

North Carolina

Legislative Scorecard

2024–2025



2024–2025 North Carolina

Legislative Scorecard

A Message From Our Director

Dear Conservation Voter,

This scorecard highlights some of the most significant – and troubling – environmental actions taken by our state government in 2024 and 2025. You will notice this scorecard version does not list all of the 2024 scores and votes in detail (to save more trees!), but you can find the full list of bills, votes, and scores on our website, nclcv.org/scorecard.

At the time of publishing, the 2025 session has taken a recess, which means we need to be vigilant as ever for any bad environmental legislation that could pop up out of nowhere. With pro-polluters in control of the legislature, upholding the governor's vetoes will be more important than ever. Unfortunately, as their final act before leaving town – without passing a budget – the Republican majority passed a new Congressional map that attempts to disenfranchise Black voters and take away a seat from Rep. Don Davis (D).

In his first year as Governor, Josh Stein has proven to be a loyal and strong leader for our people and environment. So far he has vetoed 14 bills, including legislation threatening our environment and North Carolina's democracy. Senate Bill (SB) 266 removed North Carolina's interim climate goals for carbon reduction and placed families and communities on the hook for billions of dollars in construction fees. Other bills – like House Bill (HB) 171 – paved the way for more voter disenfranchisement. While Gov. Stein vetoed these devastating bills, most of them were overridden by anti-environmental lawmakers, including SB 266 and HB 171.

With Donald Trump slashing funding to many environmental agencies, destroying cutting-edge research programs, and clawing back clean energy incentives, state advocacy is becoming more and more important. Legislators have chosen to help or hurt North Carolina with their votes, and now we know who is on our side in trying to keep our state environmentally sound and its citizens healthy.

Please consider this scorecard as you engage with decision makers and head to vote in 2026 – by rewarding our champions and holding accountable those who side with polluters and opponents of democracy. Look closely and see if your representatives have been responsible environmental voters these sessions. If they haven't, give them a call and encourage them to do better.

Take Care,

Carrie



Carrie Clark
Executive Director



2024 “Short” Session

Short sessions should end in late June to mid-July; but partisan lawmakers kept the 2024 “short” session running until December 13, 2024 to circumvent some outcomes of the 2024 election.

NC Legislature's Actions

■ Made Hurricane Helene's Destruction Worse

Hurricane Helene rattled our state like no climate disaster has before, particularly in Western North Carolina. It has become one of the U.S.'s deadliest and costliest hurricanes,¹ with more than 200 deaths and an estimated economic loss of \$78 billion. Unfortunately, our legislature could have prepared for and mitigated some of this destruction. Instead, they made it worse.

A significant contributor to the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Helene was the outdated building codes. Over the last decade or so, legislators have continually had opportunities to update these codes. Instead, they have unwisely rolled back the codes. Reporting shows these rollbacks cost our state \$70M in disaster preparedness² from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), of which \$18M would have been designated specifically to Western North Carolina for flood resilience. But why would the legislature not update building codes to protect their constituents?

Greedy Developers Cost Families and Communities Millions in Disaster Preparedness

Large lobbying groups in North Carolina have repeatedly convinced legislators to reject common-sense rules in building codes and zoning. In 2023, Republicans

blocked updates to residential building codes that could have improved the ability of homes to withstand hurricanes and improve the energy efficiency of buildings.

Greedy developers argued implementing these rules would increase development costs which would then be passed on to consumers. But an independent analysis by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory found that the increase in cost for home energy efficiency would be "made up in just a few years by lower energy costs."³ Legislators caved to lobbying efforts, leaving hardworking families and their homes vulnerable to the increasing intensity of natural disasters.

Will Hurricane Helene be a turning point for the North Carolina General Assembly?

Time and time again, the NCGA's pro-polluting majority has failed to act on climate change. But will Hurricane Helene be a turning point for the current majority at the NCGA? If it is not, we need new legislators – legislators that will listen to their constituents.

That is why our work is so important. We are not only building well-informed movements and support for climate action, but we are using our resources (such as this scorecard) to hold legislators accountable.



¹ Erdman, J. (2025, March 21). Most Shocking Things From Hurricane Helene's Final Report. Weather Underground. <https://wu-next-prod-us-west-2-aws.wunderground.com/article/storms/hurricane/news/2025-03-19-hurricane-helene-final-report-nhc-deaths-damage-flooding> ² Kingdollar, B. (2024, October 16). Building codes led North Carolina to lose out on \$70M in disaster prep funds, state says. NC Newsline. <https://ncnewsline.com/2024/10/16/building-codes-led-north-carolina-to-lose-out-on-70m-in-disaster-prep-funds-state-says/> ³ McGrath, G. (2023, July 18) Cost concerns and politics could derail NC's push for more energy efficient homes. Star News Online. <https://www.starnewsonline.com/story/news/local/2023/07/18/nc-republicans-worry-how-much-more-energy-efficient-homes-would-cost/70404544007/>

It may be a slow process due to the unfair and unrepresentative districts handpicked by powerful politicians, but we are making substantial gains year after year. In the 2024 elections, we helped elect one of the greenest candidates for governor. We broke the supermajority in the NC House of Representatives. In the coming years, we will help elect more climate advocates to the NCGA and other positions of power.

How did climate change contribute to Hurricane Helene?

At the time, Trump was running for President, and he used this opportunity to assert the storm had no connection to climate change.⁴ Yet, NC meteorologists reported the connection is “certain.”⁵

It starts with the record warming of ocean waters and atmosphere. Warm water is the “fuel” for hurricanes, and summer 2024 was one of the warmest summers on record.⁶ The eye of Helene entered the Gulf of Mexico as a diminished tropical storm. Once it began to draw on the Gulf’s superheated waters, Helene rapidly intensified, reaching hurricane Category 4 status by the time its center impacted Florida’s Big Bend area. The massive storm was able to carry such an enormous load of water because much warmer air holds more moisture.

Helene was the third hurricane in 13 months to take that previously unusual storm track. Unlike the previous two, however, Helene did not dawdle over the coast itself, discharging much of its moisture there. Instead, the prevailing winds allowed it to continue charging inland, until it met the mountains and colder air, where it flushed most of its extraordinary load of water.

Helene has been called a 500-year storm for the mountain region of North Carolina, meaning that a storm of that intensity and flooding has a 0.2% chance of happening in any given year. However, climate change is increasing these probabilities. Larger, more intense storms are

already occurring more frequently, and that trend is expected to continue or grow worse.

As another relevant result, the maps which are supposed to delineate risk zones are also increasingly out of date. FEMA maps of flood zones are behind the curve of climate change, and residents haven’t yet realized the degree of added risk that they face.



⁴ Gomez Licon, A.; Fernando, C.; and Amy, J. (2024, September 30). Trump makes false claims about federal response as he campaigns in area ravaged by Hurricane Helene. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/kamala-harris-donald-trump-hurricane-helene-3097f1706455929adf5a4eb67f9cdf0f> ⁵ Chung, C. (2024, October 3). Climate change deniers spread misinformation about Hurricane Helene. Winston Salem Journal. https://journalnow.com/news/local/hurricane-helene-climate-change-misinformation/article_204a-62da-80ff-11ef-b1f1-4f599f32990e.html ⁶ Carrie, D. & Dello, K. (2025, January 21). The weather year in review: Heat, Helene, and weather whiplash in 2024. North Carolina State Climate Office, North Carolina State University. <https://climate.ncsu.edu/blog/2025/01/the-weather-year-in-review-heat-helene-and-weather-whiplash-in-2024/#:::text=In%20Raleigh%2C%20the%20heat%20reached,National%20Weather%20Service%20in%20Raleigh.>

Holding WNC Hostage for Political Power

After losing their bid for the 2024 Governor's election, Republican legislative leadership carried out a plan to gain more self-serving, political power and undo the results of the election. It came under the guise of Senate Bill 382, "Disaster Relief."

Instead of providing swift aid to the victims devastated by Hurricane Helene, the pro-polluting supermajority sought to take advantage of this climate disaster and strip power from the newly elected Governor and Attorney General. Additionally, they sought to set unrealistic deadlines for mail-in and provisional ballots, and unconstitutionally remove checks and balances in our court system. This play for unchecked power came under the name "Disaster Relief," but it was anything but meaningful relief.

"Sham" Legislation Shuffling Money

Governor Cooper quickly vetoed the bill, calling

it a "sham," and pointed out the legislation "does not send money to Western North Carolina but merely shuffles money from one fund to another in Raleigh."¹ Instead of dipping into our state's "rainy-day fund" – a fund designed specifically for emergencies like this – the legislature ignored the crisis and focused on negating the results of the 2024 election.

SB 382 was so flagrantly deceptive that three Republican legislators from western NC voted against it on its first consideration in the House. Caving to pressure from their party, these members fell in line, and the supermajority ultimately overturned Governor Cooper's veto, passing the bill into law.

Why Do Governor's, Attorney General's Power Matter for Clean Energy?

Why do the Governor's appointment powers





matter for the environment? These particular appointments by the Governor are vitally important for climate action as they select the leaders for the NC Utilities Commission (NCUC) – the commission in charge of making sure our utility companies follow the law, don’t overcharge us, and meet our climate goals. Our state constitution gave these appointment powers to the Governor; but because their candidate for governor lost, pro-polluters in the legislature stripped this power away from the Governor and gave it to the Treasurer (newly elected Republican Brad Briner). Previously, the legislature reduced the number of commissioners from seven to five and gave the Republican Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader appointment power for two of the five remaining seats. This intentionally shifts the NCUC majority appointments to currently Republican-held offices. Additionally, this legislation stripped the ability of

the Attorney General to contest rate hikes from utility companies at the NCUC. This particularly “[interferes] with the Attorney General’s ability to advocate for lower electric bills for consumers,” as Governor Cooper pointed out in his veto.¹ At a time when we need our leaders to lower our bills and address climate change, the supermajority showed once again that they side with greedy corporate polluters. The irony is, that instead of addressing the repercussions of a climate disaster, the legislature took advantage of the situation and consolidated power to continue their pollution schemes, which could further exacerbate future natural disasters.

Democracy Concerns

The power-hungry leadership also included in S.B. 382 several changes to our election and court systems. S.B. 382 stripped the Governor’s power to appoint and fill the State Board of Elections, as

¹ Office of Governor Cooper. (2024, November 26). Governor Cooper Vetoes One Bill. <https://governor.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2024/11/26/governor-cooper-vetoes-one-bill>

well as appoint the chair of each County Board of Elections. The bill gave all of these powers to the State Auditor, a seat held by an ally of the pro-polluting majority. No other state in this country grants this power to the State Auditor, and the legislature did not provide any justification for this unabashed political move.

S.B. 382 drastically reduced the time frame for County Boards to count provisional ballots from nine days to three days, which could compromise the accuracy and thoroughness of vote counts. This bill also reduced the time from nine to three days for voters to fix voter photo ID, voter registration, and mail-in ballot deficiencies so their votes will be counted. In sum, S.B. 382 condenses the vote-counting process, jeopardizing voter confidence in safe and secure elections.

If these legislators stood by their convictions, they would have gone through the correct process. They would not have attached these changes to Hurricane relief. They would have filed it as separate bills and provided time for members and the public to give their input. Instead, they politicized hurricane relief, rammed their changes through a conference report, and only released it to members and the public an hour before voting. This process demonstrates that they prioritize their personal political agendas more than they do the safety and well-being of North Carolinians.

Courts

Finally, S.B. 382 removes two judges elected by the people and replaces them with two judges





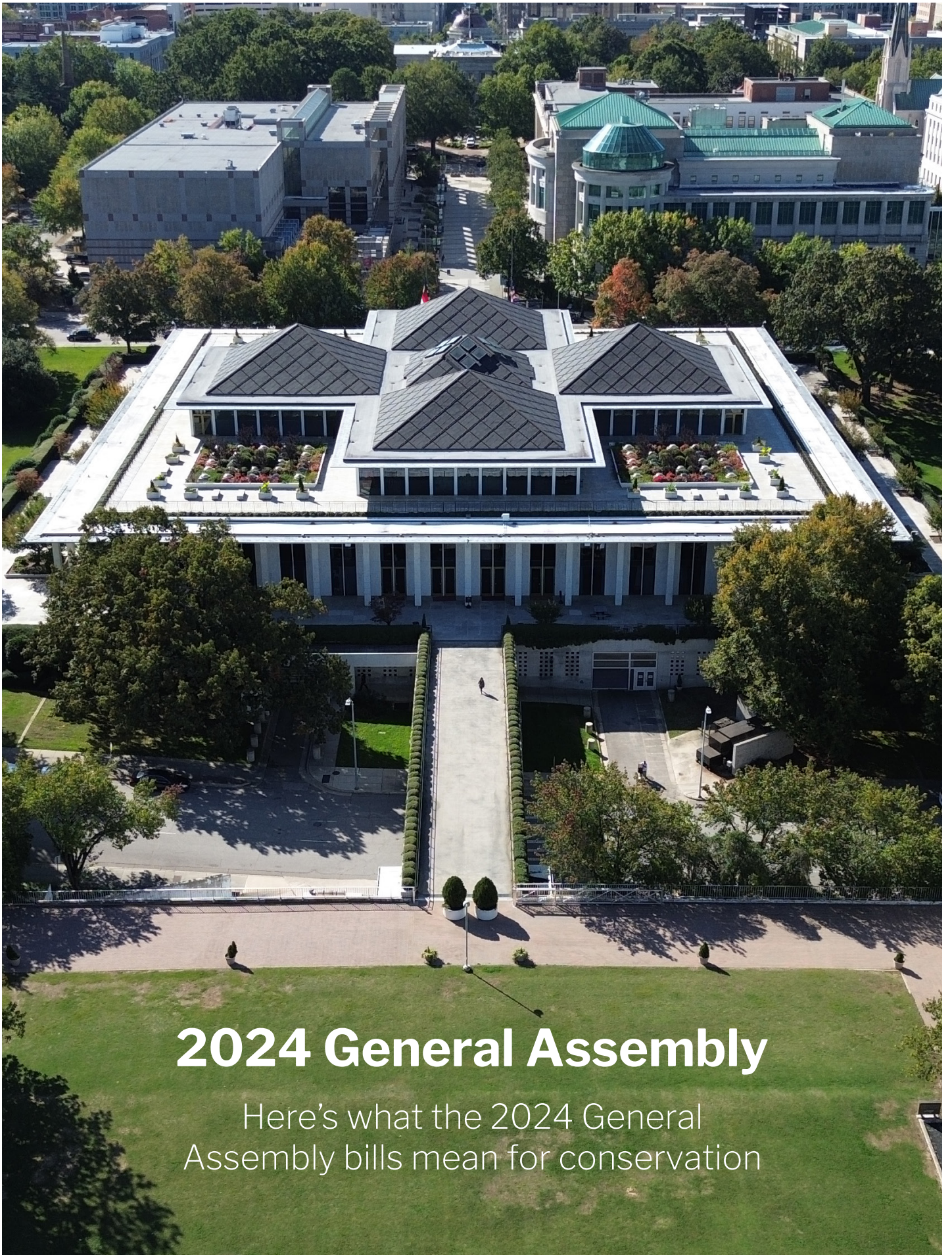
appointed by the legislature. This follows an unconstitutional trend by legislative leadership to appoint certain judges outside the electoral process.

We – along with 26 other opposing organizations – wrote:

‘Courts should be the guardians of our democracy, yet this bill threatens judicial independence. The intent is to make the courts more amenable to a gerrymandered legislature. Judges and Justices should not be political tools used to protect the power that is within this legislative branch. This blatant attempt to circumvent the separation of powers erodes the conditions for free, fair, and secure elections.’²



² Action NC, Advance Carolina, American Civil Liberties Union of NC, Carolina Jews for Justice, Common Cause North Carolina, Democracy North Carolina, El Pueblo, Emancipate NC, Forward Justice, Forward Justice Action Network, League of Women Voters of North Carolina, North Carolina Asian Americans Together, NCAAT in Action, North Carolina Association of Educators, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, North Carolina Council of Churches, North Carolina Justice Center, North Carolina NAACP, NC Counts Coalition, NC League of Conservation Voters, North Carolina Black Alliance, N.C. For the People Action, NC State AFL-CIO, Pro-Choice North Carolina, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, & Unitarian Universalist Justice NC. (2024, November 24). Veto Senate Bill 382 (Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes) [Letter]. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eav1zKZBNhx0lWF3ziwUfT1MkAw38yjKd3g1BISB6v0/edit?tab=t.0>



2024 General Assembly

Here's what the 2024 General Assembly bills mean for conservation

House Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[H1] S.B. 166: Conf. Report Adopted 2024 Bldg. Code Regulatory Reform

This bill amends the North Carolina building codes, and these amendments are dangerous and costly for North Carolinians. Building off the 2023 Building Code changes (H.B. 488), the 2024 bill further prevents updates to the 2012 residential energy standards until 2031. By failing to update the building codes, the General Assembly prevents energy efficiency upgrades that would reduce residents' energy burden and help meet state climate goals. The bill also weakens fire safety regulations and removes subject matter experts from the Building Code Council while stripping the Governor's power to appoint council members. Instead, appointments will be shared between the Governor and the Legislature. The Senate adopted the Conference Report [S1] and then sent the bill to the House for consideration.

Passed 77-28. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H2] S.B. 166: Conf. Report Failed 2024 Bldg. Code Regulatory Reform

Following the Senate's adoption of the Conference Report (see [S1] in Senate Votes), the bill was sent to the House for consideration. Rep. Pricey Harrison and Rep. Dean Arp brought bipartisan concerns over the removal of subject matter experts (e.g. architects, contractors with coastal development knowledge, and fire code experts) from the Building Codes Council. These concerns initially caused the Conf. Report to fail, and that vote is reported here. However, House Republicans quickly regrouped and brought Representative Dean Arp on board. They voted to reconsider the Conference Report, and then it was adopted [H1].

Failed 45-62. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H3] H.B. 198: Veto Override DOT Legislative Changes

The General Assembly voted to override Governor Cooper's veto of HB 198, the "Billboard Bill." This bill not only removes our native redbud trees' protected status, it increases the total area of trees billboard companies can clear from 350 to 500 feet, increases the area they can clear without a permit by 50%, and makes it harder for the NC Department of Transportation to deny billboard relocations.

Passed 74-42. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H4] H.B. 237: Conf. Report, Veto Override Various Criminal and Election Law Changes

Previously titled "Unmasking Mobs and Criminals"

This anti-democratic bill criminalizes mask-wearing in public while figuratively placing a mask over campaign finance reform. Changes to campaign finance provisions eliminate existing accountability measures and allow more dark money to flow into the state's elections. Additionally, this bill removes funding limits for affiliated party committees of candidates running for executive branch positions and increases limits from federal PACs directly funding state candidate committees from \$4,000 to \$6,400.

Passed 70-46. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H5] H.B. 263: Amendment 6 (Rep. Butler)

2024 Appropriations Act

This amendment reappropriates \$2,130,357 already directed to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) to establish a technical assistance program to support industries and municipalities' prevention and removal of PFAS into the environment. It also dedicates \$750,000 from the Department of Commerce's One NC Program so that Commerce can purchase equipment and lab supplies to increase its ability to study PFAS.

Passed 80-29. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[H6] S.B. 607: Second Reading Regulatory Reform Act of 2024

When H.B. 385 stalled out in the House Rules Committee, the House instead pushed S.B. 607 through their chamber. They incorporated many of the provisions that were in H.B. 385 (see [S4] and [S5] in Senate Votes), including the language about terminal groins and an expansion of 401 water quality certifications that expedites the process for electric generating facilities. A total of 14 amendments (plus one by Representative Harrison that was ruled out of order because it appropriated funds) were proposed before it passed the House and gained concurrence in the Senate.

Passed 63-37. Pro-conservation Vote: No

House Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[H7] S.B. 607: Amendment 11 (Rep. Autry)

Regulatory Reform Act of 2024

Representative Autry's proposed amendment would have banned "the manufacture and sale of covered products containing intentionally added PFAS." Examples include but are not limited to food packaging coated with PFAS, non-stick consumer products, water repellent clothing, and stain-resistant carpets.

Failed 49-50. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[H8] S.B. 607: Amendment 13 (Rep. Miller)

Regulatory Reform Act of 2024

This amendment increases the number of terminal groins located at Bald Head Island where one of the original terminal groins was installed several years ago. At the time, the General Assembly voted to make three exceptions to their statewide ban on the permanent structures. Representative Pricey Harrison and environmental advocates openly opposed this bill because these structures exacerbate erosion on one side of the structure and often lead to destructive habitat dredging. Rep. Harrison also noted that similar previous processes incorporated stakeholder involvement, whereas this bill excluded stakeholders and communities from the decision.

Passed 66-33. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H9] S.B. 802: Amendment 1 (Rep. Arp)

C-PACE Program

This amendment directs the NC Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Management Commission to submit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a set of permit conditions and rules for discharging wastewater into low-flow or zero-flow waters. The legislature has tried to pass this "highly-treated" wastewater method before, but ultimately the EPA objected to it due to conflicts with Clean Water Act permit processes and requirements. This represents a recurring trend of the legislature attempting to dictate environmental permit conditions that are the responsibility of regulatory agencies. Adopted on second reading in the House.

Passed 94-20. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H10] H.B. 1074/ SL 2024-18: Amendment 1

(Rep. Harrison)

Constitutional Amendment/Citizens-Only Voting

The original Constitutional Amendment/Citizen-Only Voting was a political ploy to drive certain voters to the polls while villainizing immigrants. Rep. Harrison sought to amend this and establish an independent redistricting commission as well. Modeled after other states, such a commission could have addressed gerrymandering, which leads to voter suppression. When legislators gerrymander (no matter the party), they draw themselves a path to maintain power, and this leads to voter suppression. The majority of the House voted "No" to more fair and representative districts, and the amendment failed.

Failed 46-70. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[H11] S.B. 382: Veto Override

Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes

This misleadingly titled bill was a series of changes to the powers of recently elected state executive leaders, along with new election law changes which further limit voting rights. The bill shifts power to appoint the State Board of Elections and the county boards from the newly elected Governor to the State Auditor, and an appointment to the NC Utilities Commission from the Governor to the Treasurer. The bill also prohibits the newly elected Attorney General from taking part in any litigation that is "contrary or inconsistent" with the position of the General Assembly. Additionally, the bill diminished voting rights as it reduced the number of days to "cure" or fix provisional ballots related to photo ID or registration and mail ballot deficiencies from nine to three.

Passed 59-36. Pro-conservation Vote: No

Senate Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[S1] S.B. 166: Conf. Report Adopted

See [H2] in House Votes

Passed 34-10. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S2] H.B. 198: Veto Override

DOT Legislative Changes

See [H3] in House Votes

Passed 30-14. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S3] H.B. 237: Conf. Report, Veto Override

Various Criminal and Election Law Changes

Previously titled “Unmasking Mobs and Criminals”

See [H4] in House Votes

Passed 30-14. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S4] H.B. 385: Second Reading

Various Energy/Env. Changes

H.B. 385 would have weakened safeguards against contamination of our public water supplies through limiting backflow prevention, increasing the risk of pollutants entering our drinking water systems. It also would have reduced oversight for residential systems allowing less frequent testing which could lead to fertilizers, pesticides or other contaminants from entering our water. The Senate recorded a vote on the second reading of H.B. 385 shortly after tabling Senator Meyer’s Amendment 5 (see [S5]). It passed a third reading on a voice vote and sent it to the House Committee on Rules where it stalled out. Instead, the House moved S.B. 607 (see [H6] in House Votes) which incorporated many of the provisions found in H.B. 385.

Passed 29-18. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S5] H.B. 385: Amendment 5 (Sen. Meyer)

Various Energy/Env. Changes

Senator Graig Meyer proposed this pro-conservation amendment on the floor to acknowledge climate change is real and is affecting North Carolina, to protect isolated wetlands, and to enhance regulations and accountability for PFAS pollution. The amendment would have made a bad bill better. Unfortunately, Senator McNeely quickly made a successful, anti-conservation motion to table the amendment.

Tabled 27-20. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S6] S.B. 607: Motion to Concur

Regulatory Reform Act of 2024

See [S4] in Senate Votes and [H8] in House Votes.

Passed 30-13. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[S7] S.B. 630, Third Reading

Various Constitutional Amendments

This was the second constitutional amendment on voting presented in the General Assembly in the 2024 session. This bill would have required all voters to present a Photo ID before voting. The bill eventually stalled and died in the House Rules Committee.

Passed 30-13. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S8] S.B. 382: Veto Override

Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes

See [H12]

Passed 28-19. Pro-conservation Vote: No



2024 North Carolina

Legislative Scorecard

**See the full 2024 Scorecard Online at:
nclcv.org/scorecard**

ADVERSARIES

Adversaries

0% Scores

Out of all the 170 elected officials in the General Assembly, 50 scored a whopping 0% – 21 House members and 29 Senators, all of them Republicans.

Flip-Flop Cotham

Representative Tricia Cotham won her seat in the NC House by running as a Democrat; but without warning, she announced she was switching parties. While she wasn't the strongest vote for the environment before doing a complete 180 on her constituents, flip-flop Cotham's vote gave pro-polluters a supermajority in the NCGA. This change in vote allowed them to override the Governor's vetoes and pass dangerous laws threatening our environment, freedoms, and democracy.



Tricia Cotham

New House Speaker Rep. Destin Hall

Representative Destin Hall wasted little time establishing himself as an anti-environmental leader in the House. As speaker, he does not vote on every bill, but still, it's hard to get a 0. We also have seen the types of anti-conservation bills he allows the House to pass, which easily makes him an adversary on issues we care about.



Destin Hall

Adversaries

Environmental Management Commission

As its name suggests, the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) “is responsible for adopting rules for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the state’s air and water resources.” Yet when widely supported regulations for clean water came before the Commission, they decided to delay the implementation of these regulations. Their reasoning? It would be too expensive for companies to install filter systems. But these businesses have knowingly dumped these chemicals into our water sources for decades. They’ve profited from polluting. Failure to require these businesses to pay for their pollution passes the financial impact on to local governments, communities, and us, the ratepayers.

This decision ignores the desperate calls from advocates, families, and communities poisoned by these forever chemicals for decades. It fails to provide them with clean, drinkable water.

2024 Governor's Scorecard

Overall, Governor Cooper earns an A for his actions during his final year in office.

Governor Roy Cooper was a stalwart champion of the environment and of democracy since he became governor in 2017. He paved the way for North Carolina's carbon neutrality goal, and addressed environmental justice issues. Some of his greatest achievements include setting ambitious climate targets, promoting clean energy jobs, and expanding efforts to protect natural resources and communities disproportionately affected by pollution. He leaves the Governor's seat in good hands with Governor Josh Stein, a proven and stalwart environmental champion.

In 2024, and despite the Republican supermajority, Governor Cooper stood up against attacks on native plants, the infusion of dark money into state elections, efforts to weaken North Carolina's already grossly outdated building codes, and threats to our democracy.

On February 12, 2024, the Governor signed Executive Order 3051 to conserve 1 million new acres of natural land, restore 1 million new acres of forests and wetlands, and plant 1 million new trees in urban regions. This not only protects our unique ecosystems but helps our state mitigate the effects of climate change; wetlands reduce flooding, and trees cool our cities from record-breaking heat.

Additionally, Governor Cooper used his veto power to send a powerful message to those who don't have North Carolinians' best interests at heart. Cooper vetoed **S.B. 166** because leaving building codes untouched hurts residents' pocketbooks, makes construction less safe, and disqualifies our state from receiving money for climate and flooding mitigation. He also vetoed **H.B. 198** which removed protections for native redbud trees, allows for more clear-cutting, and makes it more difficult for DOT to reject billboard permits. In his statement about why he vetoed **H.B. 237**, Governor Cooper expressed concern about "anonymous out-of-state billionaires"² who can financially back extreme candidates. The veto of **S.B. 382** became his final veto as Governor, but he didn't just veto the bill. He and Attorney General (AG) Stein sued the legislature for their blatant disregard for the separation of powers in the N.C. Constitution.

In his final months as Governor, he led an extensive state and federal relief effort to support devastated communities in Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene.³ He declared a state of emergency, mobilized the National Guard and rescue teams, secured a federal disaster declaration, and later obtained a 90% federal cost-share for recovery projects.⁴ Cooper also proposed a \$3.9 billion rebuilding package and raised over \$14 million through the state's Disaster Relief Fund⁵ to help families and communities recover.

The governor does not vote on bills, so his score is based solely on which bills he decides to sign into law or veto, his public statements, and executive orders.

Thank you Governor Cooper for your service to the environment and people of North Carolina.

¹ Zehnder, Katherine. "Cooper signs Executive Order to preserve NC natural resources." The Carolina Journal, 16 Feb 2024. <https://www.carolinajournal.com/cooper-signs-executive-order-to-preserve-nc-natural-resources/> ² Cooper, Roy. "Governor Cooper Vetoes One Bill." North Carolina Governor's Office, 21 June 2024, <https://governor.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2024/06/21/governor-cooper-vetoes-one-bill> ³ Cooper, R. (2024, October 21). Response and recovery efforts in Western North Carolina. North Carolina Governor's Office. <https://governor.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2024/10/21/response-and-recovery-efforts-western-north-carolina> ⁴ Cooper, Roy. "Governor Cooper Announces Over \$14 Million Donated to North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund for Helene Recovery." North Carolina Department of Public Safety, 14 Nov. 2024, <https://www.ncdps.gov/news/press-releases/2024/11/14/governor-cooper-announces-over-14-million-donated-north-carolina-disaster-relief-fund-helene> ⁵ Cooper, Roy. "Governor Cooper Announces Over \$14 Million Donated to North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund for Helene Recovery." North Carolina Department of Public Safety, 14 Nov. 2024, <https://www.ncdps.gov/news/press-releases/2024/11/14/governor-cooper-announces-over-14-million-donated-north-carolina-disaster-relief-fund-helene>.



A Overall	
A	Signed Executive Order 305, to preserve and restore millions of acres of natural lands and to plant 1 million new trees in urban regions of the state.
A	Vetoed S.B. 166, H.B. 198, H.B. 237, and S.B. 382. In addition to vetoing S.B. 382, he and AG Josh Stein sued the legislature on their blatant abuse of power and illegally stripping the Governor's appointment powers.
A	Announced North Carolina surpassed its Electric Vehicle registration goals two years early. His 2018 E.O. 80 set a goal of 80,000 zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) by 2025. By November 2023, the state had already exceeded this goal.
A	Proclaimed June 3rd-7th PFAS Awareness Week in North Carolina. In July, he announced \$253M for 70 drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects in 30 counties across the state.
A	Announced a new pilot program called the Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Field Technician Certification to train participants for jobs in the EV charging industry.
A	Signed S.B. 802: C-PACE Program, funding businesses for energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resilience projects.
A	Asked for a 23% increase in DEQ budget to help conserve our natural resources, expand parks and trails, protect our water and air quality, and advance clean energy implementation.
A	Urged legislators to undo the block to implementing resilient building codes that they created with last session's H.B. 488 veto override, citing the lack of access to affordable homeowners insurance and millions of dollars lost in FEMA funding.
A	Led an extensive state and federal relief effort to support devastated communities in Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene. He also proposed a \$3.9 billion rebuilding package and helped raise over \$14 million through the state's Disaster Relief Fund to help families and communities recover.

The image features a dramatic sunset scene with a warm orange and yellow sky. Several high-voltage power lines and their supporting transmission towers are silhouetted against the bright background. The towers are lattice-structured and vary in size and orientation, creating a complex geometric pattern. The power lines stretch across the frame, some sagging between towers. The overall mood is industrial yet serene, capturing the infrastructure of the power grid during the 'golden hour' of the day.

2025 Long Session

How Legislators Bet Your

■ Money on a Future of Dirty Duke Energy

Yet again, Duke Energy has used the General Assembly as a way to make more money. This past March, former Duke Energy North Carolina state president – former Senator Paul Newton – introduced Senate Bill 261 that would cripple the North Carolina Carbon Plan, costing North Carolinians billions of dollars in the process.

This bill would become Senate Bill 266, misleadingly called “The Power Bill Reduction Act.” It has three important harmful elements: the first is that it removes the interim target dates for the NC Carbon Plan (a 70% reduction from 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2030). Removing the interim target date means using more dirty fossil fuels for longer, which could cost ratepayers \$23 billion.¹

The second part would allow utilities to charge consumers for electrical generation plants before they are built. This practice is referred to as Construction Work in Progress (CWIP). CWIP is not new to our state; we’ve had a version of CWIP established for a while. This bill, however, created a “super” CWIP, essentially allowing utilities to charge customers for construction with little or no government oversight or approval.

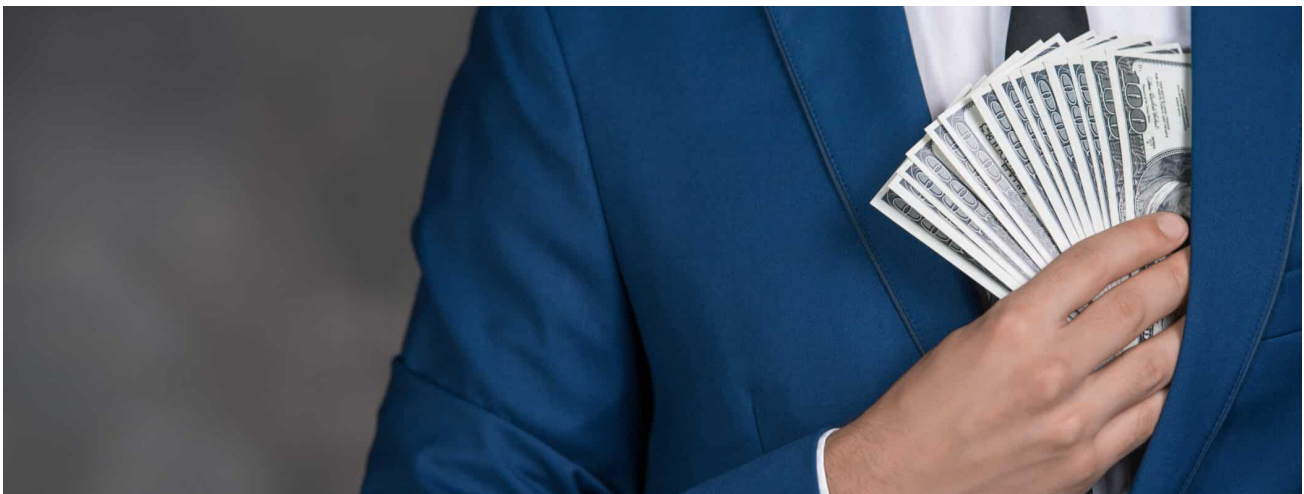
Similar strategies have been used in other states and were very costly. South Carolina used this mechanism

to fund a nuclear plant. However, building the plant went so over budget that it was abandoned – after the utility spent \$9 billion of ratepayers’ money.²

Finally, the bill shifts more of the cost of extra power from big businesses to regular households during peak demand – raising residential bills by \$87 million state-wide each year.

Many utilities in the United States are regulated monopolies. Even though Duke Energy is a publicly traded organization, it is subject to heightened regulatory standards through the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) and its Public Staff. The bill rates are determined based on an allowed return on equity (ROE), a percentage negotiated between Duke Energy, the Public Staff, and other stakeholders. The equity refers to generation owned by Duke Energy. This means that if Duke wants to increase the money they get from rates, they can either build more generation (increasing equity), or negotiate a higher ROE. However, CWIP is a shortcut; it allows Duke Energy to charge for generation before it would ordinarily be included in their equity.

Senators Phil Berger (R-26), Paul Newton (R-34), and Lisa Barnes (R-11) were primary sponsors of the bill. Senate Bill 261, the original version, passed the



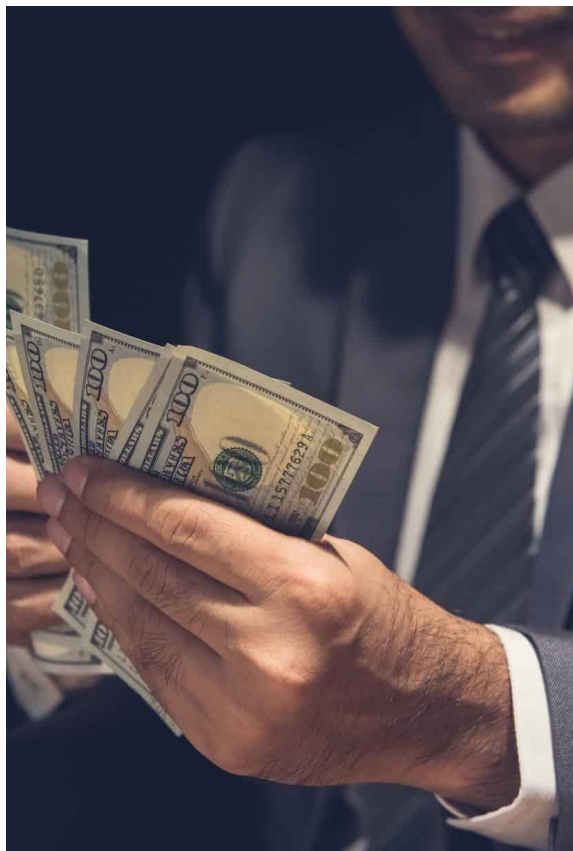
¹ DeCarolis, J.; de Queiroz, A.; & Johnson, J. (2025, June 30). Removing interim target of the NC Carbon Plan could cost ratepayers up to \$23 billion in added fuel expenses through 2050. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-ZU9hz-hVh2gWopla5R1WdHN5uLiEI6L/view> ² Holdman, J. (2024, April 5). Here's how much SC power customers are still paying for a failed nuclear project. South Carolina Daily Gazette. <https://scdailygazette.com/2024/04/05/heres-how-much-sc-power-customers-are-still-paying-for-a-failed-nuclear-project/>

Senate with support from all voting Republicans as well as Democratic Senators Blue, Lowe, and Waddell. The House rolled the legislation into Senate Bill 266 with support from almost all Republican members as well as 11 Democratic members.

After the bill was passed by both chambers, Governor Stein vetoed the legislation, 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. 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.”³

The House and Senate voted to override the Governor’s Veto, with Democratic Representatives Cunningham, Majeed, and Willingham voting against their constituents’ pocketbooks and against the environment. Instead, they voted for Duke Energy’s rate hikes and huge profits.



■ PFAS: Missed Opportunities Year After Year

In the U.S., it would be hard to find a person who has not consumed cancer-causing chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or “PFAS.” Yet, the North Carolina General Assembly once again failed to regulate PFAS despite bipartisan support and clear scientific evidence of their dangerous prevalence in our environment. Their neglect has real-life consequences.

Most Toxic Types of PFAS Found in Elementary School

While these leaders failed to act, scientists discovered 14 types of PFAS in the drinking water at Farmer Elementary School in Randolph County.¹ Testing showed two of the most toxic types of forever chemicals – PFOS and PFOA – at “144 and 233 times greater than federal limits, respectively.” Elementary school children, faculty, and staff have been drinking poisoned water for decades. Yet the pro-polluters at the legislature failed to act. How

many other elementary schools’ water sources are contaminated with PFAS? How many more will it take to finally convince these leaders to act?

The time is long overdue to protect ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren from these harmful chemicals.

Federal Action Taken; State Efforts Hindered

In 2024, the federal government took action and established the first-ever national drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful PFAS. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates their actions will reduce PFAS pollution for 100 million people across the nation, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious illnesses.²

Yet the pro-polluting majority and their appointees at the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) moved in the opposite direction in 2024.



¹ Sorg, L. (2024, August 1). North Carolina environmental regulators at war over water rules for 'forever chemicals.' Inside Climate News. <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/01082024/north-carolina-forever-chemicals-water-rules/> ² United States Environmental Protection Agency. Key EPA actions to address PFAS. Accessed October 7, 2025. <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/key-epa-actions-address-pfas>



Caving to the lobbying pressure of polluters, the EMC stalled PFAS limits in groundwater and surface water. The EMC alleged costs to the companies to install filtration systems could be too much.³ But the intended purpose of this commission is not to protect companies' profits, especially when those companies knowingly pollute our environment. Its purpose is to protect our water, our air, and our people. This is particularly concerning because many of these EMC members own stocks in these polluting companies.³ Instead of padding their own pockets, these members should be serving and protecting hard-working families and communities.

Actions in 2024

Environmentally conscious legislators tried to pass laws to address the issue. Representative Deb Butler successfully included an amendment (80-29) to the House's version of the budget, which could have directed \$2.1 million to support the

prevention, removal, and study of these forever chemicals. Unfortunately, the pro-polluter majority in the Senate removed this amendment in the final budget. Similarly, Representative John Autry proposed Amendment 11 to S.B. 607 – known as the “Regulatory Reform Act of 2024” – which could have banned “the manufacture and sale of covered products containing intentionally added PFAS.”

Even Republican legislators tried to move legislation through committees,⁴ but the pro-polluter leadership decided once again to turn a blind eye to the families struggling with the health effects from these chemicals. This leadership has proven again and again that, as long as they lead the General Assembly, efforts to address PFAS will continue to fail.

Actions in 2025

The North Carolina Department of Environmental

³ Castagno, P. (2024, May 26). Environmental Management Commission stalls PFAS standards, members own stock in companies lobbying against regulation. Port City Daily. <https://portcitydaily.com/latest-news/2024/05/26/environmental-management-commission-stalls-pfas-standards-members-own-stock-in-companies/> ⁴ Associated Press. (2024, June 12). North Carolina legislators revive bill to force PFAS manufacturers to help fund clean water efforts. WHQR Public Media. <https://www.whqr.org/local/2024-06-12/north-carolina-legislators-revive-bill-to-force-pfas-manufactures-to-help-fund-clean-water-efforts>

Quality (NC DEQ) developed an “Action Strategy for PFAS” in order to largely reduce the impacts of PFAS all over the state. This plan specifically addresses the Chemours Fayetteville Works Facility, which produces PFAS. Over 500,000 North Carolinians have been exposed to PFAS from this watershed alone.⁵

This year, the Southern Environmental Law Center filed a lawsuit against Chemours. Chemours has over 20,000 pages of documentation that show various forms of PFAS testing and samples that they are refusing to release to the public for fear of scrutiny and further lawsuits. This paperwork would expose their prior knowledge and neglect of releasing PFAS into the watershed. The NC DEQ has ordered Chemours to expand its sampling radius of private wells. However, Chemours has also decided to expand their plant, which would only exacerbate the issue. Instead of working to reduce their overall PFAS use, Chemours has gone against federal and state regulations, putting North Carolinians continually at risk of PFAS exposure.

Legislatively, actions around PFAS made little progress. Lawmakers passed HB 569 allowing the NC DEQ to obligate the responsible party to pay the public water system for any and all damages to the water supply. It also appropriates \$300,000 from the General Fund to the NC DEQ for implementation.⁶ Additionally, lawmakers passed HB 570 (Responsible Firefighting Foam Act) regulating that firefighting foam containing PFAS no longer be used in firefighting training or testing. While these



⁵ Southern Environmental Law Center. (2025, April 14). SELC objects to Chemours and DuPont hiding information about their toxic PFAS pollution. Accessed October 7, 2025. <https://www.selc.org/press-release/selc-objects-to-chemours-and-dupont-hiding-information-about-their-toxic-pfas-pollution/> ⁶ North Carolina General Assembly. (2025). Bill summary for H569-SMRI-10(e1). Retrieved from <https://dashboard.ncleg.gov/api/Services/BillSummary/2025/H569-SMRI-10%28e1%29-v-4>



bills are good for staunching the use of PFAS, much larger steps must be taken to actually hold polluters responsible.

Instead of regulating polluting companies, HB 569 and HB 570 appease those looking for PFAS legislation without actually making any substantive laws. Notably, the Senate has not made any serious PFAS legislation. We call upon the legislature to institute laws that hold companies accountable for their pollution and prohibit and remediate PFAS pollution in residents' drinking water.



The Anti-Environmentalist Effort to Thwart Our Democracy

If you can't win, change the rules. This is the motto of anti-environmentalists who lost the gubernatorial race to Josh Stein. Since then, Republicans have abused their power in the General Assembly to strip power away from the executive branch.

Destroying the Power of the Governor

Taking power away from the Democratic governor and shifting it to the Republican-controlled House and Senate is not a new practice. In 2024, the legislature passed bills under the guise of appropriating Hurricane Helene relief funds that included a provision to shift state Board of Elections nominations from the governor to the state auditor as well as North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) nominations to the state Treasurer.¹ We are already seeing the effects of this power grab.

Republican legislators did not stop there. This year, they passed HB 402 "Limit Rules With Substantial Financial Costs" ([H4] & [S2]) and tried to pass HB 870 "Sedimentation Act & Other Env'l Changes" ([H10]), two bills that require unconstitutional approval of the legislature for many regulatory actions. HB 402 lets the majority Republican legislature control almost every action of state regulatory bodies. Under HB 402, nearly every project that would normally be under expert agency purview would have to be reviewed and approved by the legislature. Not only would this slow down an already tedious process of agency action, it would stop regulatory bodies from creating pro-environmental rules that the legislature dislikes, destroying the separation of powers. Gov. Stein vetoed this bill after it passed both the Senate and the House,

citing his concerns about the health of his constituents and the slow pace at which regulations occur.² The House and Senate voted to override the veto, with two Democratic house members voting against the governor.

HB 870 would specifically strip away power from NC DEQ by making nearly every decision made obligatorily reviewed by a federal body. The General Assembly would also be privy to nearly every agreement between the EPA and NC DEQ and have the ability to weigh in on important and urgent environmental matters.³

Both of these bills show complete and utter violation of the trust between agencies and the legislature, indicating that Republicans in the legislature are grabbing for power. This trend is not a surprise. Many bills this session have had similar goals, although not all have been successful.

Attacking Voting Rights

HB 127 "Voter Registration Drive Form" poses a more terrifying challenge to our democracy that, yet again, allows the Republicans to dismantle any threat to their power. While this bill has not passed yet, it would forbid any voter registration drives from using the actual voter registration forms, adding extra steps for those who are merely trying to exercise their constitutional rights. Minorities are more likely to register to vote through voting drives and similar initiatives; this bill shows shocking disenfranchisement of these groups.⁴

Other legislation attacking our voting rights introduced this year include: HB 237, HB 1071, and HB

¹ Ingram, K. (2024, November 19). NC House passes bill to give Republicans majority on elections board, strip governor's power. News & Observer. <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/election/article295785424.html> ² McFarlane, M. (2025, July 2). Gov. Josh Stein Vetoes REINS Act in North Carolina. Broadband Breakfast. <https://broadbandbreakfast.com/gov-josh-stein-vetos-reins-act-in-north-carolina/> ³ North Carolina General Assembly. (2025, April 30). Bill summary for H870-SMRI-21(e1). Legislative Analysis Division. Retrieved from <https://dashboard.ncleg.gov/api/Services/BillSummary/2025/H870-SMRI-21%28e1%29-v-3> ⁴ Leslie, L. (2025, February 14). Republican proposal would ban voter registration drives in NC. WRAL News. <https://www.wral.com/story/republican-proposal-would-ban-voter-registration-drives-in-nc/21860685/>

1074. All of these bills are affronts to voters' sensibilities as citizens. It is evident that Republican legislators place no value in the established system of checks and balances and are trying to wear down democracy in North Carolina by taking control of every aspect of the democratic process.

Prioritizing Partisanship Over People

Over 100 days late on passing a state budget, state Republican lawmakers chose to prioritize partisan politics – at the cost of NC voters. Instead of providing necessary funding for our schools, state government, and communities, Republican lawmakers answered President Trump's call to redraw voting maps to maintain control of the U.S. House of Representatives. "We are doing everything we can to protect President Trump's agenda," said Senate leader Phil Berger, "which means safeguarding Republican control of Congress."⁵

A week later, NC lawmakers passed SB 249, changing Congressional districts for the fifth time in four

years – a process meant to occur once every ten years according to NC's constitution.⁶ Most notably, the law changed Congressional District 1, an historically Black district in northeastern NC. Since 1992 this area has elected Black representatives and Democratic candidates for over a century.⁷

Once again, Republican lawmakers prioritize hoarding power over letting voters decide. These backward priorities ultimately hurt families and communities. These political schemes allow politicians to ignore kitchen table issues. Issues like rising electricity and medical bills, underfunded education, and rising unemployment.

When power-hungry politicians diminish our vote, they diminish our power to create a healthy, equitable environment. Everything we do here at NCLCV depends on a representative democratic system. That's why we dedicate so much effort advocating for our democracy.



⁵ CBS 17. (2025, October 13). Top North Carolina Republicans to redraw congressional maps to protect President Trump's agenda. Retrieved from <https://www.cbs17.com/news/north-carolina-news/top-north-carolina-republicans-to-redraw-congressional-maps-to-protect-president-trumps-agenda/> ⁶ North Carolina State Board of Elections. (n.d.). Voting Maps / Redistricting. <https://www.ncsbe.gov/results-data/voting-maps-redistricting#:~:text=Under%20the%20North%20Carolina%20Constitution,are%20also%20elected%20by%20district.> ⁷ Moore, M. H. (2025, October 21). Republicans say North Carolina redistricting is partisan, but not racist. Axios. <https://www.axios.com/local/raleigh/2025/10/21/new-north-carolina-congressional-map-race>



2025 General Assembly

Here's what the 2025 General Assembly bills mean for conservation

House Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[H1] SB 266 Second Reading

The Power Bill Reduction Act

This bill eliminates the interim target dates for NC's Carbon Plan, which will allow for prolonged use of fossil fuel generation, costing billions of dollars in fuel. It also allows Duke Energy to charge customers for plants before they are built (CWIP), which will increase bills.

Passed 2nd Reading 75-36. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H2] SJR 763, Second Reading

Confirm Don van der Vaart/Util. Comm

This joint resolution approved Don Van der Vaart to the NC Utilities Commission. Van der Vaart has an extensive anti-environmental background working for big oil, and later ruling in their favor as a judge.

Passed 2nd Reading 63-47. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H3] HB 376 Second Reading

Various On-Site Wastewater & Well Provisions

This bill limits local health departments' ability to enact well and septic programs beyond state standards. Communities with higher flooding risk will no longer be able to increase standards to ensure public safety.

Passed 2nd Reading 71-37. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H4] HB 402 Concurrence with Senate

Committee Substitute

Limit Rules With Substantial Financial Costs

This bill eliminates the independent decision making authority of commissions, requiring legislative approval for nearly all actions, thus reducing the power of the executive branch. Additionally, the financial threshold is an arbitrarily low dollar value, meaning that virtually all decisions will need approval. It also is written such that the financial impact considers costs only – not benefits.

Passed Concurrence 70-44. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H5] HB 569 Second Reading

PFAS Pollution and Polluter Liability

This bill holds PFAS polluters accountable by making them pay to clean up their pollution.

Passed 2nd Reading 104-3. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[H6] HB 570 Second Reading

Responsible Firefighting Foam Management Act

This bill bans PFAS containing firefighting foams from being used for testing or training purposes.

Passed 63-37. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H7] S.B. 607: Amendment 11 (Rep. Autry)

Regulatory Reform Act of 2024

Representative Autry's proposed amendment would have banned "the manufacture and sale of covered products containing intentionally added PFAS." Examples include but are not limited to food packaging coated with PFAS, non-stick consumer products, water repellent clothing, and stain resistant carpets.

Passed 2nd Reading 113-0. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[H7] HB 605 Second Reading

Definitions for Advanced Recycling

This bill promotes incineration as recycling. Incineration is burning trash of all kinds, which can pollute the air and water, causing lung, heart, and neurological disease.

Passed 2nd Reading 86-38. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H8] HB 694 Concurrence with Senate

Committee Substitute

Reg'l Water Study/IBT Subbasin/TMDL

Part of this bill allows municipalities to draw water from one water basin and release it to another without any environmental assessment.

Passed Concurrence 66-42. Pro-conservation Vote: No

House Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[H9] HB 768 Concurrence with Senate

Committee Substitute

Emerg. Comm. Code Exempts/Sanitary Board/401

Part of this bill limits NC DEQ to 5 days to respond to 401 water quality certifications, which limits the time NC DEQ has to ensure permits keep NC's waters clean. The bill also limits NC DEQ from considering the effects of an activity as a whole, instead, only allowing them to analyze discharge.

Passed Concurrence 66-42. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H10] HB 870 Second Reading

Sedimentation Act & Other Env.'l Changes

This bill requires the General Assembly to approve all memorandums of agreement between the EPA and state agencies like NC DEQ. It violates the separation of powers to hinder environmental causes.

Passed 2nd Reading 63-43. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H11] SB 472 Second Reading

Coastal Regulatory Reform

Like [H9] HB 768, this bill contains language limiting NC DEQ's time to respond to 401 permits (10 to 15 days instead of 5). also limits what NC DEQ can consider in 401 permits. This bill makes permitting upland basins easier. Upland basins are a type of excavated body of water, which can lead to polluted waters toxic to marine life.

Passed 2nd Reading 66-45. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H12] HB 171 Second Reading

Equality in State Agencies / Prohibit DEI

This bill prohibits state and local governments from promoting, funding, or maintaining any diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, including DEI training, staff positions, or the use of DEI considerations in hiring, contracts, or admissions.

Passed 2nd reading 69-4. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H13] SB 249 Second Reading

Realign Congressional Districts 2025

At the behest of President Trump, this legislation changed NC Congressional Districts 1 and 3 to give Republican candidates a winning edge in the 2026 Election. This was the fifth time in four years the legislature changed voting districts – a process the NC Constitution says should take place once every ten years.

Passed 2nd reading 66-48. Pro-conservation Vote: No

Senate Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[S1] SJR 763, Second Reading

Confirm Don van der Vaart/Util. Comm

See [H2] in House Votes.

Passed 2nd Reading 27-13. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S2] HB 402, Second Reading

Limit Rules With Substantial Financial Costs

See [H4] in House Votes.

Passed 2nd Reading 26-17. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S3] SB 266, Concurred in H Com Sub

The Power Bill Reduction Act

See [H1] in House Votes.

Passed 2nd Reading 29-11. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S4] HB 768, Second Reading

Emerg. Comm. Code Exempts/Sanitary Board/401

See [H9] in House Votes.

Passed 2nd Reading 30-17. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S5] SB 472, Concurred In H Com Sub

Coastal Regulatory Reform

See [H11] in House Votes.

Passed Concurrence 30-15. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S6] SR 766

Confirm Secretary of NC DEQ

This resolution confirmed Reid Wilson as the secretary of the NC DEQ. Secretary Wilson has experience at the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Sierra Club.

Adopted 42-0. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[S7] SB 249 Third Reading

Realign Congressional Districts 2025

See [H13] in House Votes.

Passed 3rd reading 26-20. Pro-conservation Vote: No.



Reading the Scorecard

NCLCV's Legislative Scorecard records members' votes on selected bills for the 2025 legislative session, and details votes on bills and amendments which we believe to have the most significant environmental impacts.

As you delve into our 2025 Scorecard, we encourage you to pay close attention to legislators' lifetime scores, and keep in mind that, although legislators' votes remain an important part of environmental stewardship, many other tools exist to evaluate legislators. The Scorecard presents crucial information, but cannot represent the full complexity of what it takes to be an environmental champion.

For more information, or to review past Legislative Scorecards, we encourage you to visit nclcv.org/scorecard. We hope our Scorecard provides you with the first steps towards a better understanding of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Please note the full 2024 scores can be found on our website at nclcv.org/scorecard. Some legislators from 2024 do not appear on the 2025 scorecard because they left office or were replaced in the 2024 election.

2025 By the Numbers

Number of legislators who scored...

0%: **6**

10% and Below: **10**

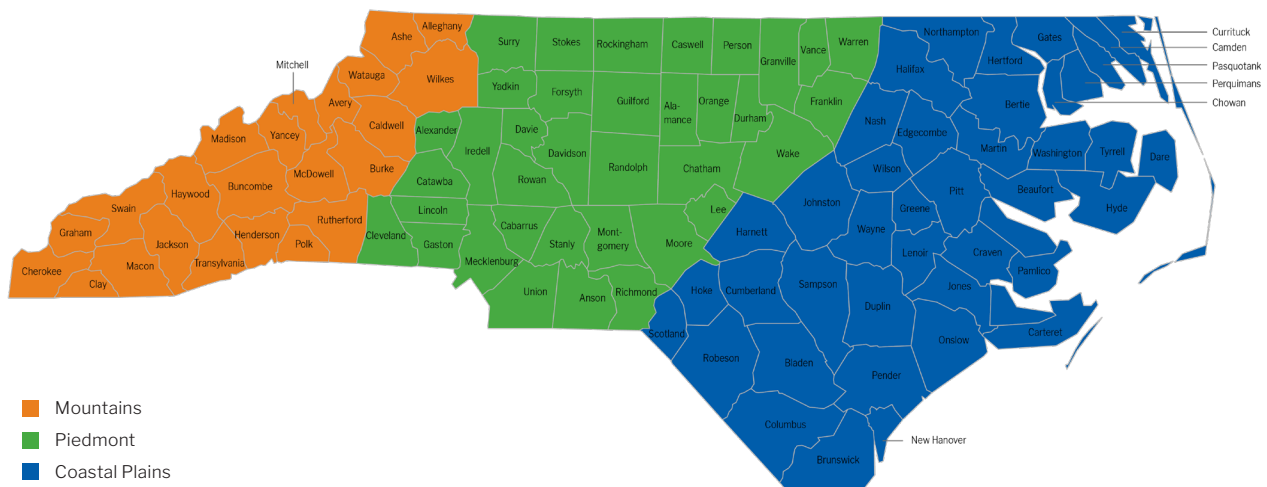
85% and Above: **16**

100%: **43**

Average Scores Over Time

	23-24	2025	Lifetime
House Democrats	89%	92%	93%
House Republicans	13%	15%	16%
Senate Democrats	91%	90%	92%
Senate Republicans	0%	12%	8%
Total House Average	43%	47%	47%
Total Senate Average	36%	45%	42%

Scorecard Organized by Regions



HOUSE

Mountains



Representative	Counties	Party	District	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Ager, Eric	Buncombe	D	114	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Balkcom, Jennifer	Henderson	R	117	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	18	14
Blackwell, Hugh	Burke	R	86	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	20	21
Greene, Dudley	Avery, McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey	R	85	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	11	15
Gillespie, Karl	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon	R	120	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	0	13
Hall, Destin	Caldwell, Watauga	R	87	✗	✗	✗	✗	N	✓	✗	✗	N	E	N	✗	✗	8	0	18
Johnson, Jake	Henderson, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford	R	113	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	9	14
Pickett, Ray	Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga	R	93	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	18	15
Pless, Mark	Haywood, Madison	R	118	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	33	22
Prather, Lindsey	Buncombe	D	115	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Turner, Brian	Buncombe	D	116	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	96

Key

✓ Pro-conservation
✗ Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator
N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
E Excused absence, vote not scored
INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators
 sorted alphabetically by
 last name

HOUSE

Piedmont



Representative	Counties	Party	District	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Adams, Jay	Catawba	R	96	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17
Almond, Jonathan	Cabarrus	R	73	E	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17	NA	17
Alston, Vernetta	Durham	D	29	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	100	98
Arp, Dean	Union	R	69	X	X	X	X	E	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	9	9
Baker, Amber	Forsyth	D	72	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	N	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	90	82	92
Ball, Cynthia	Wake	D	49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	91	98
Belk, Mary	Mecklenburg	D	88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Biggs, Brian	Randolph	R	70	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	14
Blust, John	Guilford	R	62	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	E	E	X	E	X	X	20	NA	36
Branson, Jerry	Guilford	R	59	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	20	17
Brockman, Cecil	Guilford	D	60	E	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	E	73	60	78
Brody, Mark	Anson, Union	R	55	X	E	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17	0	10
Brown, Kanika	Forsyth	D	71	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	100	100	100
Brown, Terry	Mecklenburg	D	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	82	96
Buansi, Allen	Orange	D	56	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Budd, Laura	Mecklenburg	D	103	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Campbell, Grant	Cabarrus, Rowan	R	83	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	NA	15
Carney, Becky	Mecklenburg	D	102	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	91	85
Carver, Todd	Iredell	R	95	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	NA	15
Cervania, Maria	Wake	D	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Clampitt, Mike	Jackson, Swain, Transylvania	R	119	X	X	X	X	E	✓	X	N	X	X	X	X	X	8	0	9
Clark, Tracy	Guilford	D	57	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Cohn, Bryan	Granville, Vance	D	32	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	NA	92
Cotham, Tricia	Mecklenburg	R	105	X	E	X	X	✓	✓	X	E	E	X	E	X	X	22	0	61
Crawford, Sarah	Wake	D	66	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Cunningham, Carla	Mecklenburg	D	106	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	46	36	68

Key

✓ Pro-conservation
X Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator
N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
E Excused absence, vote not scored
INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators
 sorted alphabetically by
 last name

HOUSE

Piedmont



Representative	Counties	Party	District	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Dahle, Allison	Wake	D	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	85	82	89
Dew, Aisha	Mecklenburg	D	107	✓	E	✗	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	89	NA	89
Echevarria, Brian	Cabarrus	R	82	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	NA	15
Eddins, Blair	Alexander, Wilkes	R	94	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	NA	15
Greenfield, Julie	Mecklenburg	D	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Hall, Kyle	Forsyth, Stokes	R	91	✗	E	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	18	9	16
Harrison, Pricey	Guilford	D	61	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	100	100	100
Hastings, Kelly	Cleveland, Gaston	R	110	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	17	9	8
Hawkins, Zack	Durham	D	31	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	88	94
Helfrich, Beth	Mecklenburg	D	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Howard, Julie	Davie, Rowan, Yadkin	R	77	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	INC	36
Huneycutt, Cody	Montgomery, Stanly	R	67	✗	✗	✗	E	E	✓	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	✗	E	11	NA	11
Jackson, Neal	Moore, Randolph	R	78	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	E	E	✗	E	✗	✗	20	0	9
Jeffers, Ray	Durham, Person	D	2	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	E	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	73	91	79
Johnson-Hostler, Monika	Wake	D	33	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Jones, Abe	Wake	D	38	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	85	91	88
Lambeth, Donny	Forsyth	R	75	✗	E	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	18	10
Liu, Ya	Wake	D	21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	88	97
Loftis, Donnie	Gaston	R	109	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	0	11
Lofton, Brandon	Mecklenburg	D	104	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	89	98
Logan, Carolyn	Mecklenburg	D	101	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Longest, Tim	Wake	D	34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Lopez, Jordan	Mecklenburg	D	112	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Majeed, Nasif	Mecklenburg	D	99	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	69	55	70
McNeely, Jeffrey	Iredell	R	84	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	18	14
Morey, Marcia	Durham	D	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	91	98

Key

✓ Pro-conservation
✗ Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator
N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
E Excused absence, vote not scored
INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators
 sorted alphabetically by
 last name

HOUSE

Piedmont



Representative	Counties	Party	District	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Moss, Ben	Moore, Richmond	R	52	✓	✗	✗	✗	E	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	25	18
Paré, Erin	Wake	R	37	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	9	17
Potts, Larry	Davidson	R	81	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	9	14
Price, Renée	Caswell, Orange	D	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	97
Pyrtle, Reece	Rockingham	R	65	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	9	13
Quick, Amos	Guilford	D	58	✓	N	E	✓	E	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	82	94
Reives, Robert	Chatham, Randolph	D	54	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	E	N	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	75	91	92
Rhyne, Heather	Lincoln	R	97	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	NA	15
Riddell, Dennis	Alamance	R	64	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	9	11
Roberson, James	Wake	D	39	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	92	73	89
Ross, Stephen	Alamance	R	63	✗	✗	E	✗	✓	E	E	✗	✗	N	✗	E	✗	11	20	11
Rubin, Phil	Wake	D	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Sauls, John	Lee, Moore	R	51	E	E	✗	E	✓	✓	✗	E	E	✗	E	✗	E	33	0	17
Schietzelt, Mike	Wake	R	35	✗	✗	✗	✗	N	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	8	NA	8
Scott, Paul	Cleveland, Rutherford	R	111	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	NA	15
Setzer, Mitchell	Catawba, Iredell	R	89	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	9	30
Stevens, Sarah	Surry, Wilkes	R	90	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	17	9	16
Torbett, John	Gaston	R	108	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	18	13
von Haefen, Julie	Wake	D	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Warren, Harry	Rowan	R	76	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	15	0	9
Watford, Sam	Davidson	R	80	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	18	9	12
Willis, David	Union	R	68	E	✗	N	E	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	18	0	14
Winslow, Matthew	Franklin, Vance	R	7	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	E	✗	E	✗	✗	18	9	13
Zenger, Jeff	Forsyth	R	74	✗	✗	✗	✗	N	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	8	0	13

Key

✓ Pro-conservation
✗ Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator
N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
E Excused absence, vote not scored
INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators
 sorted alphabetically by
 last name

HOUSE

Coastal



Representative	Counties	Party	District	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Bell, John	Wayne	R	10	E	X	E	X	X	✓	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	0	7
Brisson, William	Bladen, Sampson	R	22	X	✓	X	X	N	✓	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	18	18	28
Brown, Gloristine	Pitt	D	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	91	97
Butler, Deb	New Hanover	D	18	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	100	91	98
Cairns, Celeste	Carteret, Craven	R	13	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	9	14
Chesser, Allen	Nash	R	25	X	X	N	X	✓	✓	N	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17
Colvin, Mike	Cumberland	D	42	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	NA	92
Davis, Ted	New Hanover	R	20	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	23	18	19
Dixon, Jimmy	Duplin, Wayne	R	4	X	X	X	X	X	✓	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	9	0	10
Gable, Wyatt	Onslow	R	14	X	X	E	X	✓	E	E	X	X	X	X	E	X	11	NA	11
Goodwin, Edward	Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington	R	1	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	17	18	21
Humphrey, Chris	Greene, Jones, Lenoir	R	12	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	22
Iler, Frank	Brunswick	R	17	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	9	13
Jackson, Frances	Cumberland	D	45	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	91	92
Jones, Brenden	Columbus, Robeson	R	46	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	E	E	X	E	X	X	20	9	16
Kidwell, Keith	Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico	R	79	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	0	12
Lowery, Jarrod	Robeson	R	47	X	X	X	E	✓	N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	18	15
Miller, Charles	Brunswick, New Hanover	R	19	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	9	15
Penny, Howard	Harnett, Johnston	R	53	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	17	9	15
Pierce, Garland	Hoke, Scotland	D	48	X	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	90	55	77
Pierce, Rodney	Halifax, Northampton, Warren	D	27	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Pike, Joseph	Harnett	R	6	E	X	X	X	N	✓	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	10	9	12
Pittman, Dante	Nash, Wilson	D	24	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	NA	92
Reeder, Timothy	Pitt	R	9	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	9	11

Key

✓ Pro-conservation
X Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator
N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
E Excused absence, vote not scored
INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name

HOUSE

Coastal



Representative	Counties	Party	District	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	H13	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Shephard, Phil	Onslow	R	15	E	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17	13	10
Smith, Carson	Onslow, Pender	R	16	X	E	N	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17	0	16
Smith, Charles	Cumberland	D	44	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	69	73	81
Strickland, Larry	Johnston	R	28	X	E	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17	18	19
Tyson, Steve	Craven	R	3	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	18	9	15
Ward, Bill	Camden, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank	R	5	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	9	14
Wheatley, Diane	Cumberland	R	43	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	18	17
White, Donna	Johnston	R	26	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	N	X	X	X	15	NA	17
Willingham, Shelly	Bertie, Edgecombe, Martin	D	23	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	46	45	67

Key

✓ Pro-conservation
X Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator
N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
E Excused absence, vote not scored
INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators
 sorted alphabetically by
 last name

SENATE
Mountains



Representative	Counties	Party	District	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Corbin, Kevin	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania	R	50	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	14	0	6
Daniel, Warren	Buncombe, Burke, McDowell	R	46	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	14	0	7
Hise, Ralph	Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey	R	47	X	E	E	X	X	✓	X	20	0	5
Mayfield, Julie	Buncombe	D	49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	97
Moffitt, Timothy	Henderson, Polk, Rutherford	R	48	X	X	X	E	E	✓	X	20	0	8

Key	✓ Pro-conservation	NA	Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator	Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name
	X Anti-conservation	N	Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote	
		E	Excused absence, vote not scored	
		INC	Incomplete, insufficient data	

SENATE

Piedmont



Representative	Counties	Party	District	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Adcock, Gale	Wake	D	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	86	100	91
Alexander, Ted	Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln	R	44	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	7
Barnes, Lisa	Franklin, Nash, Vance	R	11	E	E	E	E	E	E	✗	INC	0	4
Batch, Sydney	Wake	D	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	88
Berger, Phil	Guilford, Rockingham	R	26	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	21
Blue, Dan	Wake	D	14	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	43	88	81
Bradley, Woodson	Mecklenburg	D	42	E	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Chitlik, Sophia	Durham	D	22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Chaudhuri, Jay	Wake	D	15	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Craven, David	Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Union	R	29	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	0	0	3
Everitt, Terence	Granville, Wake	D	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	89	98
Ford, Carl	Rowan, Stanly	R	33	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	0	0	5
Galey, Amy	Alamance, Randolph	R	25	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	6
Garrett, Michael	Guilford	D	27	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	97
Grafstein, Lisa	Wake	D	13	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Hollo, Mark	Caldwell, Catawba	R	45	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	NA	14
Jarvis, Steve	Davidson, Davie	R	30	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	10
Johnson, Todd	Cabarrus, Union	R	35	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	17	0	5
Jones, Dana	Forsyth, Stokes	R	31	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	17	NA	17
Lowe, Paul	Forsyth	D	32	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	33	63	62
McInnis, Tom	Cumberland, Moore	R	21	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	4
Measmer, Chris	Cabarrus	R	34	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	NA	14

Key	✓ Pro-conservation	NA	Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator	Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name
	✗ Anti-conservation	N	Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote	
		E	Excused absence, vote not scored	
		INC	Incomplete, insufficient data	

SENATE

Piedmont



Representative	Counties	Party	District	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Meyer, Graig	Caswell, Orange, Person	D	23	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	96
Mohammad, Mujtaba	Mecklenburg	D	38	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Murdock, Natalie	Chatham, Durham	D	20	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100
Overcash, Brad	Gaston	R	43	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	E	✗	0	0	0
Robinson, Gladys	Guilford	D	28	✗	✓	E	✓	✗	✓	✓	67	100	82
Salvador, DeAndrea	Mecklenburg	D	39	E	E	✓	E	✓	E	✓	100	100	95
Sawrey, Benton	Johnston	R	10	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	4
Sawyer, Vickie	Iredell, Mecklenburg	R	37	E	E	✗	✗	✗	✓	E	25	0	13
Settle, Eddie	Alexander, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin	R	36	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	4
Theodros, Caleb	Mecklenburg	D	41	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	100
Waddell, Joyce	Mecklenburg	D	40	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	86	88	82

Key

✓ Pro-conservation

✗ Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator

N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote

E Excused absence, vote not scored

INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name

SENATE

Coastal



Representative	Counties	Party	District	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	2025 Score %	2024 Score %	Lifetime Score %
Applewhite, Val	Cumberland	D	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	96
Brinson, Bob	Beaufort, Craven, Lenoir	R	3	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	NA	14
Britt, Danny	Hoke, Robeson, Scotland	R	24	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	E	0	0	4
Burgin, Jim	Harnett, Lee, Sampson	R	12	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	E	17	0	8
Hanig, Bobby	Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell	R	1	E	✗	E	✗	E	E	✗	0	0	14
Jackson, Brent	Bladen, Duplin, Jones, Pender, Sampson	R	9	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	5
Lazzara, Michael	Onslow	R	6	✗	✗	E	✗	✗	✓	✗	INC	0	6
Lee, Michael	New Hanover	R	7	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	17	13	9
Newton, Buck	Greene, Wayne, Wilson	R	4	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	E	✗	0	0	3
Rabon, Bill	Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover	R	8	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	E	17	0	4
Sanderson, Norman	Carteret, Chowan, Halifax, Hyde, Martin, Pamlico, Warren, Washington	R	2	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	14	0	5
Smith, Kandie	Edgecombe, Pitt	D	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	86	75	81

Key

✓ Pro-conservation
✗ Anti-conservation

NA Not in office for vote. Resigned or was appointed to replace a resigned legislator
N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
E Excused absence, vote not scored
INC Incomplete, insufficient data

Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name

ADVERSARIES

ALLIES

Adversaries

Paul Newton

Although former Senator Paul Newton is no longer in the legislature (resigned March 2025), his actions continue to have a negative impact on the environment. Before his resignation, Newton sponsored SB 261, The Energy Security and Affordability Act, which was eventually inserted into [H1] & [S1] SB 266: eliminating the Carbon Plan interim goals. This legislation will cost ratepayers billions of dollars in fuel, but Newton prioritized Duke Energy instead. As a former Duke Energy Executive, Newton betrayed his constituents by sponsoring this bill, putting polluters over people.



Paul Newton

Rep. Carla Cunningham

Rep. Carla Cunningham's environmental voting record says she does not care about the environment or her constituents. Cunningham is tied with Rep. Shelly Willingham for the lowest score of all Democrats in the legislature. She votes against the environment and her constituents on many environmental issues in this scorecard. Cunningham has made it known that she does not care about the environment or the health of her constituents, consistently supporting polluters over the financial and environmental well-being of her constituents.



Carla Cunningham

Rep. Shelly Willingham

Rep. Shelly Willingham also has a significantly lower environmental score than the rest of his party, showing similar loyalties as Rep. Cunningham. Many of his votes directly go against his constituents and the environment. In multiple instances, Representatives Cunningham and Willingham are two of a small Democratic enclave that could have a much more impactful influence on getting positive environmental bills passed, yet they consistently vote against the wellbeing of their constituents and the environment.



Shelly Willingham

Allies



Sydney Batch

Sen. Sydney Batch

Sen. Sydney Batch, leader of the North Carolina Democratic Caucus, has been an environmental champion throughout her Senate tenure. She has boldly spoken out against attacks on environmental protections and is helping create a new legislature to make sure that our state continues on a path towards a sustainable, healthy future. For her noble work, Batch was awarded the NCLCV 2025 Defender of the Environment Award.



Sarah Crawford

Rep. Sarah Crawford

Rep. Sarah Crawford has long been a champion of the environment in the legislature. Namely, Crawford sponsored HB 689, a bill that creates a novel environmental justice framework in North Carolina. She also promoted HB 8, the Managing Environmental Waste Act of 2025, which reduces single-use plastic in the state. These bills, along with her 100% lifetime voting record, have made Rep. Crawford an invaluable environmental ally. Based on her actions and votes, Rep. Crawford was awarded the NCLCV 2025 Representative of the Year.



DeAndrea Salvador

Sen. DeAndrea Salvador

Sen. DeAndrea Salvador has been an outstanding advocate for the environment this year in the legislature. Through her voting and bill introduction, she has proven to be fiercely loyal to environmental advocacy and protection. This year, Salvador introduced the Clean Energy and Workforce Innovation Act, aimed at creating clean energy jobs in the state. Salvador's exemplary work has led to her being named NCLCV 2025 Senator of the Year.

Legislators with 100% lifetime score

We would like to commend the legislators that have maintained a perfect score in their tenure as an elected official. Their actions have been key in maintaining the environmental and human health of North Carolina. Thank you to Representatives: Eric Ager, Mary Belk, Kanika Brown, Allen Buansi, Laura Budd, Maria Cervania, Tracy Clark, Sarah Crawford, Julie Greenfield, Pricey Harrison, Beth Helfrich, Monika Johnson-Hostler, Carolyn G. Logan, Tim Longest, Jordan Lopez, Rodney Pierce, Lindsey Prather, Phil Rubin, and Julie von Haefen. Thank you to Senators Woodson Bradley, Jay Chaudhuri, Sophia Chitlik, Lisa Grafstein, Mujtaba Mohammed, Natalie Murdock, Caleb Theodros.

2025 Governor's Scorecard

Overall, Governor Stein earns an A for his actions during his first year in office.

Governor Stein is off to a strong start in his first term as Governor. With his legislative actions and statements, Stein has acted in favor of the environment in his first year in office. While his environmentally-friendly record as Attorney General makes his moves as Governor more predictable, Stein maintains a notable streak of acting in favor of the environment.

The start of Stein's term was notably marked by his Hurricane Helene response. Billions of dollars have been allocated and used in North Carolina to help with recovery. This money has been used to rebuild personal homes and infrastructure in the affected areas. So far, Stein has signed five relief packages into law, making a \$2 billion dent into an estimated 60 billion dollars in damages. Stein has been encouraging increased tourism to Western NC to stimulate and bring cash flow to small businesses in the Mountain region and encouraging FEMA and the Trump Administration to stick to their commitments.

Governor Stein has had the opportunity to use his veto powers over these first six months. As of July 2025, Stein has vetoed 14 bills, some with notable environmental impacts, including SB 266, HB 402, and HB 171. SB 266 takes away North Carolina's interim climate goals and creates a Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) clause, making ratepayers responsible for the cost of power plant construction without benefitting from the power plant coming online. HB 402 pushes more of the regulatory power reserved for the state agencies to the legislature, delaying the rapid response of agencies to the needs of constituents. Lastly, HB 171 destroys any DEI effort made by the state, making it impossible to collect any data on minority groups. In an environmental context, providing aid to groups that might be targeted by unjust regulations would no longer be allowed, ensuring that the most at-risk groups stay in harm's way.

Finally, Governor Stein has made a tremendous push for clean energy and affordability. In addition to continuing to recruit clean energy companies to North Carolina, he also recently signed Executive Order 23 to establish a new task force on energy affordability. The 26-member Task Force includes bipartisan representation from the state legislature, state government agencies, industry, public utilities, and clean energy advocates. The task force will develop recommendations for how to manage increasing electricity demand while maintaining adequate reliable, affordable, and clean electricity for North Carolina. The Task Force may also address current and future energy needs and goals or recommendations that promote economic development for North Carolina and the state's clean energy economy.

The governor does not vote on bills, so his score is based solely on which bills he decides to sign into law or veto and his public statements.

Thank you Governor Stein for your service to the environment and people of North Carolina.



A Overall	
A	Vetoed SB 266, HB 402, and HB 171 to keep Duke Energy from unnecessarily raising rates, to stop the legislature from stripping away his power, and to fight back against attacks against DEI.
A	Appointed Reid Wilson, an environmental leader with extensive experience, to be Department of Environmental Quality Secretary.
A	Created the Governors Recovery Office for western NC (GROW NC), with Matt Calabria, former Wake County Commissioner, as the director.
A	Signed a joint statement with South Carolina's governor opposing new offshore drilling sites.
A	Wrote an op-ed in USA Today promoting positive changes to FEMA post-Helene.
A	Signed Executive Order 23 to establish NC Energy Policy Task Force, with a goal of meeting current and future energy demand with affordable, reliable, clean electricity.

What To Do Now

Hold your legislators accountable.

Thank legislators who stood up for sound environmental policies. If they earned a low score or cast an anti-conservation vote, let your elected officials know how this impacts you and your values.

Ask your local, state, and federal candidates where they stand on these issues.

Use this scorecard to make informed decisions when choosing which state candidates deserve your support in the upcoming election. Visit LCV.org to see how your members of Congress are voting on federal issues.

Join NCLCV to help reclaim North Carolina's natural identity.

You can help turn environmental values into North Carolina priorities by becoming a NCLCV member today at nclcv.org/donate. On our website, you can also sign up for our weekly Conservation Insider Bulletin to keep up with political and environmental policy news here in North Carolina and nationally.





Board of Directors

Doug Rader, *President*
Angella Dunston, *Vice-President*
Walker Rayburn, *Treasurer*
Anne Harvey David
Lois Deloatch
Kevin Primus
Mary Webber Baggett
Elizabeth Redenbaugh
Nina Szlosberg-Landis
Marion Sullivan
Doris Wallace

Staff

Carrie Clark, *Executive Director*
Dan Crawford, *Senior Director of Public Affairs*
Rashad Gibson, *Field and Mobilization Director*
Justine Oller, *Outreach Director*
Robin Smith, *Senior Policy Director*
Michelle "Meech" Carter, *Clean Energy Campaigns Director*
Harry Davis, Jr., *Development Officer*
Ty McFarland, *Director of Communications & Membership*

2024 Fellows

Katie Maxwell
Michael Mohs
Samantha Lam
Gabrielle Floyd

2025 Fellows

Olivia Grobmyer
Philip Sophocleous
Olivia Wuttke
Melissa Arcila

Paid for by NC League of Conservation Voters. Not authorized by any candidate.

For more information, please visit nclcv.org.

North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
PO Box 12671 Raleigh, NC 27605



© 2025. All rights reserved.