

Election 2014 Candidates – NC Senate

Office	District	Candidates	# seats in election
NC Senate	37	Jeff Jackson (D)	1
	38	Richard Rivette (R)* Joel Ford (D)	1
	39	Robert Rucho (R)*	1
	40	Joyce Waddell (D)*	1
	41	Jeff Tarte (R)* Latrice McRae (D)	1

High school students surveyed all candidates for this Election 2014 office. Candidates who completed the questionnaire are included in this guide.

\* = The candidate did not provide the requested information.

Return to the Student Candidate Guide for other Election 2014 candidates; information about government, elections, and voting; how to participate in GenerationNation’s Kids Voting election and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council; educational tools, and more.

[www.generationnation.org/index.php/election/candidateguide2014](http://www.generationnation.org/index.php/election/candidateguide2014)

<b>NC Senate District 37</b>	<b>Jeff Jackson</b>
<b>Website</b>	JeffJacksonNC.com
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<b>Occupation</b>	Attorney
<b>Education</b>	B.A. - Emory University. J.D. - UNC Law
<b>Political viewpoint</b>	Progressive
<b>Favorite news source</b>	Google News
<b>Grew up in</b>	Chapel Hill, NC
<b>Youth interests in civics, government, and leadership</b>	I've always been interested in how strong leaders can overcome tremendous obstacles.
<b>Community involvement and leadership experience</b>	Captain in the National Guard JAG Corps, veteran of Afghanistan, former assistant district attorney

<b>First issue I will tackle</b>	As a former criminal prosecutor, I'm shining a light on the serious need to make several critical investments in our judicial system. We need to restore our drug courts. We also need to update the software that holds all of our criminal records. It's based on a pre-Windows code that is in serious need of an upgrade.
<b>How I will impact...</b>	
<b>Education</b>	Every child needs to go to college - either technical college, 2 year college, or 4 year college. In today's highly competitive marketplace, it's absolutely necessary. We need to meet the needs of the market and the needs of our citizens by making it a firm expectation that high school can no longer be the end of the road in their education. But we also have to take steps to ensure that everyone can afford post-secondary education.
<b>Economy</b>	By ensuring a more skilled workforce through increased attendance at post-secondary educational institutions.
<b>Government budget</b>	Our budget process needs to be more transparent. Too many major decisions are made without public input.
<b>Children and youth</b>	In addition to creating a clear expectation of post-secondary education, we also need to raise the age for juvenile crime to 18 - like every other state in the country (except NY). We don't need to ruin a kid's life because he spray paints an overpass when he's

	16.
<b>Community health/safety</b>	We need to expand Medicaid. It will cover 400,000 North Carolinians, save thousands of lives, more fairly share risk within the health system, and create 25,000 jobs.
<b>Community growth/quality of life</b>	There's one group whose quality of life is being purposefully targeted for derision, and that's our LGBT community. We need to remove the discrimination that was written into our state constitution through Amendment One.
<b>Most important role of government</b>	Investing in world-class public education to prepare our citizens for a highly competitive marketplace.
<b>Way candidate will help leaders to collaborate</b>	The most important thing we could do to encourage collaboration is to end gerrymandering. Partisan redistricting discourages reasonable people from running for office and favors people at the extremes. Both sides have engaged in counter-productive gerrymandering and it's time to put it behind us.
<b>At end of term, biggest accomplishment will be</b>	A vastly more efficient criminal justice system, thanks to an investment in basic technology.
<b>What else should people know about you?</b>	I'm almost half the average age of the state senate. Sometimes I feel like I'm the only one there who doesn't remember the moon landing.

<b>NC Senate District 38</b>	<b>Joel Ford</b>
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<b>Occupation</b>	Operations Manager & Chief Innovation Officer
<b>Education</b>	NC A&T State University
<b>Political viewpoint</b>	Free thinking Democrat
<b>Favorite news source</b>	Twitter and Online news
<b>Grew up in</b>	Belmont/Charlotte NC
<b>Youth interests in civics, government, and leadership</b>	Helping others to help themselves.
<b>Community involvement and leadership experience</b>	Former Chair Charlotte Housing Authority, Board member Renaissance West Community Initiative

<b>First issue I will tackle</b>	Working on jobs and improving our economy. Because a good paying job answers a lot of question like: access to food, housing and health care.
<b>How I will impact...</b>	
<b>Education</b>	By giving school districts the freedom to allocate education funding according to unique needs and circumstances. Require schools to post budgets and other public documents online.
<b>Economy</b>	By suggesting strategies for promoting economic growth in both the short term and the long term that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping overall tax and regulatory burdens as low.</li> <li>• Spending more tax dollars on public safety and the courts.</li> <li>• Increasing the productivity of current taxpayer spending on infrastructure and education programs that work.</li> </ul>
<b>Government budget</b>	While in 2013 the legislature made some strides in reforming the tax code and cutting the overall tax burden for some, there is still more to be done. The state's tax system still penalizes working families and small businesses. Medicaid and the health care system are also in need of major reform. But a great deal still needs to be accomplished, particularly in the areas of tax reform,

	coal ash, and the Charlotte airport.
<b>Children and youth</b>	As childhood obesity rates continue to rise, the debate over the National School Lunch Program and the sale of junk food in and around public schools has intensified. I will work with elected officials on efforts to promote healthy lifestyles, research suggests that quality programs can make children healthier.
<b>Community health/safety</b>	One year ago, Gov. Pat McCrory proposed a Medicaid reform that would have statewide managed care organizations (MCOs) compete to provide health care services to North Carolina's Medicaid patients. Each patient would be risk-adjusted for individual health status. These MCOs would be awarded fixed contracts from the state to have providers deliver care and would bear full risk in the event of cost overruns. Taxpayers would only be on the hook for Medicaid enrollment fluctuations. MCOs would be responsible for all Medicaid populations, coordinating both mental and physical health care needs. I will work with the current leadership for better health outcomes and reforms.
<b>Community growth/quality of life</b>	Most studies find that lower levels of taxes and spending, less-intrusive regulation, and lower energy prices correlate with stronger economic growth. Most studies also find that the quantity and quality of infrastructure and the level of educational attainment are linked to economic growth.
<b>Most important role of government</b>	I believe that the proper role of government is to do for the people those things that need to be done but cannot be done, or cannot be done as well by individuals, and that the most effective government is closest to the people.
<b>Way candidate will help leaders to collaborate</b>	By working with local elected officials to address a still-sluggish economy with high unemployment and under employment.
<b>At end of term, biggest accomplishment will be</b>	Helping to improve the lives of others.
<b>What else should people know about you?</b>	I am a husband and father. My wife and I have a beautiful 9 year old daughter in the 4th grade that attends public school.

<b>NC Senate District 41</b>	<b>Latrice McRae</b>
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<b>Instagram</b>	

<b>Occupation</b>	Accountant
<b>Education</b>	UNC Chapel Hill
<b>Political viewpoint</b>	Democrat
<b>Favorite news source</b>	Charlotte Observer
<b>Grew up in</b>	Anson County
<b>Youth interests in civics, government, and leadership</b>	Both
<b>Community involvement and leadership experience</b>	Business Owner

<b>First issue I will tackle</b>	I will work on our education system. A strong public education system is critical for our children in North Carolina. In order to maintain such a system, as an elected official we must advocate for a quality education for every child. We also must provide more support for our teachers in regards to pay and resources so they are effective in teaching our children.
<b>How I will impact...</b>	
<b>Education</b>	I will work to improve the quality of education while advocating and supporting teachers to ensure they can be effective in the class room, whether its resources or adequate pay.
<b>Economy</b>	In impacting the economy I will work to increase jobs and support for small businesses. As a longtime small business owner, I also know how vital it is for small businesses to have the necessary resources to continue to thrive and provide goods, services, and jobs for North Carolinians.
<b>Government budget</b>	I will work with my peers in the House and Senate to pass a budget that will be in the best interest of our state and citizens, while identifying solutions to continue to grow the state through solid infrastructure and economic development.
<b>Children and youth</b>	I will work to ensure children are safe and advocate on their behalf to protect their rights and ensure their well being is the

	highest priority. As a parent I understand the importance of advocacy and safety for our children.
<b>Community health/safety</b>	We have to continue to ensure the citizens basic necessities are met, by advocating and providing resources that will ensure adequate resources by putting in policies to ensure a healthy quality of life.
<b>Community growth/quality of life</b>	Jobs and the economy are a primary concern for many North Carolinians and should be a priority for our leaders. I'm committed to leading the efforts to boost our economy by focusing on small business growth and jobs. When people are able to work and earn a livable wage they are able to have a better quality of life mentally, physically and financially.
<b>Most important role of government</b>	The role of state government is to legislate on behalf of its citizens on issue and concerns that are not addressed by the federal government.
<b>Way candidate will help leaders to collaborate</b>	I believe in working across the aisle and listening to both sides of the dialogue. I will ensure that first and foremost the citizens concerns are always a priority.
<b>At end of term, biggest accomplishment will be</b>	For me, this change begins with our state government. I have decided to run for North Carolina State Senate for District 41 because I want to help find solutions that make sense for North Carolina's working families. We need a strong voice in Raleigh, and we need those who speak for us to understand the daily challenges we face. Most importantly, we need leaders who are going to restore accountability and who will put people ahead of political agendas.
<b>What else should people know about you?</b>	I am dedicated to working with everyone to make North Carolina the best state in which to raise a family, today, tomorrow, and for years to come. I hope you will join me in moving our families, district, and state forward.