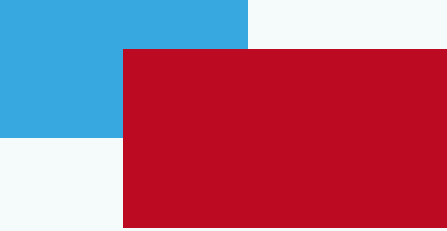


WELCOME TO THE WAKE *Democratic Forum*

October Meeting
10/1/26
6:00-8:00 PM

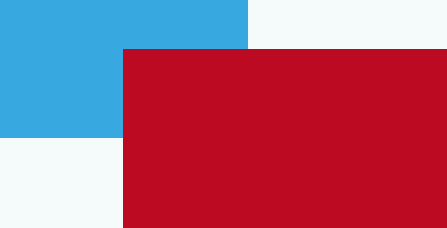




Welcome!

Who is in the Room?
Raise your hand if...





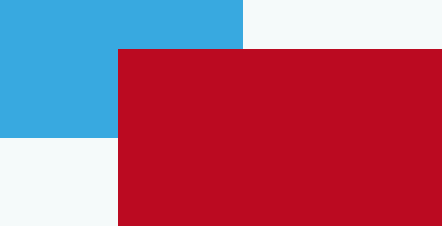
Reflection & Pledge



The Buffet is OPEN

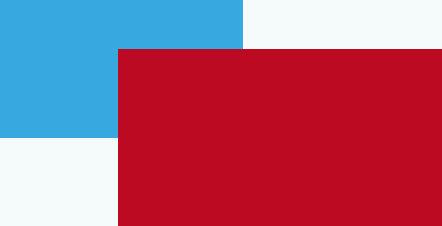


NEW! Follow along with tonight's presentation!
<https://wakedemforum.org/presentations/>



Are you
Running?





Thank you,

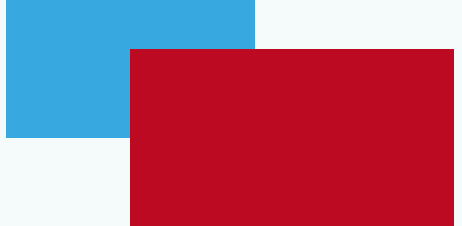
to our Wake Dem Forum Members

- Robert Lockard
- Lou Fabrizio



Become a Forum Member!

<https://wakedemforum.org/become-a-member/>



The Dem Forum State of the State

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Wake Co. Commission

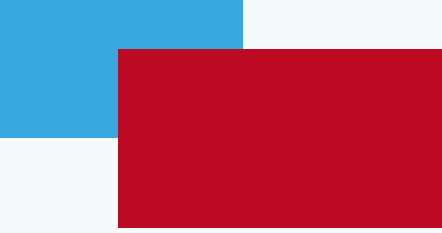
- **Commissioners approved the WakeMed–Atrium Health merger 5-2 vote on Sept. 21, after a five-hour hearing**

◦ <https://ncnewsline.com/2026/09/22/a-lot-less-bad-wake-commissioners-approve-updated-deal-to-combine-wakemed-and-atrium/>

- **Not over yet: state and federal regulators (including the AG and FTC) still have to sign off**

◦ <https://www.wral.com/news/nccapitol/wakemed-atrium-merger-proposal-deal-approve-ag-jackson-ftc-next-steps-september-2026/>



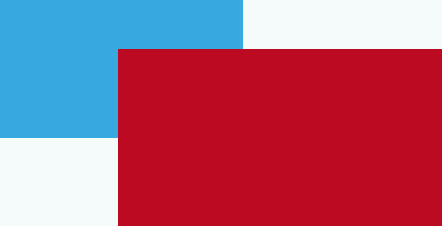


The Dem Forum State of the State

LOCAL GOV: Wake Co. Schools

- **Sept. 15 the SB passed policies required by new NC laws – letting students leave up to one hour a week for off-campus religious instruction,**
- **Also created a process for county residents to challenge library books**
 - <https://www.wunc.org/education/2026-09-16/wcpss-wake-county-schools-religious-instruction-book-challenges-comply-with-nc-law>

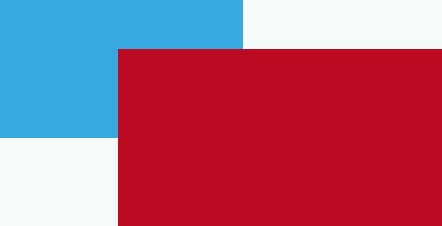




The Dem Forum State of the State **STATEWIDE**

- *All quiet on the legislative front... for once*





The Dem Forum State of the State

STATEWIDE ELECTIONS: Roy Cooper

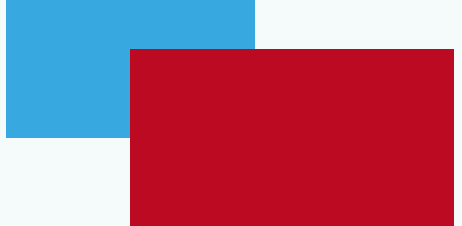
- **A wave of September polls all show Cooper leading Whatley:**
 - **Carolina Journal +15**
 - **Elon +11**
 - **AARP +11**
 - **Common Cause/Opinion Diagnostics +10**
 - **Rasmussen +7**
 - **Quantus +5**

- <https://www.carolinajournal.com/polls/august-2026-coopers-lead-over-whatley-grows-to-12-5-points/>

- **Still no debate; Cooper says his team is "happy to discuss the potential."**

- <https://www.wfae.org/race-equity/2026-08-25/ice-arrests-top-1-500-people-in-charlotte-so-far-this-year-doubling-total-from-this-time-last-year>





The Dem Forum State of the State

NOTABLE NUMBERS

- **The Earls-Stevens Supreme Court race is close:**
 - Earls +2 (46-44);
 - High Point University poll (Sept. 9-16)
 - Earls +11
 - Republican Harper poll
 - **Trump remains underwater in NC – the September Carolina Journal poll found 73.9% believe Whatley would back Trump's priorities, a liability given Trump's numbers in the state**
- 

SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

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SAMPLE BALLOT

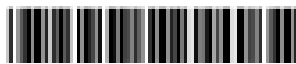
SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT



Sample Ballot
Wake County, North Carolina
November 3, 2026

B0016



Typ:01 Seq:0016 Spl:01

BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
- B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line.
- C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.



PARTISAN ELECTIONS	District Attorney District 10 (You may vote for ONE)	City of Raleigh City Council At-Large (You may vote for TWO)
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)	Wiley Nickel <i>Democratic Party</i>	Joshua Bradley Ms. Stormie Denise Forte Clark Rinehart Sana Siddiqui Write-in Write-in
Michael Dublin <i>Green Party</i> Roy Cooper <i>Democratic Party</i> Shannon W. Bray <i>Libertarian Party</i> Michael Whatley <i>Republican Party</i>	Wake County Board of Commissioners At-Large (You may vote for TWO) Kyle Stogoski <i>Republican Party</i> Mona Singh <i>Democratic Party</i> Christine Kushner <i>Democratic Party</i> Gary Dale Hartong <i>Republican Party</i>	
US House of Representatives District 2 (You may vote for ONE)		
Eugene F. Douglass <i>Republican Party</i> Deborah K. Ross <i>Democratic Party</i> Matthew Laszacs <i>Libertarian Party</i>	Wake County Clerk of Superior Court (You may vote for ONE) Claudia C. Croom <i>Democratic Party</i> Joe E. Teague, Jr.	City of Raleigh City Council District A (You may vote for ONE) Whitney Hill

The Dem Forum State of the State YOUR WAKE COUNTY BALLOT

- **Look up your exact, address-specific sample ballot before you go – *it's two-sided and longer than people expect***
- **<https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/sample-ballot>**
- **Key dates:**
 - **Oct. 9:** Registration Deadline
 - **Oct. 15–31:** Early Voting
 - **Nov. 3:** Election Day

SAMPLE BALLOT
SAMPLE BALLOT
SAMPLE BALLOT
SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample Ballot
Wake County, North Carolina
November 3, 2026

B0016

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BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

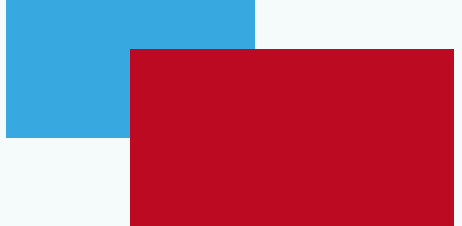
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.

B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line.

C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

PARTISAN ELECTIONS		District Attorney District 10 (You may vote for ONE)	City of Raleigh City Council At-Large (You may vote for TWO)
US Senate (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Michael Dublin Green Party ☐ Roy Cooper Democratic Party ☐ Shannon W. Bray Libertarian Party ☐ Michael Whatley Republican Party	Wake County Board of Commissioners At-Large (You may vote for TWO) ☐ Kyle Stogosi Republican Party ☐ Mona Singh Democratic Party ☐ Christine Kushner Democratic Party ☐ Gary Dale Hartong Republican Party	☐ Joshua Bradley ☐ Ms. Stormie Denise Forte ☐ Clark Rinehart ☐ Sana Siddiqui ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in	
US House of Representatives District 2 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Eugene F. Douglass Republican Party ☐ Deborah K. Ross Democratic Party ☐ Matthew Laszacs Libertarian Party ☐ Write-in	Wake County Clerk of Superior Court (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Claudia C. Croom Democratic Party ☐ Joe E. Teague, Jr. Republican Party	Wake County Sheriff (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Kenny Blackwell Republican Party ☐ Willie Rowe Democratic Party	
NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Anita Earls Democratic Party ☐ Sarah Stevens Republican Party	NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS		
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Michael C. Byrne Republican Party ☐ John S. Arrowood Democratic Party	Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (You may vote for TWO) ☐ Beth Pugh Farrell ☐ Jim White ☐ Terence Thomas ☐ Brian K. Lewis ☐ Samantha Krop ☐ Cece Grant ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in	City of Raleigh Mayor (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Ashleigh Heath Armstrong ☐ Janet Cowell ☐ Write-in	
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 2 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ George Cooper Bell Republican Party ☐ Tobias (Toby) Hampson Democratic Party	REFERENDA		
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 3 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Craig Collins Republican Party ☐ Christine Marie Walczyk Democratic Party	Constitutional Amendment Constitutional amendment to require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting. ☐ For ☐ Against		
NC State Senate District 15 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Jay J. Chaudhuri Democratic Party ☐ David Bankert Republican Party	Constitutional Amendment Constitutional amendment to keep the State income tax rate from being raised higher than three and one-half percent (3.5%). ☐ For ☐ Against		
NC House of Representatives District 34 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Tim Longest Democratic Party ☐ Ed George Libertarian Party	Constitutional Amendment Constitutional amendment requiring limits on property tax increases by local governments. ☐ For ☐ Against		
NC Superior Court Judge District 10B Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE) ☐ Vince Rozier, Jr. Democratic Party	Continue voting next side ➔		

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The Dem Forum State of the State

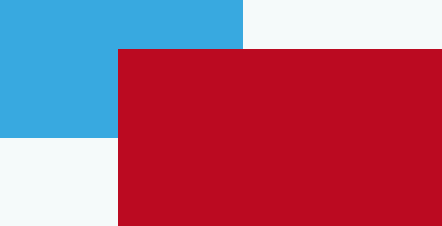
YOUR WAKE COUNTY BALLOT

- **The ballot flows in this order:**

**Federal → Statewide judicial → NC General Assembly
→ 3 constitutional amendments → County offices →**

Nonpartisan races





The Dem Forum State of the State

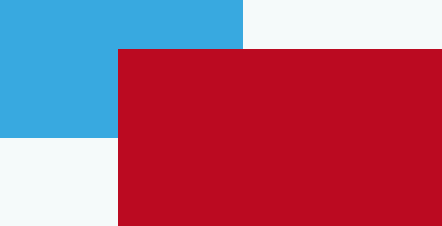
TOP OF THE BALLOT: Federal

- **U.S. Senate (everyone):**

- Roy Cooper (D), Michael Whatley (R), Shannon W. Bray (LIB), Michael Dublin (GRE)

- **U.S. House**

- **District 2:** Deborah K. Ross (D, i) · Eugene F. Douglass (R) · Matthew Laszacs (LIB)
 - **District 4:** Valerie P. Foushee (D, i) · Mahesh "Max" Ganorkar (R) · Guy Meilleur (LIB)
 - **District 13:** Brad Knott (R, i) · Paul Barringer (D) · Steven Swinton (LIB)
- 

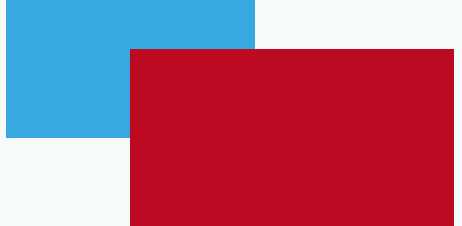


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STATEWIDE JUDICIAL

- **NC Supreme Court (1 seat):**
 - Anita Earls (D, i) vs. Sarah Stevens (R)
- **NC Court of Appeals (3 of 15 seats):**
 - **Seat 1:** John S. Arrowood (D, i) · Michael C. Byrne (R)
 - **Seat 2:** Toby Hampson (D, i) · George Cooper Bell (R)
 - **Seat 3:** Christine Marie Walczyk (D) · Craig Collins (R)



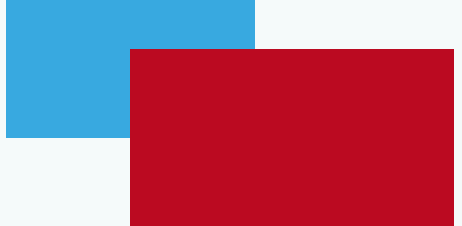


The Dem Forum State of the State

NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY - Senate

- **NC Senate:**
 - ***Dist. 18: Haseeb Fatmi (D) · Chris Stock (R) · Brad Hessel (LIB)***
 - ***Dist. 13: Lisa Grafstein (D, i) · Robert van Brederode (R)***
 - **Dist. 14:** Dan Blue Jr. (D, i) · Angela B. McCarty (R)
 - **Dist. 15:** Jay J. Chaudhuri (D, i) · David Bankert (R)
 - **Dist. 16:** Gale Adcock (D, i) · Philip Hensley (R) · Jonathan D. Miller (LIB)
 - **Dist. 17: Sydney Batch (D, i) · Shirley Johnson (R) · Patrick J. Bowersox (LIB)**

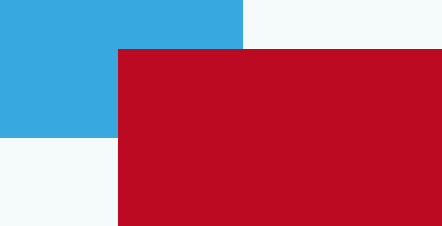




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NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY - House

- **Dist. 35 :** *Evonne S. Hopkins (D) vs. Mike Schietzelt (R, i)*
 - **Dist. 37:** *Winn Decker (D) vs. Erin Paré (R, i)*
 - **Dist. 21:** Ya Liu (D, i) vs. Bryson Johnson (R)
 - **Dist. 33:** Monika Johnson-Hostler (D, i) vs. Matthew Orr (R)
 - **Dist. 36:** Julie von Haefen (D, i) vs. Mary Insprucker (R)
 - **Dist. 41:** Maria Cervania (D, i) vs. Bruce Forster (R)
 - **Dist. 49:** Cynthia Ball (D, i) vs. Daran Thomas (R)
 - **Dist. 39:** James A. Roberson (D, i) vs. Jorge Cordova (R) vs. Wayne Cockrell (LIB)
 - **Libertarian Challenger:** Dist. 11: Allison A. Dahle, Dist. 34: Tim Longest, Phil Rubin
 - **Unopposed:** Dist. 38 – Abe Jones · Dist. 66 – Sarah Crawford
- 

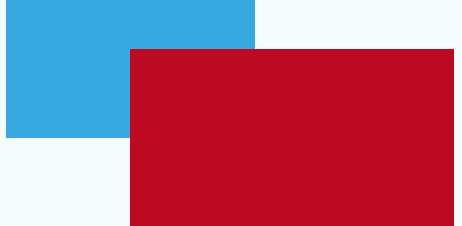


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THREE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- **More on that from Heba Atwa in a bit....**

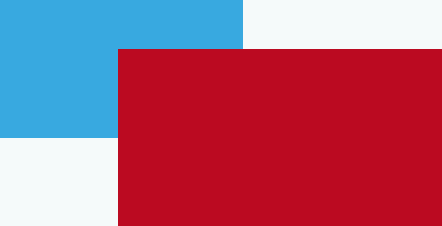




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WAKE COUNTY OFFICES (Partisan)

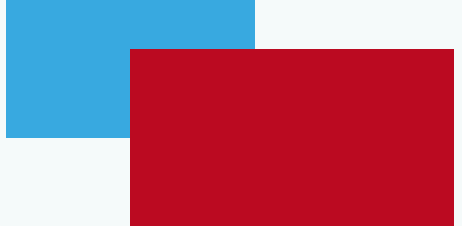
- **District Attorney (District 10):** Wiley Nickel (D) – unopposed
 - **Sheriff:** Willie Rowe (D, i) · Kenny Blackwell (R)
 - **Clerk of Superior Court:** Claudia C. Croom (D, i) · Joe E. Teague Jr. (R)
 - **Board of Commissioners: 2 At-Large:** Kushner (D), Singh (D), Hartong (R), Stogoski (R);
 - **District seats**
 - D2: Jackson (D, i)/Adcock (R)
 - D1, D3, D7 unopposed
 - **Judges:** Two Superior Court and eight District Court seats are up; most are unopposed
 - **One contested:** District Court 10D Seat 2 – Restucha (D) vs. Ratledge (R)
- 



The Dem Forum State of the State

WAKE COUNTY OFFICES (Non-Partisan)

- **Wake County Board of Education** (Dists. 1, 2, 7, 9) – all contested
 - **Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor** (vote for 2)
 - Beth Pugh Farrell (i),
 - Jim White,
 - Terence Thomas,
 - Brian K. Lewis
 - Samantha Krop
 - Cece Grant
 - **City of Raleigh: Mayor (Janet Cowell · Ashleigh Heath Armstrong) + City Council**
(if you live in Raleigh)
- 



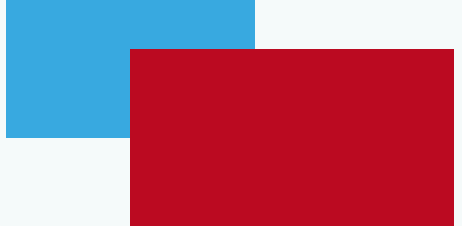
The Dem Forum State of the State

BONDS County Wide

- **Wake County School Bonds –**
 - \$680,000,000. Funds construction at three new schools plus major renovations across ~77 aging schools.
 - ~Tax impact: \$4.10 per \$100,000 of property value per year.
- **Wake County Community College Bonds –**
 - \$149,100,000. Funds Wake Tech facilities – renovation, expansion, and skilled-trades space.
 - ~Tax impact: \$0.90 per \$100,000 per year.

Combined, the county estimates the two bonds together would raise the property tax rate by about a half-cent (~\$5 per \$100,000).



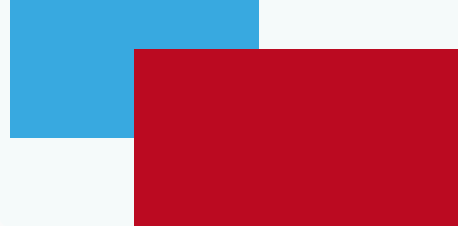


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BONDS Raleigh Residents Only

- **City of Raleigh Housing Bonds** – \$101,500,000. For affordable/workforce housing – construction, rehab, and assistance for low- and moderate-income residents. Ballot's estimated tax impact: \$0 per \$100,000 per year.
- **City of Raleigh Transportation Bonds** – \$101,500,000. For streets, sidewalks, bridges, bike lanes, greenways, and bus/train station improvements. Ballot's estimated tax impact: \$0 per \$100,000 per year.





The Dem Forum State of the State

Election Day is November 3, 2026



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DAYS HOURS MINUTES SECONDS

WAKE CO. ELECTIONS INFO



Board of Elections

The Board of Elections is responsible for conducting all elections held in Wake County. Lookup voter registration information, request an absentee by mail ballot, and find...

 Wake County Government

NC Budget & Tax Center's HEBA ATWA

WAKE
Democratic Forum



THANK YOU & NEXT STEPS

- Next meeting: November 6, 2026
- *Post Election Spectacular: with Forum Favorite Dr. David McLennan!*

