

North Carolina Post Election Update

November 7, 2024

OVERVIEW

As the dust begins to settle, North Carolina reaffirmed its status as a ticket-splitting swing state in Tuesday's election. While some races remain too close to call, most of the major races have been called and/or conceded. There are several down-ballot races that are below the allowable recount threshold and could be affected by recounts. But despite the few question marks that remain, both political parties experienced significant wins Tuesday night:

- **Republicans:** Donald Trump won North Carolina with a larger margin than in 2020; flipped the State Auditor's office; retained and potentially expanded their supermajority in the NC Senate; and appear to have swept both the Court of Appeals and the lone Supreme Court race.
- **Democrats:** Retained the Governor's mansion and Attorney General's office; flipped the Lt. Governor's office; shifted the Council of State to a 5-5 split from a Republican majority; won the state's only competitive Congressional seat (1st District); and seem to have prevented a supermajority in the NC House, protecting Governor-Elect Josh Stein's veto power.

We take a quick look at all of the races across the state below. All data presented is based on the totals provided by the NC State Board of Elections (www.ncsbe.gov). The totals are effective as of the last county submission and are subject to change as the Board certifies the results.

It is important to note that it is still possible for recounts to be called in races where the difference between the candidates meets either of the following situations:

- Statewide: The difference is less than or equal to 10,000 votes or 0.5% of votes cast, whichever is less.
- Other races: The difference is less than or equal to 1% of the votes cast.

The deadline to request a recount for offices governed by the state board of elections is no later than 12:00 p.m. on the second business day after the canvass. As of today, counties should complete their canvasses on November 15 so campaigns would have until November 18 to file a recount petition. Under this timeline, certification of election results is expected to occur on November 26.

A LOOK AT THE RACES

President

- Trump (R) 51.1%, Harris (D) 47.7%

President-Elect Trump won North Carolina for the third time, by a 3.4% margin.

U.S. House of Representatives

Overall, NC's fourteen Congressional races were decided in alignment with the conventional wisdom going into the election. The pre-session partisan breakdown was 7 Republicans and 7 Democrats. As a result of recent redistricting, Republicans were going to pick up at least 3 seats, and maybe a 4th, depending on how the only competitive Congressional race was decided – the 1st District.

- Don Davis (D) 49.4%, Laurie Buckhout (R) 47.9%

Incumbent Don Davis narrowly retained his seat, with challenger Laurie Buckhout recently conceding.

For the 119th Congress, the partisan breakdown in the state's Congressional delegation has shifted from a 7-7 to a 10-4 Republican advantage. Below is a list of the Congressional winners:

District 1: Don Davis (D)*

District 2: Deborah Ross (D)*

District 3: Greg Murphy (R)*

District 4: Valerie Foushee (D)*

District 5: Virginia Foxx (R)*

District 6: Addison McDowell (R)

District 7: David Rouzer (R)*

**Incumbent*

District 8: Mark Harris (R)

District 9: Richard Hudson (R)*

District 10: Pat Harrington (R)

District 11: Chuck Edwards (R)*

District 12: Alma Adams (D)*

District 13: Brad Knott (R)

District 14: Tim Moore (R)

Council of State

With Governor Roy Cooper not able to seek re-election, the election season began with a wide-open race for Governor at the top of the Council of State ticket, between Attorney General Josh Stein (D) and Lt. Governor Mark Robinson (R). As election day grew closer, negative news reports, campaign-related issues, and alleged inappropriate messages and on-line conduct plagued the Robinson campaign. By the end, there was little suspense – Josh Stein would be the next Governor of North Carolina.

Overall, Republicans lost their majority on the Council of State; there is now a 5-5 partisan split. Here are the results of the Council of State races and the members that will serve from 2025 to 2028:

- **Governor:** Josh Stein (D) 54.8%, Mark Robinson (R) 40.2%
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Rachel Hunt (D) 49.4%, Hal Weatherman (R) 47.8%
- **Attorney General:** Jeff Jackson (D) 51.3%, Dan Bishop (R) 48.7%
- **Auditor:** Dave Boliek (R) 49.5%, Jessica Holmes (D) 47.5%
- **Agriculture Commissioner:** Steve Troxler (R)* 52.7%, Sarah Taber (D) 44.9%
- **Insurance Commissioner:** Mike Causey (R)* 52.2%, Natasha Marcus (D) 47.8%
- **Labor Commissioner:** Luke Farley (R) 52.9%, Braxton Winston (D) 47.1%
- **Secretary of State:** Elaine Marshall (D)* 50.9%, Chad Brown (R) 49.1%
- **Department of Public Instruction:** Mo Green (D) 51.1%, Michele Morrow (R) 48.9%
- **Treasurer:** Brad Briner (R) 52.5%, Wesley Harris (D) 47.5%

** Incumbent*

NC Senate

The name of the game in the NC Senate is *status quo*. Overall, the Senate Republicans maintained their supermajority, with 2 additional races too close to call. The Republicans will have at least a 30-20 advantage next session, and it could be larger.

Two Republican incumbents won reelection in races that were hotly contested, thus securing the supermajority for another 2-year session:

- **District 7:** Michael Lee (R)* 52.35%, David Hill (D) 43.61%
- **District 11:** Lisa Barnes (R)* 51.35%, James Mercer (D) 48.65%

There are two additional races that are too close to call, that may head to a recount:

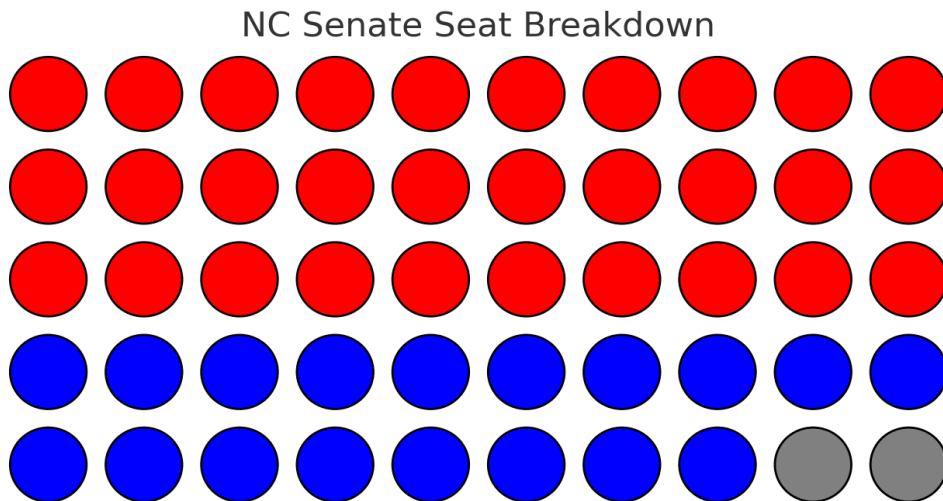
- **District 18:** Ashlee Adams (R) 48.44%, Terence Everitt (D) 48.41%

Ashlee Adams leading by 38 votes, this race is still too close to call.

- **District 42:** Woodson Bradley (D) 50.01%, Stacie McGinn (R) 49.99%

Woodson Bradley holds a slim 27-vote lead, with the race too close to call.

The graphic below shows how this breaks down in the chamber based on the current results (R-30/D-18; 2 races to be determined).



NC House of Representatives

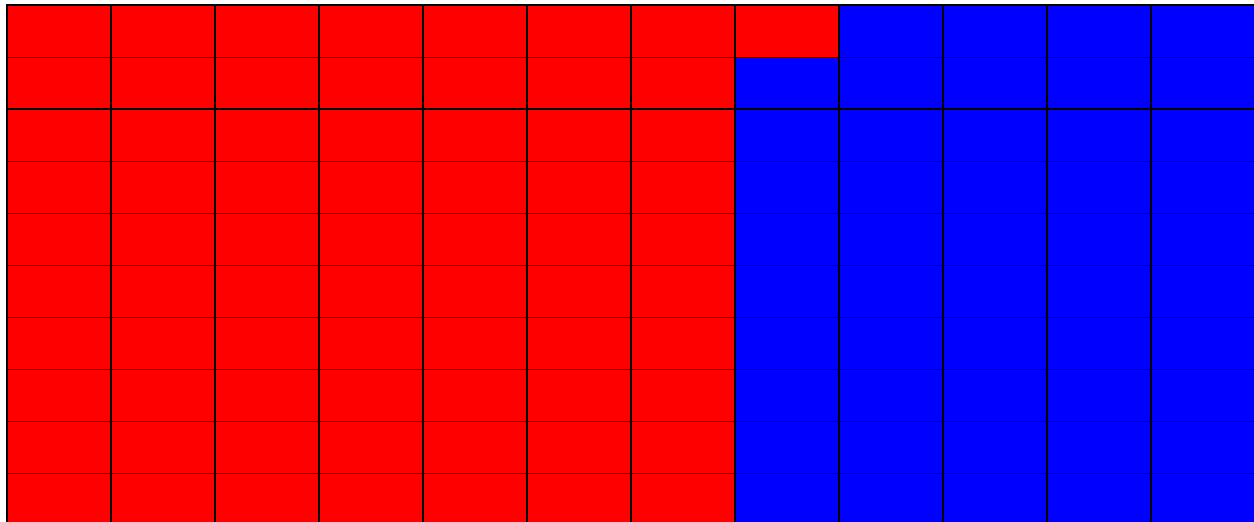
Republicans appear to have maintained a 71-49 majority in the NC House, but have likely lost their supermajority required to override a Governor's veto. This result is a net one-seat gain for Democrats in the House. Two races remain well within the 1% threshold for requesting a recount and will likely be contested. In House District 32, challenger Bryan Cohn (D) retains a 182 vote lead over incumbent Rep.

Frank Sossamon (R), and in House District 105 incumbent Rep. Tricia Cotham (R) holds a 275 vote lead over challenger Nicole Sidman (D).

The key races that were somewhat competitive and were the focus going into Tuesday’s election are recapped below; candidates marked with a (*) are incumbents:

- **House District 5:** Bill Ward (R)*: 54.21%, Howard Hunter III (D): 45.79%
- **House District 24:** Dante Pittman (D): 51.05%, Ken Fontenot (R)*: 48.95%
- **House District 25:** Allen Chesser (R)*: 48.88%, Lorenza Wilkins (D): 47.80%
- **House District 32:** Bryan Cohn (D): 48.90%, Frank Sossamon (R)*: 48.48%
- **House District 35:** Mike Schietzelt (R): 50.37%, Evonne Hopkins (D): 47.00%
- **House District 37:** Erin Pare (R)*: 51.51%, Safiyah Jackson (D): 45.23%
- **House District 48:** Garland Pierce (D)*: 51.85%, Ralph Carter (R): 48.15%
- **House District 73:** Jonathan Almond (R): 53.35%, Diamond Stanton-Williams (D)*: 46.65%
- **House District 82:** Brian Echevarria (R): 54.46%, Sabrina Berry (D): 45.54%
- **House District 98:** Beth Gardner Helfrich (D): 52.13%, Melinda Bales (R): 47.87%
- **House District 105:** Tricia Ann Cotham (R)*: 50.26%, Nicole Sidman (D): 49.74%
- **House District 115:** Lindsey Prather (D)*: 51.42%, Ruth Smith (R): 48.54%

North Carolina House of Representatives



Judicial Races

Based on unofficial results, it appears that Republicans have made a clean sweep of the available seats on the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the one seat on the ballot for the Supreme Court.

- **Supreme Court:** Jefferson Griffin (R) 50.09%, Allison Riggs (D) 49.91%

Appeals Court Judge Jefferson Griffin (R) appears to have defeated incumbent Justice Allison Riggs (D), however the race remains extremely close to the 1% margin for a recount. Justice Riggs is expected to

request a recount if allowed by the final vote count. If Judge Griffin's lead holds, Republicans will expand their majority on the NC Supreme Court to 6-1.

- **NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 12:** Tom Murry (R) 50.99%, Carolyn Jennings Thompson 49.01%
- **NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 14:** Valarie Zachary (R)* 52.37%, Ed Eldred (D) 47.63%
- **NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 15:** Chris Freeman (R) 51.82%, Martin Moore (D) 48.18%

In the NC Court of Appeals, Republicans will expand their majority to 12-3.

CONCLUSION

North Carolina once again delivered a tightly contested election, with every statewide race—except for the Governor's and Agriculture Commissioner's—decided within a 5-point margin. The NC House is likely just one vote shy of a supermajority, lacking the option for a party switch like last year's shift by Tricia Cotham. As the 2025 legislative session begins, Republicans may need to sway a Democrat on key issues such as the budget and priority legislation in order to override the Governor's veto.

Nationally, with Republicans poised to control the White House, US Senate, and possibly the US House, the 2026 elections are set to be another fierce battleground, especially with Senator Thom Tillis up for re-election.

The team at Maynard Nexsen will continue to monitor the election results and will report on any significant changes to the apparent results described above.

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