



North Carolina
Legislative Scorecard
2023



2023 North Carolina
Legislative
Scorecard

A Message From Our Director

Dear Conservation Voter,

This legislative session, the Republican-controlled General Assembly has been set on regressing our environmental policies and weakening our democratic structure by diminishing the power of the EPA and DEQ, deconstructing efforts to advance our clean energy economy, and stripping protections from the natural areas that make this state such a wonderful place to live, visit, and do business.

After Tricia Cotham flipped from the Democratic to Republican party in April, giving Republicans veto proof majority in the General Assembly, Roy Cooper was stripped of his ability to prevent anti-environmental legislation from being executed into law. Despite the veto-proof majority in the legislature, Governor Cooper has used his bully pulpit to denounce Republican issued attacks on the environment, which has energized Democratic voters across the state. During this legislative session, Cooper has exercised his veto power on a series of bills that have been regarded as some of the most stringent and concerning environmental regulations ever presented to this body. In particular, Cooper vetoed Senate Bill 582, which redefined the definition of “wetland” so that 2.5 million acres of vital wetlands are open for development in North Carolina, House Bill 488, which prevented home construction from becoming safer from disaster and more energy efficient, and H.B. 750, which prohibits the use of environmental, social, and governance criteria for awarding state contracts or evaluating employees.

The dominance of the Republican party extends beyond the state legislature, as the GOP gained an open United States Senate seat and won every statewide judicial race. In light of this political power, we have seen multiple attempts by the Republican party to elevate legislative power through anti-democratic legislation, like S.B. 747 Elections Law Changes and S.B. 512 Greater Accountability for Boards/Commissions, each of which passed.

It is more important than ever for voters to hit the ballots and elect environmental champions in the 2024 elections. Please use this scorecard to hold your legislators accountable for their votes. And use it when you consider your own vote this year.

Thanks,
Carrie



Carrie Clark
Executive Director



2023
Legislative
Session

Draining the Future by Destroying North Carolina's Wetlands:

The Environmental Offenders' Wish List

This year's annual Farm Bill flushes nature's filters down the drain. The purge followed suit with the Supreme Court's *Sackett v. EPA* decision, which established that a wetland must be physically touching another body of water in order to be federally protected.¹

Unfortunately, in accordance with this destructive ruling, The N.C. Farm Act of 2023 reclassifies protected wetlands to only those "adjacent to bodies of water." Thanks to the Home Builders Association, who lobbied for the narrow definition, at least 2.5 million acres of vital wetlands are open for development in North Carolina. Since 2017, the Home Builders Association, a Political Action Committee, has emerged as one of the leading donors to state legislators, generously donating over a million dollars to the governing body.²

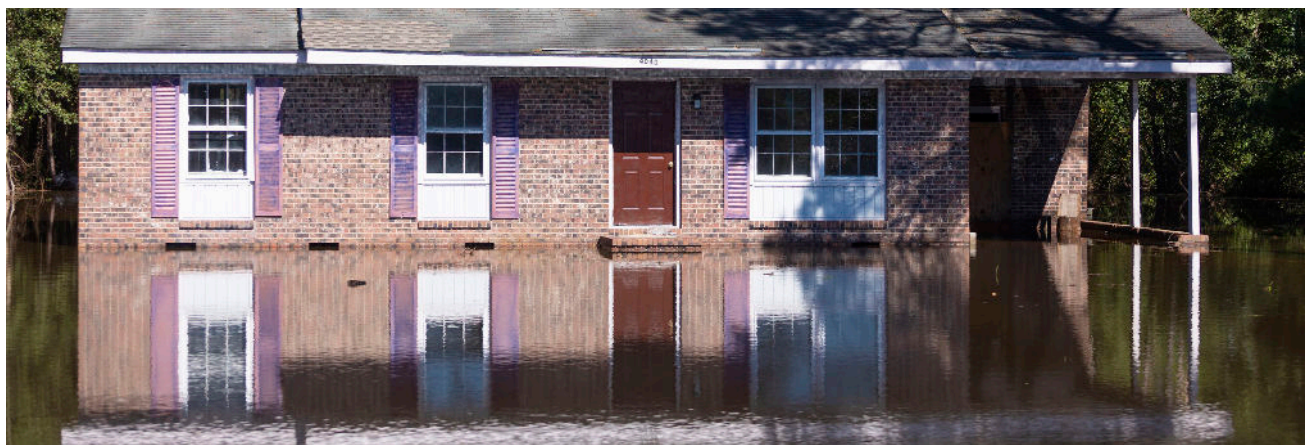
Rep. Pricey Harrison spoke on the house floor about how gutting wetland protections negatively impacts flooding, water quality, and biodiversity. Wetlands act as natural sponges, absorbing excess water during heavy rainfall and mitigating the risk of flooding in surrounding areas. By safeguarding wetlands, we preserve their crucial ability to retain and slowly release water, thereby reducing the intensity and frequency of flooding events. Rep. Deb Butler pointed out how

the General Assembly has recently made substantial investments in efforts to deliver clean, safe drinking water to North Carolinians. However, this bill takes a step backwards by destroying protections for the earth's natural filtration system. "We would do well to leave Mother Nature alone to do her job," she expressed.

A study on coastal storms from 1996 to 2005 found that one square kilometer of wetlands saves \$1.8 million in property damage.³ During Hurricane Sandy in 2012, wetlands reduced damages for coastal states by an average of 11 percent.⁴ It is evident enough that the economic benefits of wetlands alone are reason enough to save them.

A whopping nine Senate Democrats joined Republicans to vote in support of draining wetlands in a 37 - 6 vote. It passed in the House with a vote of 77-38, with 8 Democrats joining all Republicans in support. After this legislative session, we've learned a profound lesson: even if you believe you truly know your friends, think again.

At the mansion, Governor Cooper ultimately vetoed the bill, explaining that the wetlands provision "leaves the



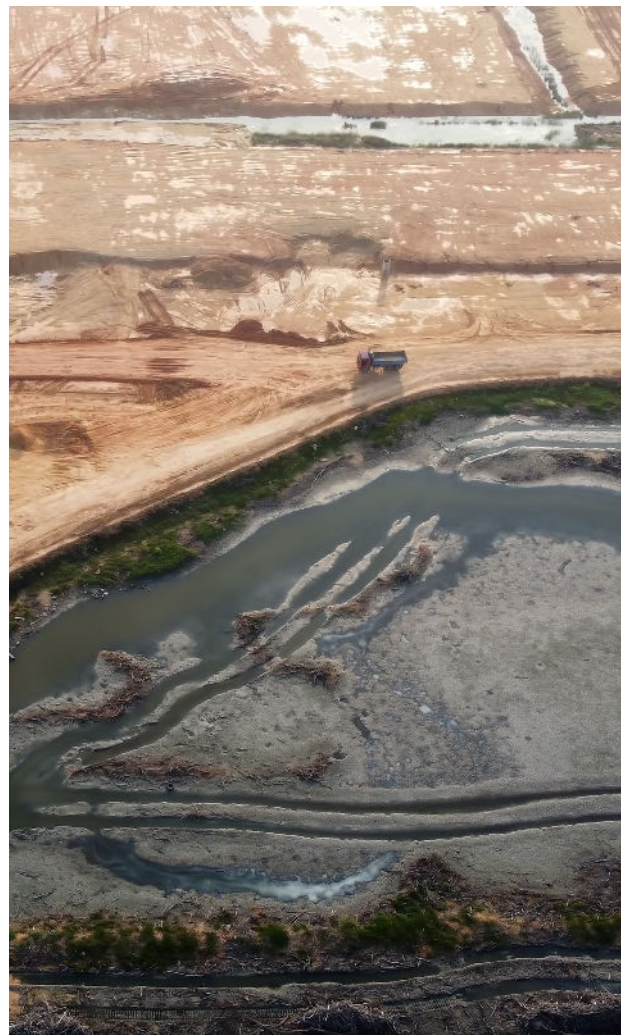
¹ Jeff Turrentine. "What the Supreme Court's *Sackett v. EPA* Ruling Means for Wetlands and Other Waterways." Natural Resources Defence Council, 5 June 2023. <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/what-you-need-know-about-sackett-v-epa> ² Transparency USA. "NC Home Builders Association PAC Contributions." TUSA, 31 December 2022. <https://www.transparencyusa.org/nc/committee/nc-home-builders-assn-pac-sta-c3217n-c-001-pac/payees?cycle=2017-to-now>

state vulnerable without vital flood mitigation and water purification tools.” Despite his best efforts, the General Assembly voted to override the governor’s veto.

The Farm Act is one of many bills passed this session that poses a threat to our environment. House Bill 600, the Regulatory Reform Act of 2023, restricts the executive branch’s ability to fight pollution by preventing DEQ from imposing new limitations on existing wastewater discharges, stormwater regulations, and animal waste permitting. This is a violation of the Clean Water Act, as federal regulations require DEQ to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

House Bill 579, Sedimentation Act & Other Env’l. Changes, similarly weakens DEQ by limiting their ability to control stormwater and erosion runoff from construction activity with the permitting process. Other provisions can prohibit DEQ from including federal law in its own regulations without approval from the General Assembly. Inserting the state legislature into the middle of the coordination between the NCDEQ and the EPA is unconstitutional, under the Supremacy Clause, and practically a bureaucratic nightmare. House Bill 579 sponsor, Representative Mark Brody, is a general contractor whose profits are determined by the very water quality rules he’s trying to change. To no one’s surprise, it was recently discovered that more than half of Brody’s 2022 campaign funds came from 40 donors with ties to construction-related companies or industry groups.

Republicans are not only eradicating critical natural infrastructure, but also diminishing the power of the very institutions responsible for safeguarding our environment.



3 Jack Kurki-Fox. “The Status and Trends of Wetland Loss and Legal Protection in North Carolina.” NC State Extension Publications, 14 March 2022. **4** Siddharth Narayan, Michael Beck. “USA: Protecting wetlands helps communities reduce damage from hurricanes and storms.” UNDRR, 11 October 2018. <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/usa-protecting-wetlands-helps-communities-reduce-damage-hurricanes-and-storms#:~:text=Our%20paper%20shows%20that%20during,an%20average%20of%2011%20percent>. **5** John Deem. “Puppet of the industry critics blast building code bill sponsors ties to construction-lobby.” Winston-Salem Journal, 7 July 2023. https://journalnow.com/news/local/puppet-of-the-industry-critics-blast-building-code-bill-sponsors-ties-to-construction-lobby/article_c9ff6036-1c2f-11ee-9653-5b3550f6ab4e.html

A Victory Against “Moore” Unchecked Political Power

In the final *Moore v. Harper* ruling, the United States Supreme Court struck down a fringe theory proposed by NC Republican legislators – the independent state legislature (ISL). This ruling prevented state legislatures from gaining unrestricted ability to control redistricting, and even election results, without any review by the courts, an important separation of powers, as shown by the efforts of former President Donald Trump to overturn the results of the 2020 election. How did NCLCV get involved in one of the most important democracy lawsuits?

On November 16, 2021, NCLCV joined a lawsuit challenging Republican lawmakers’ efforts to place voters in unrepresentative boundaries, allowing their Republican candidates to receive an unfair advantage in the election and limiting voters’ rights to have their voice heard. This was the start to a long process of the case reshaping into what became *Moore v. Harper*. On February 4, 2022 the North

Carolina Supreme Court ruled the voting maps unconstitutional and a violation of state law and our state constitution.¹ Intent on gaining power, a group of Republican state legislators—including Tim Moore, the Speaker of the NC House—appealed the state Supreme Court’s decision to the United States Supreme Court, arguing state legislatures have complete and absolute control over voting maps. The ISL theory of absolute control presumes that the state legislature, and only the state legislature, has the power to make the rules for voting. Donald Trump used this theory in an attempt to reverse the election that resulted in Joe Biden becoming President. While this theory is not unique to North Carolina, state courts across the country—even some most controlled by Republicans—adamantly opposed this theory recognizing the rollback of the checks and balances placed in our government. Additionally, many leading conservative current and former judges and legal scholars opposed this theory.



¹ The Associated Press. “North Carolina’s Supreme Court Strikes down Redistricting Maps That Gave GOP an Edge.” NPR, 5 Feb. 2022, www.npr.org/2022/02/05/1078481564/north-carolina-redistricting.

Before the US Supreme Court could choose to rule or not rule on the case, Republican justices took over the NC Supreme Court's majority in November 2022 and reversed the earlier ruling in *Harper v. Hall* (the original state level case), giving NC's legislature complete control and ordering new districts to be drawn. The legislature took advantage of this terrible ruling and enacted new highly gerrymandered districts. On June 27th, 2023, the US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 against the absurd "independent state legislature" theory put forward by Speaker Tim Moore, protecting voters and democracy by shutting down Moore's case for absolute control.

While the US Supreme Court ruling protects democracy nationwide, unfortunately, North Carolina Republicans have continued to corrupt our electoral system. This year, they passed three bills to consolidate power in the legislature and take power away from the other branches of government. S.B. 512: Greater Accountability for Boards/Commissions sounds great in title, but in reality it removes the power to appoint to important boards and commissions from the governor and consolidates it with the legislature. After his veto of the bill was overridden, Governor Cooper filed a lawsuit against Republican legislative leaders challenging this bill. The North Carolina Supreme Court previously ruled that no matter the political party controlling the legislature, they couldn't destroy the checks and balances put forth in our constitution. S.B. 747: Elections Law Changes will introduce a two-factor authentication process and signature verification for absentee ballots cast by mail, eliminate the three day grace period

for mail-in ballots, and expand who can challenge the eligibility of another voter. All of these measures affect all voters, but are expected to affect minority voters the most. S.B. 749: No Partisan Advantage in Elections, also sounds great in title, but restructures the boards of election by removing the governor's power to appoint a majority of members, which risks ties that are broken by the legislature and limiting early voting locations. These bills diminish the power of both the voter and the executive branch, subverting constitutional checks and balances on government, and awarding more power to the Republican-controlled General Assembly.

It is imperative to allow voters to reflect their beliefs at the ballot without the unchecked power of the legislative branch controlling the voting process. If the last four years have shown us anything, it is that democracy is fragile, and the battle to maintain it demands our full attention.

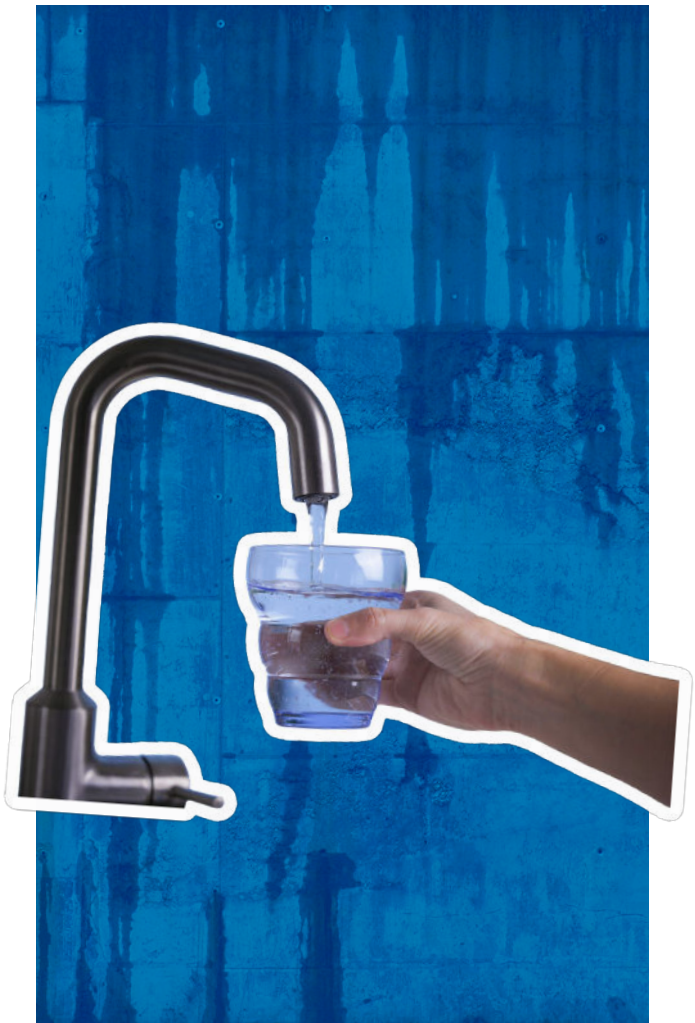
PFAS Update

Every time you drink from the tap of your North Carolina residence, you unwittingly ingest per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (or PFAS): perilous hazards to your well-being. These chemicals are known as forever chemicals because they do not break down in the environment or in our bodies. These chemicals are not only polluting our water but are spreading to our food as well. Ingesting fish from the Cape Fear River poses a severe threat to North Carolinians' health, so much so that the NC Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued advisories regarding the consumption of certain fish caught from the Cape Fear River due to high levels of these chemicals.¹

Despite the urgent environmental and health impacts of PFAS, the General Assembly has once again failed to adequately address this persistent issue. This session, two bills addressing PFAS failed to make it through committees; H.B. 610: 2023 Safe Drinking Water Act and S.B. 658: Water Safety Act of 2023. Both bills tried to direct the government to establish maximum contaminant levels for PFAS, as well as other harmful chemicals. On top of those two efforts, lawmakers proposed Amendment 2 for H.B. 600: Regulatory Reform Act of 2023 that could have required the government to establish maximum contaminant levels for toxic chemicals in drinking water, but it was tabled along party lines.

Only one bipartisan effort has emerged to reduce PFAS. H.B. 370: Responsible Firefighting Foam Management Act prohibits the use of firefighting foam that contains intentionally added PFAS chemicals for training or testing. While this bill offers some progress, it diverts attention from other guilty parties responsible for the majority of the pollution.

In 2017, the public became aware that PFAS produced at the Chemours Fayetteville Works Facility had been discovered in the Cape Fear River, a source of drinking water for around 300,000 North Carolinians.² Ignoring the calls of communities, Chemours has demonstrated a lack of urgency this session in working to solve the problem they created. The company began construction of its barrier wall in December at the pollution site, but missed two state-imposed deadlines for completion.³



¹ North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. "NCDHHS Recommends Limiting Fish Consumption from the Middle and Lower Cape Fear River Due to Contamination With forever chemicals." NCDHHS, 13 July 2023. <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2023/07/13/ncdhhs-recommends-limiting-fish-consumption-middle-and-lower-cape-fear-river-due-contamination> ² North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. "Chemours Consent Order." NC DEQ, 2022. <https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/key-issues/genx-investigation/chemours-consent-order> ³ Amy Passaretti Willis. "Chemours required wall complete, state silent on consequences for being late." Port City Daily, 22 June 2023. https://portcitydaily.com/latest-news/2023/06/22/chemours-required-wall-complete-state-silent-on-consequences-for-being-late/?ac_cid=DM814385&ac_bid=1050406391

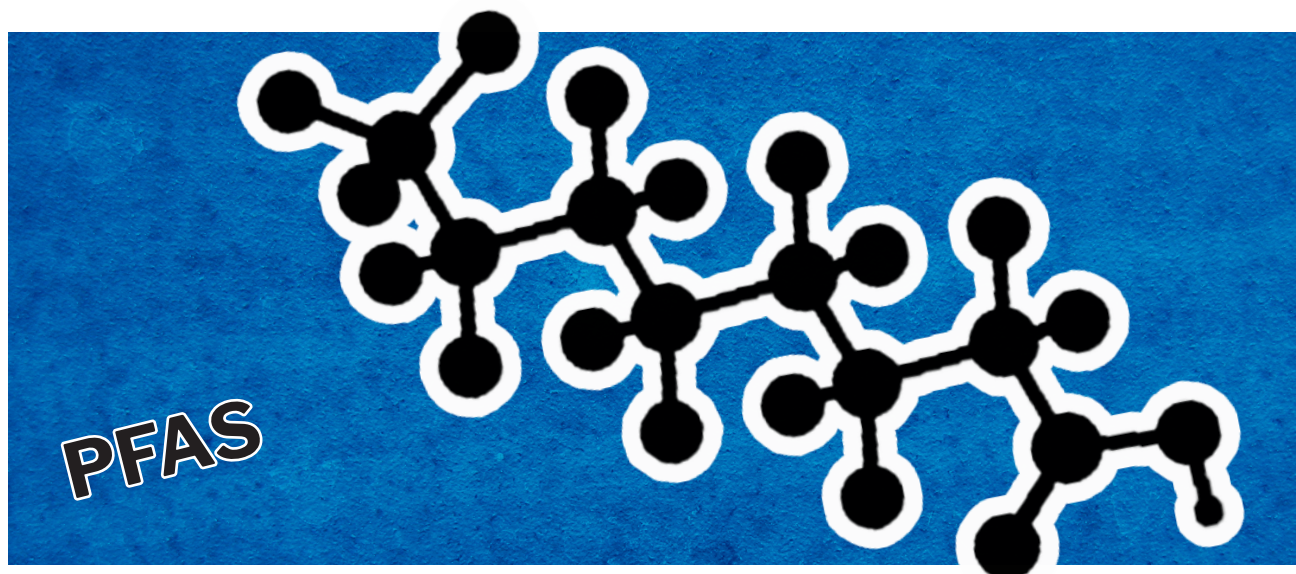
The executive branch has sprung into action due to the idle state of the legislature. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) has announced their plan to pursue legally enforceable limits of PFAS in groundwater and surface water.

Additionally, NCDEQ announced an action plan to support communities that are directly affected by the pollution. Their pilot program, initiated through the Bernard Allen Emergency Drinking Water Fund, aims to assist North Carolinians with PFAS contamination in their private drinking water wells. Eligible residents with PFAS contamination levels equaling or surpassing health advisory thresholds will receive funding for treatment systems, allocated according to their household income.⁴

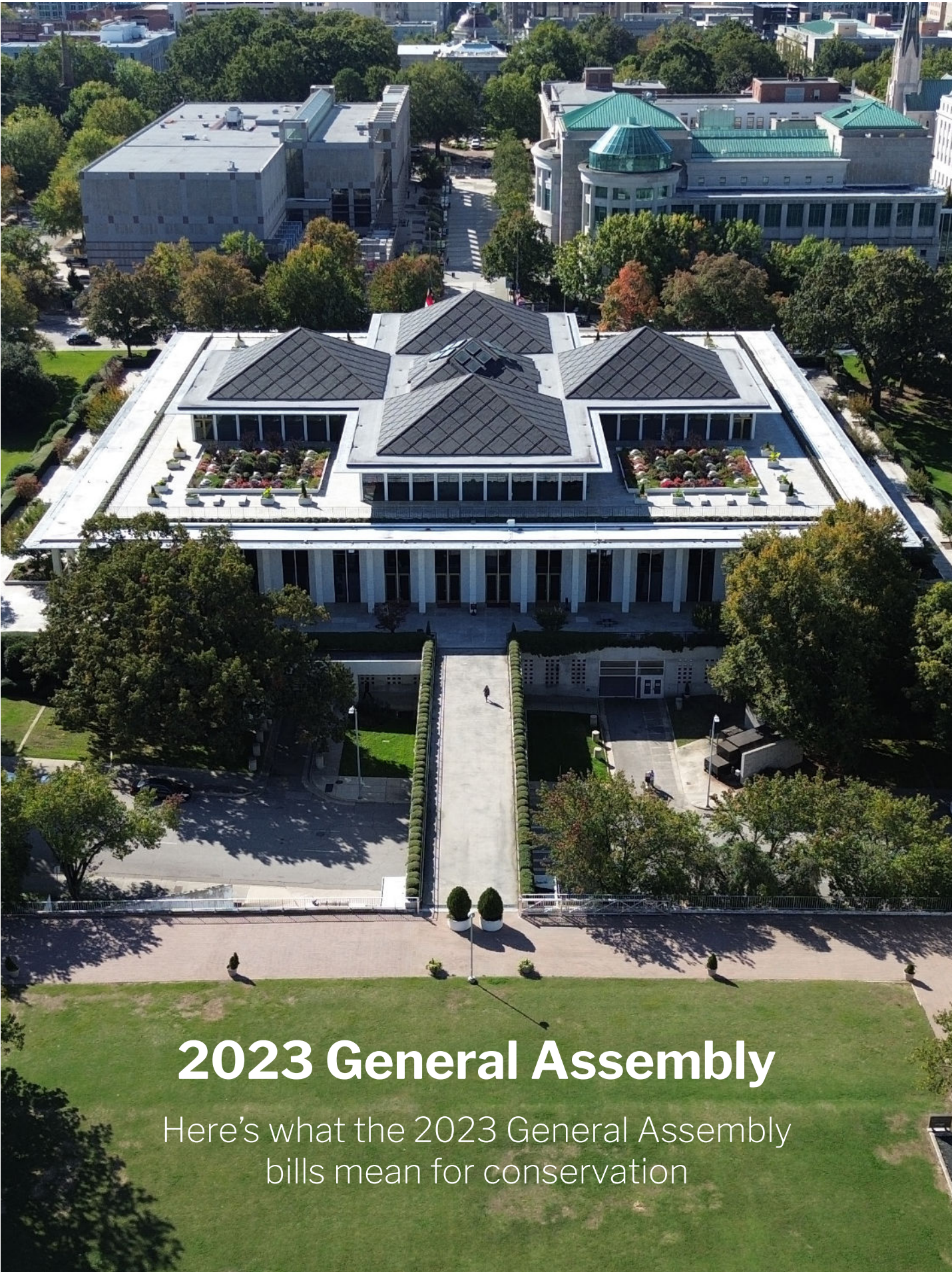
Finally, Attorney General Josh Stein successfully represented the Department of Environmental Quality in their lawsuit against Chemours, which resulted in the company paying a record \$12 million fine and removing pollutants from our air and water.

NCDEQ's actions are separate from those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Beginning in Fall 2023, the EPA will not only require all manufacturers and facilities to fully report their production of PFAS but will seek to hold these companies accountable for the PFAS pollution they release.

With limited action from the state legislature to put pressure on polluters, NCDEQ – with full support from Attorney General Stein – has stepped in to attack PFAS forthrightly. Their actions, coupled with the EPA's new regulations, will improve the health of North Carolinians. Michael Regan, current administrator of the EPA and former Secretary of NCDEQ said, "We anticipate that when fully implemented, this rule will prevent thousands of deaths and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS related illnesses."⁵



⁴ North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. "North Carolina continues to lead the way on addressing PFAS." NCDEQ, 7 June 2023. <https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2023/06/07/north-carolina-continues-lead-way-addressing-pfas> ⁵ Zoë Read. "EPA proposes first limits on toxic 'forever chemicals' for public drinking water." PBS, 15 March 2023. <https://why.org/articles/epa-proposes-first-limits-on-toxic-forever-chemicals-for-public-drinking-water-pfas/#:~:text=E2%80%9CWe%20anticipate%20that%20when%20fully,contaminated%20nearby%20waterways%20with%20PFAS>.



2023 General Assembly

Here's what the 2023 General Assembly bills mean for conservation

House Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[H1] H.B. 600, Second Reading

Regulatory Reform Act of 2023

This bill prevents the DEQ from imposing new limitations on existing wastewater discharges, stormwater regulations, and animal waste permitting. This is a violation of the Clean Water Act, as federal regulations require DEQ to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

Passed 72 - 41. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H2] H.B. 750, Second Reading

Address ESG Factors

This bill prohibits the use of environmental, social, and governance criteria for awarding state contracts or evaluating state employees.

Passed 76 - 41. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H3] H.B. 259, Third Reading

2023 Appropriations Act

The budget underfunds environmental protections, specifically actions to combat PFAS water pollution, prohibits cap and trade requirements for utilities, limits the power of the DEQ, eliminates emissions standards and inspections and increases fees for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Passed 78 - 38. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H4] H.B. 130: Second Reading

Energy Choice/Solar Decommissioning Rqmts

This bill forbids cities and counties from prohibiting any energy service based upon the type of energy and prevents the banning of white goods”—such as a dishwasher, dryer, furnace, hot water heater, stove, trash compactor, etc. This undermines North Carolina’s transition to a clean energy economy.

Passed 77 - 37. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H5] H.B. 488: Veto Override

Code Council Reorg. and Var. Code Amend

Section 8 prohibits amendments to the Energy Conservation chapter of the NC State Building Code and prevents the building codes to be updated with energy efficiency provisions until 2026.

Passed 79 - 40. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H6] H.B. 535: Second Reading

Solar Capacity Limit Elimination

This bill removes the cap on capacity for solar leasing. It also eliminates a one-megawatt cap on net metering and directs the Utilities Commission to adopt rules for net metering of renewable energy facilities with a generation capacity intended to offset a customer’s annual usage.

Passed 103 - 10. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[H7] H.B. 370: Second Reading

Responsible Firefighting Foam Management Act

This bill prohibits the use of firefighting foams containing harmful PFAS chemicals for firefighting training or testing purposes.

Passed 114 - 0. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[H8] S.B. 747: 2nd Reading

Elections Law Changes

This bill makes voting more difficult for many people, especially college students. It includes a two-factor authentication process and signature verification for absentee ballots cast by mail, sets the deadline for mail-in and absentee ballots to Election Day, eliminating the three day grace period, and expands who can challenge the eligibility of another voter.

Passed 69 - 47. Pro-conservation Vote: No

House Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[H9] S.B. 512: Conf Report Adopted

Greater Accountability for Boards/Commissions

This bill changes the compositions of various boards and commissions, including the Coastal Resources Commission, Wildlife Resources Commission and the Utilities Commission to strengthen the power of the General Assembly and weaken the power of the governor in determining appointments.

Passed 72 - 47. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H10] S.B. 749: Second Reading

No Partisan Advantage in Elections

In another attempt to control elections, this bill restructures the state and county board of elections by removing the governor's power to appoint board members and giving appointment power to the General Assembly, with the majority and minority leaders in both chambers each electing 2 individuals. If a 4-4 split were to occur, the General Assembly would conduct a vote to conclude a final decision.

Passed 28 - 19. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H11] H.B. 898 Second Reading

House Redistricting Plan 2023/H898 Ed 2

The extremely gerrymandered redistricting maps – drawn in secret and only announced shortly before they were considered – were an effort by the legislature to ensure a veto-proof supermajority in future elections. The maps diluted Black voting to disenfranchise communities of color, while packing other districts to dilute the ability of Democrats to vote Republicans out of office.

Passed 62 - 44. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[H12] S.B. 582: Second Reading

North Carolina Farm Act of 2023

Section 15 of the Farm Act redefines the state definition of “wetland” to unprotect 2.5 million acres of wetlands. The bill also limits penalties for timber removal and revises the standards of permits for aquaculture discharges to those inconsistent with the requirements requested by the EPA.

Passed 77 - 38. Pro-conservation Vote: No

Senate Votes

■ Pro-conservation measure or result

■ Anti-conservation measure or result

[S1] S.B. 582: Second Reading

North Carolina Farm Act of 2023

Section 15 of the Farm Act redefines the state definition of “wetland” to unprotect 2.5 million acres of wetlands. The bill also limits penalties for timber removal and revises the standards of permits for aquaculture discharges to those inconsistent with the requirements requested by the EPA.

Passed 34 - 9. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S2] S.B. 512: Second Reading

Greater Accountability for Boards/Commissions

This bill changes the compositions of various boards and commissions, including the Coastal Resources Commission, Wildlife Resources Commission and the Utilities Commission to strengthen the power of the General Assembly and weaken the power of the governor in determining appointments.

Passed 29 - 18. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S3] S.B. 747: Second Reading

Elections Law Changes

This bill makes voting more difficult for many people, especially college students. It includes a two-factor authentication process and signature verification for absentee ballots cast by mail, sets the deadline for mail-in and absentee ballots to Election Day, eliminating the three day grace period, and expands who can challenge the eligibility of another voter.

Passed 28 - 19. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S4] S.B. 749: Second Reading

No Partisan Advantage in Elections

In another attempt to control elections, this bill restructures the state and county board of elections by removing the governor’s power to appoint board members and giving appointment power to the General Assembly, with the majority and minority leaders in both chambers each electing 2 individuals. If a 4-4 split were to occur, the General Assembly would conduct a vote to conclude a final decision.

Passed 28 - 19. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S5] H.B. 600: Second Reading

Regulatory Reform Act of 2023

This bill prevents the DEQ from imposing new limitations on existing wastewater discharges, stormwater regulations, and animal waste permitting. This is a violation of the Clean Water Act, as federal regulations require DEQ to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

Passed 31 - 13. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S6] H.B. 600: Amendment 4 (Senator Applewhite)

Regulatory Reform Act of 2023

This amendment would have required the commission for public health to establish maximum contaminant levels for toxic chemicals in drinking water, such as Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) no later than October 1st, 2023.

Tabled 28 - 16. Pro-conservation Vote: Yes

[S7] H.B. 750: Second Reading

Address ESG Factors

This bill prohibits the use of environmental, social, and governance criteria for awarding state contracts or evaluating employees.

Passed 29 - 18. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S8] H.B. 130: Second Reading

Energy Choice/Solar Decommissioning

This bill forbids cities and counties from prohibiting any energy service based upon the type of energy and prevents the banning of “white goods”. This undermines North Carolina’s transition to a clean energy economy.

Passed 36 - 7. Pro-conservation Vote: No

Senate Votes

- Pro-conservation measure or result
- Anti-conservation measure or result

[S9] HB 259: Third Reading

2023 Appropriations Act

The budget underfunds environmental protections, specifically actions to combat PFAS water pollution, prohibits cap and trade requirements for utilities, limits the power of the DEQ, eliminates emissions standards and inspections and increases fees for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Passed 37 - 12. Pro-conservation Vote: No

[S10] S.B. 758: Third Reading

Realign NC Senate Districts 2023

The extremely gerrymandered redistricting maps – drawn in secret and only announced shortly before they were considered – were an effort by the legislature to ensure a veto-proof supermajority in future elections. The maps diluted Black voting to disenfranchise communities of color, while packing other districts to dilute the ability of Democrats to vote Republicans out of office.

Passed 28 - 17. Pro-conservation Vote: No



Reading the Scorecard

NCLCV's Legislative Scorecard records members' votes on selected bills for the 2023 legislative biennium, and details votes on bills and amendments which we believe to have the most significant environmental impacts.

As you delve into our 2023 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.

2023 By the Numbers

Number of legislators who scored...

0%: **30**

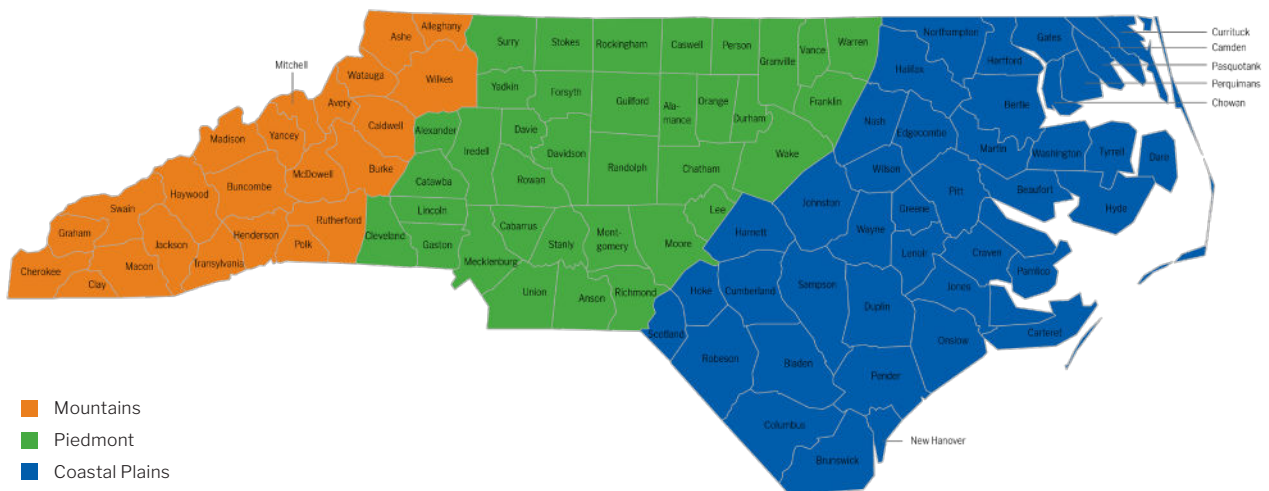
10% and Below: **45**

85% and Above: **49**

100%: **40**

Average Scores Over Time	09-10	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-22	22-23	Life-time
House Democrats	81%	81%	81%	79%	86%	92%	92%	91%	84%
House Republicans	51%	13%	6%	7%	6%	39%	19%	16%	24%
Senate Democrats	76%	63%	74%	79%	91%	88%	86%	85%	80%
Senate Republicans	58%	12%	2%	0%	3%	13%	10%	0%	17%
Total House Average	67%	47%	44%	34%	36%	64%	49%	46%	50%
Total Senate Average	69%	37%	38%	27%	30%	45%	43%	34%	43%

Scorecard Organized by Regions



HOUSE
Mountains



Representative	Counties	Party	District	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10	H11	H12	2023 Average %	2021-22 Average %	2019 Average %	Lifetime Score %
Ager, Eric	Buncombe	D	114	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Balkcom, Jennifer	Henderson	R	117	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	9	NA	NA	9
Blackwell, Hugh	Burke	R	86	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	E	E	✗	10	25	50	22
Clampitt, Mike	Jackson, Swain, Transylvania	R	119	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	18	17	NA	17
Elmore, Jeffrey	Alexander, Wilkes	R	94	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	17	40	9
Gillespie, Karl	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon	R	120	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	17	NA	17
Greene, Dudley	Avery, McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey	R	85	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	17	NA	17
Hall, Destin	Caldwell, Watauga	R	87	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	17	50	22
Johnson, Jake	Henderson, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford	R	113	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	17	INC	16
Pickett, Ray	Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga	R	93	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	9	NA	13
Pless, Mark	Haywood, Madison	R	118	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	25	NA	21
Prather, Lindsey	Buncombe	D	115	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Rudow, Caleb	Buncombe	D	116	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Stevens, Sarah	Surry, Wilkes	R	90	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	E	✗	✗	20	25	33	17

Key

- ✓ Pro-conservation
- ✗ Anti-conservation

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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	2023 Average %	2021-22 Average %	2019 Average %	Lifetime Score %
Adams, Jay	Catawba	R	96	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	25	50	17
Alexander, Kelly	Mecklenburg	D	107	X	✓	X	✓	E	✓	E	E	E	E	E	✓	67	100	33	77
Alston, Vernetta	Durham	D	29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	NA	100
Arp, Dean	Union	R	69	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	20	9
Autry, John	Mecklenburg	D	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Baker, Amber	Forsyth	D	72	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	NA	100
Baker, Kristin	Cabarrus	R	82	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	NA	17
Ball, Cynthia	Wake	D	49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Belk, Mary	Mecklenburg	D	88	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Biggs, Brian	Randolph	R	70	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	8	NA	NA	8
Bradford, John	Mecklenburg	R	98	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	E	E	20	17	NA	15
Brockman, Cecil	Guilford	D	60	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	55	89	83	81
Brody, Mark	Anson, Union	R	55	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	25	17	11
Brown, Kanika	Forsyth	D	71	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Brown, Terry	Mecklenburg	D	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	NA	100
Buansi, Allen	Orange	D	56	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Budd, Laura	Mecklenburg	D	103	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Carney, Becky	Mecklenburg	D	102	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	83
Cervania, Maria	Wake	D	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Wheeler Clemmons, Ashton	Guilford	D	57	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	91	92	100	96
Ann Cotham, Tricia	Mecklenburg	R	112	E	X	X	E	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	E	X	22	NA	NA	72
Crawford, Sarah	Wake	D	66	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Crutchfield, Kevin	Cabarrus, Rowan	R	83	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	E	X	18	NA	NA	18
Cunningham, Carla	Mecklenburg	D	106	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	X	55	86	80	78
Dahle, Allison	Wake	D	11	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	92	100	93
Everitt, Terence	Wake	D	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100

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HOUSE
Piedmont



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Faircloth, John	Guilford	R	62	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	50	10
Gill, Rosa	Wake	D	33	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	91	90	100	94
Hall, Kyle	Forsyth, Stokes	R	91	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	50	17
Hardister, Jon	Guilford	R	59	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	E	X	18	17	33	10
Harris, Wesley	Mecklenburg	D	105	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Harrison, Pricey	Guilford	D	61	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Hastings, Kelly	Cleveland, Gaston	R	110	X	X	E	X	X	X	✓	X	X	E	X	E	11	13	33	7
Hawkins, Zack	Durham	D	31	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	100	92	100	97
Howard, Julia	Davie, Rowan, Yadkin	R	77	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	E	X	X	18	30	33	38
Jackson, Neal	Moore, Randolph	R	78	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	8	NA	NA	8
Jeffers, Ray	Durham, Person	D	2	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	75	NA	NA	75
John, Joe	Wake	D	40	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	83	92	100	93
Jones, Abe	Wake	D	38	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	83	92	NA	88
Lambeth, Donny	Forsyth	R	75	X	N	X	X	X	N	✓	X	X	X	X	X	8	17	33	7
Liu, Ya	Wake	D	21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Loftis, Donnie	Gaston	R	109	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	0	NA	14
Lofton, Brandon	Mecklenburg	D	104	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Logan, Carolyn	Mecklenburg	D	101	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Longest, Tim	Wake	D	34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Majeed, Nasif	Mecklenburg	D	99	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	67	83	83	77
McNeely, Jeffrey	Iredell	R	84	X	X	X	X	X	N	✓	X	X	X	X	X	8	17	INC	13
Mills, Grey	Iredell	R	95	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	20	NA	18
Moore, Tim	Cleveland, Rutherford	R	111	X	X	X	X	X	N	✓	X	X	X	X	X	8	8	17	22
Morey, Marcia	Durham	D	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Moss, Ben	Moore, Richmond	R	52	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	NA	17
Paré, Erin	Wake	R	37	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	25	NA	21

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HOUSE
Piedmont



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Potts, Larry	Davidson	R	81	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	33	15
Price, Renée	Caswell, Orange	D	50	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	NA	NA	92
Reece Pyrtle, A.	Rockingham	R	65	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	0	NA	14
Quick, Amos	Guilford	D	58	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	100	100	100
Reives, Robert	Chatham, Randolph	D	54	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	95
Riddell, Dennis	Alamance	R	64	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	50	10
Roberson, James	Wake	D	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	X	91	100	NA	96
Ross, Stephen	Alamance	R	63	X	X	X	X	X	✓	E	X	X	X	X	X	9	NA	NA	9
Saine, Jason	Lincoln	R	97	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	33	10
Sasser, Wayne	Montgomery, Stanly	R	67	X	X	X	X	X	✓	E	X	X	X	X	X	17	9	33	17
Sauls, John	Lee, Moore	R	51	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	30	50	19
Setzer, Mitchell	Catawba, Iredell	R	89	X	X	E	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	18	20	33	32
Sossamon, Frank	Granville, Vance	R	32	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	NA	NA	17
Staton-Williams, Diamond	Cabarrus	D	73	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Torbett, John	Gaston	R	108	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	33	33	13
von Haefen, Julie	Wake	D	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Warren, Harry	Rowan	R	76	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	8	17	33	8
Watford, Sam	Davidson	R	80	X	X	X	E	X	✓	✓	X	X	E	X	X	20	17	NA	18
Willis, David	Union	R	68	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	E	X	X	18	17	NA	17
Winslow, Matthew	Franklin, Granville	R	7	E	X	X	X	X	N	✓	X	X	X	X	X	9	17	NA	14
Zenger, Jeff	Forsyth	R	74	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	25	NA	21

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HOUSE
Coastal



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Bell, John	Wayne	R	10	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	8	17	33	7
Brisson, William	Bladen, Sampson	R	22	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	E	18	17	33	30
Brown, Gloristine	Pitt	D	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Butler, Deb	NewHanover	D	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Cairns, Celeste	Carteret, Craven	R	13	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	NA	NA	17
Chesser, Allen	Nash	R	25	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	NA	NA	17
Cleveland, George	Onslow	R	14	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	E	X	X	9	18	50	26
Davis, Ted	NewHanover	R	20	X	X	X	E	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	18	17	67	18
Dixon, Jimmy	Duplin, Wayne	R	4	E	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	18	17	50	12
Fontenot, Ken	Nash, Wilson	R	24	E	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	18	NA	NA	18
Goodwin, Edward	Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington	R	1	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	N	X	X	X	X	17	17	50	24
Humphrey, Chris	Greene, Jones, Lenoir	R	12	E	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	N	E	X	20	22	50	29
Iler, Frank	Brunswick	R	17	X	X	E	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	18	17	33	14
Jackson, Frances	Cumberland	D	45	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	92	NA	NA	92
Jones, Brenden	Columbus, Robeson	R	46	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	E	X	18	20	40	16
Kidwell, Keith	Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico	R	79	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	E	X	18	20	17	19
Lowery, Jarrod	Robeson	R	47	E	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	E	X	N	X	X	20	NA	NA	22
Lucas, Marvin	Cumberland	D	42	E	E	E	✓	✓	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	83	67	76
Miller, Charles	Brunswick, NewHanover	R	19	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	NA	17
Penny, Howard	Harnett, Johnston	R	53	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	17	NA	17
Pierce, Garland	Hoke, Scotland	D	48	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	X	55	83	67	77
Pike, Joseph	Harnett	R	6	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	17	NA	NA	17
Reeder, Timothy	Pitt	R	9	X	X	X	X	X	✓	E	X	X	X	X	X	9	NA	NA	9
Shepard, Phil	Onslow	R	15	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	E	X	X	X	X	9	22	33	9
Smith, Carson	Onslow, Pender	R	16	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	E	X	18	22	33	23

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HOUSE

Coastal



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Smith, Charles	Cumberland	D	44	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Strickland, Larry	Johnston	R	28	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	25	50	20
Tyson, Steve	Craven	R	3	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	17	NA	17
Ward, Bill	Camden, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank	R	5	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	NA	NA	17
Wheatley, Diane	Cumberland	R	43	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	17	NA	17
McDowell White, Donna	Johnston	R	26	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	17	8	50	15
Willingham, Shelly	Bertie, Edgecombe, Martin	D	23	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	50	67	75
Wray, Michael	Halifax, Northampton, Warren	D	27	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	58	67	66

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SENATE

Mountains



Representative	Counties	Party	District	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	2023 Average %	2021-22 Average %	2019 Average %	Lifetime Score %	
Corbin, Kevin	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania	R	50	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	0	10	33	5
Daniel, Warren	Buncombe, Burke, McDowell	R	46	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	7	
Hise, Ralph	Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey	R	47	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	13	4	
Mayfield, Julie	Buncombe	D	49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	90	NA	95	
Moffitt, Timothy	Henderson, Polk, Rutherford	R	48	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	17	NA	8	

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SENATE

Piedmont



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Adcock, Gale	Wake	D	16	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	80	100	100	90
Alexander, Ted	Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln	R	44	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	7
Barnes, Lisa	Franklin, Nash, Vance	R	11	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	33	5
Batch, Sydney	Wake	D	17	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	X	X	✓	67	90	100	82
Berger, Phil	Guilford, Rockingham	R	26	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	23
Blue, Dan	Wake	D	14	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	80	80	50	82
Bode, Mary Wills	Granville, Wake	D	18	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	78	NA	NA	78
Chaudhuri, Jay	Wake	D	15	✓	E	✓	✓	E	E	✓	E	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Craven, David	Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Union	R	29	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	NA	5
Ford, Carl	Rowan, Stanly	R	33	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	5
Galey, Amy	Alamance, Randolph	R	25	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	NA	5
Garrett, Michael	Guilford	D	27	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	100	89	100	96
Grafstein, Lisa	Wake	D	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	NA	NA	100
Hunt, Rachel	Mecklenburg	D	42	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	100	100	96
Jarvis, Steve	Davidson, Davie	R	30	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	33	12
Johnson, Todd	Cabarrus, Union	R	35	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	0	3
Krawiec, Joyce	Forsyth, Stokes	R	31	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	3
Lowe, Paul	Forsyth	D	32	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	60	60	57	65
Marcus, Natasha	Mecklenburg	D	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	90	100	97
McInnis, Tom	Cumberland, Moore	R	21	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	4
Meyer, Graig	Caswell, Orange, Person	D	23	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	100	100	83	95
Mohammed, Mujtaba	Mecklenburg	D	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100
Murdock, Natalie	Chatham, Durham	D	20	✓	✓	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	NA	100
Newton, Paul	Cabarrus	R	34	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	4

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

Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name

SENATE

Piedmont



Representative	Counties	Party	District	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	2023 Average %	2021-22 Average %	2019 Average %	Lifetime Score %
Overcash, Brad	Gaston	R	43	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	NA	NA	0
Proctor, Dean	Caldwell, Catawba	R	45	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	E	X	X	0	10	NA	6
Robinson, Gladys	Guilford	D	28	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	E	✓	E	X	E	83	100	89	81
Salvador, DeAndrea	Mecklenburg	D	39	E	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	E	100	89	NA	93
Sawyer, Vickie	Iredell, Mecklenburg	R	37	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	33	14
Settle, Eddie	Alexander, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin	R	36	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	NA	NA	0
Waddell, Joyce	Mecklenburg	D	40	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	60	80	90	81
Woodard, Mike	Durham	D	22	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	E	X	X	✓	56	80	100	85

Key

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Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name

SENATE

Coastal



Representative	Counties	Party	District	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	2023 Average %	2021-22 Average %	2019 Average %	Lifetime Score %
Applewhite, Val	Cumberland	D	19	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	89	NA	NA	89
Britt, Danny Early	Hoke, Robeson, Scotland	R	24	X	X	E	E	E	E	X	X	X	X	0	11	13	6
Burgin, Jim	Harnett, Lee, Sampson	R	12	X	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	13	8
Hanig, Bobby	Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Tyrrell, Warren	R	3	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	0	17	50	19
Jackson, Brent	Bladen, Duplin, Jones, Pender, Sampson	R	9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	5
Lazzara, Michael	Onslow	R	6	E	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	0	11	NA	6
Lee, Michael	New Hanover	R	7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	NA	5
Newton, Buck	Greene, Wayne, Wilson	R	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	NA	NA	3
Perry, Jim	Beaufort, Craven, Lenoir	R	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	10	7
Rabon, Bill	Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover	R	8	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	0	11	10	3
Sanderson, Norman	Carteret, Chowan, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Washington	R	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10	20	5
Sawrey, Benton	Johnston	R	10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	NA	NA	0
Smith, Kandie	Edgecombe, Pitt	D	5	X	✓	✓	✓	E	E	✓	X	X	E	57	93	100	82

Key

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- N Missed vote, counted as anti-conservation vote
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Within regions, legislators sorted alphabetically by last name

ADVERSARIES

ALLIES

Adversaries

Tricia Cotham

Tricia Cotham campaigned as a pro-choice, pro-LGBTQ+ Democrat. Her platform was centered on women's rights, voting rights, and raising the minimum wage.¹ Just six months after being sworn into office as the representative to North Carolina's 12th House District, a Democrat stronghold that backed Joe Biden by 23 points and elected her with over 60% of the vote, Cotham publicly announced her switch to the Republican party. Her defect gave Republicans a supermajority in both branches of the state legislature, neutralizing Democratic Governor Roy Cooper's veto power for his final two years in office.



This theatrical turn of events leaves voters to question why a representative would ditch their agenda, their constituents, and their entire reputation. At her press conference, Cotham said she was "bullied" by Democrats and "alienated" from the party.² She said Democrats did not clap for her when she was honored for being the youngest woman elected to the house, a statement that confounded Democrats in attendance.³ Of course this line of reasoning is entirely irrational; abandoning an alleged "negligent" party (Democrats) and aligning oneself with another whose leadership and legislative record demonstrates intolerance, a lack of empathy, and severe limits for women's and voters' rights, along with extreme anti-climate policies (Republicans).

Disloyal Friends

The Farm Act of 2023 contains numerous problematic provisions, including one that would limit the definition of wetlands in North Carolina to the federal definition recently altered by *Sackett v. EPA*. This definition change would unprotect an egregious 2.5 million acres of isolated wetlands; these produce many benefits to the communities in which they are located, including improved water quality, erosion control and flood abatement.⁴ NCLCV seeks to hold legislators accountable—especially those who ran on a pro-environment platform—for passing the most anti-environmental legislation in decades.

The Farm Act of 2023

Unchecking And Unbalancing

With a supermajority in Congress and control of the state courts, Republican legislators are disrupting our fragile system of checks and balances. Through anti-democratic legislation, like S.B. 747 Elections Law Changes and S.B. 749 No Partisan Advantage in Elections, the Republicans are expanding their political dominance by extracting the rightful powers of voters and the executive branch. Senators Ralph Hise, Paul Newton and Warren Daniel, the primary sponsors of both appalling bills, are using "voter integrity" as their Trojan horse in an effort to gain power and weaken our democracy. These bills will further hurt underserved communities by limiting vote-by-mail, unnecessarily complicating same day voting across North Carolina, and could have devastating effects on Early Voting—the #1 way North Carolinians vote—and other vital election functions.



Ralph Hise



Paul Newton



Warren Daniel

Allies



Pro-Democracy and Environmental Justices

Supreme Court justices Elena Kagan, Ketanki Brown Jackson, Sonia Sotomayor and Brett Kavanaugh voted in favor of the EPA in *Sackett v. EPA* and in favor of Harper in *Moore v. Harper*. *Sackett v. EPA*, a case in which Sackett won, limited the power of the EPA to protect wetlands. *Moore v. Harper*, which favored Harper, declared the independent state legislator theory unconstitutional nationally. We are grateful these judges stood with the environment and with democracy in these cases.



Pricey Harrison

This one should not be surprising. Representative Harrison has been unwavering in her fight for the environment at the General Assembly since her inauguration in 2004. She has been the primary sponsor on pro-environment bills, like HB 279 “Break Free from Plastics and Forever Chemicals”, HB 416 “Environmental Justice Considerations” and HB 720 “State Clean Energy Goal for 2050.” Even during a period of Republican dominance in the legislature, when it was easy to accept defeat, Pricey continued to work with her constituents and fight against anti-environmental legislation.



Legislators with 100% lifetime score

We would also like to congratulate the legislators who have maintained a perfect score this session. These environmental champions have demonstrated a firm commitment to protecting our air, water, and renewable energy future. Thank you to Representatives Eric Ager, Vernetta Alston, John Autry, Cynthia Ball, Mary Belk, Gloristine Brown, Kanika Brown, Terry Brown, Allen Buansi, Laura Budd, Deb Butler, Becky Carney, Maria Cervania, Sarah Crawford, Terence Everitt, Pricey Harrison, Carolyn Logan, Tim Longest, Marvin Lucas, Marcia Morey, Lindsey Prather, Caleb Rudow, Charles Smith and Julie von Haefen and Senators Jay Chuadhuri, Michael Garrett, Lisa Grafstein, Natasha Marcus, Julie Mayfield, Graig Meyer, Mujtaba Mohammed, Natalie Murdock and DeAndrea Salvador.

1 Schoenbaum, Hannah. “How One North Carolina Lawmaker’s Defection from the Democratic Party Upended Abortion Protections.” AP News, 19 May 2023, apnews.com/article/abortion-north-carolina-veto-override-tricia-cotham-a91342de76cd8463a637f634b4dbcf36. **2** Shugerman, Emily. “Party-Switching Poi Helps N.C. Republicans Pass 12-Week Abortion Ban.” The Daily Beast, 17 May 2023, www.thedailybeast.com/party-switching-tricia-cotham-helps-north-carolina-republicans-override-abortion-veto#:~:text=At%20a%20press%20conference%20announcing,said%20both%20parties%20had%20applauded. **3** *Ibid.* **4** “Why Are Wetlands Important?” EPA, 22 Mar. 2023, www.epa.gov/wetlands/why-are-wetlands-important#:~:text=The%20holding%20capacity%20of%20wetlands,expensive%20dredge%20operations%20and%20levees.

Governor's Scorecard

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

Throughout his time as governor, Roy Cooper has consistently demonstrated steadfast resilience in confronting major polluters in instances where the responsible legislators have not taken decisive action. Cooper has been successful in tackling legislative challenges and utilizing his executive powers to mitigate our most pressing environmental problems.

Despite the veto-proof majority in the legislature, Governor Cooper has used his bully pulpit to denounce Republican issued attacks on the environment, which has energized Democratic voters across the state. During this legislative session, Cooper has exercised his veto power on a series of bills that have been regarded as some of the most stringent and concerning environmental regulation reversals ever presented to this body. In particular, Cooper vetoed **S.B. 582**, which redefined wetlands so that 2.5 million acres of vital wetlands are open for development in North Carolina. He also vetoed **H.B. 488**, which prevented home construction from becoming safer from disaster and more energy efficient, and ultimately will cost people more money. He vetoed **H.B. 750** at the end of the session, which prohibits the use of environmental, social, and governance criteria for awarding state contracts or evaluating employees. 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.

A Overall	
A	Released the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Analysis to ensure North Carolina continues to progress towards its climate goals while expanding our clean energy economy.
A	Allocated \$462.9 million in funding for 249 infrastructure projects in 80 communities statewide that will strengthen North Carolina's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems.
A	Vetoed S.B. 582 , H.B. 488 , and H.B. 750 to protect our environment, reaffirming the commitment to safeguarding North Carolina's natural resources and promoting sustainable practices.
A	Joined other Atlantic Coast states involved with the Special Initiative on Offshore Wind on a coordinated project to support fisheries mitigation in the development of offshore wind along the East Coast.
A	Administered \$223,019,448 in water and wastewater infrastructure grants to help pay for 60 projects in 40 counties, including 41 construction projects. This adds to the \$2.8 billion invested in water and wastewater infrastructure across the state over the last two years.
A	Awarded \$9.6 million in park accessibility grants for 21 projects across the state.
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	Appointed strong environmental leaders to the Utilities Commission/Environmental Management Commission to hold Duke Energy accountable. Oversaw the Department of Environmental Quality, which released their plan to pursue legally enforceable limits of toxic PFAS in groundwater and surface water.

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



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.



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For more information, please visit nclcv.org.

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