind Healthy Opportunities Pilots in North Carolina have been described as a ‘life changer’ for thousands of North Carolina families. Healthy Opportunities addresses people’s social needs with services like food, housing, transportation and assistance related to interpersonal violence and toxic stress. The program proves the best way to lower health care costs and create healthier communities is to reduce the need for medical care in the first place. Additionally, the state is seeing \$1,020 in annual health care costs savings per Healthy Opportunities enrollee, and stronger local economies that are supported by local businesses from family farms to home repair.” [North Carolina Department Of Health And Humans Services, [5/28/25](#)]

Carolina Public Press: Healthy Opportunities Pilots (HOP) “Provided Nonmedical Social Services For People Enrolled In Medicaid In North Carolina, And Bridged Care Gaps Through Nonmedical Services Like Access To Healthy Food Through Food Is Medicine Programs And Housing Navigator Services.”

“Western North Carolina has some unique healthcare challenges with only one Level One trauma center in the 18-county region, widening healthcare gaps, which the now-in-limbo Healthy Opportunities Pilots worked to address. But, a new statewide program that will be rolled out across the region soon looks to provide some of the same services for especially rural areas. The pilot, or HOP, provided nonmedical social services for people enrolled in Medicaid in North Carolina, and bridged care gaps through nonmedical services like access to healthy food through Food Is Medicine programs and housing navigator services until last year, when the state legislature did not authorize funding for the project after July 1, 2025.” [Carolina Public Press, [8/7/26](#)]

- **Carolina Public Press: HOP Worked To Address The Unique Health Care Challenges Facing Western Carolina.** “Western North Carolina has some unique healthcare challenges with only one Level One trauma center in the 18-county region, widening healthcare gaps, which the now-in-limbo Healthy Opportunities Pilots worked to address. But, a new statewide program that will be rolled out across the region soon looks to provide some of the same services for especially rural areas. The pilot, or HOP, provided nonmedical social services for people enrolled in Medicaid in North Carolina, and bridged care gaps through nonmedical services like access to healthy food through Food Is Medicine programs and housing navigator services until last year, when the state legislature did not authorize funding for the project after July 1, 2025.” [Carolina Public Press, [8/7/26](#)]

Balkcom Called Medicaid “A System That Is Already Broken”

2022: Balkcom Said She Agreed With Another Politician Who Referred To Medicaid As “A System That Is Already Broken”

2022: In Discussing Medicaid Expansion, Balkcom Said She Agreed With State Auditor Beth Wood That “You Just Can’t Keep Putting A Bunch Of People Into A System That Is Already Broken.” “Republican leaders and Gov. Roy Cooper have cracked the door on a possible compromise to allow for Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. Do you support or oppose expansion? [...] Balkcom: [...] I agree with State Auditor Beth Wood, who said, ‘You just can’t keep putting a bunch of people into a system that is already broken.’ The result is substandard care for those folks who need it the most. And Medicaid spending is projected to grow exponentially. Where are all those billions of dollars going to come from to pay for it?” [Hendersonville Lightning, [5/5/22](#)]

2022: Balkcom Expressed Concern About Where To Find Funding For Medicaid Expansion

2022: When Asked About Medicaid Expansion, Balkcom Said, “As Far As Expansion Goes, I’m Not In Favor Of That. I Think The Concern Is Where We Are Going To Find It In The Budget.” “Are you in favor or do you oppose a Medicaid expansion in North Carolina? [...] BALKCOM: ‘I agree with Chelsea [Walsh], I think there’s all different levels as well. As far as expansion goes, I’m not in favor of that. I think the concern is where are we going to find it in the budget.’” [Hendersonville Lightning, [5/1/22](#)]

- **Chelsea Walsh On Whether She Supported Medicaid Expansion: “I Believe First That We Need To Look At The Budget...Yes, And Maybe No... Medicaid Is Not A Black-And-White Issue.”** “Are you in favor or do you oppose a Medicaid expansion in North Carolina? WALSH: ‘If we want to talk about our right and our left responses, our Republican and our Democrat responses, the general response as a Republican is say no, continuously. Here's what I want to educate you on and I think this is very important. There is not one level of Medicaid and when I say that there is Medicaid that is allocated for earmarking lower costs and prescriptions. There is Medicaid that's allocated for different health conditions. There is Medicaid that is available for saving money on your insurance premiums. There is Medicaid that is available for women who are having babies or children that need dental. So that is the most broad question that you could ask because it's not just a yes and no question. I believe first that we need to look at the budget and figure out where the funds are going and if there's an opportunity to reallocate the funds, we need to do that. Two years ago, over 50 percent of the births in North Carolina, were on Medicaid. So to answer your question, yes, maybe no. And I don't just say that because that's the most political answer. A lot of people don't realize that Medicaid is not a black-and-white issue. And we really need to go in and look at the line items and see where the funding is going and how we can save the taxpayers money.’” [Hendersonville Lightning, [5/1/22](#)]

2022: Balkcom: “I Oppose Expanding Medicaid”

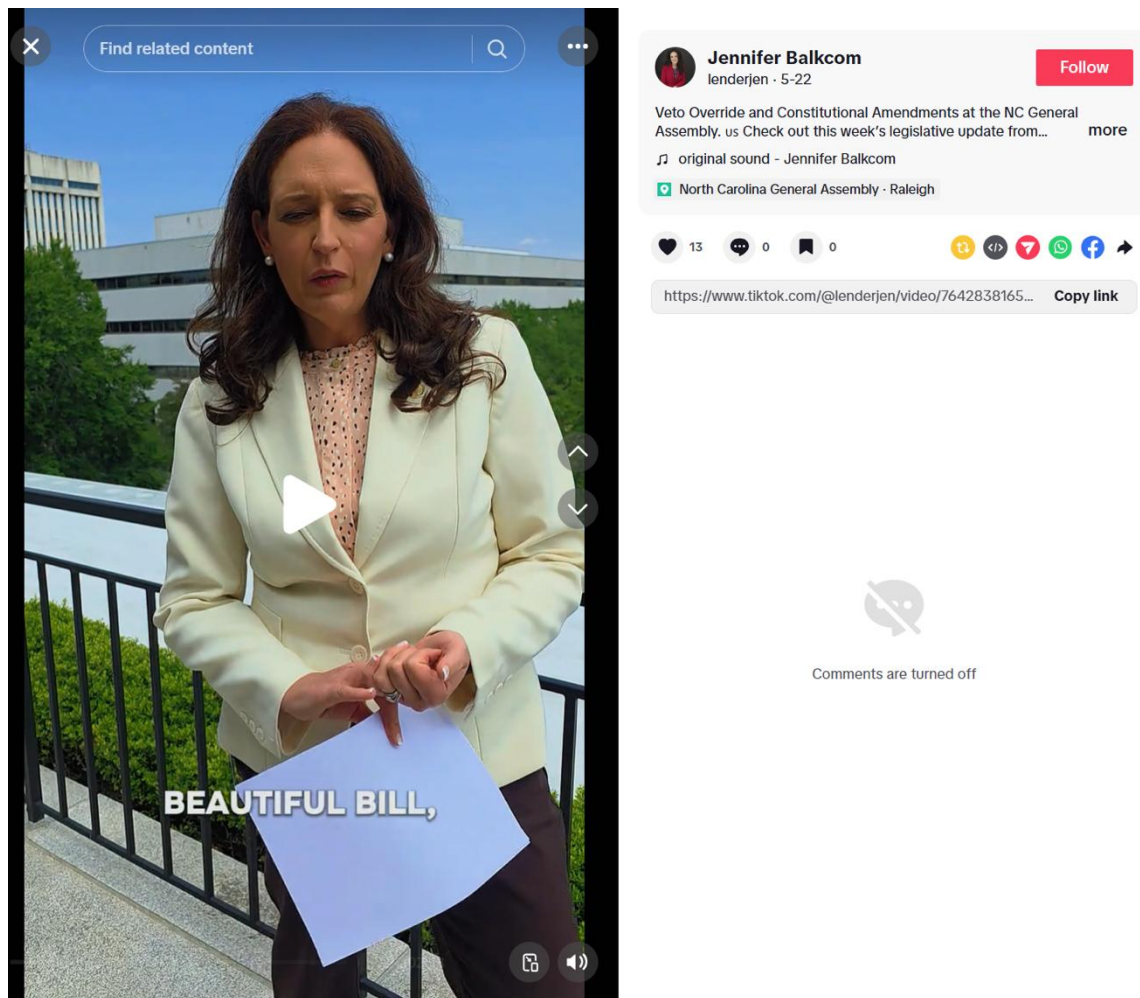
2022: Balkcom: “I Oppose Expanding Medicaid.” “Republican leaders and Gov. Roy Cooper have cracked the door on a possible compromise to allow for Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. Do you support or oppose expansion? [...] Balkcom: ‘I oppose expanding Medicaid. Medicaid was designed to provide health insurance and health services to our most vulnerable citizens. It makes no sense to add tens of millions of able-bodied adults, which is what expansion entails. I agree with State Auditor Beth Wood, who said, ‘You just can't keep putting a bunch of people into a system that is already broken.’ The result is substandard care for those folks who need it the most. And Medicaid spending is projected to grow exponentially. Where are all those billions of dollars going to come from to pay for it?’” [Hendersonville Lightning, [5/5/22](#)]

- **Balkcom: “Medicaid Was Designed To Provide Health Insurance And Health Services To Our Most Vulnerable Citizens. It Makes No Sense To Add Tens Of Millions Of Able-Bodied Adults.”** “Republican leaders and Gov. Roy Cooper have cracked the door on a possible compromise to allow for Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. Do you support or oppose expansion? [...] Balkcom: ‘I oppose expanding Medicaid. Medicaid was designed to provide health insurance and health services to our most vulnerable citizens. It makes no sense to add tens of millions of able-bodied adults, which is what expansion entails.’” [Hendersonville Lightning, [5/5/22](#)]

Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill, Which Let ACA Tax Credits Expire, Driving Up Health Care Costs For More Than 74,000 Individuals In NC-11 On Marketplace Plans

April 2026: Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill

May 2026: Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill. “Everyone, it is Representative Jennifer Balkcom, House District 117. This has been an override veto override week, so it's exciting. House Bill 87, that's the educational tax credit. Thanks to the beautiful, beautiful bill that was passed in the federal government, we now are setting up an opportunity for scholarships and donors to get that tax credit in North Carolina. So that was exciting.” [Jennifer Balkcom, Instagram, [5/22/26](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom, Instagram, [5/22/26](#)]

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was Working With The NRCC To Fundraise And “Get Out The Message” Of Who She Is

VIDEO: August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was “Working Together” The NRCC To Fundraise And “Get Out The Message” Of Who She Is. INTERVIEWER: “Can you briefly tell me how will the fundraising piece work? And I forgive me if I mess up. The NRCC, is that the that's the acronym? Can you tell me what that is? What kind of money are they pledging? And I know you're working with them closely.” BALKCOM: “We are working together. Um hopefully something will be coming out soon because we want to make sure we're gathering all this right now to uh to kind of announce that sooner than later.” INTERVIEWER: “Can you explain what that is to the public?” BALKCOM: “Just uh working with them to uh get on the fun phone call, raise money, work with uh supporters and getting out the message of who I am.” [WLOS News 13, YouTube, 3:11, [8/13/26](#)] (VIDEO)

August 2026: The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) Congratulated Balkcom And Encouraged People To Vote For Her. “Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom! Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border. Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3.” [NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]

Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom!

Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border.

Remember to VOTE for [@JenBalkcom](#) in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3



8:25 PM · Aug 10, 2026 · 11.5K Views

[NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made Health Care More Expensive For More Than 74,000 NC-11 Residents That Got Coverage From ACA Marketplace Plans

The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans. “The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike.” [Center for American Progress, [7/29/25](#)]

2025: More Than 957,000 Individuals In North Carolina Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Number Of North Carolina Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
North Carolina	957,110

[KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

2025: More Than 74,000 Individuals In NC-11 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

Number Of NC-11 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025

Congressional District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
NC-11	74,638

[KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

2025: A 60-Year-Old Couple Making \$85,000 In NC-11 Would See A 403% Increase In Their Average Out-Of-Pocket Monthly Premium Payments If The ACA Tax Credits Expired. [KFF, [10/9/25](#)]

Figure 1

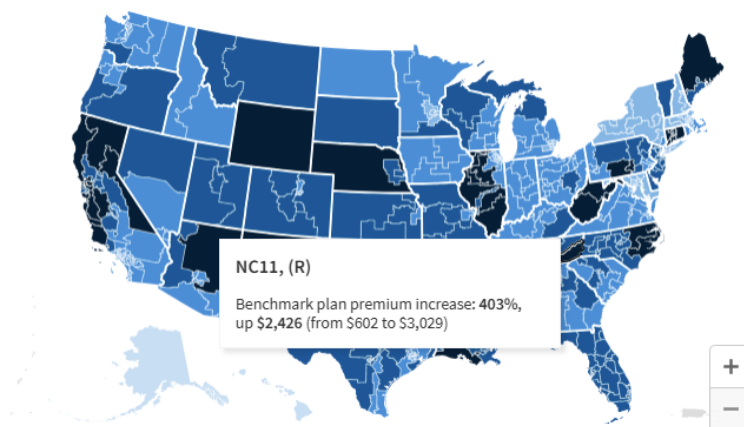
Premium Payments for Subsidized Enrollees Will Increase Nationwide if Enhanced ACA Subsidies Expire

Percent Increase in Average Monthly Premium Payments for Benchmark Silver Plan Without Enhanced Subsidies, 60-Year Old Couple Making \$85,000, 2026

40-Year-Old, \$32,000

60-Year Old Couple, \$85,000

< 100% 100%–200% 200%–300% 300%–400% ≥ 400%



[KFF, [10/9/25](#)]

KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. “For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

- The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%.** “Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]
- **The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of Over 75%.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

2025: Balkcom Abstained From Voting On A Bill To Make It Easier For Physicians And Physician Assistants To Become Licensed In North Carolina

June 2025: Balkcom Did Not Vote On H.B. 67, A Bill To Create An Expedited Pathway For Physicians And Physician Assistants To Become Licensed In North Carolina

June 2025: Balkcom Did Not Vote On H.B. 67, “An Act To Enact Healthcare Workforce Reforms For The State Of North Carolina.” In June 2025, Balkcom did not vote on H.B. 67, “an act to enact healthcare workforce reforms for the state of North Carolina.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 67, 6/24/25](#)]

- **H.B. 67 Established North Carolina As A Member Of The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, Creating An Expedited Pathway For Physicians In Other Compact States To Become Licensed In North Carolina.** “On July 1, 2025, Governor Josh Stein signed into law House Bill 67 (Session Law 2025-37), an Act to Enact Healthcare Workforce Reforms for the State of North Carolina, which makes the most significant updates in years to how North Carolina licenses and regulates health care professionals. [...] Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Effective January 1, 2026, North Carolina is authorized to join the large majority of other U.S. States in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The Compact provides an expedited pathway for physicians in other Compact states to become licensed in North Carolina, and also provides a corresponding path for North Carolina-licensed physicians to become reciprocally licensed in other Compact states. To be eligible, a physician must have a full, unrestricted medical license in another Compact state, meet certain residency and practice requirements in their home state, and satisfy certain other requirements. Of North Carolina’s neighbors, Tennessee and Georgia are Compact members, but Virginia and South Carolina are not. North Carolina’s adoption of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact will provide physicians with a streamlined process for becoming licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license and improving patient care and access. This will facilitate recruitment to practices and also provides a more ready opportunity for North Carolina physicians to move to other Compact states.” [Smith Anderson, [9/29/25](#)]
- **H.B. 67 Authorized North Carolina To Join The Physician Assistant Interstate Licensure Compact, Creating An Accelerated Pathway For Physician Assistant Licensure In North Carolina.** “On July 1, 2025, Governor Josh Stein signed into law House Bill 67 (Session Law 2025-37), an Act to Enact Healthcare Workforce Reforms for the State of North Carolina, which makes the most significant updates in years to how North Carolina licenses and regulates health care professionals. [...] Physician Assistant Interstate Licensure Compact. North Carolina’s adoption of a new Physician Assistant Licensure Compact similarly offers

accelerated pathways for physician assistant licensure in North Carolina and for North Carolina-licensed physician assistants to more easily practice in other Compact states. The law establishes a Licensure Compact Commission led by representatives from each Compact state to administer the Compact, as well as a coordinated data and reporting system to streamline licensure functions between Compact states. While the Compact [sic] will serve as an expedited alternative for licensure of physician assistants from Compact states, it will not replace existing licensure pathways in North Carolina. The effective date of this portion of the law is delayed pending the Compact becoming active in a sufficient number of states under the statute.” [Smith Anderson, [9/29/25](#)]

Smith Anderson: H.B. 67 Was “Designed To Make It Easier To Bring Physicians, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists And Psychological Associates Into The Workforce” And “Could Help Ease Staffing Shortages, Expand Care Delivery And Reduce Administrative Hurdles”

Smith Anderson: H.B. 67 Was “Designed To Make It Easier To Bring Physicians, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists And Psychological Associates Into The Workforce.” “On July 1, 2025, Governor Josh Stein signed into law House Bill 67 (Session Law 2025-37), an Act to Enact Healthcare Workforce Reforms for the State of North Carolina, which makes the most significant updates in years to how North Carolina licenses and regulates health care professionals. The changes are designed to make it easier to bring physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists and psychological associates into the workforce, while also expanding what certain providers can do in practice. For health care organizations, especially rural practices, these reforms could help ease staffing shortages, expand care delivery and reduce administrative hurdles. Key Takeaways: Easier physician recruitment. North Carolina joins the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (effective Jan. 1, 2026), offering a fast-track for out-of-state physicians. Practice changes for physician assistants. North Carolina adopts a PA licensure compact and introduces ‘team-based practice’ options with reduced administrative requirements. New license for internationally-trained doctors. Rural practices and hospitals can hire physicians under a limited license that can convert to full licensure after four years. Expanded pharmacist authority. Clinical pharmacists may now order/administer certain tests and provide broader care under collaborative agreements. Increased independence for psychological associates. With enough supervised hours, psychological associates may practice without direct supervision.” [Smith Anderson, [9/29/25](#)]

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Balkcom Was Backed By DC Politicians That Were Raising The Cost Of Living For North Carolinians, By Voting To Continue Reckless Policies Like The Iran War And Harmful Tariffs

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was “Working Together” With National Republicans, Who Supported Her Congressional Run

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was Working With The NRCC To Fundraise And “Get Out The Message” Of Who She Is

VIDEO: August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was “Working Together” The NRCC To Fundraise And “Get Out The Message” Of Who She Is. INTERVIEWER: “Can you briefly tell me how will the fundraising piece work? And I forgive me if I mess up. The NRCC, is that the that's the acronym? Can you tell me what that is? What kind of money are they pledging? And I know you're working with them closely.” BALKCOM: “We are working together. Um hopefully something will be coming out soon because we want to make sure we're gathering all this right now to uh to kind of announce that sooner than later.” INTERVIEWER: “Can you explain what that is to the public?” BALKCOM: “Just uh working with them to uh get on the fun phone call, raise money, work with uh supporters and getting out the message of who I am.” [WLOS News 13, YouTube, 3:11, [8/13/26](#)] (VIDEO)

August 2026: The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) Congratulated Balkcom And Encouraged People To Vote For Her. “Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom! Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border. Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3.” [NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]



Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom!

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Remember to VOTE for [@JenBalkcom](#) in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3



8:25 PM · Aug 10, 2026 · 11.5K Views

[NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]

House Republicans Voted Multiple Times To Keep The Iran War Going, Despite It Contributing To The Price Of A Gallon Of Gas Rising More Than \$1 In North Carolina And Increasing Inflation

House Republicans Voted Multiple Times To Keep The Iran War Going

May 2026: NPR Headline: “Republicans Call Off Vote On Iran War Resolution That Was On The Verge Of Passing.” [NPR, [5/22/26](#)]

- **The War Powers Resolution Would Rein In The President’s Military Action In Iran.** “Republicans struggled Thursday to find the votes to dismiss legislation that would compel President Donald Trump to withdraw from the war with Iran, delaying planned votes on the matter into June. The House had scheduled a vote on a war powers resolution, brought by Democrats, that would rein in Trump's military campaign. But as it became clear that Republicans would not have the numbers to defeat the bill, GOP leaders declined to hold a vote on it. It was the latest sign of the slipping support in Congress for a war that Trump launched more than two months ago without congressional approval.” [NPR, [5/22/26](#)]

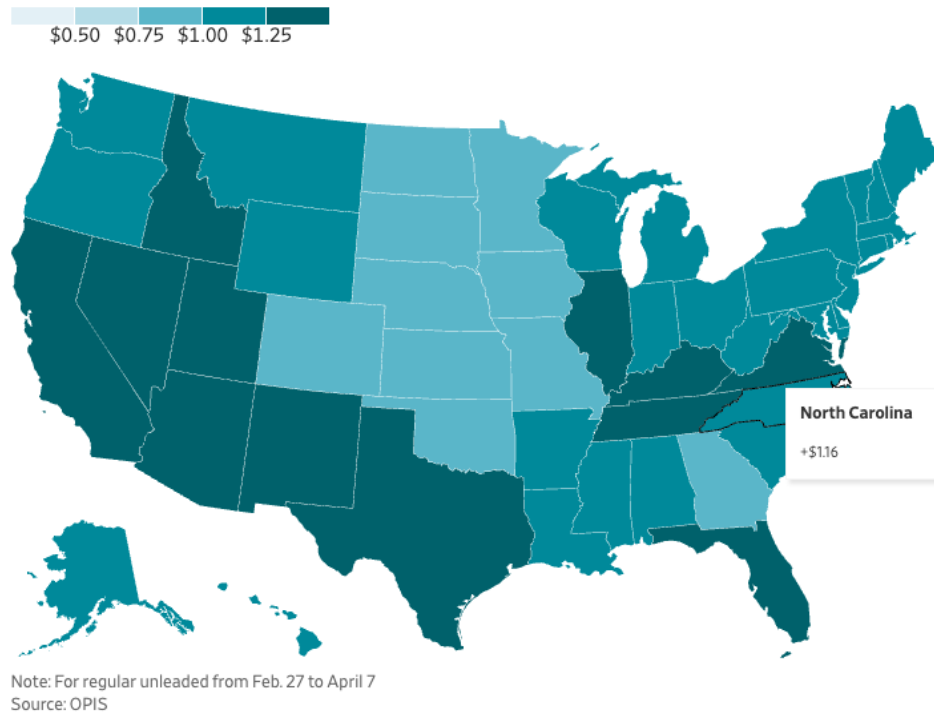
July 2026: Associated Press: “The Vast Majority Of Republicans In Both Chambers Voted To Back The [Iran] War And Cede Congressional War Powers To Trump.” “The House on Thursday narrowly passed a resolution to halt U.S. military action in Iran, sending a warning to President Donald Trump for the second time as the war has escalated and the future of the conflict is increasingly uncertain. [...] The House resolution passed after a handful of Republicans voted with Democrats to end the war. But the vast majority of Republicans in both chambers voted to back the war and cede congressional war powers to Trump.” [Associated Press, [7/23/26](#)]

During The Six Weeks Of The Iran War, The Average Price Of A Gallon Of Gas Increased More Than \$1 In North Carolina And Rose Above \$4 Across The Country, A Costly Burden That Most Americans Were Unwilling To Pay

During The Six Weeks Of The Iran War, The Average Price Of A Gallon Of Gas Increased More Than \$1 In North Carolina

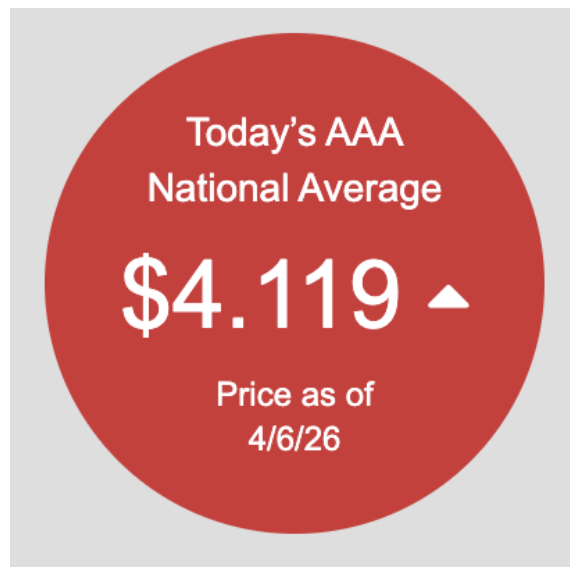
February 27, 2026-April 7, 2026: Average Gas Prices In North Carolina Increased \$1.16 Over The First Six Weeks Of The Iran Conflict. [Wall Street Journal, [4/7/26](#)]

Change in average price per gallon of gas over the first six weeks of the conflict



[Wall Street Journal, [4/7/26](#)]

April 6, 2026: The Average Gas Price Reached Over \$4.11 Per Gallon. [AAA, Fuel Prices, accessed [4/6/26](#)]



[AAA, Fuel Prices, accessed [4/6/26](#)]

March 2026: The Average Price Of A Gallon Of Gas In The U.S. Rose To More Than \$4

March 2026: New York Times Headline: “Average Gasoline Price Hits \$4 In U.S., A ‘Headache’ For Drivers And Trump.” [New York Times, [3/31/26](#)]

Average Gas Price Rose To Over \$4 A Gallon At The End Of March 2026, Up 35 Percent Since The End Of February And A Level Not Seen Since August 2022. “Gasoline in the United States crossed an average of \$4 a gallon on Tuesday, a threshold it hadn’t reached since August 2022, continuing a series of nearly uninterrupted increases since the Middle East war began that are chipping away at the spending power of American

consumers. Since the end of February, the average cost of regular gasoline has jumped 35 percent, according to data from the AAA motor club. Seeing gasoline at more than \$4 a gallon — when it was below \$3 a month ago — could push American drivers to change their spending habits.” [New York Times, [3/31/26](#)]

April 2026: AAA Headline: “For The First Time In Four Years, National Average Exceeds \$4/Gallon.”
[AAA, [4/2/26](#)]

Most Americans Said They Were Unwilling To Pay More For Gas During The Iran War

The War In Iran Drove “The Average Cost Of A Gallon Of Gasoline In The United States To Nearly \$4,” Which Most Americans Criticized. “The war in Iran has driven the average cost of a gallon of gasoline in the United States to nearly \$4, forcing Republicans to field an onslaught of election season attacks from Democrats who say the Trump administration is crushing Americans at the pump. [...] But motorists are becoming frustrated, with public opinion polls indicating that most Americans do not believe they should have to accept the rising gasoline costs.” [New York Times, [3/22/26](#)]

- **Axios: “For Many Americans, The Most Visible Barometer Of How The Iran War Is Going May Be The Price At The Gas Station Down The Street.”** “Most Americans will likely soon be paying over \$4 per gallon as the war in Iran drives one of the sharpest gas price surges in recent history. The big picture: For many Americans, the most visible barometer of how the Iran war is going may be the price at the gas station down the street.” [Axios, [3/19/26](#)]

Economists “Warned Gas Prices Could Continue To Remain High For Months Even If The U.S. Immediately De-Escalates In Iran.” “Each week the war drags on prolongs the pain Americans feel. Economists have warned gas prices could continue to remain high for months even if the U.S. immediately de-escalates in Iran. Extended conflict also raises the risk of increased casualties, especially if U.S. servicemembers are deployed to on-the-ground combat. And it could sour MAGA voters whose support of President Donald Trump hinged, in part, on their opposition to “forever wars” and foreign regime change.” [Politico, [3/29/26](#)]

Most Americans Were Unwilling “To Pay More For Gas During The Conflict” And Thought It Would Cause Gas Prices To Rise “Both In The Short And Long Term.” “Rising gas prices are fueling some pessimism about the U.S. economy more broadly, with concerns about negative impacts on it in at least the near-term, if not the long term. [...] People see the war as impacting rising gas prices, both in the short and long term. [...] This comes alongside a sharp upsurge in the percentage of people who've noticed rising prices. [...] In terms of possible patience or making sacrifice, they don't think Americans ought to be willing to pay more for gas during the conflict.” [CBS News, [3/22/26](#)]

- **80 Percent Of Americans Thought Gas Prices Were “Already Too High,” With 60 Percent Blaming Trump For The Increase.** “Majorities of Americans think gas prices are already too high (80%), that they're likely to increase in the next few months (67%), and that Trump is to blame for the increases (60%), according to a Yahoo/YouGov poll. Meanwhile, 56% of Americans disapprove of Trump's handling of Iran, vs. 36% who approve, according to a separate Economist/YouGov poll.” [Axios, [3/19/26](#)]

March 2026: The Iran War Drove Up Gas Prices Across The Country

March 2026: Axios Headline: “Scoreboard On Every Street: Gas Heads For \$4 Per Gallon Due To Iran War.” [Axios, [3/19/26](#)]

March 2026: Reuters Headline: “Rising Gas Prices From Iran War Imperil Trump's Republican Majority In Congress.” [Reuters, [3/10/26](#)]

March 2026: New York Times Headline: “High Gas Prices, Driven Up By The Iran War, Loom Over The Midterms.” [New York Times, [3/21/26](#)]

- **Republican Strategists Were Worried “That High Gas Prices Will Undercut Their Economic Message For The Midterms.”** “As the war enters a fourth week, some Republican strategists are privately worrying that high gas prices will undercut their economic message for the midterms. Still, with the election more than seven months away, costs could decline and foreign policy could fade as a concern among voters. How much patience voters will give the administration to prosecute a war with no clear end in sight is unclear. Democrats have pounced, seeing an opportunity to drive their economic message for the midterms while also tying Mr. Trump to an unpopular overseas conflict.”

March 2026: CNN Headline: “A Deal With Iran Wouldn’t Lower Your Gas Prices Anytime Soon.” [CNN, [3/24/26](#)]

March 2026: Headline: “Iran War, Rising Gas Prices Fuel Economic Concerns; Most Say Conflict Not Going Well, Don’t Want Regime Left In Power, CBS News Poll Finds.” [CBS News, [3/22/26](#)]

March 2026: Headline: “A Month Into Iran, The GOP’s Political Reality Sinks In.” [Politico, [3/29/26](#)]

March 2026: The War In Iran Increased Inflation, Mainly From Higher Energy And Gas Prices, And Consumers “Blamed The War For The Worsening Economy”

March 2026: The Consumer Price Index Rose 3.3 Percent In The Initial Weeks Of The Iran War, Mainly From Energy And Gas Prices That Rose 11 Percent And 21 Percent, Respectively. “The U.S. government published its first inflation report this morning covering the initial weeks of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran. The numbers were predictably brutal. The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ consumer price index jumped 3.3% in March on an annual basis, the hottest inflation reading on record for the second Trump administration. The monthly price increase figure was an eye-watering 0.9%. The source of the surge was the cost of energy, and gas prices were particularly jarring in March. While energy costs on the whole rose nearly 11%, the price of gasoline exploded by more than 21%.” [Punchbowl News, [4/10/26](#)]

- **Higher Energy Costs “Accounted For Nearly Three-Quarters Of The Monthly Increase In The Consumer Price Index.”** “Inflation climbed at an annual rate of 3.3 percent in March, with gasoline jumping by 21.2 percent, the Labor Department reported Friday, and the increase in energy costs accounted for nearly three-quarters of the monthly increase in the consumer price index. Meanwhile, consumers surveyed by the University of Michigan said they blamed the war for the worsening economy, and the sentiment index fell below its nadir from when post-pandemic inflation was at its worst.” [Politico, [4/10/26](#)]

March 2026: Inflation Rose “To Its Highest Level In Two Years,” And Consumers “Blamed The War For The Worsening Economy.” “Inflation shot up to its highest level in two years in March, and consumer sentiment is at a record low. As the effects of President Donald Trump’s war with Iran ripple across the economy, the combination of surging prices and grim attitudes is a warning sign to Republicans seeking to maintain control of Congress in the midterm elections. Oil and gas prices exploded in March as global energy markets absorbed a once-in-a-generation supply shock from the war with Iran. [...] Meanwhile, consumers surveyed by the University of Michigan said they blamed the war for the worsening economy, and the sentiment index fell below its nadir from when post-pandemic inflation was at its worst.” [Politico, [4/10/26](#)]

- **Politico Headline: “‘This Is Very Real’: Surging Gas Prices Drive Inflation To Highest Level In Two Years.”** [Politico, [4/10/26](#)]

Economic Effects From The Iran War Were Expected To Last For Months, Possibly Years, Affecting A Host Of Other Industries Such As Housing And Food, And Were Expected To Prolong Inflation, Raising The Possibility That The Fed Will Increase Interest Rates

Politico Headline: “Trump Promised A Post-War Economic Rebound. The Damage May Linger Far Longer.” [Politico, [4/5/26](#)]

Industry Analysts Said The Economic Effects Of The Iran War “Will Take Months, Possibly Years, To Unwind,” Affecting Housing, Farmers, And The Plastic Supply Chain. “President Donald Trump is promising the economy will snap back as soon as the Iran war ends. But the economic wounds may prove slow to heal. Beyond spiking oil prices, many of the war's domestic knock-on effects — farmers' scrambled planting decisions, upended plastic supply chains and a depressed spring housing market — will take months, possibly years, to unwind, industry analysts say. That leaves the administration with a limping economy heading into a midterm election season it had planned to spend selling its successes.” [Politico, [4/5/26](#)]

An Oil Analyst “Predicted Price Spikes For Transportation, The Food Industry, Farming, Shipping And More.” “The world’s energy supplies are only just now beginning to show the strain of actual fuel shortages, said Rory Johnston, an oil analyst who writes the newsletter ‘Commodity Context.’ [...] When diesel prices spike, Johnston added, it quickly ripples through the economy. He predicted price spikes for transportation, the food industry, farming, shipping and more — and that the real costs of diesel are just beginning to get priced into the system beyond a consumer’s local gas station. Those effects are already showing up in the housing market, where the war’s inflationary pressure has reversed months of hard-won progress on affordability.” [Politico, [4/5/26](#)]

Fed Governor Lisa Cook Noted That Higher Oil Prices From The War In Iran Were Projected To Prolong Inflation. “With inflation elevated by tariffs and oil, and the labor market soft but not collapsing, some officials are hinting that their next move could be either higher or lower. It is a subtle but significant shift. As recently as a few weeks ago, the path looked firmly downward. But in the past week, many officials have sounded hawkish notes. Governor Lisa Cook, who consistently votes with the Fed’s majority, said that as higher energy prices from the Iran war add to price pressures, prolonged inflation is again the dominant risk that the Fed faces.” [Wall Street Journal, [3/29/26](#)]

Due To Concern Over Inflation, Traders And Economics Experts Expected The Fed To Either Keep Interest Rates Steady Or Raise Rates. “Shifting perceptions of the Fed explain why longer-term interest rates have risen sharply since the war with Iran began. Traders have raised where they think rates will be in the future, and even priced in a small possibility of a rate increase this year. As those expectations get reflected in bond yields, businesses and households feel the consequences immediately, such as through higher mortgage rates. [...] But because the Iran war has raised their inflation anxiety, the Fed has little reason to push back now, said Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank. He said the market’s new expectation of steady or higher rates ahead is working in the Fed’s favor.” [Wall Street Journal, [3/29/26](#)]

House Republicans Voted Multiple Times To Keep Tariffs In Place That Raised Prices On Essential Goods For North Carolina Families

2025-2026: House Republicans Voted Multiple Times To Keep Tariffs In Place

March 2025: New York Times: “House Republican Leaders On Tuesday Quietly Moved To Shield Their Members From Having To Vote On Whether To End President Trump’s Tariffs.” “House Republican leaders on Tuesday quietly moved to shield their members from having to vote on whether to end President Trump’s tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China, tucking language into a procedural measure that effectively removed their chamber’s ability to undo the levies.” [New York Times, [3/11/25](#)]

- **Reuters: The Procedural Vote Blocked “The Ability Of Congress To Quickly Challenge Tariffs Imposed By President Trump That Have Rattled Financial Markets.”** “The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives voted on Tuesday to block the ability of Congress to quickly challenge tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump that have rattled financial markets. [...] The provision was tucked into a procedural vote related to the Republicans' six-month stopgap funding bill.” [Reuters, [3/11/25](#)]

April 2025: House Republicans Pushed A Procedural Rule That Would Curb Congress’s Power To Override Trump’s Tariffs. “Republicans are quietly pushing a procedural rule that would curb the power of the US

Congress to override Donald Trump's chaotic tariff policy. The House of Representatives' rules committee on Wednesday approved a measure that would forbid the House from voting on legislation to overturn the president's recently imposed taxes on foreign imports." [The Guardian, [4/9/25](#)]

September 2025: House Republicans Extended A Maneuver That Stripped Congress Of The Power To Disapprove Of The President's Tariffs. "House Republicans extended a maneuver they engineered earlier in the year that effectively strips Congress of the power to disapprove of President Trump's tariffs. The Republican-led House moved anew on Tuesday to relinquish Congress's power to weigh in on President Trump's tariffs, even as Democrats in the Senate prepared to force votes challenging his trade war. The maneuver by House Republicans effectively stripped lawmakers of the ability to force action on lifting the tariffs until March 31, 2026, extending a prohibition they initially imposed in the spring to spare their members a politically tough vote." [New York Times, [9/16/25](#)]

North Carolina Consumers Faced Tariff-Driven Inflation

July 2025: North Carolinians Experienced Rising Inflation Due To Tariffs. "Rising inflation is starting to show up on North Carolina grocery receipts and in the state's factories, economists and executives say. Inflation rose last month to its highest level since February as President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs push up the cost of everything from groceries and clothes to furniture and appliances." [WRAL News, [7/15/25](#)]

WRAL News Headline: "New Economic Reality': NC Consumers Face Tariff-Driven Inflation." [WRAL News, [7/15/25](#)]

2026: Tariffs Were Estimated To Cost Americans More Than \$2,500 A Year, With Consumers Shouldering More Of The Burden Than Businesses

Joint Economic Committee Minority: "American Families Will Pay More Than \$2,500 Each In Tariff Costs In 2026." "Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the bulk of President Trump's tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in 'virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026'. If Bessent's estimates hold true, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that American families will pay more than \$2,500 each in tariff costs in 2026. Building on its previous tariff cost estimates, the Committee combined official data from the U.S. Treasury Department on the amount of tariff revenue collected since the start of 2025 with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is ultimately paid by American consumers. The Committee found that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families would in total pay more than \$330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than \$2,500 per household in tariff costs this year. This is substantially higher than the more than \$1,700 in average tariff costs that the JEC – Minority previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump's second term." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Fact Sheet, [March 2026](#)]

Joint Economic Committee Minority: With The Trump Administration's Projected Tariff Policy, "American Families Would In Total Pay More Than \$300 Billion In Tariff Costs In 2026." "Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the bulk of President Trump's tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in 'virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026'. If Bessent's estimates hold true, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that American families will pay more than \$2,500 each in tariff costs in 2026. Building on its previous tariff cost estimates, the Committee combined official data from the U.S. Treasury Department on the amount of tariff revenue collected since the start of 2025 with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is ultimately paid by American consumers. The Committee found that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families would in total pay more than \$330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than \$2,500 per household in tariff costs this year. This is substantially higher than the more than \$1,700 in average tariff costs that the JEC – Minority previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump's second term." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Fact Sheet, [March 2026](#)]

Tariffs Raised Prices On Essential Goods Like Medicine And Groceries

Tariffs Would Raise Drug Prices For Americans

NBC News: Analysts Warned Tariffs On Drug Product Imports Could Raise Prices For Americans.

“Analysts are already warning that U.S. consumers could see higher prices due to new tariffs President Donald Trump plans to impose on drug product imports as soon as next week. But a series of exemptions may blunt the ultimate impact. In a Truth Social post late Thursday, Trump said that any branded or patented pharmaceutical products brought into the U.S. would face a 100% tariff starting Oct. 1.” [NBC News, [9/26/25](#)]

- **Trump’s 100% Tariff On Branded Pharmaceuticals Would Apply Only To Companies That Weren’t Constructing Manufacturing Facilities In The U.S.** “US President Donald Trump announced a wave of new tariffs, chief among them a 100% tariff on branded pharmaceuticals. The penalty would only apply to companies that aren’t planning or currently constructing manufacturing facilities in US territory.” [Bio Process International, [10/7/25](#)]

New York Times Headline: “Trump’s Tariffs Would Spare Many Rich Drugmakers While Punishing Some Small Ones.” [New York Times, [9/26/25](#)]

Tax Foundation Headline: “Trump Pharma Tariffs Would Raise Drug Prices For Americans.” [Tax Foundation, [8/14/25](#)]

Tariffs Contributed To Rising Prices For Groceries

CNN: Tariffs Contributed To Prices Rising For Groceries. “President Donald Trump pledged to bring down grocery costs. But his administration’s policies are contributing to an acceleration in prices, food economists and companies say. Grocery prices last month rose at their fastest pace in three years, stoked by Trump’s tariffs, a crackdown on immigration, and extreme weather hurting food production. Prices jumped 0.6% in August from the month prior, according to the latest reading from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and they are up 2.7% from a year ago. Food prices are deeply personal to consumers, and weekly grocery bills shape their overall perceptions of the economy. More than half of Americans count grocery costs as a major stress in their lives. Low-income and middle-income Americans, hit the hardest by rising grocery costs, are changing where they shop and what they buy. Companies are also taking extreme measures to appeal to shoppers strained by higher prices, such as bringing back paper coupons.” [CNN, [9/20/25](#)]

Axios Headline: “Grocery Inflation Highest Since 2022 As Trump Tariffs Pile Up.” [Axios, [9/11/25](#)]

Yale Budget Lab: Tariffs Were Expected To Increase Consumer Prices By 1.3%, The Equivalent Of An Average Per Household Income Loss Of \$1,800

Yale Budget Lab: Tariffs Were Expected To Increase Consumer Prices By 1.3% In The Short Run. “The 2025 tariffs imply an increase in consumer prices of 1.3% in the short-run, assuming no policy reaction from the Federal Reserve and full passthrough of tariffs to consumers. As a result, TBL assumes the real income adjustment comes primarily through prices rather than nominal incomes. If the Federal Reserve reacted, the adjustment could in part come in the form of lower nominal incomes. This is a pre-substitution number that captures consumer welfare effects. It is the equivalent of a short-run income loss of about \$1,800 per household on average in 2025 dollars. The post-substitution price increase settles at 1.1%, a \$1,500 short-run loss per household.” [Yale Budget Lab, State of U.S. Tariffs, [10/17/25](#)]

Yale Budget Lab: Tariffs Cost Consumers The Equivalent Of An Average Per Household Income Loss Of \$1,800 In The Short-Term. “Overall Price Level & Distributional Effects: The price level from all 2025 tariffs rises by 1.3% in the short-run, the equivalent of an average per household income loss of \$1,800 in 2025\$. This assumes the Federal Reserve does not react to tariffs and so the real income adjustment comes primarily through prices rather than nominal incomes; if the Federal Reserve reacted, the adjustment could in part come in the form of

lower nominal incomes. Annual pre-substitution losses for households at the bottom of the income distribution are more than \$1,000. The post-substitution price increase settles at 1.1%, a \$1,500 loss per household.” [Yale Budget Lab, State of U.S. Tariffs, [10/17/25](#)]

June 2025: The Congressional Budget Office Said U.S. Economic Output Would Decrease As A Result Of Tariffs

June 2025: The Congressional Budget Office Said U.S. Economic Output Would Decrease As A Result Of Tariffs On Foreign Goods. “U.S. economic output will fall as a result of President Donald Trump's new tariffs on foreign goods that were in place as of May 13, while also reducing federal budget deficits by \$2.8 trillion over a decade, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said on Wednesday. In a letter to Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and two other high-ranking Democrats, the CBO said the tariffs, which have been challenged in court cases, will raise the costs of consumer and capital goods.” [Reuters, [6/4/25](#)]

- **Reuters Headline: “US Congress Budget Office Sees Economic Output Falling From Trump Tariffs.”** [Reuters, [6/4/25](#)]

Balkcom Was Bad For North Carolina Farmers, Supporting Funding Cuts For Programs Supporting Local Farmers And Working With Politicians That Voted For Tariffs And Policies That Hurt North Carolina Farmers

Balkcom Supported DOGE, Which Slashed More Than \$30 Million In Funding For North Carolina Food Banks, Including Ones Serving Areas Affected By Helene, To Purchase Produce From Local Farmers

2024-2026: Balkcom Supported DOGE And Was Endorsed By Trump

December 2024: Balkcom Posted In Support Of DOGE

December 2024: Balkcom Supported DOGE. “If DOGE accomplishes its goal, the State Legislature's will have some serious work ahead. It's about bringing lawmaking back to the closest level to the people—where it truly belongs. Decentralized decisions, empowered communities, and a stronger voice for every citizen. Vivek Ramaswamy, gave great hope and insight for Americans future.” [Jennifer Balkcom, Facebook, [12/5/24](#)]

Jennifer Balkcom is in Washinton DC.
December 5, 2024 · 🌐

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Vivek Ramaswamy, gave great hope and insight for Americans future.



[Jennifer Balkcom, Facebook, [12/5/24](#)]

Newsweek: DOGE “Launched An Unprecedented Assault To Cut Back The Public Sector As President Donald Trump Stepped Back Into The White House.” “The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which launched an unprecedented assault to cut back the public sector as President Donald Trump stepped back into the White House in January, no longer exists, with eight months to go on its mandate, Reuters has reported. Newsweek contacted the White House for comment via email after office hours. DOGE, initially led by billionaire Elon Musk, spearheaded the Trump administration's drive to shrink the role of government, to the delight of conservatives and to the horror of Democrats who condemned the cost-cutting campaign as hasty and wasteful.” [Newsweek, [11/24/25](#)]

- **2025: The Trump Administration Created The So-Called Department Of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Under The Auspices Of Finding Fraud, Waste, And Abuse.** “Since the creation of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), confusion and a lack of transparency have reigned. Under the auspices of finding fraud, waste, and abuse, DOGE has hurt the middle class, created chaos, and attempted to usurp Congress’ power of the purse with illegal impoundments. The President’s constitutional role is to faithfully execute the laws enacted by Congress. The lack of transparency surrounding all aspects of DOGE raises unanswered questions about its leadership, fiscal structure, data security practices, and legal authority to execute the laws enacted by Congress.” [House Committee on the Budget Minority, [3/11/25](#)]

August 2026: Balkcom Thanked Trump For His Endorsement And Promised To Work With Him

August 2026: Balkcom: “THANK YOU, President Trump! I’m Incredibly Grateful For Your Support, And I’m Proud To Stand And Fight For The People Of Western North Carolina. In Congress, I’ll Work With You To Continue Rebuilding WNC After Helene, Deliver Real Results For Our Communities, And Fight To Make Life More Affordable For Hardworking Families.” “Last night, President Donald Trump officially endorsed State Representative Jennifer Balkcom for Congress. Last week, Balkcom was selected as the Republican nominee to fill the vacancy on the ballot. About the endorsement, Balkcom said, ‘THANK YOU, President Trump! I’m incredibly grateful for your support, and I’m proud to stand and fight for the people of Western North Carolina. In Congress, I’ll work with you to continue rebuilding WNC after Helene, deliver real results for our communities, and fight to make life more affordable for hardworking families. I’m ready to get to work.’” [Blue Ridge Times, [8/18/26](#)]

2025: DOGE Slashed More Than \$30 Million In Funding For Food Banks And Schools In North Carolina To Purchase Fresh Produce From Local Farmers; A Henderson Farmer Said Ending The Local Food For Schools Program Would Eliminate At Least 50% Of His Revenue Stream

2025: The Trump Administration Cancelled Two Programs That Provided Food Banks And Schools With Funding To Purchase Fresh Produce From Local North Carolina Farmers, Totaling More Than \$30 Million In Cuts. “The Trump administration has axed two federal programs that provide funding for food banks and schools in North Carolina to buy fresh produce and meat from local farmers and producers. Nationwide, over \$1 billion has been slashed. The decision by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will wipe out around \$11.4 million from the state’s share of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program — and another \$19 million from the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program, local providers say.” [News & Observer, [3/18/25](#)]

March 2025: A Local Henderson Farmer Said That “Ending The Local Food For Schools Program Would Eliminate At Least 50% Of His Revenue Stream This Year,” And It Always Provided “A Guaranteed Market For His Crops.” “The cuts have left farmers like Patrick Brown baffled. [...] Brown, the Henderson farmer, was in Washington on Monday trying to advocate for farmers. Brown told McClatchy he averages anywhere from \$100,000 to \$150,000 on vegetables alone, but ending the Local Food for Schools program would eliminate at least 50% of his revenue stream this year. Brown is a fourth-generation farmer at Brown Family Farm and Produce. It’s a small farm on less than 1,000 acres with a diverse portfolio, including specialty crops like vegetables for direct market. Among his crops are green leafy vegetables, zucchini, cauliflower, broccoli, sweet corn, watermelon and cantaloupe. He said the program has always taken a weight off his shoulders because he knows there’s a guaranteed market for his crops. The program provides grant funding to nongovernmental organizations, or nonprofits, to coordinate with farms like Brown’s to purchase food directly, as long as the farms are in compliance with food safety audits.” [Charlotte Observer, [3/18/25](#)]

- **The Trump Administration Canceled Funding For Schools To “Help Them Buy Healthy Food From Local Farmers To Serve To Students.”** “Other organizations and schools districts across North Carolina — including Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, Nourish Up and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools — may feel the impact, too. [...] The USDA also canceled about \$660 million in funding slated to go to schools to also help them buy healthy food from local farmers to serve to students, according to Politico.” [Charlotte Observer, [3/19/25](#)]

March 2025: The Federal Government Terminated The Lease For A Farm Service Agency Building In Hendersonville Even Though The Office Played A Key Continuing Role In Distributing Relief Money To Farmers After Helene

Asheville Citizen Times Headline: “Farm Service Agency Office Surrounded By Helene-Impacted Farms To Be Terminated, DOGE Says.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

March 2025: Trump Administration Terminated The Lease For A Farm Service Agency (FSA) Building In

Hendersonville, Even Though Farmers Were Still Recovering From Helene. According to the Asheville Citizen-Times, “Even as farmers recover from record flooding sustained during Tropical Storm Helene, the Trump administration has indicated it will terminate the lease of the Farm Service Agency office located in the heart of Western North Carolina's apple orchards and fruit farms in Henderson County. The termination of the lease in Hendersonville will affect both the FSA and the Henderson County Soil and Conservation offices. Helene caused an estimated \$4.9 billion in damages to Western North Carolina agriculture, and an estimated \$135 million in damages in Henderson County, the Hendersonville Times News reported Feb. 26.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

A Local Official With The NC Cooperative Extensive “Said He Was ‘Very Concerned’ About Possible Cuts To The FSA, Given That Most Of The Aid Given To Farmers After Helene Has Been Through The Agency.” “Henderson County Extension Director for NC Cooperative Extension Terry Kelley said he was ‘very concerned’ about possible cuts to the FSA, given that most of the aid given to farmers after Helene has been through the agency. Most of the money allocated for farm recovery from Congress is still waiting to be distributed and the ‘most logical’ way to distribute would be through the FSA, Kelley said. ‘I’m very much afraid that if something doesn’t happen to get a little bit more to our growers that a lot of them are going to be left in bad shape,’ Kelley said. The hope is that the FSA would have a new building by the end of August, Kelley said.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

- **Asheville Citizen Times: “Most Of The Money Allocated For Farm Recovery From Congress Is Still Waiting To Be Distributed.”** “Henderson County Extension Director for NC Cooperative Extension Terry Kelley said he was ‘very concerned’ about possible cuts to the FSA, given that most of the aid given to farmers after Helene has been through the agency. Most of the money allocated for farm recovery from Congress is still waiting to be distributed and the ‘most logical’ way to distribute would be through the FSA, Kelley said.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

Balkcom Was “Working Together” With DC Politicians That Backed Policies Such As Tariffs And The Iran War, Causing Fertilizer And Agricultural Diesel Prices To Skyrocket In North Carolina

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was “Working Together” With The NRCC To Run For Congress

VIDEO: August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was “Working Together” The NRCC To Fundraise And “Get Out The Message” Of Who She Is. INTERVIEWER: “Can you briefly tell me how will the fundraising piece work? And I forgive me if I mess up. The NRCC, is that the that's the acronym? Can you tell me what that is? What kind of money are they pledging? And I know you're working with them closely.” BALKCOM: “We are working together. Um hopefully something will be coming out soon because we want to make sure we're gathering all this right now to uh to kind of announce that sooner than later.” INTERVIEWER: “Can you explain what that is to the public?” BALKCOM: “Just uh working with them to uh get on the fun phone call, raise money, work with uh supporters and getting out the message of who I am.” [WLOS News 13, YouTube, 3:11, [8/13/26](#)] (VIDEO)

August 2026: The NRCC Congratulated Balkcom And Encouraged People To Vote For Her. ‘Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom! Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border. Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3.’ [NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]



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8:25 PM · Aug 10, 2026 · 11.5K Views

[NRCC, Twitter, [8/10/26](#)]

House Republicans Voted Multiple Times To Keep Tariffs In Place That Raised Prices On Essential Goods For North Carolina Families

March 2025: New York Times: ‘House Republican Leaders On Tuesday Quietly Moved To Shield Their Members From Having To Vote On Whether To End President Trump’s Tariffs.’ ‘House Republican leaders on Tuesday quietly moved to shield their members from having to vote on whether to end President Trump’s tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China, tucking language into a procedural measure that effectively removed their chamber’s ability to undo the levies.’ [New York Times, [3/11/25](#)]

- **Reuters: The Procedural Vote Blocked ‘The Ability Of Congress To Quickly Challenge Tariffs Imposed By President Trump That Have Rattled Financial Markets.’** ‘The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives voted on Tuesday to block the ability of Congress to quickly challenge tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump that have rattled financial markets. [...] The provision was tucked into a procedural vote related to the Republicans’ six-month stopgap funding bill.’ [Reuters, [3/11/25](#)]

April 2025: House Republicans Pushed A Procedural Rule That Would Curb Congress’s Power To Override Trump’s Tariffs. ‘Republicans are quietly pushing a procedural rule that would curb the power of the US Congress to override Donald Trump’s chaotic tariff policy. The House of Representatives’ rules committee on

Wednesday approved a measure that would forbid the House from voting on legislation to overturn the president's recently imposed taxes on foreign imports.' [The Guardian, [4/9/25](#)]

September 2025: House Republicans Extended A Maneuver That Stripped Congress Of The Power To Disapprove Of The President's Tariffs. 'House Republicans extended a maneuver they engineered earlier in the year that effectively strips Congress of the power to disapprove of President Trump's tariffs. The Republican-led House moved anew on Tuesday to relinquish Congress's power to weigh in on President Trump's tariffs, even as Democrats in the Senate prepared to force votes challenging his trade war. The maneuver by House Republicans effectively stripped lawmakers of the ability to force action on lifting the tariffs until March 31, 2026, extending a prohibition they initially imposed in the spring to spare their members a politically tough vote.' [New York Times, [9/16/25](#)]

Tariffs Could Cost North Carolina's Agricultural Sector, The State's Largest Industry, More Than \$700 Million And About 8,000 Jobs, Concentrated In Rural Areas, While Total Losses Were Estimated At \$1.9 Billion, Over 2% Of State GDP, And Farmers Faced Bankruptcy

John Locke Foundation: Tariffs Could Cost North Carolina's Agricultural Sector, The State's Largest Industry, Over \$700 Million And About 8,000 Jobs, Concentrated In Rural Areas

Carolina Journal Headline: "Report Warns Tariffs Could Cost NC Farms \$700M, 8,000 Jobs." [Carolina Journal, [1/13/26](#)]

Citizen Times Headline: "Tariffs Could Wipe Out Nearly A Third Of NC Farm Income, New Report Says." [Citizen Times, [1/22/26](#)]

Politico Headline: "Trump's Trade War Has Hurt Farmers. There Are New Warning Signs For Republicans." [Politico, [3/2/26](#)]

John Locke Foundation: Trump's Tariffs "Could Lead To Nearly \$700 Million In Losses And Approximately 8,000 Jobs Affected In North Carolina's Agricultural Sector, The State's Largest Industry." "A new report out this week examines the potential economic effects of tariffs implemented during the Trump administration, estimating they could lead to nearly \$700 million in losses and approximately 8,000 jobs affected in North Carolina's agricultural sector, the state's largest industry, which contributes \$111.1 billion annually to the economy. The report, 'How Tariffs Threaten North Carolina Agriculture' from Carolina Journal's publishing organization, the John Locke Foundation, found potential losses of up to \$695 million to the state's farming industry, representing approximately one-third of the average net farm income in the state, says the press release out on Monday. Economic losses in the state resulting from trade policy retaliation have the potential to exceed \$1.9 billion, or 2% of the state's GDP." [Carolina Journal, [1/13/26](#)]

- **John Locke Foundation Report On Tariffs: "Job Losses Would Be Concentrated In North Carolina's Rural Communities."** "'How Tariffs Threaten North Carolina Agriculture: NC Farmers at Risk,' authored by Jeffrey Dorfman at North Carolina State University, estimates the tariffs could cost the state's farmers about \$695 million. [...] 'Such a contraction would lead to a total of roughly 8,000 lost jobs, both directly in the agriculture industry along with the ripple effects from that lost revenue,' Dorfman wrote. 'The job losses would be concentrated in North Carolina's rural communities.' Other indirect effects on the state's rural economy would result in an additional \$1.2 billion in estimated revenue losses, Dorfman wrote. This brings the potential total economic losses as a result of trade policy retaliation to \$1.9 billion, which is more than 2% of North Carolina's gross state product. Donald Bryson, CEO of the Locke Foundation, a free-market think tank, said the organization commissioned the study because it has become increasingly concerned about the effect of recent agricultural policies on the state's food supply chain." [Citizen Times, [1/22/26](#)]
- **The John Locke Foundation's Report Found Losses Represented "Approximately One-Third Of The Average Net Farm Income In The State."** "The report, 'How Tariffs Threaten North Carolina Agriculture' from Carolina Journal's publishing organization, the John Locke Foundation, found potential losses of up to

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John Locke Foundation: Accounting for Indirect Effects, The Total Economic Losses From Tariffs Facing North Carolina Were \$1.9 Billion, Over 2 Percent Of The State GDP. "'How Tariffs Threaten North Carolina Agriculture: NC Farmers at Risk,' authored by Jeffrey Dorfman at North Carolina State University, estimates the tariffs could cost the state's farmers about \$695 million. This figure represents roughly a third of average net farm income in North Carolina. 'Such a contraction would lead to a total of roughly 8,000 lost jobs, both directly in the agriculture industry along with the ripple effects from that lost revenue,' Dorfman wrote. 'The job losses would be concentrated in North Carolina's rural communities.' Other indirect effects on the state's rural economy would result in an additional \$1.2 billion in estimated revenue losses, Dorfman wrote. This brings the potential total economic losses as a result of trade policy retaliation to \$1.9 billion, which is more than 2% of North Carolina's gross state product. Donald Bryson, CEO of the Locke Foundation, a free-market think tank, said the organization commissioned the study because it has become increasingly concerned about the effect of recent agricultural policies on the state's food supply chain.'" [Citizen Times, [1/22/26](#)]

North Carolina And American Farmers Faced Bankruptcy And Worse Economic Conditions From Tariffs And Funding Cuts, And One Farmer Said The Tariffs "Could Drive Up My Costs Considerably" In The Long-Term

Purdue University Headline: "Farmer Sentiment Drops Sharply At The Start Of 2026 As Economic Concerns Increase." [Purdue University, [2/3/26](#)]

2026: A Purdue University Survey Showed Farm Bankruptcies Soaring And Farmers' Sentiment About Their Industry Sharply Declining. "Over the past five months, the Trump administration has rolled out trade agreements it says will give farmers access to new markets and reopened Chinese purchases of millions of pounds of soybeans after a trade war-induced, monthslong boycott. It also spearheaded an effort to get \$12 billion in direct payments to farmers to recover some of their losses amid the president's trade war. But farmers' sentiment about their industry has seen sharp declines over a similar stretch, according to a monthly survey conducted by Purdue University — the predominant way their perception of the U.S. agricultural economy is tracked — and new data shows farm bankruptcies soaring." [Politico, [3/2/26](#)]

- **2026: A Purdue University Survey Found Farmers Expected Conditions To Worsen In The Next Year Than To Improve, And 50% Of Those Polled Said Their Operations Were Worse Off In January 2026 Than A Year Ago.** "Purdue's farmer sentiment barometer showed that more farmers expected conditions to worsen in the next year than to improve. And half of the farmers surveyed said their operations were worse off in January 2026 than a year ago, the last month of the Biden administration." [Politico, [3/2/26](#)]
- **Department Of Agriculture & American Farm Bureau Federation: 15,000 Farms Shut Down By The End Of 2025 And Bankruptcies Were Up By Nearly 50%.** "The pressure on farmers has already taken a toll. There were 15,000 fewer farms at the end of 2025, according to the Department of Agriculture, compared to the same point in 2024. Farm bankruptcies also increased by 46 percent year-over-year in 2025, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation." [Politico, [3/2/26](#)]

North Carolina Farmers Faced Bankruptcy And Closure As A Result Of Tariffs And Funding Cuts.

VOICEOVER: "New government freezes, cuts, and tariffs has farmers contemplating closure." FARMER: "If farmers don't have those subsidies, uh most of us, we're fighting going broke now. We're we're not making money here." VOICEOVER: "Farming bankruptcy filings jump 55% in 2024. More than 5 billion in federal cuts would seem to paint a bleak forecast for smalltown farmers like Mike." [CNN, 0:00, uploaded [4/28/25](#)] (VIDEO)

A North Carolina Farmer Said In The Long-Term Tariffs "Could Drive My Cost Up Considerably" If Other Farmers Also Cut Back On Purchasing Inputs Such As Fertilizer And Production Is Cut. HOST: "What

major concerns do you have about the long-term impact of these tariffs?” NC FARMER: “If there is an agricultural uh back and forth on the tariffs, domestic production could be affected. If my peers who produce corn, wheat and soy and and uh purchase inputs um fertilizers, lime, other agricultural uh things, energy, if they decide that it's not uh worth the risk, they may cut back production, which in a year or two could drive my cost up considerably if we have less um commodities available that we use.” [CNN, 0:40, uploaded [4/28/25](#)] (VIDEO)

WRAL Headline: “North Carolina Farmers Brace For Impact As New Tariffs Threaten Rising Costs.” [WRAL, [4/13/25](#)]

WTVD Headline: “NC's Agriculture Industry Braces For Potential Effects Of Tariffs.” [WTVD, [4/7/25](#)]

Charlotte Post Headline: “‘We’ve Come This Far,’ But Black Farmers Face Uncertainty.” [Charlotte Post, [1/28/26](#)]

Tariffs Increased The Price Of Seeds, Fertilizer, And Farm Equipment, Further Squeezing North Carolina Farmers

New York Times: Tariffs Had Increased The Price Of Seeds And Fertilizer. ‘Growers are also contending with tariff-induced price increases on seeds and fertilizer, some of which is imported from Russia and Canada. Prices for monoammonium phosphate, a fertilizer with both nitrogen and phosphorus, are up 14 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.’ [New York Times, [10/26/25](#)]

- **Politico Headline: “Farmers Are Feeling The Heat As Trump’s Tariffs Spike Fertilizer Prices.”** [Politico, [8/20/25](#)]
- **Tariffs Had Increased The Price Of The Fertilizer Monoammonium Phosphate By 14 Percent.** ‘Growers are also contending with tariff-induced price increases on seeds and fertilizer, some of which is imported from Russia and Canada. Prices for monoammonium phosphate, a fertilizer with both nitrogen and phosphorus, are up 14 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.’ [New York Times, [10/26/25](#)]
- **Bloomberg: Tariffs Had Increased The Costs Of Potash And Nitrogen Based Fertilizer.** ‘Fertilizer prices are surging, eroding American farmers’ profits and adding pressure on the Trump administration to slash tariffs on key crop nutrients. Tightening supplies and tariff concerns have driven up costs for potash-, nitrogen-, and phosphate-based products just as farmers are earning less for their harvests. A North American benchmark of fertilizer prices recently surged to its highest level since at least 2016 relative to a basket of grain and oilseed futures — topping even the highs seen at the time of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.’ [Bloomberg, [8/28/25](#)]

August 2025: Two Farm Equipment Makers Warned Of Higher Prices For Tractors And Combines Due To Tariffs. ‘Farmers will soon start feeling the impact from President Donald Trump’s tariffs in the form of higher prices for the machines used to plant, treat and harvest fields. That’s the warning from AGCO Corp. and CNH Industrial NV. With duties on the rise, the equipment makers will increasingly be forced to pass along the extra costs — both to farmers in the U.S. and to those elsewhere in the world. For instance, some of AGCO’s high-end Fendt tractors and combines are built in Europe, where the E.U. bloc accepted a 15% tariff on most of its exports to the U.S. Rather than letting the price of one model spike, AGCO is instead moving to smooth it out across its offerings.’ [Bloomberg, [8/1/25](#)]

House Republicans Voted Multiple Times To Keep The Iran War Going, Despite The War Causing Fertilizer Costs To Skyrocket, Straining North Carolina Farmers

May 2026: NPR Headline: “Republicans Call Off Vote On Iran War Resolution That Was On The Verge Of Passing.” [NPR, [5/22/26](#)]

- **The War Powers Resolution Would Rein In The President’s Military Action In Iran.** “Republicans struggled Thursday to find the votes to dismiss legislation that would compel President Donald Trump to

withdraw from the war with Iran, delaying planned votes on the matter into June. The House had scheduled a vote on a war powers resolution, brought by Democrats, that would rein in Trump's military campaign. But as it became clear that Republicans would not have the numbers to defeat the bill, GOP leaders declined to hold a vote on it. It was the latest sign of the slipping support in Congress for a war that Trump launched more than two months ago without congressional approval.” [NPR, [5/22/26](#)]

July 2026: Associated Press: “The Vast Majority Of Republicans In Both Chambers Voted To Back The [Iran] War And Cede Congressional War Powers To Trump.” “The House on Thursday narrowly passed a resolution to halt U.S. military action in Iran, sending a warning to President Donald Trump for the second time as the war has escalated and the future of the conflict is increasingly uncertain. [...] The House resolution passed after a handful of Republicans voted with Democrats to end the war. But the vast majority of Republicans in both chambers voted to back the war and cede congressional war powers to Trump.” [Associated Press, [7/23/26](#)]

The Iran War Hit North Carolina Farmers Hard, Sending Fertilizer And Agricultural Diesel Prices Soaring And Prompting Farm Groups To Seek A Bailout

The Iran War Hurt Farmers As The Closure Of The Strait Of Hormuz “Sent Fertilizer Prices Skyrocketing,” Which “Could Lead To Lower Crop Yields” And Led Farm Groups To Ask For A Bailout

The Closure Of The Strait Of Hormuz Due To The Iran War “Sent Fertilizer Prices Skyrocketing Just Ahead Of Planting Season,” Which “Could Lead To Lower Crop Yields.” “Farmers in Pennsylvania, North Dakota and other agriculture-heavy states are feeling the impact of disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, which sent fertilizer prices skyrocketing just ahead of planting season. Some producers have had to shake up their plans last minute and plant new crops that are less reliant on fertilizer. The scramble could lead to lower crop yields, which potentially means higher food prices this summer, North Dakota Farmers Union President Matt Perdue said.” [Politico, [3/29/26](#)]

Farm Groups And The Agriculture Lobby Asked The White House And Congress For A Bailout “To Cover Mounting Fertilizer Costs” And Additional Costs From Tariffs. “Farmers have long been loyal to the GOP and Trump. But the war now poses another massive financial headache on top of the tariffs that have increased their production costs and evaporated markets abroad where they could sell their crops. [...] A chorus of farm groups — including the often Trump-aligned American Farm Bureau — petitioned the White House for a bailout last week. And the agriculture lobby is requesting an ad hoc aid package from Congress to cover the mounting fertilizer costs.” [Politico, [3/29/26](#)]

WRAL News Headline: “NC Farmers Feel Strain From Rising Fertilizer Costs And Low Supply Amid Iran War.” [WRAL News, [3/29/26](#)]

ABC 11 Headline: “From War To Drought: North Carolina Farmers Caught In The Middle: ‘Pinching Pennies.’” [ABC 11, [3/26/26](#)]

A North Carolina Farmer Said He Expected To Pay More For Fertilizer Due To The Iran War, Saying “I Have To Buy Fertilizer, Probably, In May Or June, And I Expect To Have To Pay More, Because The Price Of Fertilizer Just Rides The Curve With Oil.” “John Harmuth might be the jolliest farmer customers may see at the State Farmer's Market in Raleigh. ‘God told me I should [sic] be a grower when I was 11 years old,’ Harmuth said. After more than 30 years of weathering the unpredictability that comes with the career, Harmuth said it was that calling [sic] that helped him [sic] continue growing and selling a number of herbs, flowers, shrubberies and other produce. According to Harmuth, fertilizer is what helps him and other farmers maintain that ability to sell what they grow. ‘We can't grow what we grow without fertilizer,’ Harmuth said. But as the Iran War prepares enters its second month, farmers in North Carolina said it could begin to strain the resources necessary for their crops to grow. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, U.S. companies import about 18% of the nitrogen fertilizer sold here. Many of the key compounds and nutrients needed for the fertilizer pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which was cut off by Iran after the war began. Harmuth told WRAL News that he bought fertilizer last year for the products he sells at the farmer's market in 2026, so while he hasn't felt an impact from the

war yet, it is weighing on him. 'I have to buy fertilizer, probably, in May or June, and I expect to have to pay more, because the price of fertilizer just rides the curve with oil,' Harmuth said." [WRAL News, [3/29/26](#)]

The Iran War Increased The Price Of Agricultural Diesel Fuel, Raising Operational Costs For North Carolina Farmers

A North Carolina Farmer Said Of The Iran War's Effects On Agricultural Diesel Fuel, "My Diesel Fuel For My Tractors Has Went Up \$2 A Gallon Over The Last Four Weeks. And The Diesel Fuel For My Trucks And Road Tractors, It's Gone Up From \$3.39. I Paid \$5.59 This Morning. That's A Bigger Problem." "The war between the United States and Iran is now rippling through North Carolina's agricultural industry, creating new uncertainty for farmers already facing tough conditions. While much of the nation's attention has been on rising oil and gas prices, the ongoing conflict and blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route, are also disrupting fertilizer supplies essential for American farmers. 'My diesel fuel for my tractors has went up \$2 a gallon over the last four weeks. And the diesel fuel for my trucks and road tractors, it's gone up from \$3.39. I paid \$5.59 this morning. That's a bigger problem,' said Alan Williams, a fifth-generation farmer in Person County. With planting season just weeks away, Williams and others are bracing for a season of difficult choices." [ABC 11, [3/26/26](#)]

A North Carolina Farmer Said The Iran War Caused The Price Of Fertilizer And Agricultural Diesel Fuel To Spike, Raising Operational Costs. "North Carolina farmers are juggling a lot from tariffs to rising operation costs and now a war impacting the globe. 'Fertilizer, it ebbs and flows. It spiked during COVID and then kind of settled. Now we're expecting continued upward trends. This year we paid about 16% more than we did last year,' farmer Michael Fine of Seven Sisters Farm said. But fertilizer isn't the only thing. Fine says if he filled up on agricultural diesel fuel just three weeks ago, he would've spent less already. 'Right off the bat that's about \$500 and more than we would have paid last year, just by missing the unknowns by a couple of weeks,' Fine said. Operation costs for farmers have been steadily increasing for the last several years. Fine says it's been about 30%. 'Petro has went up and down. We're in a spike right now. Seed has been in a steady raise. We detected probably about a 10% price increase from last year. Insurances are up to absorb the higher cost of running the operation,' Fine said. All of that ultimately puts a strain on farmers." [Spectrum News 1, [3/13/26](#)]

Spectrum News 1 Headline: "North Carolina Farmer Is Paying Attention As War In Iran Impacts Fertilizer, Diesel Gas Prices." [Spectrum News 1, [3/13/26](#)]

Balkcom Supported Efforts That Hindered Helene Recovery And Response In Western North Carolina, Supporting Cuts To Food Banks In Impacted Areas, Weather Services That Helped Emergency Preparedness, And Programs To Rebuild Homes And Provide More Efficient Energy In Areas Recovering From Helene

Balkcom Expressed Support For The Trump Administration And DOGE

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December 2024: Balkcom Posted In Support Of DOGE

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- **2025: The Trump Administration Created The So-Called Department Of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Under The Auspices Of Finding Fraud, Waste, And Abuse.** “Since the creation of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), confusion and a lack of transparency have reigned. Under the auspices of finding fraud, waste, and abuse, DOGE has hurt the middle class, created chaos, and attempted to usurp Congress’ power of the purse with illegal impoundments. The President’s constitutional role is to faithfully execute the laws enacted by Congress. The lack of transparency surrounding all aspects of DOGE raises unanswered questions about its leadership, fiscal structure, data security practices, and legal authority to execute the laws enacted by Congress.” [House Committee on the Budget Minority, [3/11/25](#)]

August 2026: Balkcom Thanked Trump For His Endorsement And Promised To Work With Him

August 2026: Balkcom: “THANK YOU, President Trump! I’m Incredibly Grateful For Your Support, And I’m Proud To Stand And Fight For The People Of Western North Carolina. In Congress, I’ll Work With You To Continue Rebuilding WNC After Helene, Deliver Real Results For Our Communities, And Fight To Make Life More Affordable For Hardworking Families.” “Last night, President Donald Trump officially endorsed State Representative Jennifer Balkcom for Congress. Last week, Balkcom was selected as the Republican nominee to fill the vacancy on the ballot. About the endorsement, Balkcom said, ‘THANK YOU, President Trump! I’m incredibly grateful for your support, and I’m proud to stand and fight for the people of Western North Carolina. In Congress, I’ll work with you to continue rebuilding WNC after Helene, deliver real results for our communities, and fight to make life more affordable for hardworking families. I’m ready to get to work.’” [Blue Ridge Times, [8/18/26](#)]

DOGE Hurt Helene Recovery By Cutting Funding For Local Food Banks And Volunteers, Serving Affected Areas, Threatening To Close A Local Office Giving Farmers Aid, And Firing Forestry Employees Responsible For Recovery Efforts

March 2025: DOGE Cut Funding For The Largest Food Bank In NC-11 And Others Serving Areas Affected By Helene, Which Caused A Multi-Million Dollar Funding Shortfall And Ripple Effects For Local Farmers

Headline: “Western NC Food Banks, Pantries In Helene-Ravaged Communities See Federal Funding Cuts.” [Charlotte Observer, [3/19/25](#)]

Headline: “NC Food Banks, Schools And Farmers Take A Hit After Trump Administration Slashes Funding.” [Charlotte Observer, [3/18/25](#)]

Headline: “NC Farmer Adjusts To Challenges After USDA Cuts That Impacts Food Banks, Schools: ‘In Disbelief.’” [WLOS, [3/14/25](#)]

USDA Through The Department Of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Announced More Than \$1 Billion In Cuts To The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, Which Provides Federal Funding For Food Banks To Purchase Food From Local Farmers. “USDA announced the cuts Tuesday as part of the Trump administration’s mass restructuring of federal agencies through his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) led by Elon Musk. The more than \$1 billion in cuts impact the Local Food for Schools program, which provides federal funding for states and localities to provide healthy foods from local farms to public schools, and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, which provides federal funding for food banks to purchase food from local farmers, USA Today reported.” [Bethesda, [3/13/25](#)]

Food Banks, Including MANNA Foodbank, Serving Communities Impacted By Helene Faced “A Multi-Million Dollar Funding Gap” After The Trump Administration Cancelled The Local Food Purchase Assistance Program. “Still reeling from Helene, the federal government’s Local Food Purchase Assistance program helped knit together the local supply chain, food bank leaders say. The food banks bought directly from locally owned farms to secure healthy produce, dairy and meat for families in need. But the U.S. Department of Agriculture told states in early March it canceled the LFPA, Politico reported. The cuts will affect schools too, with the USDA also cutting hundreds of millions from a similar program. Now, MANNA FoodBank and Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC say they’re facing a multi-million dollar funding gap as they work to serve communities still recovering from the September tropical storm that caused widespread devastation.” [Charlotte Observer, [3/19/25](#)]

- **MANNA Foodbank Was “The Largest Food Bank Serving North Carolina’s 11th Congressional District.”** ““This isn’t the time to be cutting SNAP, Medicaid and other programs from families that are already struggling and are still suffering from the trauma and loss of Hurricane Helene,’ Micah Chrisman, spokesman

for MANNA FoodBank, the largest food bank serving Edwards's congressional district." [Asheville Watchdog, [5/25/25](#)]

- **North Carolina Was Set To Receive Over \$11.4 Million From The Program.** "North Carolina was poised to receive more than \$11.4 million in funding through the LFPA program, according to MANNA's statement. The Asheville-based group, which serves 16 counties in Western North Carolina, received about \$1.3 million through the program last year." [Charlotte Observer, [3/19/25](#)]

MANNA FoodBank CEO: "Losing This Support Is Devastating, Not Merely Because Of The Financial Setback, But Because It Directly Affects An Essential Lifeline Connecting Agriculture, Regional Economic Well-Being, And The Health Of WNC Families." [Charlotte Observer, [3/19/25](#)]

March 2025: DOGE Threatened To Terminate The Lease For A Farm Service Agency Building In Hendersonville Even Though The Office Played A Key Continuing Role In Distributing Relief To Farmers After Helene

Headline: "Farm Service Agency Office Surrounded By Helene-Impacted Farms To Be Terminated, DOGE Says." [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

March 2025: Trump Administration Terminated The Lease For A Farm Service Agency (FSA) Building In Hendersonville, Even Though Farmers Were Still Recovering From Helene. "Even as farmers recover from record flooding sustained during Tropical Storm Helene, the Trump administration has indicated it will terminate the lease of the Farm Service Agency office located in the heart of Western North Carolina's apple orchards and fruit farms in Henderson County. The termination of the lease in Hendersonville will affect both the FSA and the Henderson County Soil and Conservation offices. Helene caused an estimated \$4.9 billion in damages to Western North Carolina agriculture, and an estimated \$135 million in damages in Henderson County, the Hendersonville Times News reported Feb. 26." [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

A Local Official With The NC Cooperative Extensive "Said He Was 'Very Concerned' About Possible Cuts To The FSA, Given That Most Of The Aid Given To Farmers After Helene Has Been Through The Agency." "Henderson County Extension Director for NC Cooperative Extension Terry Kelley said he was 'very concerned' about possible cuts to the FSA, given that most of the aid given to farmers after Helene has been through the agency. Most of the money allocated for farm recovery from Congress is still waiting to be distributed and the 'most logical' way to distribute would be through the FSA, Kelley said. 'I'm very much afraid that if something doesn't happen to get a little bit more to our growers that a lot of them are going to be left in bad shape,' Kelley said. The hope is that the FSA would have a new building by the end of August, Kelley said." [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

- **Asheville Citizen Times: "Most Of The Money Allocated For Farm Recovery From Congress Is Still Waiting To Be Distributed."** "Henderson County Extension Director for NC Cooperative Extension Terry Kelley said he was 'very concerned' about possible cuts to the FSA, given that most of the aid given to farmers after Helene has been through the agency. Most of the money allocated for farm recovery from Congress is still waiting to be distributed and the 'most logical' way to distribute would be through the FSA, Kelley said." [Asheville Citizen Times, [3/7/25](#)]

The Farm Service Agency Building In Hendersonville Was Removed From The DOGE Wall of Receipts In May 2025. "As of May 21, the Hendersonville office was still listed for lease termination, along with 562 other offices on the Wall of Receipts. On May 28, Hendersonville FSA was no longer listed, and the total number of lease terminations had shrunk to 494. This all comes in the midst of Elon Musk's reported departure from the Trump administration. Comparing the current DOGE list to previous Successful Farming reporting, more than 70 USDA agency offices have been quietly removed from the Wall of Receipts. Over half are FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices, which often work the most closely with farmers." [Successful Farming, [5/29/25](#)]

DOGE Cut Funding For AmeriCorps, Which Forced Volunteers To Abandon Helene Recovery

April 2025: The Trump Administration Cut Funding For AmeriCorps, Forcing Volunteers To Abandon Hurricane Helene Recovery Efforts And Return Home The Following Morning. “More than 50 young workers in a federal program helping Western North Carolina residents rebuild after Tropical Storm Helene were abruptly pulled from their assignments April 15, leaving local nonprofits scrambling to fill the gaps. The sudden work stoppage was billed as one of the Trump administration’s latest efforts to shrink the federal government. AmeriCorps’ National Civilian Community Corps told workers April 15 they would exit the program early and must leave town — reporting back to their Louisiana campus — by the next morning, according to local volunteers working with the members and an email obtained by USA TODAY. The message says the Department of Government Efficiency’s cost cutting initiatives impacted its ‘ability to sustain program operations.’ Members have been placed into administrative hold and will be formally dismissed on April 30.” [Asheville Citizen-Times, [4/23/25](#)]

DOGE Terminated About 20 Forest Service Employees, Threatening Helene Recovery Efforts And Future Wildfire Response

HEADLINE: “US Forest Service Worker Firings Threaten Helene Recovery In WNC, Workers Say.” [Asheville Citizen Times, [2/18/25](#)]

February 2025: The Trump Administration’s Firing Of Roughly 20 Forest Service Employees In Western North Carolina Put Helene Recovery Efforts At Risk Along With Future Wildfire Response. "For Western North Carolina, the terminations come less than five months after Tropical Storm ripped through the region, damaging more than 185,000 acres of national forest, about 20% of the total acreage. The storm, which the agency expects will take years to recover from, hit Pisgah National Forest particularly hard, damaging facilities and infrastructure like roadways, as well as downing trees throughout its 500,000 acres, increasing wildfire risk. [...] A program manager with the U.S. Forest Service who spoke to the Citizen Times on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from her employer, said the recent firings are a huge strain on the already understaffed agency and pose a major threat to the Helene recovery effort and future wildfire response. [...] Many U.S. Forest Service employees fired over the weekend told the Citizen Times that performance was cited in the letters they received, even though they all received good evaluations, they said. Sources familiar with the terminations said nearly 20 people working in the region had been affected so far." [Asheville Citizen Times, [2/18/25](#)]

DOGE Made Cuts To The National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration And National Weather Service That Could Leave Western North Carolina Nonprofits Unprepared To Respond To Future Disasters

DOGE Made Cuts To NOAA, The National Weather Service, And The Office Of Oceanic And Atmospheric Research Leaving North Carolina Vulnerable And Less Prepared For Future Weather Calamities Like Helene

Peter H. Lewis Op-Ed: Cuts At NOAA, The National Weather Service, And The Office Of Oceanic And Atmospheric Research Meant Western North Carolina Was “More Vulnerable And Less Prepared For Future Weather Calamities Like Helene.” “As a result of cuts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service, and plans to gut the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, western North Carolina — and the rest of the nation — is more vulnerable and less prepared for future weather calamities like Helene.” [Asheville Watchdog, Peter H. Lewis Op-Ed, [7/21/25](#)]

NOAA Was Poised To Cut Over 20 Percent Of Its Workforce At DOGE’s Direction. "The Monday afternoon panel — hosted by the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank — comes as NOAA, the agency that oversees the National Weather Service, is poised to lose more than 20% of its workforce. At DOGE’s direction, the agency is slashing more than 2,000 jobs — around 1,300 in February and another 1,000 set for March, according to the Associated Press.” [NC Newsline, [3/25/25](#)]

A Western NC Nonprofit Director Warned DOGE Weather Service Cuts Could Cost Lives And Leave The Region Unprepared For Future Disasters

Headline: “Western NC Housing Nonprofit Executive Warns ‘Lives Will Be Lost’ To DOGE Weather Service Cuts.” [NC Newline, [3/25/25](#)]

Emergency Alerts Through The National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration Allowed Local Non-Profits To Mobilize Ahead Of Storms. "On a panel Monday discussing the Trump administration's cuts to the National Weather Service [NWS], Todd Carter, an executive with a western North Carolina housing nonprofit, warned 'lives will be lost' due to ongoing staff and budgets cuts. 'We make this information available for free. Not everything should be for sale, not everything should be for profit,' said Carter, Hospitality House of Northwest NC's chief development director. '[Without NWS] we'd have to pay for a report every time something comes out — we don't have the time to do that, we don't have the funding to do that, and lives will be lost.' Carter said his organization, which has worked to house North Carolinians displaced by Helene across seven counties impacted by the hurricane, is able to mobilize ahead of storms early because it receives emergency alerts through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency targeted for major cuts by Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency. That's because agency officials recognize Hospitality House provides 'critical' services to the rural counties it helps — Watauga, Wilkes, Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Mitchell, and Yancey — Carter said." [NC Newline, [3/25/25](#)]

Western North Carolina Nonprofit Director: “Lives Will Be Lost” Due To Trump And DOGE National Weather Service Cuts, Affecting Services Provided To Rural Counties. According to NC Newline, "On a panel Monday discussing the Trump administration's cuts to the National Weather Service [NWS], Todd Carter, an executive with a western North Carolina housing nonprofit, warned 'lives will be lost' due to ongoing staff and budgets cuts. 'We make this information available for free. Not everything should be for sale, not everything should be for profit,' said Carter, Hospitality House of Northwest NC's chief development director. '[Without NWS] we'd have to pay for a report every time something comes out — we don't have the time to do that, we don't have the funding to do that, and lives will be lost.' Carter said his organization, which has worked to house North Carolinians displaced by Helene across seven counties impacted by the hurricane, is able to mobilize ahead of storms early because it receives emergency alerts through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency targeted for major cuts by Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency. That's because agency officials recognize Hospitality House provides 'critical' services to the rural counties it helps — Watauga, Wilkes, Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Mitchell, and Yancey — Carter said." [NC Newline, [3/25/25](#)]

- **The Nonprofit Director Warned That Cuts “May Leave Them Unprepared For A Future Disaster” And Unable To Help Trapped Residents Like They Did During Helene.** “That's because agency officials recognize Hospitality House provides 'critical' services to the rural counties it helps — Watauga, Wilkes, Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Mitchell, and Yancey — Carter said. ‘One of our clients in an apartment, she was crying for help, she got to the very top of the roof of her apartment building, and she was telling our executive director [Tina Krause], ‘Miss Tina, I can't swim, I can't swim,’ Carter said. ‘She's 75 years old and was afraid she was going to die.’ Another resident helped by the nonprofit, a 72-year-old man, had to be rescued by boat, according to Carter. ‘They were bringing people by boat down the road to us and our staff were doing the best they can.’ It was after the region's devastation by Helene — when rising floodwaters and violent winds knocked out cell service in Boone, where the housing nonprofit is based — that weather officials provided them with NOAA radios and set them up on the early warning system. Now, though, cuts to the service may leave them unprepared for a future disaster.” [NC Newline, [3/25/25](#)]

DOGE Cut Billions In EPA Funding Meant For Rebuilding Homes And Providing More Efficient Energy In Areas Recovering From Helene
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DOGE Cut Billions In EPA Climate Grants For Rebuilding Homes In Areas Recovering From Helene

Headline: “How Trump's Move To Kill Clean Energy Cash Is Stunting Helene Recovery.” [Politico, [8/22/25](#)]

Trump’s Cuts To Billions In EPA Climate Grants That Were Earmarked For Rebuilding Homes Was Hindering Efforts To Address “Chronic Housing Shortages” In Areas Recovering From Helene. “President Donald Trump has vowed to revive the Appalachian towns devastated by last year’s Hurricane Helene. But his cuts to billions of dollars in Biden-era spending are hampering efforts to ease the region’s chronic housing shortages and rising energy prices. [...] EPA has spent months fighting in court to reclaim \$20 billion of Biden-era climate grants, with climate groups expecting a decision from an appeals court soon. The feud has frozen millions of dollars that had been earmarked for rebuilding homes in the same Appalachian communities that Trump had accused President Joe Biden’s administration of abandoning after Helene.” [Politico, [8/22/25](#)]

August 2025: The National Institute Of Minority Economic Development Slowed Down A Project To Finance Construction Of Affordable Housing In Western North Carolina After The EPA Canceled Funding For A \$7 Million Loan

The National Institute Of Minority Economic Development Was “Slowing Down A Project To Finance Construction Of Affordable Housing In Western North Carolina After Trump’s EPA Canceled” Funding For A \$7 Million Loan. “One community lender said it is slowing down a project to finance construction of affordable housing in western North Carolina after Trump’s EPA canceled the federal dollars backing the \$7 million loan it was counting on. [...] ‘The needs have not changed,’ said Kevin Price, president of the first group, the National Institute of Minority Economic Development. ‘This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. Everybody was impacted.’” [Politico, [8/22/25](#)]

- **The President Of The Organization Said Cancellation Of The Loan “Significantly Delayed Timelines For Completing New Units From One Year To Between Three To Five Years.”** “Price’s organization had earned conditional approval for \$7 million to finance affordable housing in western North Carolina — a region already experiencing an affordability crisis that was exacerbated by the storm. About 450,000 households in Helene-affected counties were defined as housing cost-burdened by spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing even before the storm, according to policy nonprofit NC Budget and Tax Center. The loss of cheap capital supported by the EPA program significantly delayed timelines for completing new units from one year to between three to five years, Price said.” [Politico, [8/22/25](#)]

March 2025: Appalachian Community Capital Cancelled New Applications For Funding Energy Efficiency And Housing Projects In Areas Recovering From Helene Due To The EPA Funds Pullback

Appalachian Community Capital Cancelled New Applications For Funding Energy Efficiency And Housing Projects In Areas Recovering From Helene “When It Became Clear No Resolution Over The EPA Funds Was Within Reach.” “Appalachian Community Capital, one of the EPA fund’s eight recipients, set aside what it called a ‘significant’ portion of its \$500 million award specifically for communities emerging from the storm’s wreckage. It halted new applications for funding on March 18 through its Green Bank for Rural America, the lending institution it created to handle the federal funds, when it became clear no resolution over the EPA funds was within reach. The \$64 million the organization had already approved to give investors in the region, which would have leveraged up to \$256 million in energy efficiency and housing projects, never materialized.” [Politico, [8/22/25](#)]

Balkcom Voted Twice For A Bill That Was Projected To Cut Corporations’ Utility Bills While Increasing Costs On Duke Energy Customers And Households, While She Took Thousands Of Dollars From Their Corporate PAC

2025: Balkcom Voted Twice For A Bill That Was Projected To Cost Duke Energy Ratepayers Up To \$23 Billion Through 2050, Cutting Electricity Costs For Corporations At The Expense Of North Carolina Families

June 2025: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 266, Which Was Projected To Cost North Carolina Ratepayers Up To \$23 Billion Through 2050 Due To Higher Fuel Costs

June 2025: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 266, “An Act To Eliminate The Interim Date For Carbon Reduction By Certain Electric Public Utilities, To Allow An Alternative Cost Recovery Mechanism For The Financing Costs Of Construction Work In Progress For Baseload Electric Generating Facilities, To Modify The Statutes Governing Cost Recovery For Fuel-Related Charges And Performance-Based Ratemaking, And To Codify A Provision Authorizing Securitization Of Costs For Retirement Of Coal-Fired Generating Units.” In June 2025, Balkcom voted for S.B. 266, “An act to eliminate the interim date for carbon reduction by certain electric public utilities, to allow an alternative cost recovery mechanism for the financing costs of construction work in progress for baseload electric generating facilities, to modify the statutes governing cost recovery for fuel-related charges and performance-based ratemaking, and to codify a provision authorizing securitization of costs for retirement of coal-fired generating units.” The motion passed by a vote of 75-36-0-9. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 266, 6/10/25](#)]

- **S.B. 266 Would Eliminate The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target In The NC Carbon Plan.** “Higher Natural Gas Costs from Removing the Interim Target: When considering North Carolina Senate Bill 266, which eliminates the interim carbon emissions reduction target in the NC Carbon Plan, policymakers have cited potential cost savings as a key justification. However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise.” [North Carolina State University, [10/30/25](#)]

North Carolina State University: S.B. 266 Was Projected To Cost North Carolina Ratepayers Up To \$23 Billion Through 2050 Due To Higher Fuel Costs. “Higher Natural Gas Costs from Removing the Interim Target: When considering North Carolina Senate Bill 266, which eliminates the interim carbon emissions reduction target in the NC Carbon Plan, policymakers have cited potential cost savings as a key justification. However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise. Based on modeling by the Public Staff, eliminating the interim target would increase natural gas generation by nearly 40 percent between 2030 and 2050. If natural gas prices follow the ‘high’ trajectory from the Carbon Plan docket, the shift would raise total natural gas costs paid by ratepayers by \$23 billion, compared to a scenario that retains the interim target. (In present value terms, this equals approximately \$13 billion, assuming a 5% discount rate.) These additional fuel costs are borne directly by customers. Maintaining the interim goal helps limit exposure to volatile fuel markets and protects ratepayers from sharp increases in electricity bills.” [North Carolina State University, [10/30/25](#)]

North Carolina State University: “Removing The Interim Target Could Expose Ratepayers To Significant Financial Risk, Particularly If Natural Gas Prices Rise.” “However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise. Based on modeling by the Public Staff, eliminating the interim target would increase natural gas generation by nearly 40 percent between 2030 and 2050. If natural gas prices follow the ‘high’ trajectory from the Carbon Plan docket, the shift would raise total natural gas costs paid by ratepayers by \$23 billion, compared to a scenario that retains the interim target.” [North Carolina State University, [10/30/25](#)]

North Carolina State University: “Based On Modeling By The Public Staff, Eliminating The Interim Target Would Increase Natural Gas Generation By Nearly 40% Between 2030 And 2050.” “However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise. Based on modeling by the Public Staff, eliminating the interim target would increase natural gas generation by nearly 40 percent between 2030 and 2050. If natural gas prices follow the ‘high’ trajectory from the Carbon Plan docket, the shift would raise total natural gas costs paid by ratepayers by \$23 billion, compared to a scenario that retains the interim target.” [North Carolina State University, [10/30/25](#)]

July 2025: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor's Veto Of S.B. 266 Even Though He Said It "Shifts The Cost Of Electricity From Large Industrial Users Onto The Backs Of Regular People"

July 2025: Governor Josh Stein Vetoed S.B. 266, Saying "This Bill Not Only Makes Everyone's Utility Bills More Expensive, But It Also Shifts The Cost Of Electricity From Large Industrial Users Onto The Backs Of Regular People -- Families Will Pay More So That Industry Pays Less." "Today Governor Stein signed seven bills and vetoed three bills. Governor Stein made the following statement on his veto of Senate Bill 266: 'This summer's record heat and soaring utility bills has shown that we need to focus on lowering electricity costs for working families -- not raising them. And as our state continues to grow, we need to diversify our energy portfolio so that we are not overly reliant on natural gas and its volatile fuel markets. Recent independent analysis of Senate Bill 266 shows that this bill could cost North Carolina ratepayers up to \$23 billion through 2050 due to higher fuel costs. This bill not only makes everyone's utility bills more expensive, but it also shifts the cost of electricity from large industrial users onto the backs of regular people -- families will pay more so that industry pays less. Additionally, this bill walks back our state's commitment to reduce carbon emissions, sending the wrong signal to businesses that want to be a part of our clean energy economy. My job is to do everything in my power to lower costs and grow the economy. This bill fails that test.'" [North Carolina Office of the Governor, Press Release, [7/2/25](#)]

July 2025: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor's Veto Of S.B. 266, "An Act To Eliminate The Interim Date For Carbon Reduction By Certain Electric Public Utilities, To Allow An Alternative Cost Recovery Mechanism For The Financing Costs Of Construction Work In Progress For Baseload Electric Generating Facilities, To Modify The Statutes Governing Cost Recovery For Fuel-Related Charges And Performance-Based Ratemaking, And To Codify A Provision Authorizing Securitization Of Costs For Retirement Of Coal-Fired Generating Units." In June 2025, Balkcom voted to override the Governor's veto of S.B. 266, "An act to eliminate the interim date for carbon reduction by certain electric public utilities, to allow an alternative cost recovery mechanism for the financing costs of construction work in progress for baseload electric generating facilities, to modify the statutes governing cost recovery for fuel-related charges and performance-based ratemaking, and to codify a provision authorizing securitization of costs for retirement of coal-fired generating units." The motion passed by a vote of 74-46-0-0. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 266](#), [7/29/25](#)]

S.B. 266 Was Projected To Result In A 4% Jump In Energy Bills For Households With Duke Energy, Costing North Carolina Residents \$87 Million More A Year For Electricity

Canary Media: S.B. 266 Would Result In A 4% Jump In Household Energy Bills. "Residential customers of Duke Energy in North Carolina could pay \$87 million more per year for electricity under a proposal rocketing through the state legislature, a new study shows. The figure represents about a 4% jump in household bills. The legislation, Senate Bill 266, would change how Duke distributes the cost of electricity it buys to supplement generation from its own power plants — significantly hiking the share paid by residential consumers and cutting the portion paid by industrial electricity users, like chemical manufacturers and textile mills." [Canary Media, [6/11/25](#)]

Canary Media: Under S.B. 266, Residential Customers Of Duke Energy In North Carolina Could Pay \$87 Million More Per Year For Electricity. "Residential customers of Duke Energy in North Carolina could pay \$87 million more per year for electricity under a proposal rocketing through the state legislature, a new study shows. The figure represents about a 4% jump in household bills. The legislation, Senate Bill 266, would change how Duke distributes the cost of electricity it buys to supplement generation from its own power plants — significantly hiking the share paid by residential consumers and cutting the portion paid by industrial electricity users, like chemical manufacturers and textile mills." [Canary Media, [6/11/25](#)]

S.B. 266 Changed How Duke Energy Distributed The Cost Of Electricity By Decreasing The Amount Corporations Paid For Electricity At The Expense Of Household And Residential Users

Canary Media: S.B. 266 Changed How Duke Energy Distributed The Cost Of Electricity, Increasing The Share Paid By Residential Consumers And Cutting The Portion Paid By Industrial Electricity Users.

“Residential customers of Duke Energy in North Carolina could pay \$87 million more per year for electricity under a proposal rocketing through the state legislature, a new study shows. The figure represents about a 4% jump in household bills. The legislation, Senate Bill 266, would change how Duke distributes the cost of electricity it buys to supplement generation from its own power plants — significantly hiking the share paid by residential consumers and cutting the portion paid by industrial electricity users, like chemical manufacturers and textile mills.” [Canary Media, [6/11/25](#)]

North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association: S.B. 266 Shifted 19% More Of The Fuel Cost Burden Onto Residential Customers From Commercial And Industrials. “The bill was originally filed by now-retired Sen. Paul Newton as Senate Bill 261 ‘Energy Security and Affordability Act.’ SB266 went through several iterations before being passed. Gov. Josh Stein vetoed the bill because of concerns about energy affordability. A study from NC State University shows removing the interim target set in HB951 ‘could cost ratepayers up to \$23 billion in added fuel expenses through 2050.’ In addition, the bill shifts 19% more of the fuel cost burden onto residential customers (from commercial and industrials), according to an analysis by EQ Research. Despite these studies, the legislature voted to override the governor’s veto of SB266 in July.” [North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, accessed [11/14/25](#)]

Energy and Policy Institute: “S. 266 Would Also Shift Costs From Large-Load Customers To Residential Users.” “S. 266 would also shift costs from large-load customers to residential users. Currently, Duke Energy’s residential customers in North Carolina use just over 40% of all the power the company purchases, rather than generates itself, and they pay for about 41% of the costs. An analysis by EQ Research found that under S. 266 residential customers would continue to use the same 40% of purchased power but would bear almost 49% of the costs. This cost shift to smaller-load users is being considered as a growing number of power-hungry data centers are eyeing North Carolina for expansion.” [Energy and Policy Institute, [7/25/25](#)]

S.B. 266 Was Projected To Cost North Carolina Billions Of Dollars In Lost Investments And More Than 50,000 Jobs Annually

July 2025: Canary Media Headline: “Energy Bill Could Cost North Carolina Billions In Lost Investments And Jobs: As Lawmakers Decide Whether To Override The Governor’s Veto Of SB 266, New Research Estimates The Massive Economic Toll Of The Legislation.” [Canary Media, [7/25/25](#)]

BW Research: S.B. 266 Was Projected To Stifle Job Creation In North Carolina, Resulting In Nearly 50,700 Fewer Jobs Annually. “Passing SB266 would have the following effects on North Carolina: [...] Nearly 50,700 fewer jobs annually, on average, in the power sector (304,200 job years between 2030 and 2035). Slowing down the growth of power generation capacity by 2035 would result in decreased investments in the construction and operation of power plants. This, in turn, leads to fewer job opportunities in the state.” [BW Research, [7/22/25](#)]

BW Research: S.B. 266 Rolled Back Investments In Wind And Solar Projects, Effectively Cancelling Thousands Of Expected Construction And Operations Jobs Annually. “The gap in job generation in North Carolina is largely attributed to SB266 diminishing installation of utility-scale solar, which under the Status Quo scenario, supports more than 25,200 jobs annually between 2030 and 2035, and nearly 53,600 jobs in 2033. The Status Quo scenario projects 14.9 GW in additional solar capacity installed between 2030 and 2035, compared to the 8.8 GW under SB266, which generates significant employment in the construction and operation of these projects. This gap means that on average, about 36,200 annual jobs stemming from solar investments do not materialize. The Status Quo scenario also projects 2.3 GW in Onshore Wind and 4.4 GW in Offshore Wind capacity by 2035. The SB266 scenario will not have these technologies developed by 2035. By 2035, the Status Quo scenario has an additional Advanced Nuclear capacity of 600 MW, compared to 300 MW under SB266. The development of nuclear energy represents a significant investment in both the construction and operation phases, and generates important economic activity due to the high wages in the jobs involved.” [BW Research, [7/22/25](#)]

2022-2026: Balkcom Took More Than \$5,000 In Campaign Cash From Duke Energy’s Corporate PAC, As Duke Energy Was Tied To Dark-Money Mailers Supporting S.B. 266

2022-2026: Balkcom Took More Than \$5,000 In Campaign Cash From Duke Energy Corporation PAC

2022-2026: Balkcom Received More Than \$5,000 In Campaign Contributions From Duke Energy Corporation PAC. [North Carolina State Board of Elections, Transaction Search By Entity, accessed [8/13/26](#)]

2022-2026: Balkcom Campaign Receipts From Duke Energy Corporation PAC		
Date	Contributor	Amount
9/6/22	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	\$500.00
11/17/23	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	\$1,000.00
7/26/24	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	\$2,000.00
1/22/26	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	\$2,000.00
Total:		\$5,500.00

[North Carolina State Board of Elections, Transaction Search By Entity, accessed [8/13/26](#)]

2023: Balkcom Said She Attended The Duke Energy Update Meeting

2023: Balkcom Said She Attended The Duke Energy Update Meeting In Hendersonville. “Today, I attended the Duke Energy Update meeting in Hendersonville that covered the topics of grid resiliency, storm prep, and smart energy. At the meeting, the Duke Energy Foundation presented Henderson County Emergency Management with a \$50,000 grant check. Receiving the grant funds from Henderson County were Bill Lapsley, County Commissioner, and Jimmy Brissie, Emergency Services Director. The grant funds will be used to support the county's All-Hazards Response Initiative to do the following: Host an All-Hazards Strike Team Leader Class (in partnership with Blue Ridge Community College) Purchase a Rapid Deployment Shelter System for use as an Incident Command Post in the field Purchase a Water Rescue Trailer to transport boats and deployment supplies for the Henderson County Technical Rescue Team.” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [1/27/23](#)]



Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117 is at **Henderson County Court...** ...

January 27, 2023 · Hendersonville, NC ·

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- Purchase a Rapid Deployment Shelter System for use as an Incident Command Post in the field
- Purchase a Water Rescue Trailer to transport boats and deployment supplies for the Henderson County Technical Rescue Team



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [1/27/23](#)]

Duke Energy Was Accused Of Using Dark Money To Fund Mailers Encouraging Democrats To Override The Governor's Veto Of S.B. 266

July 2025: Duke Energy Was Tied To A “Dark Money Entity” Sending Mailers In Support Of S.B. 266. As North Carolina lawmakers prepare to override Gov. Josh Stein’s veto of a controversial energy bill, constituents are receiving mailers from a dark money entity with ties to Duke Energy’s industrial and commercial customers. [...] Constituents of some of the Democrats who voted with Republicans on S. 266 have received mailers from an obscure nonprofit about the upcoming override vote that repeats challenged claims about cost savings to customers and asks recipients to call and thank their representative for supporting it. [...] The text on the mailer says it was paid for by Citizens for NC Jobs, a nonprofit that registered with the state in January 2025 and launched a Facebook page on March 13, three days after the legislation was initially introduced as S. 261. [...] In paperwork filed with the state, Citizens for NC Jobs disclosed its registering entity as ‘WASLAW’ and gave among its addresses that of Ward and Smith, a North Carolina law firm. Ward and Smith practice before the North Carolina Utilities Commission as counsel for two organizations representing the interests of Duke Energy’s large industrial and commercial customers: Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates (CIGFUR) and Carolina Utility Customers Association (CUCA). Susan Vick, a lobbyist for the groups, told EPI that her firm merely registered the paperwork for the nonprofit, has had no further contact, and was unaware of the mailers.” [Energy and Policy Institute, [7/25/25](#)]

The Fossil Fuel Industry Backed S.B. 266 Because It Would Accelerate Data Center Growth; 2026: North Carolina Was Home To About 100 Data Centers With Rapid Expansion Expected To Continue

Energy And Policy Institute: S.B. 266 Would Shift Costs From Large-Load Customers To Residential Users “As A Growing Number Of Power-Hungry Data Centers Are [Eyeing] North Carolina For Expansion”

Energy and Policy Institute: S.B. 266’s “Cost Shift To Smaller-Load Users Is Being Considered As A Growing Number Of Power-Hungry Data Centers Are Eying North Carolina For Expansion.” “S. 266 would also shift costs from large-load customers to residential users. Currently, Duke Energy’s residential customers in North Carolina use just over 40% of all the power the company purchases, rather than generates itself, and they pay for about 41% of the costs. An analysis by EQ Research found that under S. 266 residential customers would continue to use the same 40% of purchased power but would bear almost 49% of the costs. This cost shift to smaller-load users is being considered as a growing number of power-hungry data centers are eying North Carolina for expansion.” [Energy and Policy Institute, [7/25/25](#)]

A Fossil Fuel Trade Association Supported S.B. 266 Because It Would Accelerate Data Center Growth

Consumer Energy Alliance Called Upon Governor Josh Stein To Sign S.B. 266 Into Law Because It Would Accelerate Data Center Growth, Saying The “Bill Will Help North Carolina Meet New Energy Demand From Manufacturing, Population & Data Center Growth.” “Passage of Senate Bill 266 by the North Carolina General Assembly marks progress on grid reliability, cost savings, emissions goals. Bill will help North Carolina meet new energy demand from manufacturing, population & data center growth. Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), the leading energy and environmental advocate for families and businesses, released the following statement after the passage of Senate Bill 266 by the North Carolina House of Representatives. ‘Senate Bill 266 is essential for North Carolina’s economic future and energy reliability,’ CEA Southeast Executive Director Kevin Doyle said. ‘By modernizing utility regulations, this bipartisan legislation would allow energy companies to build faster and more affordably, ultimately saving customers billions of dollars.’ ‘At the same time, it maintains progress on emissions reductions while strengthening the reliability of the electric grid. With electricity demand rising due to population growth, manufacturing expansion, and data centers, North Carolina needs smart, forward-looking policies that protect consumers and ensure the lights stay on. We call on Governor Josh Stein to sign this important piece of legislation into law,’ Doyle said. ‘We commend the members of both the House and the Senate and look forward to continuing to work with them on important energy issues in North Carolina.’” [Consumer Energy Alliance, Press Release, [June 2025](#)]

- **Energy & Policy Institute Said Consumer Energy Alliance Was An “Advocacy Front Group For Some Of The Country’s Largest Fossil Fuel Corporations And Trade Associations.”** “Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) likes to call itself ‘the voice of the energy consumer,’ but it is an advocacy front group for some of the country’s largest fossil fuel corporations and trade associations. Its members page does not include nationally recognized organizations that advocate on behalf of consumers, low-income communities, senior citizens, and minorities, such as AARP, local citizen utility boards, the NAACP, and the National Consumer Law Center. According to an internal budget document obtained by EPI, many fossil fuel, utility, and industry manufacturing corporations pay CEA tens of thousands of dollars, including Shell USA, Chevron, the American Petroleum Institute, ExxonMobil, GE Vernova, Unitil, the Edison Electric Institute, Avangrid, and Arizona Public Service.” [Consumer Energy Alliance, accessed [8/19/26](#)]
- **Energy & Policy Institute On Consumer Energy Alliance: “According To An Internal Budget Document Obtained By Epi, Many Fossil Fuel, Utility, And Industry Manufacturing Corporations Pay Cea Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars, Including Shell Usa, Chevron, The American Petroleum Institute, ExxonMobil, GE Vernova, Unitil, The Edison Electric Institute, Avangrid, And Arizona Public Service.”** “Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) likes to call itself ‘the voice of the energy consumer,’ but it is an advocacy front group for some of the country’s largest fossil fuel corporations and trade associations. Its members page does not include nationally recognized organizations that advocate on behalf of consumers, low-income communities,

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2026: North Carolina Was Home To About 100 Data Centers With Rapid Expansion Expected To Continue

2026: North Carolina Was Home To About 100 Data Centers That Accounted For Up To 3% Of The State's Energy Demand. “North Carolina is no stranger to data centers. There are about 100 in the state that account for up to 3% of the state's energy demand. That demand is expected to more than double by 2030, as the market for larger facilities grows to accommodate these rapidly evolving technologies, according to data from the Electric Power Research Institute. ‘(Up until now) most of the new data centers (were) built ... for storing grandma's pictures at some level,’ said Rob Cox, a UNC Charlotte energy expert. ‘It's just beginning now to shift into that AI phase.’” [WUNC News, [4/10/26](#)]

Demand For Data Centers Was Projected To More Than Double By 2030 To Accommodate The Market For Larger Data Center Facilities. “North Carolina is no stranger to data centers. There are about 100 in the state that account for up to 3% of the state's energy demand. That demand is expected to more than double by 2030, as the market for larger facilities grows to accommodate these rapidly evolving technologies, according to data from the Electric Power Research Institute. ‘(Up until now) most of the new data centers (were) built ... for storing grandma's pictures at some level,’ said Rob Cox, a UNC Charlotte energy expert. ‘It's just beginning now to shift into that AI phase.’” [WUNC News, [4/10/26](#)]

More Than 20 New Data Center Projects In North Carolina Had Been Announced Since The Start Of 2025 As A Result Of Surging Demands From The AI Industry. “Data centers themselves are nothing new — they’ve been around for as long as electronic computers have existed, going back to the 1940s. However, the rapid growth of artificial intelligence has driven demand for more data centers with enhanced computing power and data storage capacity. At least 93 data centers are currently operating in North Carolina, some of them more than a decade old. But a recent surge in demand driven largely by the AI industry has led to the announcement of more than 20 new data center projects for North Carolina since the start of 2025. Although some places have welcomed data centers as drivers of economic growth, others say they need more time to consider the potential downsides. Some projects that were already underway have encountered intense opposition from residents, prompting local leaders to rethink their current policies.” [Carolina Coast Online, [6/11/26](#)]

2026: Amazon Planned To Build A \$10 Billion Data Center Campus In Richmond County, North Carolina. “When Richmond County began marketing one of the largest industrial sites in North Carolina, nearly 50 companies expressed interest. County leaders say they considered advanced manufacturers, heavy industry and data centers before deciding Amazon's planned \$10 billion campus was the best fit. That decision stands in contrast to a growing backlash elsewhere in the state. More than 30 North Carolina communities have adopted moratoriums or zoning restrictions on data centers as residents raise concerns about water use, electricity demand, noise and quality of life. Richmond County reached a different conclusion. ‘We had the unique opportunity to evaluate multiple projects,’ said Martie Butler, Richmond County's management analyst and economic developer. ‘In the end, we felt that Amazon was the best fit for our community.’ The project, announced last summer, is expected to be built in phases over several years. The first data center building is projected to become operational in 2027, with additional facilities planned through 2029.” [WRAL News, [7/20/26](#)]

Balkcom Was An Anti-Abortion Extremist Who Said She Supported Banning Abortion With No Exceptions, Including To Save The Life Of The Woman, And Voted To Ban Abortion At 12 Weeks In North Carolina

2026: Balkcom Said She Supported Banning Abortion In All Cases And Said, “Abortion Is Never Medically Necessary,” Even “For The Purpose Of Saving The Life Of The Mother”

2026: Balkcom Said, “Abortion Is Never Medically Necessary,” Even “For The Purpose Of Saving The Life Of The Mother”

2026: Balkcom: “Abortion Is Never Medically Necessary: There Is Never A Situation In The Law Or In The Ethical Practice Of Medicine Where A Pre-Born Child’s Life Need Be Destroyed By Intentional Abortion, Including For The Purpose Of Saving The Life Of The Mother.” QUESTION: “Under what circumstances should an elective abortion be allowed?” BALKCOM: “Abortion is never medically necessary: there is never a situation in the law or in the ethical practice of medicine where a pre-born child’s life need be destroyed by intentional abortion, including for the purpose of saving the life of the mother. A physician must do everything possible to save the lives of both of his patients, both the mother and the child. I believe that it is important to distinguish between direct, intentional abortion and a legitimate treatment for a medical condition.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

2022: Balkcom: “I Would Support Legislation That Prohibits Intentional Procured Abortion In All Cases.” QUESTION: “If Roe v. Wade is overturned by the US Supreme Court, how far are you willing to go to roll back North Carolina's statutory abortion law that allows abortion up to 20 weeks?” BALKCOM: “I would support legislation that prohibits intentional procured abortion in all cases.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2022](#)]

2023: Balkcom Voted To Ban Abortion At 12 Weeks In North Carolina With Limited Exceptions, Causing Reproductive Health Providers To Leave The State

May 2023: Balkcom Voted For North Carolina’s 12-Week Abortion Ban

May 2023: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 20, “An Act To Make Various Changes To Health Care Laws And To Appropriate Funds For Health Care Programs.” In May 2023, Balkcom voted for S.B. 20, “an act to make various changes to health care laws and to appropriate funds for health care programs.” The motion passed by a vote of 71-46-0-3. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 20](#), [5/3/23](#)]

- **Duke University Obstetrics & Gynecology: S.B. 20 Would Enact A 12-Week Abortion Ban In North Carolina.** “Unfortunately, despite clear evidence that restricting access to abortion harms the health and wellness of women, that states with abortion restrictions have worse maternal health outcomes, including mortality, and with opposition by both the state and national medical community, last night, the North Carolina General Assembly overrode Gov. Roy Cooper’s veto of SB20. The law, which includes a 12-week abortion ban and other restrictions, will go into effect on July 1, 2023. Note: Duke Ob/Gyn will continue to provide care as we have been until July 1, 2023.” [Duke University Obstetrics & Gynecology, [5/17/23](#)]

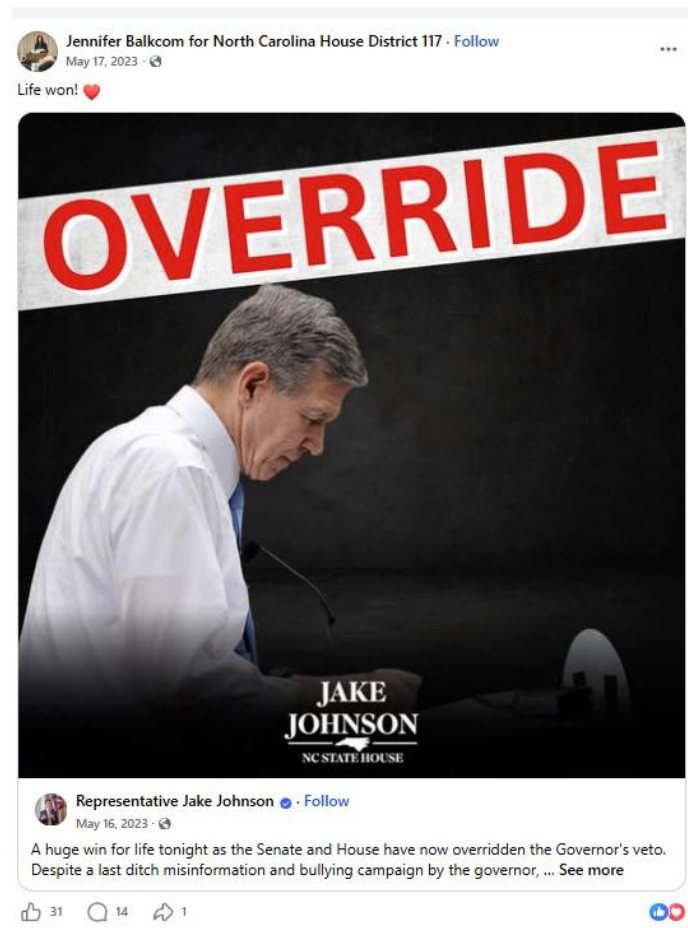
May 2023: Balkcom Voted To Overturn The Governor’s Veto Of North Carolina’s 12-Week Abortion Ban

May 2023: Governor Roy Cooper Vetoed S.B. 20, Calling It A “Dangerous Abortion Ban That Would Have Devastating Impacts On Women’s Reproductive Health Care In North Carolina.” “Today, Governor Roy Cooper joined the North Carolina Reproductive Freedom Coalition at a rally for health care freedom. During the rally, Governor Cooper vetoed Senate Bill 20, the dangerous abortion ban that would have devastating impacts on women’s reproductive health care in North Carolina. The veto message returned with the bill read as follows: ‘This bill will create dangerous interference with the doctor-patient relationship, leading to harm for pregnant women and their families. With its medically unnecessary obstacles and restrictions, it will make abortion unavailable to many women, particularly those with lower incomes, those who live in rural areas, and those who already have limited access to health care.’ The bill is opposed by the North Carolina Medical Society, the North Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians. Governor Cooper was joined on stage by doctors and women as he vetoed the bill. ‘Let’s be clear - this bill has nothing to do with making women safer, and everything to do with banning abortion,’ said Governor Cooper at the rally. ‘How about we leave

medicine to the doctors and the decisions to the women.”” [North Carolina Office of the Governor, Press Release, [5/13/26](#)]

May 2023: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor’s Veto Of S.B. 20, “An Act To Make Various Changes To Health Care Laws And To Appropriate Funds For Health Care Programs.” In May 2023, Balkcom voted to override the Governor’s veto of S.B. 20, “an act to make various changes to health care laws and to appropriate funds for health care programs.” The motion passed by a vote of 72-48-0-0. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 20](#), [5/16/23](#)]

- **May 2023: Balkcom Celebrated Lawmakers Overriding The Governor’s Veto Of S.B. 20.** “Life won! ❤️.” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [5/17/23](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [5/17/23](#)]

S.B. 20 Banned Most Abortions At 12 Weeks, With A 20-Week Cutoff For Pregnancy Resulting From Rape Or Incest, And A 24 Week Cutoff For Fetal Anomalies, And An Exception For Medical Emergencies

S.B. 20 Banned Abortion After 12 Weeks, With Exceptions Allowed If There Was A Medical Emergency For The Pregnant Woman, “Through The 20th Week Of Pregnancy If The Pregnancy Resulted From Rape Or Incest,” And Through The 24th Week Of Pregnancy If The Fetus Had “A Life-Limiting Anomaly.” “Part I of S.L. 2023-14, as amended by Part XIII-B and Part XIV of S.L. 2023-65, repeals and replaces the current abortion law in North Carolina. Under the new law, abortion is permitted through the first 12 weeks of pregnancy for any reason, through the 20th week of pregnancy if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, through the 24th week of pregnancy if there is a life-limiting anomaly in the unborn child, and at any time if there is a medical emergency for the pregnant woman. Part I also bifurcates the definition of abortion into surgical and medical abortions and creates new informed consent provisions for both. Finally, Part I criminalizes the provision or advertising of abortion-

inducing drugs in certain circumstances, prohibits eugenic abortions, and establishes reporting requirements for abortion. This bill was vetoed by the Governor on May 14, 2023. The veto was overridden by the General Assembly on May 16, 2023. This Part of the act became effective July 1, 2023, and the criminal provisions apply to any offenses committed on or after that date.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 20, 5/4/23](#)]

- **June 2023: News & Observer: The North Carolina General Assembly Voted To Override The Governor’s Veto Of SB 20, Banning “Most Abortions After 12 Weeks.”** “The North Carolina General Assembly voted to override a veto from the governor on Tuesday, imposing more abortion restrictions in the state. Republicans have a veto-proof supermajority in the General Assembly — by a single vote in both the House and the Senate. In order for Republicans to override a veto from Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, every vote counts. All 170 state lawmakers were present for the votes, which fell along party lines. The House voted 72-48 and the Senate voted 30-20, providing exactly the margin needed for an override. Senate Bill 20 is now law in North Carolina, with new abortion restrictions going into effect on July 1. The new state law bans most abortions after 12 weeks. The law has exceptions for rape and incest up to 20 weeks and up to 24 weeks for ‘life-limiting’ fetal anomalies. There is no restriction on abortion if the life of the mother is deemed to be at risk.” [News & Observer, [6/20/23](#)]
- **July 2023: North Carolina’s 12 Week Abortion Ban Went Into Effect.** “Last month, against a backdrop of angry protesters, Republican lawmakers narrowly overrode Gov. Roy Cooper’s veto of North Carolina’s most restrictive abortion law in more than 50 years. The new law — if it survives legal challenges — will impact all abortion clinics in the state, even those that rarely perform second-trimester abortions, beginning on July 1. In addition to dropping the gestational cutoff from 20 weeks to 12, the legislation introduces mandatory in-person appointments and onerous new paperwork requirements (or ‘death by a thousand paper cuts,’ as one doctor put it).” [News & Observer, [6/22/23](#)]
- **December 2025: Abortion Remained Banned In North Carolina After 12 Weeks Of Pregnancy.** “Abortion is banned after 12 weeks of pregnancy. An executive order shields those seeking or providing abortions in North Carolina from laws in other states.” [New York Times, [12/5/25](#)]

North Carolina

Gestational limit

12 weeks

Abortion is banned after 12 weeks of pregnancy. An executive order shields those seeking or providing abortions in North Carolina from laws in other states.

[New York Times, [12/5/25](#)]

2023: S.B. 20 Criminalized “The Provision Or Advertising Of Abortion-Inducing Drugs In Certain Circumstances. “Part I of S.L. 2023-14, as amended by Part XIII-B and Part XIV of S.L. 2023-65, repeals and replaces the current abortion law in North Carolina. Under the new law, abortion is permitted through the first 12 weeks of pregnancy for any reason, through the 20th week of pregnancy if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, through the 24th week of pregnancy if there is a life-limiting anomaly in the unborn child, and at any time if there is a medical emergency for the pregnant woman. Part I also bifurcates the definition of abortion into surgical and medical abortions and creates new informed consent provisions for both. Finally, Part I criminalizes the provision or advertising of abortion-inducing drugs in certain circumstances, prohibits eugenic abortions, and establishes reporting requirements for abortion. This bill was vetoed by the Governor on May 14, 2023. The veto was overridden by the General Assembly on May 16, 2023. This Part of the act became effective July 1, 2023, and the criminal provisions apply to any offenses committed on or after that date.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [SB 20, 5/4/23](#)]

2025: Under North Carolina’s 12-Week Abortion Ban, Providers Had To Delay Care To Women Experiencing Miscarriage To Avoid Legal Repercussions

July 2025: NC Health News Headline: “Delays, Confusion, Adaptation Mark First Two Years Of NC’s Stricter Abortion Law: Doctors Say Restrictions, Vague Language And Legal Fears Have Led To Some

Delays In Treatment Of Miscarriages And Urgent Pregnancy Complications.” [NC Health News, [7/24/25](#)]

July 2025: North Carolina’s Abortion Law Forced Providers To Delay Care Of Some Pregnant Patients Because Procedures That Were Standard Treatment Became “Banned Practice.” “In the past two years, North Carolina’s stricter abortion law has changed the way Jamila Wade treats a small portion of pregnant patients she sees in the emergency room. They’re clearly losing their pregnancies, but the pregnant patient’s vital signs are still stable. Wade, head of the OB-GYN department at Iredell Memorial Hospital in Statesville, said she’s had to delay care in a few cases because procedures that were standard treatment not that long ago are now banned practice. Distinguishing between the two can be fraught with uncertainty for many providers as they adapt to the new reality.” [NC Health News, [7/24/25](#)]

For Patients That Were Clearly Miscarrying But Were Farther Than 12 Weeks Along, North Carolina’s Abortion Law Required Doctors To Wait Until They Were Experiencing A “Medical Emergency” To Intervene. “In the past two years, North Carolina’s stricter abortion law has changed the way Jamila Wade treats a small portion of pregnant patients she sees in the emergency room. They’re clearly losing their pregnancies, but the pregnant patient’s vital signs are still stable. Wade, head of the OB-GYN department at Iredell Memorial Hospital in Statesville, said she’s had to delay care in a few cases because procedures that were standard treatment not that long ago are now banned practice. Distinguishing between the two can be fraught with uncertainty for many providers as they adapt to the new reality. The treatment for a miscarriage often requires a doctor to empty the uterus to prevent life-threatening infections or hemorrhages for the pregnant patient. If the fetus has not yet died, in effect, this is an abortion. The state’s 2023 law allows for abortions after 12 weeks when a doctor finds there’s a ‘medical emergency’ that requires an ‘immediate abortion...to avert’ the patient’s death — or there’s a serious risk of substantial ‘impairment of a major bodily function.’” [NC Health News, [7/24/25](#)]

2025: A North Carolina OB-GYN Said Her Patient Had To Endure 12 Hours Of Painful Labor To Deliver A Miscarried Pregnancy, And The Doctor Could Not Help Her Due To The Abortion Ban

North Carolina Doctor Jamila Wade Recounted An Instance In Which A Patient Was Forced To Endure Twelve Hours Of Painful Labor To Complete A Non-Viable Miscarriage Due To North Carolina’s Abortion Ban. “In one instance, Wade recalled a patient who had come to the ER who was 18 weeks pregnant and miscarrying. ‘The baby was partly out of the uterus but had not completely delivered, but the baby still had a heartbeat, so we literally could not do anything,’ Wade said. She said the patient’s husband was furious and demanded that she and her staff intervene. ‘He’s like, ‘My wife, she’s in pain.’ And I was like, ‘I know she is in pain. I’m trying as much as I can to control her pain and make this more comfortable for her. But unfortunately, because of the law, I am kind of forced not to act in this situation unless she becomes more unstable,’ Wade said. ‘He just felt helpless for his wife, and he just wanted us to end this process for her.’ Wade said she consulted with hospital administrators and attorneys who agreed with her assessment. It took more than 12 hours for that fetus’s heart to stop beating, she said. Before the law, Wade said she would have given the patient the option to complete the miscarriage earlier by taking medication to hasten the delivery or performing a procedure to empty her uterus. Both are considered abortions. Wade said she’s had to delay care in a few situations like this — not because of confusion about the law, but because of its restrictions. ‘They were frustrating for us because it limited what we do and how we care for our patients,’ Wade said.” [NC Health News, [7/24/25](#)]

The Patient Was 18 Weeks Pregnant And Miscarrying, But Because The Fetus Still Had A Heartbeat, Wade Was Unable To Provide The Patient With The Option To Take Medication To End The Miscarriage. “In one instance, Wade recalled a patient who had come to the ER who was 18 weeks pregnant and miscarrying. ‘The baby was partly out of the uterus but had not completely delivered, but the baby still had a heartbeat, so we literally could not do anything,’ Wade said. She said the patient’s husband was furious and demanded that she and her staff intervene. ‘He’s like, ‘My wife, she’s in pain.’ And I was like, ‘I know she is in pain. I’m trying as much as I can to control her pain and make this more comfortable for her. But unfortunately, because of the law, I am kind of forced not to act in this situation unless she becomes more unstable,’ Wade said. ‘He just felt helpless for his wife, and he just wanted us to end this process for her.’ Wade said she consulted with hospital administrators and attorneys who agreed with her assessment. It took more than 12 hours for that fetus’s heart to stop beating, she said. Before the law, Wade said she would have given the patient the option to complete the miscarriage earlier by taking

medication to hasten the delivery or performing a procedure to empty her uterus. Both are considered abortions. Wade said she's had to delay care in a few situations like this — not because of confusion about the law, but because of its restrictions. 'They were frustrating for us because it limited what we do and how we care for our patients,' Wade said." [NC Health News, [7/24/25](#)]

Wade Said That The Hospital Administrators And Attorneys Agreed With Her Assessment That She Could Not Help The Patient In Ending Her Pregnancy Before The Fetus's Heart Stopped Beating Because Of The State's Abortion Law. "She said the patient's husband was furious and demanded that she and her staff intervene. 'He's like, 'My wife, she's in pain.' And I was like, 'I know she is in pain. I'm trying as much as I can to control her pain and make this more comfortable for her. But unfortunately, because of the law, I am kind of forced not to act in this situation unless she becomes more unstable,' Wade said. 'He just felt helpless for his wife, and he just wanted us to end this process for her.' Wade said she consulted with hospital administrators and attorneys who agreed with her assessment. It took more than 12 hours for that fetus's heart to stop beating, she said. [...] Wade said she's had to delay care in a few situations like this — not because of confusion about the law, but because of its restrictions. 'They were frustrating for us because it limited what we do and how we care for our patients,' Wade said." [NC Health News, [7/24/25](#)]

North Carolina's 12-Week Abortion Ban Drove Reproductive Health Providers To Leave The State

September 2023: News & Observer Headline: "New Abortion Law Drives Out NC's Scarce Supply Of OB-GYNs & Primary Care Doctors." [News & Observer, [9/22/23](#)]

The News & Observer "Interviewed Several Doctors At Different Stages Of Their Careers" Who Planned To Leave North Carolina Due To The State's Abortion Law. "When Teal's maternal-fetal medicine fellowship ended in June, she was offered what would have been a dream job: a faculty position in UNC's Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. She loved her patients and colleagues in North Carolina. She was passionate about her research and had a grant that would fund it for years to come. Her parents lived close enough to Chapel Hill that they could visit their 2-year-old grandson every month. But Teal couldn't help but replay patient conversations in her mind: My recommendation is to terminate your pregnancy, but I can't do that until you get a little sicker. She remembered their faces, staring back in disbelief. She accepted a job in San Diego, where there is no gestational limit on abortion. The News & Observer interviewed several doctors at different stages of their careers — from those in the midst of training to those with well-established medical practices — who plan to take their expertise elsewhere due to the state's new abortion laws." [News & Observer, [9/22/23](#)]

North Carolina's Abortion Ban Threatened The Supply Of OB-GYNs In North Carolina, As Existing Providers Weighed Leaving The State And New Providers Were Dissuaded From Practicing Due To The Law's Restrictions On Their Ability To Practice. "Doctors who care for pregnant women say abortion laws are already impacting patients and physicians. Some worry that if stricter laws go into effect in North Carolina, fewer top-quality doctors will choose to practice in the state. Dr. Beverly Gray is an OB-GYN with Duke Health. She delivers babies and provides pregnancy care and annual exams. She also provides abortions." [CBS17, [2/14/24](#)]

2023: Balkcom Was The Primary Sponsor Of A Bill To Require Doctors To Inform Women About Medically Unsound And Potentially Dangerous So-Called Abortion Pill "Reversals" Before Performing Abortions

April 2023: Balkcom Was The Primary Sponsor Of A Bill Requiring Doctors To Inform Women About The Possibility Of Reversing The Effects Of Abortion Medication Before Administering Medical Abortions

April 2023: Balkcom Was The Primary Sponsored Of H.B. 788, "An Act To Provide Information Related To The Reversal Of Chemical Abortions." In April 2023, Balkcom was the primary sponsor of H.B. 788, "an act to provide information related to the reversal of chemical abortions." [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 788, 4/19/23](#)]

- **H.B. 788 Would Require Physicians To Inform Women At Least 72 Hours Before A Medical Abortion “That It May Be Possible To Reverse Its Intended Effect If The Second Pill Or Tablet Has Not Been Taken Or Administered.”** “No abortion shall be performed upon a woman in this State without her voluntary and informed consent. Except in the case of a medical emergency, consent to an abortion is voluntary and informed only if all of the following conditions are satisfied: ... (2) The physician or qualified professional has informed the woman, either by telephone or in person, of each of the following at least 72 hours before the abortion: That the woman is free to withhold or withdraw her consent to the abortion at any time before or during the abortion without affecting her right to future care or treatment and without the loss of any State or federally funded benefits to which she might otherwise be entitled. g. That it may be possible to reverse the effects of a chemical abortion if the pregnant woman changes her mind, but time is of the essence. If a woman has taken mifepristone as part of a two-drug regimen to terminate her pregnancy, also known as ‘RU-486’ or ‘Mifeprex,’ it may be possible to reverse its intended effect if the second pill or tablet has not been taken or administered. If the woman wishes to continue the pregnancy, she should immediately consult a physician for more information. Information regarding the reversal of a chemical abortion is also available by calling the Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline at 877-558-0333, or visiting <https://www.abortionpillreversal.com/>.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 788](#), [4/18/23](#)]
- **H.B. 788 Would Require Physicians To Tell Women To Call The Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline If They Sought Information Regarding The Reversal Of A Medical Abortion.** “No abortion shall be performed upon a woman in this State without her voluntary and informed consent. Except in the case of a medical emergency, consent to an abortion is voluntary and informed only if all of the following conditions are satisfied: ... (2) The physician or qualified professional has informed the woman, either by telephone or in person, of each of the following at least 72 hours before the abortion: That the woman is free to withhold or withdraw her consent to the abortion at any time before or during the abortion without affecting her right to future care or treatment and without the loss of any State or federally funded benefits to which she might otherwise be entitled. g. That it may be possible to reverse the effects of a chemical abortion if the pregnant woman changes her mind, but time is of the essence. If a woman has taken mifepristone as part of a two-drug regimen to terminate her pregnancy, also known as ‘RU-486’ or ‘Mifeprex,’ it may be possible to reverse its intended effect if the second pill or tablet has not been taken or administered. If the woman wishes to continue the pregnancy, she should immediately consult a physician for more information. Information regarding the reversal of a chemical abortion is also available by calling the Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline at 877-558-0333, or visiting <https://www.abortionpillreversal.com/>.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 788](#), [4/18/23](#)]

So-Called Abortion “Reversal” Treatment Was Not Based On Science And Did Not Meet Clinical Standards

American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists Headline: “Facts Are Important: Medication Abortion ‘Reversal’ Is Not Supported by Science.” [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, accessed [9/9/25](#)]

American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists: “Claims Regarding Abortion ‘Reversal’ Treatment Are Not Based On Science And Do Not Meet Clinical Standards.” “Facts are important, especially when it comes to policies and discussions that impact patients. Claims regarding abortion ‘reversal’ treatment are not based on science and do not meet clinical standards. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) ranks its recommendations on the strength of the evidence and does not support prescribing progesterone to stop a medication abortion. Despite this, in states across the country, politicians are advancing legislation to require physicians to recite a script that a medication abortion can be ‘reversed’ with doses of progesterone, to cause confusion and perpetuate stigma, and to steer women to this unproven medical approach. Unfounded legislative mandates like this one represent dangerous political interference and compromise patient care and safety.” [American College of Obstetricians And Gynecologists, accessed [9/3/25](#)]

American College Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists: “So-Called Abortion ‘Reversal’ Procedures Are Unproven And Unethical.” “So-called abortion ‘reversal’ procedures are unproven and unethical. A 2012 case series reported on six women who took mifepristone and were then administered varying progesterone doses. Four continued their pregnancies. This is not scientific evidence that progesterone resulted in the continuation of those

pregnancies. This study was not supervised by an institutional review board (IRB) or an ethical review committee, required to protect human research subjects, raising serious questions regarding the ethics and scientific validity of the results. Case series with no control groups are among the weakest forms of medical evidence. Subsequent case series used to support use of medication abortion reversal have had similar limitations, including no ethics approval, no control group, under-reporting of data, and no reported safety outcomes. A 2020 study intending to evaluate medication abortion reversal in a controlled, IRB-approved setting was ended early due to safety concerns among the participants.” [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, accessed [9/9/25](#)]

Vox Headline: “Abortion Pill Reversal: An Unproven Treatment Offered By Crisis Pregnancy Centers.”
[Vox, [11/11/19](#)]

According To Reproductive Health Experts, There Was No Evidence Abortion Pill Reversal Treatment Actually Worked To Stop An Abortion From Happening. “‘Even if you’ve taken the abortion pill, you can still change your mind,’ proclaims the website of a group called Alternatives Pregnancy Center. The center offers what it calls ‘abortion pill reversal,’ a treatment it claims can stop a medication abortion that’s already been started. Many organizations around the country are beginning to offer the procedure, and a growing number of states require that patients seeking abortions be told about it. But there’s a problem. ‘All of the evidence that we have so far indicates that this treatment is not effective,’ Daniel Grossman, an OB-GYN and the director of Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health, a research group at the University of California San Francisco, told Vox. Pioneered by an anti-abortion doctor in California, abortion ‘reversal’ involves taking the hormone progesterone after the first dose of abortion medication. However, reproductive health experts, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, say there’s no evidence the procedure actually works to stop an abortion from happening. And, they warn, no one knows what the side effects might be of taking progesterone in an effort to reverse abortion medication. In fact, a University of California Davis study into the effects of abortion ‘reversal’ had to be stopped early due to safety concerns after three patients were rushed to the hospital with severe bleeding, NPR reported on Thursday.” [Vox, [11/11/19](#)]

So-Called Abortion “Reversal” Treatment Was Potentially Dangerous

2019: A Study Designed To Test The Effectiveness Of “Abortion Pill Reversal” Was Stopped Early Because Of Safety Concerns And Resulted In Three Women Transported To The Hospital For Treatment. “A study designed to test the effectiveness of a controversial practice known as ‘abortion pill reversal’ has been stopped early because of safety concerns. Researchers from the University of California, Davis, were investigating claims that the hormone progesterone can stop a medication-based abortion after a patient has completed the first part of the two-step process. For the study, the researchers aimed to enroll 40 women who were scheduled to have surgical abortions. Before their surgical procedures, the women received mifepristone, the first pill in the two-medication regimen that’s used for medical abortions. The women were then randomly assigned to receive either a placebo or progesterone, which advocates claim can block the effects of mifepristone. But researchers stopped the study in July, after only 12 women had enrolled. Three of the women required ambulance transport to a hospital for treatment of severe vaginal bleeding.” [NPR, [12/5/19](#)]

2019: The Medical Director Of The Sole Abortion Clinic In North Dakota Testified “Scientists Thus Do Not Know What Impact, Including Potential Birth Defects, The Administration Of These [Abortion Reversal] Drugs Could Have On The Children.” “North Dakota’s law violates the First Amendment rights of physicians by requiring them to spread false and nonscientific information, according to Molly Duane, a staff attorney for the Center for Reproductive Rights.’ The notion of ‘abortion reversal’ is based on junk science,’ Duane said. ‘This law effectively forces physicians to lie to their patients, and it forces them to violate their medical ethics to do no harm.’ This can compromise the patient-provider relationship, which is built on trust. ‘Physicians need to be able to have the ability — without interference from the state — to provide their patients with accurate information,’ she said. Kathryn Eggleston, the medical director of the state’s last remaining abortion clinic, wrote in an affidavit that she could not ethically recommend the treatment. ‘For one thing, the impact on patients of mifepristone combined with high doses of progesterone is virtually unstudied,’ she wrote in the affidavit obtained by HuffPost. ‘Scientists thus do not know what impact, including potential birth defects, the administration of these drugs could have on the children.’” [Huffington Post, [8/1/19](#)]

2025: Balkcom Was The Primary Sponsor Of A Bill To Create A 72-Hour Waiting Period Before Doctors Could Mail, Provide, Or Supply Abortion Medication

March 2025: Balkcom Was The Primary Sponsor Of A Bill To Create A 72-Hour Waiting Period Before Doctors Could Mail, Provide, Or Supply Abortion Medication

March 2025: Balkcom Was The Primary Sponsor Of H.B. 553, “An Act Revising Abortion-Inducing Drug Laws.” In March 2025, Balkcom was the primary sponsor of H.B. 553, “an act revising abortion-inducing drug laws.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 553](#), [3/27/25](#)]

- **H.B. 553 Would Require Doctors And Drug Manufacturers To Wait 72 Hours After Obtaining A Patient’s Informed Consent Form To Mail, Provide, Or Supply Abortion Medication.** “Current law makes it unlawful for any individual or organization within the State to mail, provide, or supply an abortion-inducing drug directly to a pregnant woman without her proper voluntary, informed consent, in violation of GS 90-21.83A(b)(2)a. It also makes it unlawful for any manufacturer or supplier of an abortion-inducing drug to ship or cause to be shipped any such drug directly to a pregnant woman without her proper voluntary, informed consent, in violation of GS 90-21.83A(b)(2)a. Amends GS 14-44.1 making it unlawful for any individual or organization to mail, provide, or supply an abortion-inducing drug unless all three conditions are satisfied: (1) at least 72 hours before mailing, providing, or supplying the drug, a qualified physician or professional informs the pregnant woman, in person, of the information contained in the consent to a medical abortion form as identified in GS 90-21.83A(b); (2) all informed consent requirements in GS 90-21.83A(b) are satisfied, except GS 90-21.83A(b)(2)b. pertaining to the probable gestational age of the unborn child; and (3) the drug must be FDA approved. Makes it unlawful for any manufacturer or supplier to ship or cause to be shipped any abortion inducing drug unless all three of the conditions above are satisfied.” [North Carolina General Assembly, H.B. 553 Bill Summary, [3/27/25](#)]
- **H.B. 553 Would Criminalize Doctors If They Mailed, Provided, Or Supplied Abortion Medication Without Following The 72-Hour Waiting Period.** “Makes technical change moving the prohibition of a lack of knowledge or intent that the abortion-inducing drug will be administered outside the physical presence of a physician as a defense to the end of the subsection (a) and makes the prohibition applicable to the entire subsection. Amends the punishment for an individual or organization that violates the section to a Class H felony (was, a noncriminal infraction subject to a \$5,000 fine per violation). Adds six new subsections to GS 14-44.1 creating a civil cause of action for relief in court if this section is violated; these subsections (1) explain who can bring a civil action for relief; (2) define the statute of limitations; (3) outline the civil remedies a court can award in addition to any other civil or criminal penalties authorized by law (4) provide a cause of action against a supplier or manufacturer of abortion-inducing drugs allowing additional injunctive relief for a spouse, parent, or guardian of a woman who suffered an alleged violation of the manufacturer/supplier subdivision described above; (5) set out a penalty for frivolous or bad faith civil actions; and (6) requires any foreign nonprofit or business entity that ships, delivers, or procures abortion-inducing drugs to or in the state to have a certificate of authority from the Secretary of State. Effective December 1, 2025 and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.” [North Carolina General Assembly, H.B. 553 Bill Summary, [3/27/25](#)]

Balkcom Said She Supported Banning The Mailing Of Abortion Pills

Balkcom Said The Comstock Act Should Be Enforced To Ban Interstate Transportation Of Abortion-Inducing Drugs. QUESTION: “The Comstock Act, which bans interstate transportation of abortion-inducing drugs, should be enforced.” BALKCOM: “Strongly Agree.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

Guttmacher Institute: Mandated Waiting Periods Before Abortions Were Medically Unnecessary And Caused Delays In Women Seeking Abortion Care

Guttmacher Institute: Mandated Waiting Periods Before Abortions Were Medically Unnecessary And

Conflict With Principles Of Medical Ethics. “Waiting periods are not medically necessary and conflict with the principles of medical ethics. Waiting periods serve no medical purpose; these hurdles are intended to make abortion less accessible. Like all health care providers, abortion providers operate under the principles of medical ethics and are required to obtain informed consent before an abortion procedure. Informed consent counseling should not aim to hinder or discourage patients from receiving care, but rather ensure that patients have the relevant and accurate information needed to make health care decisions. Waiting periods are almost never required for other medical procedures. Imposing them on women seeking abortion is an unnecessary burden and singles out these patients as unable to make informed decisions without the imposition of a state-mandated waiting period.” [Guttmacher Institute, [1/22/20](#)]

Guttmacher Institute: The Overwhelming Majority Of Women Were Confident In Their Decision To Have An Abortion And Mandated Waiting Periods Only Added A Delay Between A Woman’s Decision And Her Procedure. “Women are confident in their decision to have an abortion. Mandated waiting periods only add a delay between a woman’s decision and her procedure. A study of Wisconsin’s 2013 mandatory preabortion ultrasound law found that 93% of women were certain in their decision to obtain an abortion, both before and after the law was implemented. A nationally representative survey of abortion patients conducted in 2008 found that 92% of women reported they had made up their mind to have an abortion prior to making an appointment. According to a study of women seeking abortion at a U.S. clinic in 2008, 99% of abortion patients reported being ‘sure’ or ‘kind of sure’ of their decision to have an abortion, and 98% reported that ‘abortion is a better choice for me at this time than having a baby.’” [Guttmacher Institute, [1/22/20](#)]

Guttmacher Institute: “Waiting Periods Can Contribute To Delays In Obtaining Abortion Care, Which Is Problematic Because Both The Cost And Risk Of An Abortion Increase As The Pregnancy Continues.” “Waiting periods can contribute to delays in obtaining abortion care, which is problematic because both the cost and risk of an abortion increase as the pregnancy continues. An expert panel convened by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine in 2018 found that requiring a waiting period before receiving an abortion may increase both the risk of complications for the patient and cost of the procedure, with no evidence that waiting periods improve abortion safety. In a 2014 nationwide survey of abortion patients, two circumstances were associated with a longer time to appointment and making the appointment more than two weeks before the procedure: exposure to disruptive life events and living in a state with a waiting period. Three studies conducted in Mississippi in the early 1990s found that the state’s mandatory in-person counseling and 24-hour waiting period were associated with a decline in the abortion rate, a rise in abortions obtained out of state and an increase in the proportion of second-trimester abortions.” [Guttmacher Institute, [1/22/20](#)]

When Asked What Changes She Would Support To North Carolina’s Abortion Laws In The Wake Of The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade, Balkcom Said, “I Am Pro-Life And I Will Vote Accordingly If I Am Elected”

2022: When Asked What Changes She Would Support To North Carolina’s Abortion Laws In The Wake Of The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade, Balkcom Said, “I Am Pro-Life And I Will Vote Accordingly If I Am Elected.” “The Dobbs case overturning Roe v. Wade has opened the door for state legislatures to outlaw or impose restrictions on abortion. What changes to North Carolina's laws on abortion if any would you support? Balkcom: I am pro-life and I will vote accordingly if I am elected.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [10/20/22](#)]

2022: When Asked If She Would Support Legislation That Limited Or Prohibited Abortion In North Carolina, Balkcom Said, “I Am Pro-Life And I Will Vote Accordingly If I Am Elected.” “The Times-News is running answers from both candidates in the race for N.C. House of Representatives District 117. The seat is currently held by Republican Tim Moffitt, who is now in the race for N.C. Senate District 48. Republican Jennifer Balkcom is up against Democrat Michael O’Shea. [...] Would you support legislation that limits or prohibits abortion in North Carolina? [Balkcom:] I am pro-life and I will vote accordingly if I am elected.” [BlueRidgeNow, [10/24/22](#)]

Balkcom Said She Strongly Supported Protecting Human Embryos Created Through Artificial Methods, Which Would End IVF Treatment

Balkcom Said She Strongly Supported Protecting Human Embryos Created Through Artificial Methods From Purposeful Destruction. QUESTION: “The lives of human embryos created through artificial methods ought to be protected from purposeful destruction.” BALKCOM: “Strongly Agree.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

- **Balkcom Said She Believed Life Began At Conception.** QUESTION: “Human life deserves legal protection from conception until natural death.” BALKCOM: “Strongly Agree.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

2024: When The Alabama Supreme Court Ruled That Embryos Were Considered Children, IVF Providers Stopped Offering IVF For Fear Of Criminal Liability. “In February, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that embryos should be considered children under state law. IVF providers in the state responded by ceasing to offer services for fear of being held liable if embryos were destroyed. Weeks later, the Alabama government passed a law to exempt IVF providers from criminal prosecution, allowing them to reopen.” [Gallup, [6/13/24](#)]

2025: Balkcom Repeatedly Voted To Defund Planned Parenthood And Restrict It From Participating In Medicaid, Which Would Have Prevented North Carolinians From Receiving Affordable Preventative Health And Reproductive Care

2026: Balkcom Said She Supported Ending Taxpayer Funding For Planned Parenthood

2026: Balkcom Said She Strongly Agreed That Abortion Providers, Including Planned Parenthood, Should Not Receive Taxpayer Funds From Federal, State, Or Local Governments. QUESTION: “Abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, should not receive taxpayer funds from federal, state, or local governments (including Title X grants).” BALKCOM: “Strongly Agree.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

2025: Balkcom Voted To Prohibit Planned Parenthood From Acting As A Medicaid Provider Or Participating In Medicaid

October 2025: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 378, “An Act To Align Medicaid Eligibility With Federal Law.” In October 2025, Balkcom voted for S.B. 378, “an act to align Medicaid eligibility with federal law.” The motion passed 61-47-2-10. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 378](#), [10/22/25](#)]

- **S.B. 378 Would Prohibit Planned Parenthood And Its Associated Entities As Medicaid Providers.** “Requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits to: (1) disenroll Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. (Planned Parenthood), and associated entities as Medicaid providers; (2) discontinue any Medicaid contracts with Planned Parenthood and associated entities; and (3) engage other Medicaid providers to provide Medicaid services previously provided by Planned Parenthood and associated entities.” [North Carolina General Assembly, S.B. 378 Bill Summary, [10/22/25](#)]
- **S.B. 378 Would Prohibit Planned Parenthood And Its Associated Entities From Participating In Medicaid.** “Requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits to: (1) disenroll Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. (Planned Parenthood), and associated entities as Medicaid providers; (2) discontinue any Medicaid contracts with Planned Parenthood and associated entities; and (3) engage other Medicaid providers to provide Medicaid services previously provided by Planned Parenthood and associated entities.” [North Carolina General Assembly, S.B. 378 Bill Summary, [10/22/25](#)]

2025: Balkcom Voted For H.B. 192: Defund Planned Parenthood & Cost Transparency

June 2025: Balkcom Voted For H.B. 192: Defund Planned Parenthood & Cost Transparency. In June 2025,

Balkcom voted for: “The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) of House Bill 192 prohibits Planned Parenthood participation in Medicaid and provides greater fairness in billing and collections practices for hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities.” The bill passed by a vote of 96-17-2-5. [North Carolina General Assembly, [HB 192, 6/25/25](#)]

HB 192 Jeopardized Vital Health Care For North Carolinians, Including Cancer Screenings, STI Testing, And Contraceptive Services

The Assembly NC: Under HB 192, “Planned Parenthood Would Be Removed From The State’s Medicaid Program, Costing It A Key Funding Source.” “Under one bill the Senate passed, Planned Parenthood would be removed from the state’s Medicaid program, costing it a key funding source. Paige Johnson, the group’s regional president and CEO, said the law as enacted would harm the state’s poorest and most medically vulnerable residents. ‘House Bill 192 simply means that cancers will go undetected, STIs will go untreated and people will not be able to get the birth control they need to plan their families and their futures,’ Johnson said. ‘And this will be on you.’” [The Assembly NC, [9/22/25](#)]

Planned Parenthood South Atlantic CEO And President: “House Bill 192 Simply Means That Cancers Will Go Undetected, STIs Will Go Untreated, And People Will Not Be Able To Get The Birth Control They Need To Plan Their Families And Their Futures.” “Paige Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, told lawmakers during a public comment period that ‘this bill is about playing politics.’ ‘North Carolinians who depend on Medicaid will lose access to affordable reproductive health care, including access to birth control, cancer screenings and treatment for STIs,’ Johnson said. ‘House Bill 192 simply means that cancers will go undetected, STIs will go untreated, and people will not be able to get the birth control they need to plan their families and their futures. And this will be on you.’” [News Observer, [9/23/25](#)]

- **CNN: “The Vast Majority” Of Federal Funds Received By Planned Parenthood Went Toward Preventative Health Care, Pregnancy Tests, Birth Control, And Other Women’s Health Services.** “The vast majority of federal money that Planned Parenthood does receive goes toward preventive health care, birth control, pregnancy tests and other women's health services.” [CNN, [8/1/17](#)]
- **February 2021: Planned Parenthood Reported Only 25 Percent Of Their Services Were Contraceptive Services.** [Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood by the numbers, Updated February [2021](#)]
- **February 2021: 85 Percent Of Planned Parenthood’s Patients Were 20 Years Or Older And Nearly 70 Percent Had Income At Or Below 150 Percent Of Poverty.** According to Planned Parenthood, 85 percent of their patients were 20 years or older and 70 percent of had income at or below 150 percent of poverty. [Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood by the numbers, Updated February [2021](#)]

Balkcom Was Endorsed By Extreme Anti-Abortion Groups North Carolina Right To Life And NC Values Coalition
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2026: Balkcom Said She Was Endorsed By North Carolina Right To Life, An Extreme Anti-Abortion Group Which Sought To Ban Abortion Without Exceptions And Whose National Affiliate Argued A 10-Year-Old Rape Victim Should Have To Give Birth

2026: Balkcom Said She Was Endorsed By North Carolina Right To Life

In Her 2026 Ballotpedia Candidate Connection Survey, Balkcom Said She Was Endorsed By North Carolina Right To Life. QUESTION: “What organizations or individuals have endorsed your campaign?” BALKCOM: “NC Values, National Rifle Association, Americans for Prosperity, National Federation of Independent Business, Stand For Health Freedom, North Carolina Grassroots Government PAC, North Carolina Property Rights Fund, North Carolina Property Rights Fund, Convention of States NC, and North Carolina Right to Life.” [Ballotpedia, Jennifer Balkcom 2026 Candidate Connection, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

What organizations or individuals have endorsed your campaign? ▾

NC Values, National Rifle Association, Americans for Prosperity, National Federation of Independent Business, Stand For Health Freedom, North Carolina Grassroots Government PAC, North Carolina Property Rights Fund, North Carolina Property Rights Fund, Convention of States NC, and North Carolina Right to Life ▴

[Ballotpedia, Jennifer Balkcom 2026 Candidate Connection, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

North Carolina Right To Life Held The Position That “The Life Of Every Human Being Begins At The Moment Of Fertilization”

North Carolina Right To Life Held The Position That “The Life Of Every Human Being Begins At The Moment Of Fertilization.” “Our lives all began, of course, long before our births. Not open to dispute is the scientific fact that the life of every human being begins at the moment of fertilization.” [North Carolina Right To Life, accessed [11/12/25](#)]



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Right To Life

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2023: A North Carolina Right To Life Spokesperson Said SB 20, A Bill That Banned Abortion After 12 Weeks With Narrow Exceptions That The Group Helped Craft, Did Not Go Far Enough To End Abortion

2023: A North Carolina Right To Life Spokesperson Said That Despite The “Victory” Of Banning Abortion After 12 Weeks, There Was Still “A Long Way To Go.” “CWR: With abortion back at the state level post-Dobbs, what does the pro-life political landscape of North Carolina look like today? Sonnen: Despite last May’s victory of the Care for Women, Children and Families Act in the NC General Assembly, we still have a very long way to go. Considering that over 90% of abortions occur prior to 12 weeks, the new legal limit allowing abortions in North Carolina with exceptions, there are too few babies being saved for us or any pro-life legislators to sit back. We must continue to educate both the public and those in office and remain steadfast in ensuring even more protections for the unborn.” [Catholic World Report, [9/25/23](#)]

- **2023: A North Carolina Right To Life Spokesperson: Said That North Carolina’s Abortion Ban Did Not Go Far Enough Considering That Over 90% Of Abortions Occur Prior To 12 Weeks.** “CWR: With abortion back at the state level post-Dobbs, what does the pro-life political landscape of North Carolina look

like today? Sonnen: Despite last May’s victory of the Care for Women, Children and Families Act in the NC General Assembly, we still have a very long way to go. Considering that over 90% of abortions occur prior to 12 weeks, the new legal limit allowing abortions in North Carolina with exceptions, there are too few babies being saved for us or any pro-life legislators to sit back. We must continue to educate both the public and those in office and remain steadfast in ensuring even more protections for the unborn.” [Catholic World Report, [9/25/23](#)]

- **Catholic World Report: North Carolina Right To Life Helped Craft SB 20, Which Banned Abortion After 12 Weeks In North Carolina With Narrow Exceptions.** “Natalie Sonnen: Over the years, one of NCRTL’s primary responsibility has been to ensure the passage of pro-life legislation on both the state and federal levels. To this end, NCRTL has lobbied at the North Carolina General Assembly to make legislators aware of our positions on various bills and to provide accurate information as to why we support or oppose a bill. [...] We also helped to put in place the Parental Consent for Abortion legislation, and just recently, we had our President, Dr. Bill Pincus at the legislature daily, helping our lawmakers craft our most recent win, the Care for Women, Children and Families Act. We also helped bolster politicians to stay steadfast in the wake of the Governor Roy Cooper’s veto of the recent Act and were successful in the override of his veto.” [Catholic World Report, [9/25/23](#)]

North Carolina Right To Life Was The State Affiliate Of National Right To Life, An Extreme Anti-Abortion Group With The Goal Of Banning Abortion Nationwide Without Exceptions

North Carolina Right To Life Was The State Affiliate Of National Right To Life. [National Right to Life, “State Affiliates,” accessed [11/12/25](#)]



- **National Right To Life Was One Of The Nation’s Oldest Anti-Abortion Groups, And Had A Federation Of State Right-To-Life Affiliates.** “Founded in 1968, National Right to Life is the nation’s oldest and largest pro-life organization. National Right to Life is the federation of 50 state right-to-life affiliates, the District of Columbia and more than 3,000 local chapters. Through education and legislation, National Right to Life works to restore legal protection to the most defenseless members of our society who are threatened by abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia.” [National Right to Life, “About NRLC,” accessed [11/12/25](#)]
- **National Right To Life Said Its Legislative Efforts And Those Of Its State Affiliates Were “One Of The Keys To Ending Abortion In The United States.”** “Now, on this 48th anniversary of the Court’s action, we pause to look at the state of abortion in the United States. From recent data analyzed in these pages, we know the annual number of abortions is in an overall decline. This drop in numbers can be traced to a number of factors, but among them are the efforts by National Right to Life and its network of state affiliates to enact protective laws that provide legal protection to unborn children and offer hope and help to their mothers. These legislative efforts are at the very heart of our work, and they are one of the keys to ending abortion in the United States.” [National Right To Life, [January 2021](#)]

- **National Right To Life Promoted Model Legislation That Banned Abortion Without Exceptions For Rape Or Incest.** “The 10-year-old Ohio girl who crossed state lines to receive an abortion in Indiana should have carried her pregnancy to term and would be required to do so under a model law written for state legislatures considering more restrictive abortion measures, according to the general counsel for the National Right to Life. Jim Bopp, an Indiana lawyer who authored the model legislation in advance of the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade, told POLITICO on Thursday that his law only provides exceptions when the pregnant person’s life is in danger. [...] ‘Unless her life was at danger, there is no exception for rape,’ Bopp said. ‘The bill does propose exceptions for rape and incest, in my model, because that is a pro-life position, but it’s not our ideal position. We don’t think, as heartwrenching as those circumstances are, we don’t think we should devalue the life of the baby because of the sins of the father.’” [Politico, [7/14/22](#)]

2022: NRLC Leadership: 10-Year-Old Rape Survivor Should Have Been Required To Give Birth

2022: NRLC Leadership: 10-Year-Old Rape Survivor Should Have Been Required To Give Birth. “Jim Bopp, an Indiana lawyer who authored the model legislation in advance of the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade, told POLITICO on Thursday that his law only provides exceptions when the pregnant person’s life is in danger. ‘She would have had the baby, and as many women who have had babies as a result of rape, we would hope that she would understand the reason and ultimately the benefit of having the child,’ Bopp said in a phone interview on Thursday. The story of the 10-year old rape victim forced to leave her home state to terminate a pregnancy has sparked a national conversation over the consequences of the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and how far some states are willing to go to prohibit abortions.” [Politico, [7/14/22](#)]

Balkcom Touted The Endorsement Of And Received An Award From Extreme Anti-Abortion Group N.C. Values Coalition Which Advocated For A “Heartbeat Act” And Said North Carolina Needed Even Stricter Abortion Laws

November 2025: Balkcom Touted The Endorsement Of N.C. Values Coalition

November 2025: Balkcom Thanked NC Values For Their Endorsement And Said She Was “Honored” To Stand With Them “In This Important Work.” BALKCOM: “Thank you to NC Values for your endorsement and for your unwavering commitment to protecting families, children, and parental rights across North Carolina. I’m honored to stand with you in this important work.” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [11/12/25](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [11/12/25](#)]

N.C. Values Coalition Praised Balkcom In Their Endorsement Message For Her Work “To Stop Illegal Mail-Order Abortions.” “NC Values has endorsed Rep. Jennifer Balkcom for re-election to House District 117: ‘We are endorsing Rep. Jennifer Balkcom for re-election to the NC House because of her steadfast commitment to advancing family values in our state,’ said Executive Director Tami Fitzgerald. ‘This year Rep. Balkcom was a leader in the successful effort to pass legislation that protects girls in sleeping quarters on public school field trips, prevents sexual exploitation of women and children, and ensures that parents cannot lose custody of their children simply for raising them according to their biological sex. She also fought for parents to have the right to consent for all medical decisions for their children and to stop illegal mail-order abortions. We’ve worked

with Rep. Balkcom for three impactful years, and she is a powerful voice for women, children, and families in the NC House.’” [Facebook, NC Values, [11/12/25](#)]



[NC Values, Facebook, [11/12/25](#)]

2023: Balkcom Was Named One Of Two NC Values Legislators Of The Year

2023: Balkcom Was Named One Of Two NC Values Legislators Of The Year. “As a new legislator, I didn't know what to expect at the general assembly. I knew I wanted to hit the ground running. I wanted to make a difference. I was honored to be chosen as one of the NC Values Legislators of the Year with Rep. Neal Jackson for NC House and others. I am grateful for the team members at NC Values and what they are doing in our state. I was able to see Payton McNabb and Riley Gaines. #ncpol #ncga #afriendofthefamily#ncvalues #hendersoncountync #nchouse117” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [10/4/23](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [10/4/23](#)]

N.C. Values Coalition Was An Extreme Anti-Abortion Group That Advocated For A “Heartbeat Act,” An Even Harsher Anti-Abortion Law Than North Carolina’s 12-Week Ban

N.C. Values Coalition Was An Extreme Anti-Abortion Group That Advocated For An Even Harsher Anti-Abortion Law Than North Carolina’s 12-Week Ban. “Today marks the second anniversary of the monumental Dobbs v. Jackson decision, which reversed Roe v. Wade and left it up to elected representatives of the people to decide their own pro-life protections. We wanted to give you an overview of what has happened since then and what the future of life may look like. In response to Dobbs’ undoing of Roe, a number of states passed pro-life protections, including our own. While NC Values championed more conservative pro-life positions, North Carolina ultimately passed legislation that limited abortion to the 12th gestational week. Our goal is to join other southern states who already protect unborn babies throughout pregnancy; however, North Carolina saw over 3,346 precious unborn babies’ lives saved as a result of passing SB20, the ‘Care for Women, Children, and Families Act,’ last year. It was desperately needed, as North Carolina was becoming the abortion destination of the South (even at one point leading all states in its increase in abortions).” [NC Values Coalition, [6/24/24](#)]

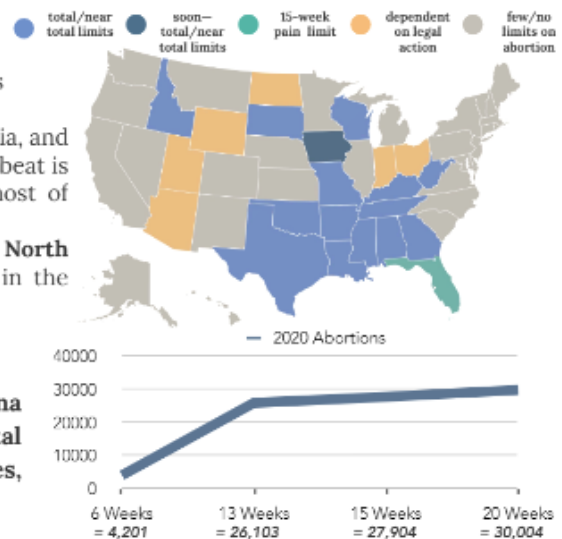
N.C. Values Coalition: “Only A Heartbeat Act” Would “Significantly Save Unborn Babies.” [NC Values

Coalition, accessed [11/13/25](#)]

North Carolina has become a destination state for abortion.

- Despite the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, North Carolina law allows abortion up to **20 weeks**.¹
- Every southern state, with the exception of South Carolina, Virginia, and Florida, has either limited abortion at conception or when a heartbeat is detected. Currently, 21 states have enacted such laws, and most of these state laws are in effect.²
- Since the *Dobbs* decision in June, abortions have **increased in North Carolina by 37%**, reportedly the largest increase of any state in the nation.³
- Women are pouring into our state to receive abortions.

Currently, over 30,000 abortions take place in North Carolina each year.⁴ Only a Heartbeat Act, which protects life after a fetal heartbeat is detected, will significantly save unborn babies, because most abortions take place before 12 weeks:



NPR: Most Women Do Not Know They Are Pregnant At Six Weeks, When Fetal Cardiac Activity Can Become Detectable. “The term ‘fetal heartbeat,’ as used in the anti-abortion law in Texas, is misleading and not based on science, say physicians who specialize in reproductive health. What the ultrasound machine detects in an embryo at six weeks of pregnancy is actually just electrical activity from cells that aren't yet a heart. [...] In reality, it would be really hard for a woman to know she's pregnant before the point at which cardiac activity would be detectable by an ultrasound. She would have to be tracking her periods carefully, have regular periods, notice her period was late and then be able to quickly get an appointment with her doctor to confirm a pregnancy.” [NPR, [9/2/21](#)]

Balkcom Led The Diversion Of Hundreds Of Millions Of Taxpayer Dollars From Public Schools To Fund Private School Tuition For North Carolina's Wealthiest Families And Supported Eliminating The Department Of Education

2023: Balkcom Repeatedly Voted To Expand North Carolina's School Voucher Program, Taking Away Hundreds Of Millions Of Taxpayer Dollars From Public Schools To Fund Private School Tuition For North Carolina's Wealthiest Families

2023: Balkcom Cosponsored And Voted For H.B. 823, Which Would Provide An Additional \$463.5 Million In Private School Voucher Funding In The 2024-2025 And 2026-2027 School Years

April 2023: Balkcom Cosponsored H.B. 823, “An Act To Provide Additional Funds For The Opportunity Scholarship Program And For The North Carolina Personal Education Student Accounts For Children With Disabilities Program.” In April 2023, Balkcom cosponsored H.B. 823, “an act to provide additional funds for the Opportunity Scholarship program and for the North Carolina Personal Education Student Accounts for Children with Disabilities program.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 823, 4/18/23](#)]

May 2023: Balkcom Voted For H.B. 823, “An Act To Provide Additional Funds For The Opportunity Scholarship Program And For The North Carolina Personal Education Student Accounts For Children With Disabilities Program.” In May 2023, Balkcom cosponsored H.B. 823, “an act to provide additional funds for the Opportunity Scholarship program and for the North Carolina Personal Education Student Accounts for Children with Disabilities program.” The motion passed by a vote of 65-45-1-9. In May 2024, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 823, 5/17/23](#)]

- **2024: H.B. 823 Would Provide An Additional \$463.5 Million In Private School Voucher Funding Over**

The Next Two Years. “North Carolina Republican lawmakers are fast-tracking legislation that will allow tens of thousands of additional students to get taxpayer funding to cover the cost of attending a private school this fall. The state Senate voted 28-15 on Thursday to approve a bill that provides an additional \$463.5 million in private school voucher funding over the next two years. GOP lawmakers said the additional money is needed to ensure that all of the 72,000 new applicants for an Opportunity Scholarship get access to a voucher this year. The floor vote came one day after the revised bill was introduced and approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. House Bill 823 now goes to the House, where House Speaker Tim Moore has already said they’ll back an increase in voucher funding this year.” [News & Observer, [5/2/24](#)]

- **Daily Advance Editorial Board: H.B. 823, North Carolina Republicans’ Proposed Legislation To Expand The State’s Voucher Program For Private Education, Was “Nothing More Than An Effort To Defund The Public Schools.”** “It is not a smear, however, to point out what Republicans in a number of states, including now North Carolina, are trying to do to public education. Their proposed legislation to expand the state’s voucher system for private education, Senate Bill 406 and House Bill 823, is nothing more than an effort to defund the public schools.” [The Daily Advance, Editorial, [6/17/23](#)]

2023: Balkcom Voted For The Expand State’s Voucher Program To The North Carolina’s Wealthiest Families Beginning In The 2024-2025 School Year And Eliminated The Prior Public School Enrollment Requirement

September 2023: Balkcom Voted For H.B. 259, “An Act To Make Base Budget Appropriations For Current Operations Of State Agencies, Departments, And Institutions.” In September 2023, Balkcom voted for H.B. 259, “an act to make base budget appropriations for current operations of state agencies, departments, and institutions.” The motion passed by a vote of 70-40-0-10. The bill became law without the Governor’s signature. [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 259, 9/22/23](#)]

- **Beginning In The 2024-2025 School Year, H.B. 259 Removed Income Caps For Families To Be Eligible For The Opportunity Scholarship Program.** “On October 3, 2023, the North Carolina State Budget (House Bill 259) became law. The new law authorizes several changes to the State’s Opportunity Scholarship Program, which will begin with the 2024-2025 school year. Changes for the 2024-2025 school year include: Removal of the income cap for families to receive the scholarship; now all North Carolina students in kindergarten through 12th grade will be eligible for the Scholarship regardless of income. Prior public school enrollment is no longer a requirement for eligibility for the scholarship. A student’s scholarship amount will be based on household income. Scholarship amounts will range from approximately \$3,000 to approximately \$7,000. The Opportunity Scholarship application for the 2024-2025 school year will open on February 1, 2024. Families should apply by March 1st. More information about the application process will be available on the program website in January.” [North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, [10/3/23](#)]
- **Beginning In The 2024-2025 School Year, H.B. 59 Removed The Prior Public School Enrollment Requirement For Eligibility For The Opportunity Scholarship Program.** “On October 3, 2023, the North Carolina State Budget (House Bill 259) became law. The new law authorizes several changes to the State’s Opportunity Scholarship Program, which will begin with the 2024-2025 school year. Changes for the 2024-2025 school year include: Removal of the income cap for families to receive the scholarship; now all North Carolina students in kindergarten through 12th grade will be eligible for the Scholarship regardless of income. Prior public school enrollment is no longer a requirement for eligibility for the scholarship. A student’s scholarship amount will be based on household income. Scholarship amounts will range from approximately \$3,000 to approximately \$7,000. The Opportunity Scholarship application for the 2024-2025 school year will open on February 1, 2024. Families should apply by March 1st. More information about the application process will be available on the program website in January.” [North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, [10/3/23](#)]
- **Office Of North Carolina Governor: The Opportunity Scholarship Program Was The State’s K-12 Private School Voucher Program.** “In 2023, the General Assembly dramatically expanded the Opportunity Scholarship program - the state’s K-12 private school voucher program and eliminated an income cap -

diverting \$4 billion in taxpayer money over the next ten years to pay for wealthy people to send their kids to unregulated and unaccountable private schools.” [Office Of North Carolina Governor, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

- **2024: North Carolina Passed A “Universal School Choice Program” Via The Opportunity Scholarship Program Allowing All Families To Apply For A Voucher To Attend A Public Or Charter School Regardless Of Income.** “School Choice refers to using public scholarships or vouchers to support students attending private or charter schools. This allows parents to have alternative options rather than the traditional public school based on their residence. In 2024, NC passed a universal school choice program, joining nine other states in expanding this program to all K-12 students via the ‘Opportunity Scholarship Program’. This program focuses on helping families pay for tuition and fees for private schools by allowing any family to apply for a voucher regardless of income. This effectively removes students and taxpayer money that would be going to our public schools, and sends them to independent schools, not subject to the same requirements for quality or oversight. As a result of voucher programs, traditional public schools are struggling with enrollment and retention nationwide. In North Carolina, the rollout of opportunity vouchers at the state level is projected to result in a decrease in public school enrollment over the next five years. As enrollment declines continue, some schools could face closures, primarily impacting rural and low-income areas.” [Carolina Forward, [10/20/25](#)]

2024: Balkcom Voted For H.B. 10, Which Increased Funding For Private School Vouchers To \$625 Million In FY 2025-2025 And Set Automatic Annual Funding Increases Through FY 2032-2033 And Beyond

September 2024: Balkcom Voted For H.B. 10, “An Act To Require Compliance With Immigration Detainers And Administrative Warrants; To Require Certain Reports From Local Law Enforcement; And To Make Various Changes In The Budget Operations Of The State.” In September 2024, Balkcom voted for H.B. 10, “an act to require compliance with immigration detainers and administrative warrants; to require certain reports from local law enforcement; and to make various changes in the budget operations of the state.” The motion passed by a vote of 67-43-0-8. [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 10, 9/11/24](#)]

- **H.B. 10 Allocated Additional Funding For Private School Vouchers, Increasing Funding For The Opportunity Scholarship Program To \$625 Million In FY 2025-2026.** “Members of the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) voted this week to override the Governor’s veto of House Bill 10 and pass into law nearly half a billion dollars in new funding for NC’s Opportunity Scholarship Program, commonly known as ‘private school vouchers.’ HB 10, which became Session Law 2024-55 on Wednesday, Nov. 20, provides \$463.46 million in additional funding for private school vouchers just this year, which will be made retroactive to the July 1, 2024 start of FY 2024-2025, as outlined in greater detail here by NCGA legislative staff. The new law also increases next year’s funding for the program to \$625 million (previously \$415.54 million), which will continue to automatically increase each year until reaching \$825 million in FY 2032-33 and thereafter.” [North Carolina Association of School Administrators, [11/21/24](#)]
- **Under H.B. 10, Funding For Private School Vouchers Continued To Automatically Increase Each Year Until Reaching \$825 Million In FY 2032-2033 And Thereafter.** “Members of the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) voted this week to override the Governor’s veto of House Bill 10 and pass into law nearly half a billion dollars in new funding for NC’s Opportunity Scholarship Program, commonly known as ‘private school vouchers.’ HB 10, which became Session Law 2024-55 on Wednesday, Nov. 20, provides \$463.46 million in additional funding for private school vouchers just this year, which will be made retroactive to the July 1, 2024 start of FY 2024-2025, as outlined in greater detail here by NCGA legislative staff. The new law also increases next year’s funding for the program to \$625 million (previously \$415.54 million), which will continue to automatically increase each year until reaching \$825 million in FY 2032-33 and thereafter.” [North Carolina Association of School Administrators, [11/21/24](#)]
- **After The Republican-Controlled Legislature Voted In 2023 To Eliminate Income Requirements For The State’s Voucher Program, Applications Increased Six-Fold The Following School Year; Lawmakers Later Voted Along Party Lines On Additional Funding To Cover The Surge In Applicants.** “On a party-line 28-15 vote, the majority-Republican Senate agreed to spend the money. Almost all of it will cover a surge in demand for Opportunity Scholarship grants since the GOP-dominated legislature agreed last fall to eliminate

family income limits to receive a grant. [...] The end of income caps to qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship program and the repeal of another eligibility requirement led to a six-fold increase in new applications for the coming school year. Nearly 55,000 children who qualified for the program this fall won't otherwise be able to access funds unless more money is appropriated.” [WUNC, [5/2/24](#)]

- **Queen City News Headline: “NC Private School Vouchers More Than Double After Lawmakers Remove Income Limits.”** [Queen City News, [3/16/25](#)]

2024: Governor Cooper Vetoed H.B. 10, Saying “All Public Schools Will Be Hurt By The Legislature Wasting Its Planned \$4 Billion Of The Public’s Money Over The Next Decade” To Let Wealthy Families Receive Taxpayer-Funded Vouchers To Pay For Private School

September 2024: Governor Roy Cooper Vetoed H.B. 10, Saying “All Public Schools Will Be Hurt By The Legislature Wasting Its Planned \$4 Billion Of The Public’s Money Over The Next Decade With Rural Public Schools Being Hurt The Worst.” “This bill takes public taxpayer dollars from the public schools and give it to private school vouchers that will be used by wealthy families. Studies show that private school vouchers do not improve student performance, but we won’t know with North Carolina’s voucher scheme because it has the least accountability in the country. All public schools will be hurt by the legislature wasting its planned \$4 billion of the public’s money over the next decade with rural public schools being hurt the worst. This money should be used to improve our public schools by raising teacher pay and investing in public school students.” [Governor Roy Cooper, [9/20/24](#)]

September 2024: Governor Roy Cooper: The State Legislature Took “Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars Out Of The Public Schools” In Order To Give It To Private School Vouchers “Even For The Wealthiest North Carolinians.” “Rural North Carolina’s public schools will suffer because of the state Legislature’s decision this week to spend more tax dollars extending private school vouchers to an additional 55,000 students, Gov. Roy Cooper said this week. ‘The Legislature wants to take hundreds of millions of dollars out of the public schools and give it to private school vouchers, even for the wealthiest North Carolinians,’ Cooper said Wednesday during a phone interview with The Daily Advance. ‘That’s going to be devastating for education across the board.’ Cooper was referring to the Republican-led General Assembly’s approval this week to add up to \$625 million in new funding this year to support Opportunity Scholarships, otherwise known as school vouchers.” [Daily Advance, [9/13/24](#)]

November 2024: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor’s Veto And Said Of Her Continued Votes To Allocate Hundreds Of Millions Of Taxpayer Dollars To Private School Vouchers, “I Support School Choice, Including Public Charter Schools And Private School Vouchers”

November 2024: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor’s Veto Of H.B. 10, “An Act To Require Compliance With Immigration Detainers And Administrative Warrants; To Require Certain Reports From Local Law Enforcement; And To Make Various Changes In The Budget Operations Of The State.” In November 2024, Balkcom voted to override the Governor’s veto of H.B. 10, “an act to require compliance with immigration detainers and administrative warrants; to require certain reports from local law enforcement; and to make various changes in the budget operations of the state.” The motion passed by a vote of 72-44-0-4 and the bill became law. [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.B. 10](#), [11/19/24](#)]

October 2024: When Asked If She Supported The Appropriation Of \$794 Million For Private School Vouchers Since 2023, Balkcom Said, “I Support School Choice, Including Public Charter Schools And Private School Vouchers.” “The Legislature has appropriated \$794 million for private school vouchers since 2023. Do you support this spending? Why or why not? Balkcom: Like the overwhelming majorities of likely voters in North Carolina, I support school choice, including public charter schools and private school vouchers. All children, regardless of their family’s income, should have access to the best possible education.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [10/20/24](#)]

North Carolina's Universal Voucher Program Stripped Money From Public Schools, Risking The Closure Of Schools In Rural Areas

Carolina Forward: The Voucher Program Was Projected To Decrease Public School Enrollment, Which Could Force Some Public Schools, Particularly In Rural Areas, To Close. “In 2024, NC passed a universal school choice program, joining nine other states in expanding this program to all K-12 students via the ‘Opportunity Scholarship Program.’ This program focuses on helping families pay for tuition and fees for private schools by allowing any family to apply for a voucher regardless of income. This effectively removes students and taxpayer money that would be going to our public schools, and sends them to independent schools, not subject to the same requirements for quality or oversight. As a result of voucher programs, traditional public schools are struggling with enrollment and retention nationwide. In North Carolina, the rollout of opportunity vouchers at the state level is projected to result in a decrease in public school enrollment over the next five years. As enrollment declines continue, some schools could face closures, primarily impacting rural and low-income areas.” [Carolina Forward, [10/20/25](#)]

2024: Balkcom Said It Was A “Myth” That The North Carolina’s Private School Voucher Program Took Resources From Public Schools

Balkcom Said It Was A “Myth” That The North Carolina’s Private School Voucher Program Took Resources From Public Schools Because It Was “Funded Through A Distinct Section Of The State Budget.” “Myth: Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) takes taxpayer dollars from public schools and redirects them to private school. Truth: The Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) does not take funding away from public schools. The OSP budget is entirely separate from the public school budget. OSP funding is managed through the UNC portion of the state budget, whereas public school funding is allocated via the Department of Public Instruction. In summary, OSP does not divert resources from public schools because it is funded through a distinct section of the state budget. TRUTH: Simply put, the state saves money when a student leaves the public school system and uses a voucher to attend a private school. Current law ensures these savings are reinvested into public schools, even if the student is no longer enrolled. Explanation: ‘Hold Harmless’ Provision: In 2023, the General Assembly included a provision in state law (Section 7.82 of the 2023 Appropriation Act) stating: ‘It is the intent of the General Assembly to reinvest in the public schools any savings realized by the State each year, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.’ Savings to the State: The average Opportunity Scholarship award is less than the per-pupil spending for public school students. (2023: \$12,492) When a student opts for a private school voucher, the state incurs lower costs, resulting in savings. Reinvestment Requirement: The Department of Public Instruction is tasked with calculating these savings, which are then reinvested into the public school system to benefit students who remain in public schools. Bottom Line: Opportunity Scholarships do not take money away from public schools. Instead, they generate savings that the state has committed to reinvest in public education starting in the 2025-2026 school year.” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [11/21/24](#)]



Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117

November 21, 2024 · 🌐

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Myth: Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) takes taxpayer dollars from public schools and redirects them to private school.

Truth: The Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) does not take funding away from public schools.

The OSP budget is entirely separate from the public school budget.

OSP funding is managed through the UNC portion of the state budget, whereas public school funding is allocated via the Department of Public Instruction.

In summary, OSP does not divert resources from public schools because it is funded through a distinct section of the state budget.

TRUTH:

Simply put, the state saves money when a student leaves the public school system and uses a voucher to attend a private school. Current law ensures these savings are reinvested into public schools, even if the student is no longer enrolled.

Explanation:

"Hold Harmless" Provision: In 2023, the General Assembly included a provision in state law (Section 7.82 of the 2023 Appropriation Act) stating:

"It is the intent of the General Assembly to reinvest in the public schools any savings realized by the State each year, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year."

Savings to the State:

The average Opportunity Scholarship award is less than the per-pupil spending for public school students. (2023: \$12,492)

When a student opts for a private school voucher, the state incurs lower costs, resulting in savings.

Reinvestment Requirement: The Department of Public Instruction is tasked with calculating these savings, which are then reinvested into the public school system to benefit students who remain in public schools.

Bottom Line:

Opportunity Scholarships do not take money away from public schools. Instead, they generate savings that the state has committed to reinvest in public education starting in the 2025-2026 school year. **See less**

[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [11/21/24](#)]

2024: Balkcom Told A Constituent "Shame On You!" For Pushing Back On School Vouchers For Private Schools. PHYLLIS BAYLES: "Well be accountable for this....2024-25 school year, there are no income-eligibility requirements for private school. Yet NC Public Schools are doing without. Lots of public schools in rural NC small towns. Shame on you!" BALKCOM: "Phyllis Bayles You are mistaken there are requirements for private schools. Everyone, every school deserves the opportunity. Each child has individual needs. They deserves the best opportunity possible no matter what school they attend. Shame on you!" [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [8/2/24](#)]



Phyllis Bayles · 1y

Well be accountable for this....2024-25 school year, there are no income-eligibility requirements for private school. Yet NC Public Schools are doing without. Lots of public schools in rural NC small towns. Shame on you!

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Reply



Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117 · 1y · 🇺🇸 Author

Phyllis Bayles You are mistaken there are requirements for private schools.

Everyone, every school deserves the opportunity. Each child has individual needs.

They deserves the best opportunity possible no matter what school they attend.

Shame on you!

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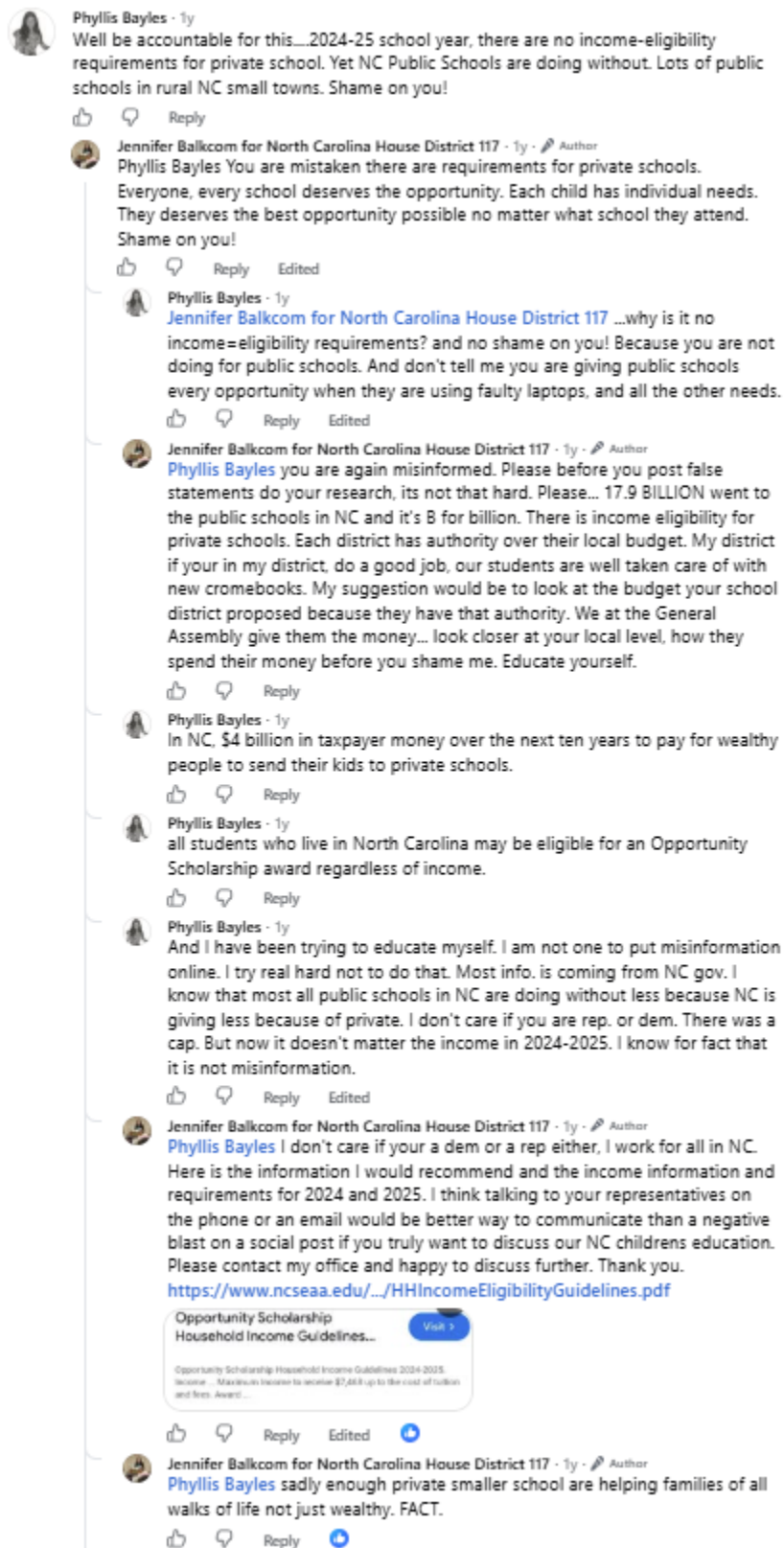
Reply

Edited

[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [8/2/24](#)]

2024: Balkcom Got Into An Extended And Heated Argument With A Facebook Commenter Where She Repeatedly Asserted That School Choice Vouchers Did Not Take Money Away From Public Schools.

PHYLLIS BAYLES: "Well be accountable for this....2024-25 school year, there are no income-eligibility requirements for private school. Yet NC Public Schools are doing without. Lots of public schools in rural NC small towns. Shame on you!" BALKCOM: "Phyllis Bayles You are mistaken there are requirements for private schools. Everyone, every school deserves the opportunity. Each child has individual needs. They deserves the best opportunity possible no matter what school they attend. Shame on you!" BAYLES: "Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117 ...why is it no income=eligibility requirements? and no shame on you! Because you are not doing for public schools. And don't tell me you are giving public schools every opportunity when they are using faulty laptops, and all the other needs." BALKCOM: "Phyllis Bayles you are again misinformed. Please before you post false statements do your research, its not that hard. Please... 17.9 BILLION went to the public schools in NC and it's B for billion. There is income eligibility for private schools. Each district has authority over their local budget. My district if your in my district, do a good job, our students are well taken care of with new cromebooks. My suggestion would be to look at the budget your school district proposed because they have that authority. We at the General Assembly give them the money... look closer at your local level, how they spend their money before you shame me. Educate yourself." BAYLES: "In NC, \$4 billion in taxpayer money over the next ten years to pay for wealthy people to send their kids to private schools. [...] all students who live in North Carolina may be eligible for an Opportunity Scholarship award regardless of income. [...] And I have been trying to educate myself. I am not one to put misinformation online. I try real hard not to do that. Most info. is coming from NC gov. I know that most all public schools in NC are doing without less because NC is giving less because of private. I don't care if you are rep. or dem. There was a cap. But now it doesn't matter the income in 2024-2025. I know for fact that it is not misinformation." BALKCOM: "Phyllis Bayles I don't care if your a dem or a rep either, I work for all in NC. Here is the information I would recommend and the income information and requirements for 2024 and 2025. I think talking to your representatives on the phone or an email would be better way to communicate than a negative blast on a social post if you truly want to discuss our NC childrens education. Please contact my office and happy to discuss further. Thank you. <https://www.ncseaa.edu/.../HHIncomeEligibilityGuidelines.pdf> [...] Phyllis Bayles sadly enough private smaller school are helping families of all walks of life not just wealthy. FACT." [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [8/2/24](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [8/2/24](#)]

Balkcom Said Four-Person Households Earning \$115,440 Receiving School Vouchers Were Not “Genuinely ‘Wealthy’”

Balkcom Said A Four-Person Household Earning \$115,440, In The Second Tier Income-Level For North

Carolina's School Voucher Program, Was Not "Genuinely 'Wealthy.'" "Myth: Scholarship Funds Are for Wealthy Families Truth: Opportunity Scholarships are designed primarily to assist children from families with low and moderate incomes. Here's how: Sliding Scale for Scholarship Amounts: Scholarships are tiered based on family income, with lower-income families receiving larger amounts. For example: Tier 1 and Tier 2 recipients, representing lower-income families, receive an average of \$7,460 per student. Tier 3 and Tier 4, higher-income families, receive an average of \$3,360 per student. Income Statistics: In the 2022-23 school year, the average household income of Opportunity Scholarship recipients was just \$44,299. Some critics argue that extending eligibility to higher-income households is unjustified. However, this is countered by the following points: Individuals earning over \$100,000 annually comprise less than 25% of taxpayers but contribute over 74% of total tax revenue. If their children are entitled to attend public schools funded by taxpayer dollars, why should they not have the choice of using a opportunity for private education? Perception of wealth, asking whether a four-person household earning \$115,440 (Tier 2 threshold) is genuinely 'wealthy.' For context, two teachers earning the state average of \$59,423 would exceed this figure. Are they considered wealthy? Opportunity Scholarships aim to promote educational access for ALL children in this state, with most benefits favoring lower-income families." [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [11/20/24](#)]

**Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117**
November 20, 2024 · 🌐

Myth: Scholarship Funds Are for Wealthy Families
Truth: Opportunity Scholarships are designed primarily to assist children from families with low and moderate incomes.
Here's how:
Sliding Scale for Scholarship Amounts: Scholarships are tiered based on family income, with lower-income families receiving larger amounts.
For example:
Tier 1 and Tier 2 recipients, representing lower-income families, receive an average of \$7,460 per student.
Tier 3 and Tier 4, higher-income families, receive an average of \$3,360 per student.
Income Statistics: In the 2022-23 school year, the average household income of Opportunity Scholarship recipients was just \$44,299.
Some critics argue that extending eligibility to higher-income households is unjustified.
However, this is countered by the following points:

Individuals earning over \$100,000 annually comprise less than 25% of taxpayers but contribute over 74% of total tax revenue.
If their children are entitled to attend public schools funded by taxpayer dollars, why should they not have the choice of using a opportunity for private education?

Perception of wealth, asking whether a four-person household earning \$115,440 (Tier 2 threshold) is genuinely "wealthy."
For context, two teachers earning the state average of \$59,423 would exceed this figure. Are they considered wealthy?

Opportunity Scholarships aim to promote educational access for ALL children in this state, with most benefits favoring lower-income families. [See less](#)

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[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [11/20/24](#)]

Balkcom Had A History Of Promoting "School Choice" And Called Herself "A Strong Proponent For School Choice In North Carolina"

2016: Balkcom Said She Supported "School Choice." "PARENTAL RIGHTS: Support parental rights, school choice, and homeschooling. No CRT!" [Jennifer Balkcom for State House via Internet Archive, archived [8/11/16](#)]



PARENTAL RIGHTS

Support parental rights, school choice, and
homeschooling. No CRT!

[Jennifer Balkcom for State House via Internet Archive, archived [8/11/16](#)]

April 2022: Balkcom Said She Would “Be A Strong Proponent For School Choice In North Carolina, Including Charter Schools, Magnet Schools, Homeschooling, And Expanding Our State’s Opportunity Scholarship Program.” “EDUCATION Jennifer will introduce legislation to Protect Parental Rights in their child’s education; Jennifer will fight the radical left’s assault on education by demanding curriculum transparency and the end of CRT indoctrination and other radical ideologies in our public schools; Jennifer will be a strong proponent for school choice in North Carolina, including charter schools, magnet schools, homeschooling, and expanding our state’s Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides vouchers to economically disadvantaged children to attend private schools.” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [4/23/22](#)]



Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117

April 23, 2022 · 🌐

...

Jennifer Balkcom on the Issues...

EDUCATION

Jennifer will introduce legislation to Protect Parental Rights in their child’s education;

Jennifer will fight the radical left’s assault on education by demanding curriculum transparency and the end of CRT indoctrination and other radical ideologies in our public schools;

Jennifer will be a strong proponent for school choice in North Carolina, including charter schools, magnet schools, homeschooling, and expanding our state’s Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides vouchers to economically disadvantaged children to attend private schools.

VOTING INTEGRITY

Jennifer will fight to re-establish Voter ID in North Carolina;

Jennifer will eliminate digital voting machines so we can rely instead on paper ballots;

Jennifer will demand that all ballots are available for general inspection;

Jennifer will support a Voter Integrity Compact with the citizens of North Carolina.

BORDER SECURITY

Jennifer will take a hard line on border security;

Jennifer will introduce legislation which requires that any illegal alien convicted of DWI or other serious crimes serve their full sentences and then be deported;

Jennifer will sponsor a bill that requires all county sheriffs to abide by federal immigration law.

ECONOMY

Jennifer will eliminate the state income tax;

Jennifer will further reduce expensive regulations that kneecaps small business.

GUN RIGHTS

Jennifer will always be a fierce protector of gun rights and will not tolerate any attempt to curb the individual right to keep and bear arms which is enshrined in the Second Amendment.

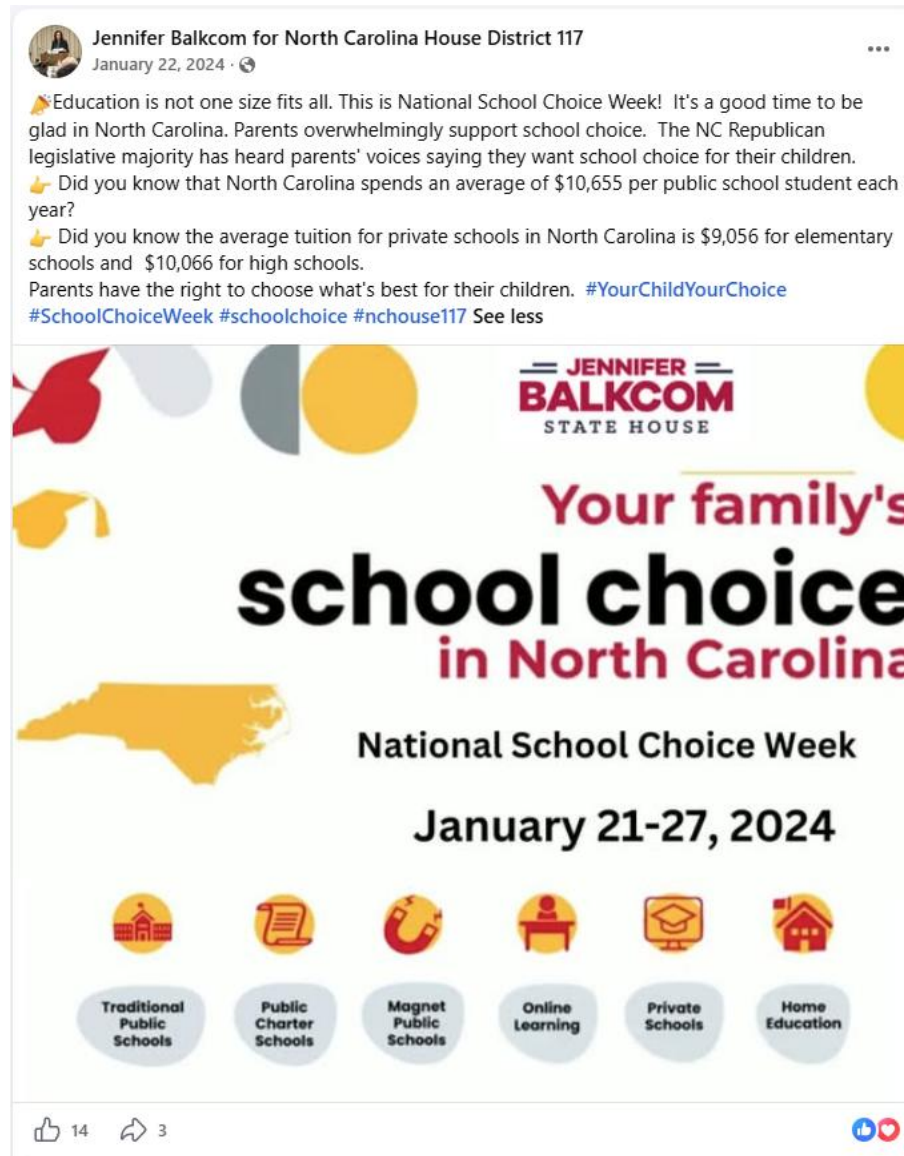
PRO-LIFE

Jennifer will always fight for the rights of the unborn. [See less](#)

[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [4/23/22](#)]

2024: Balkcom: “Did You Know That North Carolina Spends An Average Of \$10,655 Per Public School Student Each Year? Did You Know The Average Tuition For Private Schools In North Carolina Is \$9,056

For Elementary Schools And \$10,066 For High Schools?” “Education is not one size fits all. This is National School Choice Week! It's a good time to be glad in North Carolina. Parents overwhelmingly support school choice. The NC Republican legislative majority has heard parents' voices saying they want school choice for their children. 👉 Did you know that North Carolina spends an average of \$10,655 per public school student each year? 👉 Did you know the average tuition for private schools in North Carolina is \$9,056 for elementary schools and \$10,066 for high schools. Parents have the right to choose what's best for their children. #YourChildYourChoice #SchoolChoiceWeek #schoolchoice #nchouse117.” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [1/22/24](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [1/22/24](#)]

Balkcom Cosponsored A Joint Resolution To Urge Congress To Eliminate The U.S. Department Of Education, Which Would Threaten More Than \$24 Million In Funding To Public Schools In NC-11

April 2026: Balkcom Cosponsored A Joint Resolution To Urge Congress To Eliminate The Department Of Education

April 2026: Balkcom Cosponsored H.J.R. 1030, “A Joint Resolution Urging Members Of The United States Congress To Support The Devolution Of Power From The U.S. Department Of Education To The States.” In

April 2026, Balkcom cosponsored H.J.R. 1030, “a joint resolution urging members of the United States Congress to support the devolution of power from the U.S. Department of Education to the states.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.J.R. 1030](#), [4/21/26](#)]

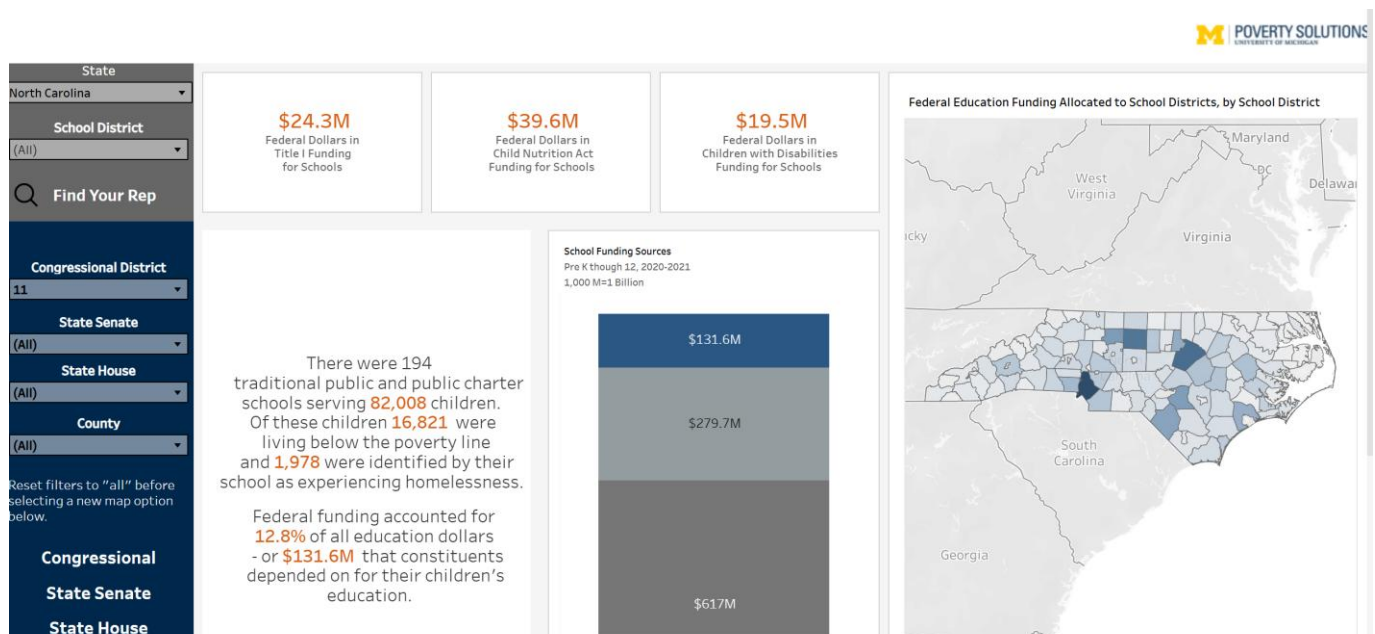
- **Under H.J.R. 1030, The North Carolina General Assembly Said It Supported Federal Efforts To Eliminate The U.S. Department Of Education And Urged The U.S. Congress To Cooperate With Such Efforts.** “SECTION 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina supports federal efforts to eliminate the United States Department of Education and urges the United States Congress to fully cooperate with these efforts. SECTION 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.” [North Carolina General Assembly, [H.J.R. 1030](#), [4/21/26](#)]

2026: Balkcom Said She Supported Eliminating The U.S. Department Of Education

Balkcom Said She Supported Eliminating The United States Department Of Education. QUESTION: “I support eliminating the U.S. Department of Education and giving control back to states and communities.” BALKCOM: “Strongly Agree.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

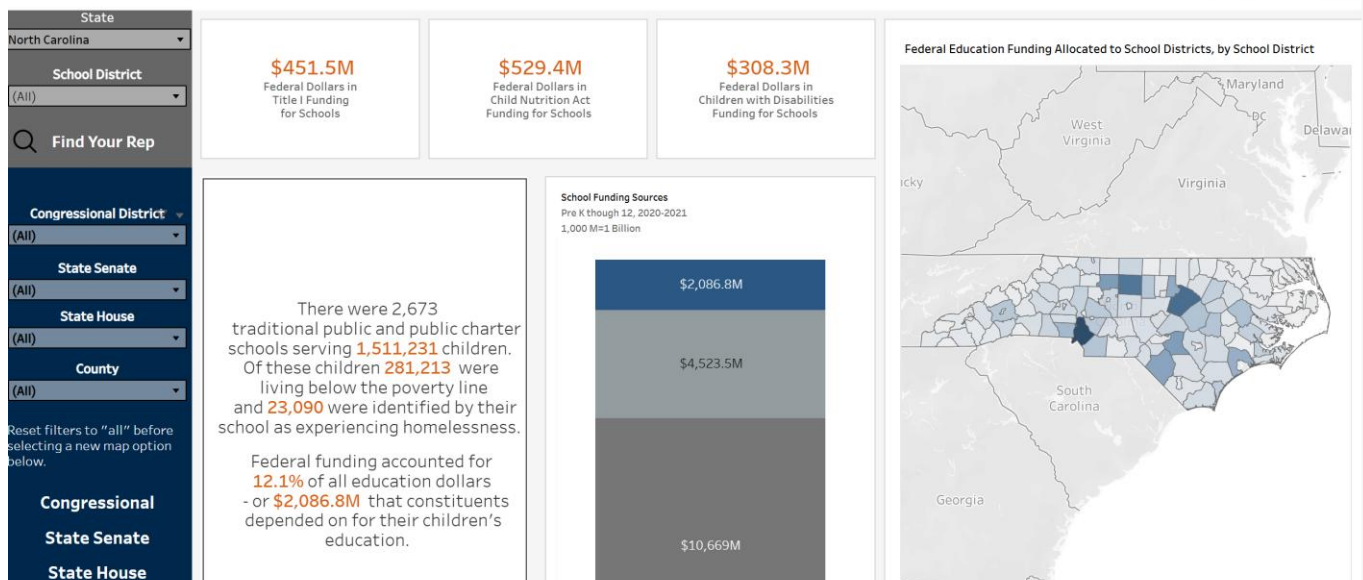
2020-2021: University Of Michigan: The Department Of Education Allocated More Than \$24 Million In Title I Funding To Public Schools In NC-11 And More Than \$450 Million To North Carolina Public Schools

2020-2021: University Of Michigan: The Department Of Education Allocated \$24.3 Million In Title I Funding For Public Schools In North Carolina’s 11th Congressional District. [University of Michigan, accessed [8/14/26](#)]



[University of Michigan, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

2020-2021: University Of Michigan: The Department Of Education Allocated \$451.5 Million In Title I Funding For Public Schools In North Carolina. [University of Michigan, accessed [8/14/26](#)]



[University of Michigan, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

Eliminating The U.S. Department Of Education Would Hurt Students Across The Country, Especially Lower-Income And Disabled Students

National Education Association President Becky Pringle: “Students Across The Country Benefit From Programs Run By The Department Of Education, Especially Lower-Income Students.” ““Students across the country benefit from programs run by the Department of Education, especially lower-income students in rural, suburban and urban communities, students who qualify for federal grants or loans to receive career training or attend 2- and 4-year colleges, and students with disabilities,” Becky Pringle, president of the National Education Association (NEA), said in a statement Monday. The nation’s largest labor union, the NEA represents over 3 million educators and other school stakeholders.” [The 19th, [2/6/25](#)]

Pringle Said Shutting The Department Of Education Would “Take Away Special Education Services For Students With Disabilities.” “Shutting the Department of Education would adversely affect nearly all of the nation’s students, Pringle said, as 90 percent of students overall and 95 percent of students with disabilities are educated in public schools. ‘Trump’s power grab would steal resources for our most vulnerable students, explode class sizes, cut job training programs, make higher education more expensive and out of reach for middle class families, take away special education services for students with disabilities, and gut student civil rights protections.’” [The 19th, [2/6/25](#)]

- **Eliminating The Department Of Education Could Have “Particular Consequences For Children With Disabilities.”** “President Donald Trump reportedly plans to fulfill a campaign promise aimed at sweeping changes for public schools: closing the Department of Education. [...] The prospect of the agency closing has sparked outcry from education leaders, elected officials and families with vulnerable children. Eliminating the Department of Education, they say, could have a ripple effect across the country — with particular consequences for children with disabilities, youth from low-income households and student loan borrowers, most of whom are women.” [The 19th, [2/6/25](#)]

Balkcom Said She Was Voting For Mark Robinson For North Carolina Governor Even After He Was Discovered To Have Posted Disturbing Messages On A Pornography Forum, Called Himself A “Black Nazi,” And Proposed Bringing Back Slavery

October 2024: Balkcom Said She Was Voting For Mark Robinson For Governor

October 2024: Balkcom: “I Will Be Casting My Vote For Mark Robinson” For Governor

October 20, 2024: When Asked Who She Supported For Governor, Balkcom Said, “As A Conservative, I Will Be Casting My Vote For Mark Robinson.” “Who do you support for N.C. governor and why? Balkcom: As a conservative, I will be casting my vote for Mark Robinson. Martinez: I support Josh Stein for governor, and the reasons are obvious. Josh is sane, stable, experienced, qualified, and reasonable, with no history of odd behavior and ridiculous remarks and views.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [10/20/24](#)]

2022: Balkcom Posted A Photo Of Robinson Speaking At An Event She Attended

2022: Balkcom Posted A Photo Of Mark Robinson Speaking At A NC Faith And Freedom Coalition Event She Attended. “The attendance today at the NC Faith and Freedom Coalition Annual Salt and Light Conference was amazing! Many stories shared. God uses people from all walks of life for his glory and grace. #grateful #service #hendersoncountync #nchouse117” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [9/24/22](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [9/24/22](#)]

September 2024: News Reports Showed Robinson Made A Series Of Inflammatory Comments On A Pornography Website, Including Calling Himself A “Black NAZI,” Proposing Bringing Back Slavery, And Calling Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A “Commie Bastard”

September 2024: CNN Reported Robinson Had Made A Series Of Inflammatory Comments On A Pornography Website, Including Calling Himself A “Black NAZI”

September 2024: CNN Reported Robinson Made A Series Of Inflammatory Comments On A Pornography Website’s Message Board More Than A Decade Prior. “Mark Robinson, the controversial and socially conservative Republican nominee for governor of North Carolina, made a series of inflammatory comments on a pornography website’s message board more than a decade ago, in which he referred to himself as a ‘black NAZI!’ and expressed support for reinstating slavery, a CNN KFile investigation found.” [CNN, [9/19/24](#)]

- **CNN Headline: “‘I’m A Black NAZI!’: NC GOP Nominee For Governor Made Dozens Of Disturbing Comments On Porn Forum.”** [CNN, [9/19/24](#)]

Robinson: “Slavery Is Not Bad. Some People Need To Be Slaves. I Wish They Would Bring It (Slavery) Back. I Would Certainly Buy A Few”

Robinson: “Slavery Is Not Bad. Some People Need To Be Slaves. I Wish They Would Bring It (Slavery) Back. I Would Certainly Buy A Few.” “In the pornographic forums, Robinson revealed his unvarnished thoughts on issues such as race, gender and abortion. Writing in a forum discussing Black Republicans in October 2010, Robinson stated unprovoked: ‘I’m a black NAZI!’ That same month, Robinson wrote in another post that he supported the return of slavery. ‘Slavery is not bad. Some people need to be slaves. I wish they would bring it (slavery) back. I would certainly buy a few,’ he wrote.” [CNN, [9/19/24](#)]

Robinson Called Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A “Commie Bastard” And Said If He Were In The KKK He Would Have Called Dr. King A Slur

Robinson Called Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A “Commie Bastard.” “Robinson, who would become North Carolina’s first Black governor if elected, also repeatedly maligned civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., attacking him in such intense terms that a user accused him of being a white supremacist. ‘Get that f*cking commie bastard off the National Mall!’ Robinson wrote about the dedication of the memorial to King in Washington, DC, by then-President Barack Obama. ‘I’m not in the KKK. They don’t let blacks join. If I was in the KKK I would have called him Martin Lucifer Koon!’ Robinson responded.” [CNN, [9/19/24](#)]

Robinson Said If He Were In The KKK, He Would Have Called Dr. King A Slur. “‘Get that f*cking commie bastard off the National Mall!’ Robinson wrote about the dedication of the memorial to King in Washington, DC, by then-President Barack Obama. ‘I’m not in the KKK. They don’t let blacks join. If I was in the KKK I would have called him Martin Lucifer Koon!’ Robinson responded.” [CNN, [9/19/24](#)]

Robinson Called School Shooting Survivors “Little Bastards” And “Media Prosti-Tots”

Robinson Had A History Of Mocking And Attacking School Shooting Survivors, Calling Them “Spoiled Little Bastards” And “Media Prosti-Tots.” “North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, the current Republican favorite to be the party’s nominee for governor in 2024, has a long history of remarks viciously mocking and attacking teenage survivors of the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, for their advocacy for gun control measures. In posts after the shooting, Robinson called the students ‘spoiled, angry, know it all CHILDREN,’ ‘spoiled little bastards,’ and ‘media prosti-tots.’” [CNN, [9/19/24](#)]

July 2020: Robinson Said “There Is No Compromise On Abortion,” And Advocated For A Complete Ban With No Exceptions

January 2024: CNN Reported Robinson Said Banning Abortion Was His Top Priority, Advocating For A Complete Ban Without Exceptions. “North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, the state’s second highest-ranking elected official and its leading Republican candidate for governor in 2024, once hailed banning abortion as his top priority, advocating for its complete ban without exceptions. ‘For me, there is no compromise on abortion. It makes no difference to me why or how that child ended up in that womb,’ he said in July 2020 while campaigning for lieutenant governor. At the time, Robinson was a political newcomer, having built his campaign off his work as a conservative influencer espousing support for gun rights, law enforcement and ‘protecting the life of the unborn.’” [CNN, [1/17/24](#)]

- **Robinson: “For Me, There Is No Compromise On Abortion.”** “‘For me, there is no compromise on abortion. It makes no difference to me why or how that child ended up in that womb,’ he said in July 2020 while campaigning for lieutenant governor.” [CNN, [1/17/24](#)]

Balkcom Drew Criticism From Henderson County Commissioners For Voting To Remove More Than \$12 Million From An Edneyville Sewer Project Without Contacting Them

October 2025: Balkcom Voted To Require Henderson County To Spend Funds On The Etowah Wastewater Treatment System That Were Previously Allocated For Edneyville Wastewater Treatment

October 2025: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 449, “An Act To Implement Additional Budgetary Adjustments And To Make Other Changes.” In October 2025, Balkcom voted for S.B. 449, “an act to implement additional budgetary adjustments and to make other changes.” The motion passed by a vote of 104-6-4-6. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 449](#), [10/21/25](#)]

S.B. 449 Instructed Henderson County To Spend Funds On The Etowah Wastewater Treatment System That Were Previously Allocated For Edneyville Wastewater Treatment. “SECTION 4.2. Funds allocated to Henderson County by Section 12.13(f)(28) of S.L. 2021-180 for the improvement of wastewater treatment in the Edneyville area of the County (the Edneyville allocation) shall, notwithstanding that section, instead be used for repairs and upgrades to the Etowah wastewater treatment system, and any funds remaining after the completion of those repairs and upgrades may be used by Henderson County for purposes authorized by the Edneyville allocation.” [North Carolina General Assembly, S.B. 449, [10/22/25](#)]

2025: Henderson County Commissioners “Blasted” Balkcom For Her Vote To Remove More Than \$12 Million In Funding From An Edneyville Sewer Project Without Contacting Them

November 2025: Henderson County Commissioners Objected To A Decision By The North Carolina General Assembly To Transfer More Than \$12 Million From An Edneyville Sewer Project To A Project In Etowah

November 2025: Henderson County Commissioners Objected To A Decision By The North Carolina General Assembly To Transfer \$12.7 Million From A Project To Expand Sewers In Edneyville To A Project In Etowah. “Henderson County is set to lose out on \$12.7 million in funding previously earmarked for a sewer expansion project in Edneyville. County Commissioners objected Nov. 3 to an Oct. 21 move by the North Carolina General Assembly to transfer the money to another project instead, one which they said cannot be completed before a strict deadline to spend the money. The specific pot of money, from the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021, will evaporate if it can’t all be used by the end of next year, and the wastewater treatment plant in Etowah, which the money is now committed to, can’t be finished by then, commissioners said.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

- **BlueRidgeNow Headline: “‘Slapped Around’: Henderson County Board Decries Loss Of Edneyville**

Sewer Funding.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

BlueRidgeNow: “Henderson County Is Set To Lose Out On \$12.7 Million In Funding Previously Earmarked For A Sewer Expansion Project In Edneyville.” “Henderson County is set to lose out on \$12.7 million in funding previously earmarked for a sewer expansion project in Edneyville. County Commissioners objected Nov. 3 to an Oct. 21 move by the North Carolina General Assembly to transfer the money to another project instead, one which they said cannot be completed before a strict deadline to spend the money. The specific pot of money, from the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021, will evaporate if it can’t all be used by the end of next year, and the wastewater treatment plant in Etowah, which the money is now committed to, can’t be finished by then, commissioners said.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

Commissioners Said The ARPA Funds Would Evaporate Before The Wastewater Treatment Plant In Etowah Would Be Finished

Henderson County Commissioners Said The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Would Evaporate Before The Wastewater Treatment Plant In Etowah Would Be Finished. “The specific pot of money, from the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021, will evaporate if it can’t all be used by the end of next year, and the wastewater treatment plant in Etowah, which the money is now committed to, can’t be finished by then, commissioners said. ‘(The General Assembly has) moved \$12.7 million from a viable project to a project that it can’t be used on,’ County Engineer Marcus Jones told commissioners at a Nov. 3 meeting. ‘It’s gone, that \$12.7 million. It’s not going to use for anything in Henderson County,’ Board Chair Bill Lapsley said.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

- **BlueRidgeNews: The Etowah Project Was “One Which They Said Cannot Be Completed Before A Strict Deadline To Spend The Money.”** “Henderson County is set to lose out on \$12.7 million in funding previously earmarked for a sewer expansion project in Edneyville. County Commissioners objected Nov. 3 to an Oct. 21 move by the North Carolina General Assembly to transfer the money to another project instead, one which they said cannot be completed before a strict deadline to spend the money. The specific pot of money, from the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021, will evaporate if it can’t all be used by the end of next year, and the wastewater treatment plant in Etowah, which the money is now committed to, can’t be finished by then, commissioners said.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

County Engineer Marcus Jones: “(The General Assembly Has) Moved \$12.7 Million From A Viable Project To A Project That It Can’t Be Used On.” ““(The General Assembly has) moved \$12.7 million from a viable project to a project that it can’t be used on,’ County Engineer Marcus Jones told commissioners at a Nov. 3 meeting.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

Board Chair Bill Lapsley: “It’s Gone, That \$12.7 Million. It’s Not Going To Use For Anything In Henderson County.” ““It’s gone, that \$12.7 million. It’s not going to use for anything in Henderson County,’ Board Chair Bill Lapsley said.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

BlueRidgeNews: “Commissioners Blasted State Rep. Jennifer Balkcom” For Voting For S.B. 449

BlueRidgeNews: “Commissioners Blasted State Rep. Jennifer Balkcom” For Voting For S.B. 449. “NC Senate Bill 449 moved the money meant to fund the Clear Creek Sewer to the Etowah Sewer Wastewater Treatment Plant Oct. 22, for reasons commissioners say aren’t entirely clear to them. Commissioners blasted state Rep. Jennifer Balkcom and state Sen. Tim Moffitt, who voted for it.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

One Commissioner Said State Legislators Did Not Contact Them And Another Said, “To Be Slapped Around Like This Is Uncalled For And Unnecessary”

Commissioner Rebecca McCall: ““(There Was) No Phone Call, No Text, No Email, No Communication Whatsoever From Raleigh.” “Commissioners blasted state Rep. Jennifer Balkcom and state Sen. Tim Moffitt,

who voted for it. ‘(There was) no phone call, no text, no email, no communication whatsoever from Raleigh’ before or after the bill passed, Commissioner Rebecca McCall said.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

Commissioner Bill Lapsley: “To Be Slapped Around Like This Is Uncalled For And Unnecessary.” “‘It’s gone, that \$12.7 million. It’s not going to use for anything in Henderson County,” Board Chair Bill Lapsley said. NC Senate Bill 449 moved the money meant to fund the Clear Creek Sewer to the Etowah Sewer Wastewater Treatment Plant Oct. 22, for reasons commissioners say aren’t entirely clear to them. [...] To be slapped around like this is uncalled for and unnecessary ... unprecedented in my 10 years on the board,’ Lapsley said of the General Assembly’s decision.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

November 2025: Balkcom Reportedly Told Commissioners She Decided To Support The Funding Change After Hearing From Edneyville Landowners Concerned About Increased Development Along The New Sewer Line

November 5, 2025: Balkcom Reportedly Told Commissioners She Decided To Support The Funding Change After Hearing From Edneyville Landowners Concerned About Increased Development Along The New Sewer Line

November 5, 2025: Balkcom Reportedly Told Commissioners She Decided To Support The Funding Change After Hearing From Edneyville Landowners Concerned About Increased Development Along The New Sewer Line. “Rep. Balkcom defended her support of the funding change. ‘The General Assembly made the financially responsible decision to reallocate funding from the Edneyville sewer project to address the Etowah system that Henderson County now owns. When the county purchased the Etowah system, it also assumed responsibility and liability for maintaining and improving it,’ she told the Times-News in a Nov. 4 email. Balkcom told commissioners she came to the decision to support the funding change after hearing from Edneyville landowners concerned about increased development along the new sewer line, Lapsley said. Balkcom did not address a Times-News question asking her to confirm that.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

- **Balkcom Did Not Confirm She Told The Commissioners Her Reason For Supporting The Funding Change.** “Balkcom told commissioners she came to the decision to support the funding change after hearing from Edneyville landowners concerned about increased development along the new sewer line, Lapsley said. Balkcom did not address a Times-News question asking her to confirm that.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

November 2025: Balkcom Defended Her Vote As “Financially Responsible” Said The Hendersonville Lightning’s Reporting That The County “Would Have To Give The Money Back” Was Incorrect

November 2025: Balkcom Defended Her Vote, Saying, “The General Assembly Made The Financially Responsible Decision To Reallocate Funding From The Edneyville Sewer Project To Address The Etowah System That Henderson County Now Owns.” “Rep. Balkcom defended her support of the funding change. ‘The General Assembly made the financially responsible decision to reallocate funding from the Edneyville sewer project to address the Etowah system that Henderson County now owns. When the county purchased the Etowah system, it also assumed responsibility and liability for maintaining and improving it,’ she told the Times-News in a Nov. 4 email.” [BlueRidgeNow, [11/5/25](#)]

November 19, 2025: Balkcom Said The Hendersonville Lightning’s Reporting That The County “Lost A \$12.7 Million Grant” And “Would Have To Give The Money Back” Were “Incorrect.” “The public feud notwithstanding, the results of the meeting on Nov. 13 appears to be a path to salvage grant money for both the Clear Creek project and Etowah sewer repairs. ‘Senator Moffitt and I are requesting that the Board clarify the public record regarding the status of the state appropriated \$12.7 million. Hendersonville Lightning article repeatedly stated that Henderson County ‘lost a \$12.7 million grant,’ that the county ‘would have to give the money back,’ and that the project ‘cannot meet the deadline,’ resulting in the county ‘losing the grant money entirely,’ Balkcom wrote. ‘These statements are incorrect.’” [Hendersonville Lightning, [11/19/25](#)]

November 25, 2025: Henderson County Commissioners Appeared To Be Leaning Toward A Scaled-Back Project In Edneyville And A State Official Clarified That \$12.7 Million In State Funds Would Still Be Available For Etowah Sewer Repairs

November 25, 2025: Hendersonville Lightning: Henderson County Commissioners “Seem To Be Leaning Toward A Scaled-Back Version Of The Previously Approved \$17 Million Project.” “Henderson County commissioners devoted yet another long discussion to the Clear Creek sewer project last week, hours after state Rep. Jennifer Balkcom blasted them for making ‘incorrect statements’ about the Legislature’s move to shift a grant from that project to the county-owned Etowah sewer system. After the state removed a \$12.7 million for the Edneyville sewer line, commissioners are confronted with a ticking clock to salvage the project. They seem to be leaning toward a scaled-back version of the previously approved \$17 million project. County Manager John Mitchell said the board would need to act quickly either in its next meeting, on Dec. 1, or no later than Jan. 5 to authorize a revised contract for a reduced-scope project serving Edneyville Elementary School and Camp Judea, both of which are served by obsolete septic systems.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [11/25/25](#)]

- **The \$17 Million Project Would Link The State’s Justice Academy To North Henderson High School.** “Commissioners in October approved a nearly \$14 million construction contract for the project that would run sewer lines along U.S. 64 from the state’s Justice Academy to North Henderson High School where it will connect with the City of Hendersonville’s sewer system. The total \$17 million price tag for the project was planned to be paid for through state and federal grants. But before and during a Nov. 3 commissioners meeting, Lapsley and others criticized Balkcom for failing to communicate the Legislature’s action to shift a \$12.7 million sewer grant from the Clear Creek project in Edneyville to the county-owned Etowah sewer system, which needs major repairs.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [11/19/25](#)]
- **The Justice Academy Was Located In Edneyville.** [Google Maps, accessed [8/14/26](#)]

November 2025: A State Department Of Environmental Quality Official Clarified That \$12.7 Million In State Funds Would Be Allocated For The Etowah Sewer Repairs And ARPA Funds Would Be Used For A Different Project. “Balkcom’s email to commissioners came after a meeting on Nov. 13 in which a state Department of Environmental Quality official clarified that \$12.7 million in state funds would be allocated for the Etowah sewer repairs and that the county could still move ahead with the Clear Creek project using an American Rescue Plan grant the pot of money with a December 2026 spending deadline. ‘Since the federal obligation deadline for ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund has already passed (December 31, 2024), we cannot commit ARPA funding towards the Etowah wastewater project,’ Shadi Eskaf, director of DEQ’s Division of Water Infrastructure, wrote in an email sent at 5:51 p.m. Nov. 18. ‘The Etowah project will be funded out of state dollars that are not ARPA. ... The Clear Creek Sewer Project, if it continues forward, will remain funded out of ARPA dollars and must continue to comply with the timelines associated with the project,’ which include a Dec. 31, 2026, deadline to spend the money, Eskaf added.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [11/25/25](#)]

Climate Change Issues

2026: Balkcom Said She Strongly Disagreed That “Man-Made Climate Change Is A Global Threat”

2026: Balkcom Said She Strongly Disagreed That “Man-Made Climate Change Is A Global Threat And Requires Urgent Political Action.” QUESTION: “Man-made climate change is a global threat and requires urgent political action.” BALKCOM: “Strongly Disagree.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

Elections And Voting Issues

Balkcom Said She Wanted To “Return To Paper Ballots”

Balkcom Said She Wanted To “Return To Paper Ballots.” “VOTING INTEGRITY: Return to paper ballots, make all ballots available for inspection.” [Jennifer Balkcom for State House, accessed [8/11/26](#)]



Endorsement Issues

2023: Balkcom Endorsed Ron DeSantis For President

June 2023: Balkcom Endorsed Ron DeSantis For President. “Gov. Ron DeSantis’ presidential campaign is touting new Tar Heel State endorsements. A total of 19 North Carolina Republicans — including a state Supreme Court Justice, three state Senators and a group of House members — are backing the Florida Governor in the 2024 race. [...] Bell is the only endorser to offer a quote, but the list of backers is impressive. State Supreme Court Justice Phil Berger Jr. is on board, as are state Sens. Danny Britt, Jim Burgin and Bobby Hanig. State Reps. Jennifer Balkcom, Allen Chesser, Kevin Crutchfield, Kenneth Fontenot, Keith Kidwell, Jarrod Lowery, Jeff McNeely, Dennis Riddell, Steve Ross, Jason Saine, Wayne Sasser, Sam Watford, David Willis and Matthew Winslow are also endorsing.” [Florida Politics, [6/28/23](#)]

Extremism Issues

Balkcom Touted Her Endorsement By The NC Values Coalition

September 2024: Balkcom Touted Her Endorsement By NC Values Coalition. Honored to receive the endorsement of the NC Values Coalition! 🙏 I have and always will fight for family values like protecting life, defending religious freedom, promoting school choice, and ensuring the privacy and safety of our children. #NCValues #FamilyFirst #Balkcom4NC #ProtectLife #ReligiousFreedom #SchoolChoice #NChouse117 [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [9/4/24](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [9/4/24](#)]

Balkcom Attended An Event For The North Carolina Faith And Freedom Coalition

Balkcom Attended An Event For The NC Faith And Freedom Coalition. “The attendance today at the NC Faith and Freedom Coalition Annual Salt and Light Conference was amazing! Many stories shared. God uses people from all walks of life for his glory and grace. #grateful #service #hendersoncountync #nchouse117” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [9/24/22](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [9/24/22](#)]

Government Programs Issues

Balkcom Said She Wanted To Eliminate Government Waste By Reducing “Unnecessary Programs”

Balkcom Said Her Priority For Eliminating “Government Waste” Was “To Reduce Unnecessary Programs.”

QUESTION: “List your top 3-5 priorities to eliminate government waste.” BALKCOM: “We need to reduce unnecessary programs, streamline government operations, and insist on accountability.” iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

Gun Issues

2023: Balkcom Voted To Eliminate All Pistol Purchase Permitting Laws In North Carolina, Making It Easier For Dangerous People And Violent Criminals To Purchase Guns

2023: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 41, A Bill To End All Pistol Purchase Permitting Laws In North Carolina And Allow People To Carry Guns On Private School Property During Religious Services

March 2023: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 41, “An Act To Authorize Concealed Carry Permit Holders To Carry Firearms On Certain School Property At Certain Times And To Authorize Concealed Carry For Certain Law Enforcement Facility Employees, To Repeal Pistol Purchase Permits, And To Launch A Statewide Firearm Safe Storage Awareness Initiative To Educate The Public About The Importance Of The Safe Storage Of Firearms And To Facilitate The Distribution Of Gun Locks.” In March 2023, Balkcom voted for S.B. 41, “an act to authorize concealed carry permit holders to carry firearms on certain school property at certain times and to authorize concealed carry for certain law enforcement facility employees, to repeal pistol purchase permits, and to launch a statewide firearm safe storage awareness initiative to educate the public about the importance of the safe storage of firearms and to facilitate the distribution of gun locks.” The motion passed by a vote of 70-44-0-6. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 41, 3/15/23](#)]

- **S.B. 41 Eliminated All Pistol Purchase Permitting Laws In North Carolina.** “The North Carolina General Assembly voted this morning to eliminate all pistol purchase permitting laws in North Carolina. The change comes mere days after a deadly shooting in Tennessee took place. With the statewide change, the Alamance County Sheriff’s Office will no longer issue or require pistol purchase permits. The process to purchase a handgun in the state is now only limited by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, instead of both the NICS and a state pistol purchase permit. Any pistol purchase permits that were pending when the law was repealed will not be issued, and the passing of Senate Bill 41 does not affect any concealed handgun permitting laws.” [Elon News Network, [3/29/23](#)]
- **S.B. 41 Allowed People To Bring Guns To Religious Services Held On Private School Property When Students Were Not Present.** “North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper has vetoed a bill that would have done away with North Carolina’s requirement for people to get a permit from their local sheriff to buy a handgun. The veto sets up a showdown with Republicans in the General Assembly. Republicans have a veto-proof majority in the Senate and are one seat short of a supermajority in the House. Senate Bill 41, Guarantee 2nd Amend Freedom and Protections was ratified and sent to the governor on March 16. Cooper vetoed a similar bill in 2021. [...] The bill includes a new exception allowing people to bring guns to religious services held on private school property. Current law bans guns on all school property. People would only be allowed to take guns on school property during religious meetings being held outside hours, when students are not there. This does not include public schools owned by counties or local boards of education, or public and private colleges and universities. Schools could still post notice banning concealed weapons.” [Spectrum News 1, [3/24/23](#)]

Governor Cooper Vetoed S.B. 41 Saying It Would “Allow More Domestic Abusers And Other Dangerous People To Own Handguns;” Balkcom Voted To Overturn The Governor’s Veto Of S.B. 41 And Celebrated The Veto Override

March 2023: Governor Roy Cooper Vetoed S.B. 41, Saying “Eliminating Strong Background Checks Will Allow More Domestic Abusers And Other Dangerous People To Own Handguns And Reduces Law Enforcement’s Ability To Stop Them From Committing Violent Crimes.” “Today, Governor Roy Cooper vetoed one bill: Senate Bill 41: Guarantee 2nd Amend Freedom and Protections Governor Cooper made the following statement on SB 41: ‘Eliminating strong background checks will allow more domestic abusers and other dangerous people to own handguns and reduces law enforcement’s ability to stop them from committing violent crimes. Second Amendment supporting, responsible gun owners know this will put families and communities at risk.’ SB 41 eliminates the current requirement that people have a valid permit from their local sheriff’s office before purchasing or acquiring a handgun. Under SB 41, sheriffs will lose the authority to issue or deny these permits based on criminal background checks and determining the safety and character of applicants. The legislation removes sheriffs’ authority to refuse a permit based on signs of mental illness, domestic abuse incidents that might not be captured in a national database, or other indicators that a person could be a danger to themselves or others. The bill also allows guns on some school properties, increasing the chances that children can find or access firearms at a time where gun offenses and suicides among North Carolina children is increasing. The 2023 North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force reports that gun deaths for children have increased dramatically—231.3% between 2012 and 2021. Guns are now the leading cause of injury death for children in North Carolina, surpassing car accidents.” [North Carolina Office of the Governor, Press Release, [3/24/23](#)]

March 2023: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor’s Veto Of S.B. 41, “An Act To Authorize Concealed Carry Permit Holders To Carry Firearms On Certain School Property At Certain Times And To Authorize Concealed Carry For Certain Law Enforcement Facility Employees, To Repeal Pistol Purchase Permits, And To Launch A Statewide Firearm Safe Storage Awareness Initiative To Educate The Public About The Importance Of The Safe Storage Of Firearms And To Facilitate The Distribution Of Gun Locks.” In March 2023, Balkcom voted to override the Governor’s veto of S.B. 41, “an act to authorize concealed carry permit holders to carry firearms on certain school property at certain times and to authorize concealed carry for certain law enforcement facility employees, to repeal pistol purchase permits, and to launch a statewide firearm safe storage awareness initiative to educate the public about the importance of the safe storage of firearms and to facilitate the distribution of gun locks.” The motion passed by a vote of 71-46-0-3. [North Carolina General Assembly, [S.B. 41](#), [3/29/23](#)]

March 2023: Balkcom Celebrated The North Carolina House Successfully Overriding The Governor’s Veto Of S.B. 41. “Oh ...this happened today... The first Governor's veto override since 2018... drop the 🗳️ #NCGOP #ncpol #nchouse117 #balkcom4house #hendersoncountync” [Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [3/29/23](#)]



[Jennifer Balkcom for North Carolina House District 117, Facebook, [3/29/23](#)]

Ending North Carolina’s Pistol Purchase Permit System Would Make It Easier For Dangerous People And Violent Criminals To Purchase Guns

North Carolina’s Pistol Purchase Permit System Required People Who Wanted To Buy A Handgun To Get A Permit From Their County Sheriff’s Office, Unless They Already Had A Concealed Carry Permit. “North Carolina’s pistol purchase permit system requires people who want to buy a handgun to get a permit from their county sheriff’s office, unless they already have a concealed carry permit. In some counties, the system has been plagued by long delays to get the paperwork needed to buy a handgun. The permit requirement has been a target of Republican lawmakers. Before someone can get a purchase permit, the sheriff’s office has to do a state and federal background check, ‘determine the applicant's good moral character, and determine that the possession of the weapon is for only certain identified purposes.’ People can’t get a permit if they are under indictment for a felony

or have a felony conviction. People with domestic violence protective orders, which are not necessarily picked up through a national background check done by a gun dealer, cannot get a permit from the sheriff's office. The bill passed by the legislature does away with the purchase permit process, meaning the only background check is through the gun dealer." [Spectrum News 1, [3/24/23](#)]

North Carolina's Pistol Purchase Permit System Prevented People With Domestic Violence Protective Orders From Purchasing Guns. "North Carolina's pistol purchase permit system requires people who want to buy a handgun to get a permit from their county sheriff's office, unless they already have a concealed carry permit. In some counties, the system has been plagued by long delays to get the paperwork needed to buy a handgun. The permit requirement has been a target of Republican lawmakers. Before someone can get a purchase permit, the sheriff's office has to do a state and federal background check, 'determine the applicant's good moral character, and determine that the possession of the weapon is for only certain identified purposes.' People can't get a permit if they are under indictment for a felony or have a felony conviction. People with domestic violence protective orders, which are not necessarily picked up through a national background check done by a gun dealer, cannot get a permit from the sheriff's office. The bill passed by the legislature does away with the purchase permit process, meaning the only background check is through the gun dealer." [Spectrum News 1, [3/24/23](#)]

National Background Checks Through Gun Dealers May Not Prevent People With Domestic Violence Protective Orders From Purchasing Guns, Unlike Pistol Permit Systems At County Sheriff's Offices. "North Carolina's pistol purchase permit system requires people who want to buy a handgun to get a permit from their county sheriff's office, unless they already have a concealed carry permit. In some counties, the system has been plagued by long delays to get the paperwork needed to buy a handgun. The permit requirement has been a target of Republican lawmakers. Before someone can get a purchase permit, the sheriff's office has to do a state and federal background check, 'determine the applicant's good moral character, and determine that the possession of the weapon is for only certain identified purposes.' People can't get a permit if they are under indictment for a felony or have a felony conviction. People with domestic violence protective orders, which are not necessarily picked up through a national background check done by a gun dealer, cannot get a permit from the sheriff's office. The bill passed by the legislature does away with the purchase permit process, meaning the only background check is through the gun dealer." [Spectrum News 1, [3/24/23](#)]

Balkcom Said She Opposed New Gun Ownership Restrictions

Balkcom Said She Opposed New Gun Ownership Restrictions. QUESTION: "What restrictions on gun ownership are needed to protect public safety?" BALKCOM: "I am not in favor of new gun ownership restrictions. We need to enforce existing laws." [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

Balkcom Suggested Gun Violence Was A Symptom Of "The Erosion Of Our Moral Standards" And "The Breakdown Of The Family"

Balkcom: "Gun Violence And Crime Are Symptoms Of Much Deeper Problems We Have In This Country, Including The Erosion Of Our Moral Standards, The Breakdown Of The Family, And Devaluation Of Innocent Human Life." "The Times-News is running answers from both candidates in the race for N.C. House of Representatives District 117. The seat is currently held by Republican Tim Moffitt, who is now in the race for N.C. Senate District 48. Republican Jennifer Balkcom is up against Democrat Michael O'Shea. [...] What is the role of the state government in addressing gun violence and crime? [Balkcom:] We should continue to fund programs that deal effectively with mental health and drug dependency issues, which are often precursors to crime. But gun violence and crime are symptoms of much deeper problems we have in this country, including the erosion of our moral standards, the breakdown of the family, and devaluation of innocent human life. While those things can't be fixed in Raleigh or Washington, we can stand up to the activist agitators who demand defunding the police and allow for the release violent criminals back on to the streets. Every day we hear stories of senseless and brutal killings being perpetrated by repeat offenders who should still be in jail, thanks to week-kneed liberal judges and 'progressive' district attorneys." [BlueRidgeNow, [10/24/22](#)]

LGBTQ+ Issues

2026: Balkcom Said She Opposed Same-Sex Marriage

2026: Balkcom Said She Opposed Same-Sex Marriage. QUESTION: “Marriage is a God-ordained, sacred and legal union of one man and one woman. No government has the authority to alter this definition.” BALKCOM: “Strongly Agree.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

MAHA Issues

2026: Balkcom Touted Her Endorsement From Stand For Health Freedom, A MAHA-Aligned Group That Supported Banning Fluoride In Drinking Water And Opposed Restrictions On Raw Milk Sales

2026: Balkcom Said It Was An “Honor” To Be Endorsed By Stand For Health Freedom. “It is an honor to share Stand for Health Freedom's endorsement. I am firmly committed to make protecting medical freedom, informed consent, parental rights, religious liberty, privacy, and free speech top priorities. Thank you Stand for Health Freedom! You can learn about @standforhealthfreedom important work here: <https://standforhealthfreedom.com/join/> #parentalrights #medicalfreedom #FirstAmendment #NCGOP #NCHouse NCHOUSE117 Balkcom4NC standforhealthfreedom” [@balkcom4nc, Instagram, [2/3/26](#)]



[@balkcom4nc, Instagram, [2/3/26](#)]

Stand For Health Freedom Was A MAHA-Aligned Group That Supported Legislation To Ban Fluoride In Drinking Water And Opposed North Carolina Legislation They Said Threatened Raw Milk Sales. “The overlap in conspiracy-driven ideas is evident in the slate of bills supported by some groups riding MAHA's popularity. MAHA Action and Stand for Health Freedom both supported legislation to ban fluoride in drinking water. Stand for Health Freedom and Weston Price both opposed a North Carolina bill they said threatened raw

milk sales. Their arguments often rely on the idea of staying healthy naturally. Stand for Health Freedom, which did not respond to AP's requests for comment, told its followers, 'Water should hydrate not medicate' while pushing an anti-fluoride bill." [PBS, [10/21/25](#)]

Medical Marijuana Issues

2022: Balkcom Said She Opposed Legalizing Medical Marijuana In North Carolina

2022: Balkcom Said She Did Not Support The Legalization Of Medical Marijuana In North Carolina.

QUESTION: "Should the use of marijuana for medical purposes be legal in North Carolina." BALKCOM: "N." [NC Family Voter, Jennifer Balkcom Questionnaire, [2022](#)]

14. Should the use of marijuana
for medical purposes be legal in N
North Carolina

[NC Family Voter, Jennifer Balkcom Questionnaire, [2022](#)]

Minimum Wage Issues

2026: Balkcom: "I Am Not In Favor Of Raising The Minimum Wage At The Present Time"

2026: Balkcom: "I Am Not In Favor Of Raising The Minimum Wage At The Present Time." QUESTION: "What is your position on the minimum wage?" BALKCOM: "I am not in favor of raising the minimum wage at the present time." [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2026](#)]

Tax Issues

Balkcom Said She Supported A Federal Flat Tax, Which Would Guarantee A Regressive Tax System And Hurt Working Families

Balkcom: "On The Federal Level, I Would Support A Flat Tax." QUESTION: "What changes, if any, should be made to the tax code?" BALKCOM: "I would like to see the complete elimination of the individual income tax in North Carolina and a full transition to a consumption tax. I also support current legislative action to completely phasing-out North Carolina's corporate tax. On the federal level, I would support a Flat Tax with at least a doubling of the current standard deduction." [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2022](#)]

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: "Flat Income Taxes Guarantee A Regressive Overall Tax System That Asks More Of Ordinary Families." "Flat income taxes guarantee a regressive overall tax system that asks more of ordinary families. States and localities raise most of their revenue through a mix of sales, excise, property, and income taxes. Among those levies, the income tax stands out as the only major tax that is structurally progressive." [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, The Pitfalls of Flat Income Taxes, [1/6/25](#)]

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: "Flat Taxes Have Some Surface Appeal But Come With Significant Disadvantages." "While most states have a graduated rate income tax, some state lawmakers have recently become enamored with the idea of moving toward flat rate taxes instead. What's the difference? And are states well served by the transition? In short: A flat tax is one where each taxpayer pays the same percentage of their income whereas a graduated tax applies higher rates to higher incomes. Flat taxes have some surface appeal but come with significant disadvantages. Critically, a flat tax guarantees that wealthy families' total state and local tax bill will be a lower share of their income than that paid by families of more modest means." [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, The Pitfalls of Flat Income Taxes, [1/6/25](#)]

Balkcom Said She Supported Eliminating The State Income Tax And Replacing It With A Sales Tax, Which Would Increase The Tax Burden On Working Families

Balkcom: “I Would Like To See The Complete Elimination Of The Individual Income Tax In North Carolina And A Full Transition To A Consumption Tax.” QUESTION: “What changes, if any, should be made to the tax code?” BALKCOM: “I would like to see the complete elimination of the individual income tax in North Carolina and a full transition to a consumption tax. I also support current legislative action to completely phasing-out North Carolina's corporate tax. On the federal level, I would support a Flat Tax with at least a doubling of the current standard deduction.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2022](#)]

- **Balkcom Said She Supported “Cutting (And Ideally Eliminating) The State Income Tax.”** “The Times-News is running answers from both candidates in the race for N.C. House of Representatives District 117. The seat is currently held by Republican Tim Moffitt, who is now in the race for N.C. Senate District 48. Republican Jennifer Balkcom is up against Democrat Michael O’Shea. [...] What do you believe is the role of the General Assembly in battling rising inflation? [Balkcom:] We can mitigate some of the pain that inflation is causing us by keeping North Carolina’s economy strong. To do that, we should stay the course with common sense, fiscally conservative policies that help our state’s families and businesses thrive: like cutting (and ideally eliminating) the state income tax, continuing to reduce costly and burdensome regulations on businesses, and other measures that will maintain our top ranking as a business-friendly state.” [BlueRidgeNow, [10/24/22](#)]

Replacing State Income Taxes With A Sales Tax Would Force Lower- And Middle-Income Families To Pay More While High-Income Households Would Pay Less. “In an alarming trend, governors in Louisiana, Nebraska, and North Carolina have proposed eliminating their state’s personal and corporate income taxes and raising the sales tax to offset the lost revenue. [...] These proposals would significantly change the distribution of state taxes: lower- and middle-income families would pay more, while businesses and high-income households would pay less. That’s because repealing the income tax would disproportionately benefit high-income families (since they generally face higher tax rates), while a sales tax hike would hit low- and middle-income families the hardest (since they pay a bigger share of their incomes in sales tax than wealthier families do).” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [1/22/13](#)]

Balkcom Said She Supported Ending North Carolina’s Corporate Tax

Balkcom Said She Supported Ending North Carolina’s Corporate Tax. QUESTION: “What changes, if any, should be made to the tax code?” BALKCOM: “I would like to see the complete elimination of the individual income tax in North Carolina and a full transition to a consumption tax. I also support current legislative action to completely phasing-out North Carolina's corporate tax. On the federal level, I would support a Flat Tax with at least a doubling of the current standard deduction. [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2022](#)]

Balkcom Said The Government Should Not Do More To Close The Gap Between The Working Class And The Wealthy And Said Government Intervention Produced “Generations Of Dependency”

Balkcom Said The Government Should Not Do More To Close The Gap Between The Working Class And The Wealthy. QUESTION: “The government should do more to close the gap between the working class and the wealthy.” BALKCOM: “Disagree While we have an obligation to provide a necessary safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, it is not the government's proper role to attempt to engineer individual economic outcomes. Experience shows us that government intervention on this level actually causes more harm than good and has been responsible for producing generations of dependency. Government should get out of the way and encourage opportunity and upward mobility by reforming the tax code and reducing regulations on business.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2022](#)]

Balkcom: “Experience Shows Us That Government Intervention On This Level Actually Causes More Harm Than Good And Has Been Responsible For Producing Generations Of Dependency.” QUESTION: “The government should do more to close the gap between the working class and the wealthy.” BALKCOM: “Disagree While we have an obligation to provide a necessary safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, it is not the government's proper role to attempt to engineer individual economic outcomes. Experience shows us that government intervention on this level actually causes more harm than good and has been responsible for producing generations of dependency. Government should get out of the way and encourage opportunity and upward mobility by reforming the tax code and reducing regulations on business.” [iVoterGuide, Jennifer Balkcom, [2022](#)]

Professional History

Balkcom Was A Mortgage Loan Officer And Served On The Boards Of Several Organizations

2020: Balkcom Was A Mortgage Loan Officer At Alcova Mortgage. “A Henderson County native and graduate of East Henderson High School, Balkcom has been a banker at Mountain 1st Bank & Trust, United Federal Credit Union and Mountain Credit Union and was a mortgage loan officer at Movement Mortgage before moving to Alcova Mortgage a year ago.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [7/20/20](#)]

2020: Balkcom Served On Several Boards, Including The Henderson County Republican Women’s Club, The Henderson County Planning Board, And The Mortgage Bankers Association Of Western North Carolina. “A Henderson County native and graduate of East Henderson High School, Balkcom has been a banker at Mountain 1st Bank & Trust, United Federal Credit Union and Mountain Credit Union and was a mortgage loan officer at Movement Mortgage before moving to Alcova Mortgage a year ago. She is currently treasurer of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Western North Carolina, a member of the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce, the Henderson County Board of Realtors, Hendersonville Women's Club, the Fletcher Area Business Association, the Henderson County Republican Women's Club, the Lions Club and the Henderson County Planning Board. She serves on the board of directors of the Henderson County Education Foundation and AdventHealth, and volunteers at St. Gerard House, the school for autistic children. She earned an associates degree in business administration, banking and finance from Blue Ridge Community College.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [7/20/20](#)]

2016: Balkcom Graduated From Blue Ridge Community College With An Associate’s Degree In Business Administration

2016: Balkcom Graduated From Blue Ridge Community College With A Degree In Business Administration-Banking And Finance. “Blue Ridge Community College held its spring commencement on Saturday. Here are the graduates from Henderson, Polk and Transylvania counties: [...] Jennifer Capps Balkcom, Business Administration-Banking and Finance.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [5/14/16](#)]

- **According To Balkcom’s LinkedIn, She Held An Associate’s Degree From Blue Ridge Community College.** [Jennifer Capps Balkcom, LinkedIn, accessed [8/11/26](#)]



Jennifer Capps Balkcom

NC House Representative / Mortgage Loan Officer NMLS#913180 at ALCOVA Mortgage LLC, NMLS #40508 nmlsconsumeraccess.org

Education



Blue Ridge Community College

Associate's Degree, Business Administration/ Banking and Finance

2011 – 2016

Activities and societies: Blue Ridge Community College Rotary Club President



East Henderson High School

Diploma , Business Administration and Management, General

1993 – 1997

Activities and societies: Marching Band 93, 94, Volleyball 93-96, Basketball 94-97, Softball 94, 95, Track 96, 97, FCA 93-97, and Editor of Yearbook Staff 97.

Balkcom Was A Graduate Of East Henderson High School And Her Family Served As Public Servants In Henderson County For Generations

Balkcom Graduated From East Henderson High School. “A Henderson County native and graduate of East Henderson High School, Balkcom has been a banker at Mountain 1st Bank & Trust, United Federal Credit Union and Mountain Credit Union and was a mortgage loan officer at Movement Mortgage before moving to Alcovia Mortgage a year ago.” [Hendersonville Lightning, [7/20/20](#)]

Hendersonville Lightning Reported Balkcom Had “Deep Roots” In Henderson County, Including Family Who Were Public Servants Going Back Generations. “The daughter of Kathy Ward and Ronnie Capps, Balkcom has deep roots in the county. Her great-grandfather, Zollie Ward, served in the Hendersonville Police Department for more than 25 years. Her grandfather, Milo Ward, served as a Henderson County commissioner and was one of the founders of the Dana Fire Department along with her grandmother, June Ward, who ‘was critical in building what you know today as Blue Ridge Community College.’” [Hendersonville Lightning, [7/20/20](#)]

Political History

2023-2026: Balkcom Served In The North Carolina House And Was Known To Be A “Culture Warrior”

2023-2026: Balkcom Served In The North Carolina House

2023-2026: Balkcom Served In The North Carolina House From District 117. “That left Balkcom, a Republican from Henderson County, as the only state lawmaker in the running. Balkcom has represented District 117 in the state House since 2023. She initially endorsed Moffitt — her predecessor in the 117th — before he decided against running.” [NC Newsline, [8/10/26](#)]

2026: Balkcom Was Known To Be A “Culture Warrior”

2026: Wataugawatch Blog: “Balkcom Is A Culture Warrior, Particularly Hot On The Topic Of Transgender And Abortion And Restrictions On Ballot Access.” “Tim Moffitt has announced that he's no longer a candidate to replace Chuck Edwards on the November ballot for the 11th District congressional seat. Andrew Dunn sez on his Longleaf Politics substack that now, with Moffitt out of it, Rep. Jennifer Balkcom (HD 117) is probably the frontrunner. The 61-member Republican executive committee for the 11th CD will meet tonight and vote on Edwards's replacement. Balkcom is a culture warrior, particularly hot on the topic of transgender and abortion and restrictions on ballot access. She has strong roots in Henderson County. She's been a banker for much of her adult life and currently earns her living as a mortgage loan officer.” [WataugaWatch, Blog, [8/10/26](#)]

2020: Balkcom Unsuccessfully Sought To Be Appointed To Fill A Vacancy On The Henderson County Board Of Commissioners

July 2020: Balkcom Sought To Be Appointed To Fill A Vacancy On The Henderson County Board Of Commissioners. “Three candidates are seeking the appointment to the seat on the Henderson County Board of Commissioners made vacant by the death of Charlie Messer. The Republican Party's executive committee meets on July 30 to choose a party member who lives in District 2 to fill Messer's unexpired term and to appear on the ballot on Nov. 3 as the Republican nominee. The candidates are Daniel Andreotta, cofounder and managing partner of Integrity Financial Group; Jennifer Capps Balkcom, who has been a banker and mortgage loan officer for the past 22 years; and Sheila Franklin, a middle school career tech teacher who serves on the Fletcher Town Council.”
[Hendersonville Lightning, [7/20/20](#)]

- **The Republican Party’s Executive Committee Picked Daniel Andreotta Over Balkcom To Fill The Vacancy.** “The Republican Party's executive committee named their choice for the District 2 seat of the Henderson County Board of Commissioners Thursday evening, filling the position left vacant by the passing of Charlie Messer. Members of the committee selected Daniel Andreotta in the first round with 22 votes out of 40. He sought the position alongside candidates Jennifer Capps Balkcom and Sheila Franklin. Andreotta will complete Messer's unexpired term and appear on the ballot in November as the Republican nominee.”
[Hendersonville Lightning, [7/30/20](#)]