

North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections

2009-2010
Scorecard on
Campaign Reform



NC  **CE**

Volume 5, Issue 1

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Dear Scorecard Reader:

We have entered into a new era of money and politics. This election season, our state has seen millions of dollars of outside special-interest money flooding the airwaves, threatening to drown out the voices of ordinary North Carolinians. To add insult to injury, the Supreme Court has further deregulated corporate spending in its *Citizens United* decision, making it nearly impossible to discover who is putting up the money to influence elections.



For over a decade, North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections has been at the forefront of the fight for democratic reform and keeping special interests in check. Our coalition led North Carolina to enact the Judicial Campaign Reform “clean elections” model of full public financing. By establishing Voter-Owned Elections for State Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Commissioner of Insurance, we gave average citizens the opportunity to run for those offices and made it possible for the officeholders to refuse the donations — and pressure — of special interests.

North Carolina is viewed as a model for campaign finance reform across the nation. Our state has been on the cutting edge of enacting reforms that curtail the influence of big money and allow lawmakers to get back to the people's business rather than spending time dialing for cash and attending fundraisers. The national Fair Elections Now Act introduced in Congress mirrors North Carolina's public financing system. We are proud that Republican Walter Jones and Democrats G. K. Butterfield, Larry Kissell, Brad Miller, David Price and Mel Watt signed on as co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Now is the time to push forward. In 2010, we fought to expand Voter-Owned Elections to new state offices — a reform that was only narrowly defeated due to a last-minute campaign orchestrated by opponents with deep pockets. This scorecard looks at the 2009-2010 session and tells the story of legislators who went to bat for reform and those who wilted under the power of big money.

We must not let our momentum subside. If we are to solve the greatest problems of the 21st century — from health care to global climate change to economic revitalization — we must end our elected officials' dependence on wealthy interests. Public campaign financing is a proven way to create a cleaner, more accessible system of elections in North Carolina.

Melissa Price

Melissa Price, Director

Welcome to NC Voters for Clean Elections' 2009-2010 Scorecard on Campaign Reform!

In our fifth year of publication, we hope this can be a useful resource for voters, policymakers, journalists, and others to determine where state legislators stand on reforming our money-driven election system.

Methodology: The votes evaluated reflect NCVCE's 2009 and 2010 legislative agenda, and include the most important campaign reform votes taken during the 2010 legislative session, along with the scores from the 2009 edition. Final percentages are based on the number of times a legislator took the coalition's position divided by the total number of actions evaluated. Votes taken that agree with the campaign reform position are indicated by a P, and votes that disagree are indicated by a W. Excused absences (ABS) and non-votes (NV) are excluded from the final percentages, as are votes or co-sponsorships taken while the legislator was not in office. Only legislators who held their position through the date of the 2010 session's adjournment were included. Because of this exclusion, scorecard vote totals do not necessarily reflect actual vote totals.

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

House

Late in the 2010 session, the House tried to resuscitate Voter-Owned Elections with an initiative that would expand public campaign financing options to the Treasurer (using existing revenue streams) and authorize one additional municipality to create a local program. This initiative seemed to have life for awhile, receiving a favorable report in the House Election Law Committee and, eventually, being placed on the House calendar. However, the bill could not overcome vocal reservations by some House members, concerns about the upcoming election year, and indications from the Senate that the bill would not take up the bill. Progress was made but no floor votes were taken.

Senate

An initiative to expand the Council of State program to eight offices and create a sustainable fee-based revenue stream was contained within the Senate's ethics bill. It was introduced in the Senate Judiciary 1 Committee on the same day as Voter-Owned Elections Lobby Day. Although it did not contain a municipal public financing component, it did offer a strong expansion of the Council of State program. However, concern about the source of funding, opposition from special interest groups, and an aggressive call-in campaign orchestrated by Americans for Prosperity helped convince the Senate to pull the Voter-Owned Elections initiative from the final ethics reform package.

Gov't Ethics and Campaign Reform Act of 2010 - H 961 House & Senate

The 2010 ethics reform package was a step in the right direction. It requires the North Carolina State Board of Elections to create a searchable database on the Internet of contributions to statewide, judicial and legislative candidates, parties and PACs. Second, it requires that political appointees report campaign donations over \$1,000 that they made in the previous year to the official making the appointment. H-

961 created the new NC OpenBook website, which will provide details about all grants and contracts over \$10,000 awarded by state agencies. In addition, it makes public information about state employees' personnel status, disciplinary action, etc. It also establishes a mediation process for seeking public records so people can win attorney fees if their request is improperly blocked. H-961 also requires lobbyists to report more information about their income and activities. H-961 toughens penalties for illegal campaign donations above \$10,000 from a misdemeanor to a felony. Finally, it creates a special 10-member commission to study the expansion of the Voter-Owned Elections program and make recommendations in early 2011. (PASSED)

Chapel Hill Public Financing – H 120 House

This bill would have ended the sunset law for public campaign financing for Chapel Hill's municipal elections. The House chose not to take it up, so the Coalition must push this again to continue Chapel Hill's public financing past 2011. (DIED)

Citizens United Response Bill – H 748 House & Senate

This bill provides more transparency about independent expenditures made by corporations and unions. The bill better defines coordination and coordinated expenditures and requires reporting for electioneering communications. (PASSED)



Over 150 citizens came out for the North Carolina Voters for Clean Election Lobby Day on June 22, 2010. Here, citizens watch as the Senate Judiciary 1 Committee approves the addition of Voter-Owned Elections to the 2010 Ethics Reform Package.

N.C. House Scorecard, Part 1

Representative	Party	County	2009-2010 Session Score	2010 Score	Lifetime Score (%)	H 967 Adopt	H 748 Concur
Pro-Reform Vote						Yes	Yes
Adams, Alma	D	Guilford	88	—	88	NV	NV
Alexander, Jr., Kelly M.	D	Mecklenburg	100	100	90	✓	✓
Alexander, Martha B.	D	Mecklenburg	100	—	100	ABS	ABS
Avila, Marilyn	R	Wake	44	50	29	✓	⊙
Barnhart, Jeff	R	Cabarrus	44	50	50	✓	⊙
Bell, Larry M.	D	Sampson	100	100	82	✓	✓
Blackwell, Hugh	R	Burke	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Blackwood, Curtis	R	Union	50	50	44	✓	⊙
Blust, John M.	R	Guilford	56	50	46	✓	⊙
Boles, Jr., James L.	R	Moore	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Bordsen, Alice L.	D	Alamance	100	100	90	✓	✓
Braxton, R. Van	D	Lenoir	67	100	71	✓	✓
Brisson, William D.	D	Bladen	100	100	88	✓	✓
Brown, Larry R.	R	Forsyth	44	50	35	✓	⊙
Brubaker, Harold J.	R	Randolph	44	50	48	✓	⊙
Bryant, Angela R.	D	Halifax	100	100	100	✓	✓
Burr, Justin P.	R	Stanly	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Burris-Floyd, Parl	R	Gaston	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Carney, Becky *	D	Mecklenburg	100	100	91	✓	✓
Cleveland, George G.	R	Onslow	33	50	32	✓	⊙
Coates, Lorene	D	Rowan	100	100	96	✓	✓
Cole, Nelson	D	Rockingham	100	100	85	✓	✓
Cotham, Tricia Ann	D	Mecklenburg	100	—	100	ABS	ABS
Crawford Jr., James W.	D	Granville	56	100	56	✓	✓
Current Sr., William A.	R	Gaston	44	50	52	✓	⊙
Daughtry, N. Leo	R	Johnston	33	—	29	ABS	ABS
Dockham, Jerry C.	R	Davidson	50	50	36	✓	⊙
Dollar, Nelson	R	Wake	44	50	36	✓	⊙
Earle, Beverly M.	D	Mecklenburg	100	—	85	NV	NV
England, Bobby	D	Rutherford	100	100	89	✓	✓
Faison, Bill	D	Orange	89	100	74	✓	✓
Farmer-Butterfield, Jean	D	Wilson	100	100	95	✓	✓
Fisher, Susan C.	D	Buncombe	100	100	100	✓	✓
Floyd, Elmer	D	Cumberland	89	100	89	✓	✓
Folwell, Dale R.	R	Forsyth	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Frye, Philip	R	Mitchell	44	50	43	✓	⊙
Gibson, Pryor	D	Anson	89	100	89	✓	✓
Gill, Rosa U. *	D	Wake	100	100	100	✓	✓
Gillespie, Mitchell	R	McDowell	44	50	69	✓	⊙
Glazier, Rick	D	Cumberland	100	100	100	✓	✓
Goforth, Bruce	D	Buncombe	100	100	96	✓	✓

* Rep. Becky Carney did not receive a 2009 score because she was out sick for the majority of scored votes.

* Rosa Gill was appointed on 6/18/2009 after 2009 votes were taken.

Key

✓ = Pro-Reform Position

⊙ = Anti-Reform Position

ABS = Excused Absence

NV = Present, did not vote

— = Not applicable

N.C. House Scorecard, Part 2

Representative	Party	County	2009-2010 Score	2010 Score	Lifetime Score (%)	H 961 Adopt	H 748 Concur
Pro-Reform Vote						Yes	Yes
Goodwin, Melanie Wade	D	Richmond	100	100	100	✓	✓
Grady, W. Robert	R	Onslow	43	—	50	ABS	ABS
Guice, David W.	R	Transylvania	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Gulley, Jim	R	Mecklenburg	44	50	32	✓	⊙
Hackney, Joe (SPEAKER)*	D	Orange	100	100	100	✓	NV
Haire, R. Phillip	D	Jackson	100	100	85	✓	✓
Hall, Larry D.	D	Durham	100	100	96	✓	✓
Harrison, Pricey	D	Guilford	100	100	100	✓	✓
Heagarty, Chris *	D	Wake	100	100	100	✓	✓
Hill, Dewey L.	D	Columbus	89	100	73	✓	✓
Hilton, Mark K.	R	Catawba	44	50	39	✓	⊙
Holliman, Hugh	D	Davidson	100	100	82	✓	✓
Holloway, Bryan R.	R	Stokes	44	50	39	✓	⊙
Howard, Julia C.	R	Davie	44	50	58	✓	⊙
Hughes, Sandra Spaulding	D	New Hanover	100	100	82	✓	✓
Hurley, Pat B.	R	Randolph	44	50	35	✓	⊙
ller, Frank*	R	Brunswick	50	50	50	✓	⊙
Ingle, Dan*	R	Alamance	50	50	50	✓	⊙
Insko, Verla	D	Orange	100	100	100	✓	✓
Jackson, Darren G. *	D	Wake	100	—	100	NV	NV
Jeffus, Maggie	D	Guilford	100	100	96	✓	✓
Johnson, Linda P.	R	Cabarrus	38	50	46	✓	⊙
Jones, Earl	D	Guilford	100	—	77	NV	NV
Justice, Carolyn H.	R	Pender	44	50	71	✓	⊙
Justus, Carolyn K.	R	Henderson	44	50	50	✓	⊙
Killian, Ric	R	Mecklenburg	33	50	24	✓	⊙
Langdon, Jr., James H.	R	Johnston	33	50	32	✓	⊙
Lewis, David R.	R	Harnett	44	50	39	✓	⊙
Love, Sr., Jimmy L.	D	Lee	100	100	88	✓	✓
Lucas, Marvin W.	D	Cumberland	100	100	93	✓	✓
Luebke, Paul	D	Durham	100	100	100	✓	✓
Mackey, Nick	D	Mecklenburg	100	—	100	NV	NV
Martin, Grier	D	Wake	100	100	100	✓	✓
May, John *	D	Franklin	100	100	100	✓	✓
McComas, Daniel F.	R	New Hanover	44	50	56	✓	⊙
McCormick, Darrell G.	R	Yadkin?	33	50	33	✓	⊙
McElraft, Pat	R	Carteret	44	50	35	✓	⊙
McGee, William C. "Bill"	R	Forsyth	43	—	48	NV	NV
McLawhorn, Marian N.	D	Pitt	100	100	96	✓	✓

* Because it is not customary for the Speaker to vote or co-sponsor bills, Speaker Hackney was only scored on one vote-H 961.

*Chris Heagarty was appointed 10/30/2009.

* Frank Iller was appointed 6/18/2009.

* Dan Ingle was appointed 6/12/2009.

* Darren G. Jackson was appointed 1/29/2009.

* John May was appointed 4/21/2010.

Key

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ABS = Excused Absence

NV = Present, did not vote

— = Not applicable

N.C. House Scorecard, Part 3

Representative	Party	County	2009-2010 Score	2010 Score	Lifetime Score (%)	H 961 Adopt	H 748 Concur
Pro-Reform Vote						Yes	Yes
Michaux, Jr., Henry M.	D	Durham	89	100	85	✓	✓
Mills, Grey	R	Iredell	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Mobley, Annie W.	D	Hertford	100	100	94	✓	✓
Moore, Tim	R	Cleveland	44	50	43	✓	⊙
Neuman, Will	R	Gaston	44	50	35	✓	⊙
Owens, Bill	D	Pasquotank	100	100	89	✓	✓
Parfitt, Diane	D	Cumberland	100	100	100	✓	✓
Parmon, Earline W.	D	Forsyth	100	100	79	✓	✓
Pierce, Garland E.	D	Scotland	100	100	89	✓	✓
Randleman, Shirley B.	R	Wilkes	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Rapp, Ray	D	Madison	100	100	96	✓	✓
Rhyne, Jr., Johnathan	R	Lincoln	50	50	50	✓	⊙
Ross, Deborah K.	D	Wake	100	100	96	✓	✓
Sager, Efton M.	R	Wayne	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Samuelson, Ruth	R	Mecklenburg	43	—	36	ABS	ABS
Setzer, Mitchell S.	R	Catawba	50	50	48	✓	⊙
Spear, Timothy L.	D	Chowan	56	100	54	✓	✓
Stam, Paul	R	Wake	44	50	37	✓	⊙
Starnes, Edgar V.	R	Caldwell	43	—	36	ABS	ABS
Steen II, Fred F.	R	Rowan	44	50	52	✓	⊙
Stevens, Sarah	R	Surry	44	50	44	✓	⊙
Stewart, Randy	D	Nash	100	100	100	✓	✓
Sutton, Ronnie	D	Robeson	43	n/a	50	ABS	ABS
Tarleton, Cullie M.	D	Watauga	100	100	100	✓	✓
Tillis, Thom	R	Gaston	44	50	38	✓	⊙
Tolson, Joe P.	D	Edgecombe	100	100	89	✓	✓
Tucker, Russell E.	D	Duplin	86	n/a	63	ABS	ABS
Underhill, Alice Graham	D	Craven	100	100	100	✓	✓
Wainwright, William L.	D	Craven	100	100	92	✓	✓
Warren, Edith D.	D	Pitt	100	100	93	✓	✓
Warren, Ray	D	Alexander	100	100	100	✓	✓
Weiss, Jennifer	D	Wake	100	100	100	✓	✓
West, Roger	R	Cherokee	50	50	50	✓	⊙
Whilden, Jane	D	Buncombe	100	100	100	✓	✓
Wiley, Laura I.	R	Guilford	44	50	32	✓	⊙
Wilkins, W.A. "Winkie"	D	Person	100	100	93	✓	✓
Williams, Arthur	D	Beaufort	78	100	68	✓	✓
Womble, Larry	D	Forsyth	100	100	91	✓	✓
Wray, Michael H.	D	Northampton	100	100	84	✓	✓
Yongue, Douglas Y.	D	Scotland	100	—	85	ABS	ABS

* Diane Parfitt was appointed 2/19/2009.

Key

- ✓ = Pro-Reform Position
- ⊙ = Anti-Reform Position
- ABS = Excused Absence
- NV = Present, did not vote
- = Not applicable

N.C. Senate Scorecard

Representative	Party	County	2009-2010 Session Score	2010 Score	Life time Score	H 120 Second Reading	H 148 Second Reading	H 748 Third Reading	H 961 Second Reading	H 961 Adopt
Pro-Reform Vote						Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Albertson, Charles W.	D	Duplin	92	100	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allran, Austin M.	R	Catawba	25	40	32	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Apodaca, Tom	R	Henderson	38	40	44	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Atwater, Bob	D	Chatham	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basnight, Marc	D	Dare	92	100	89	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Berger, Doug	D	Franklin	100	100	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Berger, Phil	R	Rockingham	23	20	27	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	⊗
Bingham, Stan	R	Davidson	44	50	65	✓	⊗	⊗	✓	NV
Blake, Harris	R	Moore	27	33	44	NV	⊗	⊗	✓	NV
Blue, Dan	D	Wake	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boseman, Julia	D	New Hanover	91	100	91	ABS	✓	✓	✓	ABS
Brock, Andrew C.	R	Davie	38	40	41	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Brown, Harry	R	Onslow	38	40	38	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Brunstetter, Peter S.	R	Forsyth	38	40	46	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Clary, Debbie A.	R	Cleveland	25	25	36	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	ABS
Clodfelter, Daniel G.	D	Mecklenburg	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dannelly, Charlie Smith	D	Mecklenburg	92	100	88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Davis, Don	D	Greene	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dickson, Margaret Highsmith*	D	Cumberland	100	100	97	ABS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dorsett, Katie G.	D	Guilford	100	100	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	ABS
East, Don	R	Surry	31	40	35	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Forrest, Tony	D	Alamance	100	100	95	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Forrester, James	R	Gaston	31	40	38	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Garrou, Linda	D	Forsyth	92	100	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goodall, W. Edward "Eddie"	R	Union	40	50	30	ABS	⊗	ABS	✓	ABS
Goss, Steve	D	Watauga	92	80	95	⊗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Graham, Malcolm	D	Mecklenburg	89	100	95	✓	✓	NV	✓	NV
Hartsell, Jr., Fletcher L.	R	Cabarrus	62	60	72	✓	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Hoyle, David W.	D	Gaston	92	100	80	✓	ABS	✓	✓	✓
Hunt, Neal	R	Wake	25	25	28	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	ABS
Jacumin, Jim	R	Burke	27	33	33	⊗	⊗	ABS	✓	ABS
Jenkins, Clark	D	Edgecombe	92	100	91	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jones, Ed	D	Halifax	100	100	93	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kinnaird, Eleanor	D	Orange	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McKissick, Jr., Floyd B.*	D	Durham	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nesbitt Jr., Martin L.	D	Buncombe	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Preston, Jean	R	Craven	42	60	45	✓	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Purcell, William R.	D	Scotland	92	100	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Queen, Joe Sam	D	Haywood	92	100	89	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rouzer, David	R	Johnston	25	25	25	⊗	⊗	⊗	ABS	✓
Rucho, Bob	R	Mecklenburg	25	25	25	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	ABS
Shaw, Larry	D	Cumberland	100	—	89	ABS	NV	NV	ABS	NV
Snow, John	D	Cherokee	92	80	96	⊗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soles Jr., R.C.	D	Columbus	92	100	88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stein, Josh	D	Wake	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stevens, Richard *	R	Wake	43	60	62	✓	⊗	⊗	✓	✓
Swindell, A.B.	D	Nash	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tillman, Jerry W.	R	Randolph	25	25	36	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	NV
Vaughan, Don	D	Guilford	92	100	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walters, Michael P.*	D	Robeson	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Dan Blue was appointed on 5/19/2009. He was a co-sponsor of VOE while serving in the House before this date.

* Margaret Highsmith Dickson was appointed 1/21/2010 from the House.

* Richard Stevens was out with an injury for much of the 2009 session.

* Michael P. Walters was appointed 11/3/2009.

Key

✓ = Pro-Reform Position

⊗ = Anti-Reform Position

ABS = Excused Absence

NV = Present, did not vote

— = Not applicable

Will you help us work for a better democracy in North Carolina?

YES, here's my donation to NCVCE to help the coalition continue its advocacy for Voter-Owned Elections in North Carolina.

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Because your donation supports NCVCE's direct advocacy and political work, your contribution is not tax-deductible.

NC Voters for Clean Elections, is the coalition-based coordinating and lobbying group for the campaign finance reform movement in North Carolina. We work closely with our coalition members to develop a common reform agenda. We believe that a system of public campaign financing is the best way to reduce the campaign money chase and restore trust in government. For more information visit: www.ncvce.org



N.C. Voters for Clean Elections

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