

BRIAN FARKAS

NORTH CAROLINA | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 9



Raised in Pitt County, Brian Farkas has the real-world skills necessary to hit the ground running on Day One as the next state representative in District 9. Brian received a B.A. in Political Science and a Minor in Economics at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, as well as a Master of Public Administration from the UNC School of Government in Chapel Hill.

Whether it's his work in the private and public sectors, or serving on boards and commissions, Farkas is a proven leader who has engaged a number of organizations on issues affecting North Carolinians and delivered tangible results to improve Pitt County and the state. Brian is "all in" when it comes to giving back to the community he grew up in, doing whatever it takes to bring people together and fix problems.

Brian works in an architecture firm that works with businesses, local and state governments, and educational organizations to build stronger communities across Eastern North Carolina through responsible building design. He's helped small towns and community colleges craft master plans to guide their long-term goals and built meaningful relationships with people from all walks of life.

Prior to joining JKF Architecture, Farkas worked for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, where he specialized in emergency management measures to safeguard the lives and prized research of over 1,000 people. He has also worked for the United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. Brian is an appointee of the Governor on the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar, a two-term president of the Greenville Museum of Art Board of Trustees, former Vice-Chair of the City of Greenville Public Transportation and Parking Commission, and is a member of the Greenville Comprehensive Planning Committee.

WEBSITE

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ON THE ISSUES

STRONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brian was educated in North Carolina's public schools and universities. He knows firsthand that the strength of our schools are a direct reflection of our communities. In the legislature, Brian will work to recruit and retain the best and brightest teachers by raising teachers' salaries to the national average and fully restoring the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program. He will fight for stronger investments in East Carolina University and Pitt Community College, work to secure funding for the construction of a new Brody School of Medicine to recruit more physicians, and ensure that revenues from the state lottery are utilized to provide modern facilities, textbooks and services to North Carolina's public schools.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Brian strongly believes in standing up for our environment and creating clean energy opportunities. He will champion North Carolina's transition to a clean energy economy. He will also work to ensure that critical infrastructure (power, roads, bridges, drinking water, etc.) is prepared to withstand major natural disasters, and that disaster recovery programs are streamlined to help survivors get the resources they need quickly. Finally, Brian will work to preserve and expand funding for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, a non-regulatory organization that focuses on protecting and restoring the State's land and water resources.



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

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JUSTICE FOR ALL

Brian understands that we need to ensure our criminal justice system operates equitably to reduce the population of incarcerated people. As a State Representative, Brian will work to help the formerly incarcerated become productive members of society by reducing barriers to employment. He will also fight to create a Pitt County Mental Health Court and restore funding for Drug Treatment Courts across North Carolina. Brian will work with the Department of Public Safety's Juvenile Justice Section to promote and fund alternatives to the traditional justice system, such as Teen Courts and diversion programs.

FIX BROKEN GOVERNMENT

Brian Farkas recognizes that eliminating corruption in elections and in our government is critical to a healthy North Carolina. To that end, Brian will fight for an Independent Redistricting Commission to end gerrymandering. He will also work toward campaign finance reform and increase restrictions on lobbying by making sure that former elected officials and high-ranking political appointees cannot unfairly influence legislation once they leave office.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Republican Legislature has gutted funding for North Carolina's public schools and refused to pay our educators a living wage. Brian will fight to lock up the lottery money so politicians stop stealing from the pot that is supposed to be for teacher salaries, classroom materials, and new school buildings. He'll advocate to raise teacher pay to the national average so the state can recruit and retain the best educators. And he will fight to fully restore the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program to rebuild the teacher pipeline and restore additional pay for educators who invest in themselves and earn master's degrees.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

For years, the Republican Legislature has stood in the way of Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. Here in Pitt County, expansion would help over 13,000 people get immediate access to affordable health care. Not only would it save lives, but it would also stimulate the economy by generating over \$100 million more in growth in Pitt in the next two years. This is crucial because one of our largest local employers is Vidant Medical Center (who just terminated 200 employees in cost-cutting measures), and we have seen an increase in rural hospitals laying off staff and closing permanently because we have not passed Medicaid expansion. In addition, Brian will also work to secure funding for the new Brody School of Medicine in Pitt County, which will let us expand our class sizes and train much-needed physicians in eastern North Carolina.

GOOD-PAYING JOBS

Brian works at a small architecture firm founded by his father in Greenville, where he works with public and private clients to build stronger communities across Eastern North Carolina. He's also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and has served on its Legislative Issues Committee for over five years, so he understands the need to champion pro-business investments in the region. Brian will fight to remove barriers to economic growth and living-wage jobs. As a few examples, he knows we must finish the I-587 spur into Pitt County and secure state funding for rural broadband.

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Popula- tion	House- holds	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% Un- employ- ment	% College	%HS Grad	%No HS
86,506	38,716	9%	67.3%	26.3%	3.8%	2.1%	2.0	\$23,479	18.3%	8.5%	20.6%	21.3%	10.4%



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ABOUT THE DISTRICT

NESTED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

CD-1: D+10 and CD-3: R+24

North Carolina's 9th state house district is located in Pitt County, in eastern North Carolina. Its most populous city is Greenville. North Carolina state representatives represent an average of **79,462 residents**, as of the 2010 Census. The state has grown - after the 2000 Census, each member represented approximately **67,078 residents**.

PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

2018 STATE SENATE

Dem: 51.10%

Rep: 48.90%

2016 GUBERNATORIAL

Dem: 50.60%

Rep: 49.40%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Dem: 50.70%

Rep: 49.30%

2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Dem: 48.90%

Rep: 51.10%

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Perrin Jones is the Republican incumbent for District 9's House seat, having been appointed by the local Republican party after the prior Republican State Representative won a special election for the Third Congressional District in 2019. Jones hasn't been in office long, but was named a Chamber of Commerce "**Jobs Champion**" - indicating consistent votes for

pro-business policies. He also voted in favor of **SB 250**, which would require courts to report the names and addresses of those excused from jury duty due to non-citizenship or non-residency to the State Board of Elections to be purged from the voter file, which could open the door to arrests and deportations of undocumented immigrants.

WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

To flip this chamber, Democrats need to win 6 House seats. Momentum is on our side: in 2018, Democrats broke Republican supermajorities in both chambers. We can build on this energy to flip at least one chamber in NC's legislature this year.

Flipping a chamber would give Democrats a critical seat at the redistricting table. As in many states, Republicans in North Carolina brutally gerrymandered the maps in their favor in the last round of redistricting. As **one example**, 2018 Democratic candidates for NC House received 51% of the vote, but only won 45% of the seats. We can prevent this by flipping a chamber and ensuring that Democrats have a voice in the next round of redistricting. This is particularly important because the Governor in NC does not have veto power over the maps. So even when Democratic Governor Roy Cooper wins re-election, we will still need Democratic control of a chamber to have a say in redistricting. As happened in Virginia in 2019, a number of NC districts have recently been redrawn, after courts held they were illegally gerrymandered in favor of Republicans. The new maps are not a slam-dunk for Democrats, but they do provide some new opportunities on balance.

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REDISTRICTING AND GERRYMANDERING

North Carolina's congressional and state legislative districts are epic, infamous examples of Republican gerrymandering. In 2018, Republicans won 50 percent of the vote but held on to a whopping 10 of North Carolina's 13 congressional seats. The congressional and state legislative gerrymandering by Republicans has been the subject of extensive litigation. In 2019, a state court panel threw out the [state legislative maps for being unconstitutionally gerrymandered](#), and they were redrawn. The new districts are a mixed bag for Democrats, but they do create some new opportunities for Democratic gains.

WHY NORTH CAROLINA IS IMPORTANT

NORTH CAROLINA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided. Governor – D; Senate – R; House – R
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Up in 2020
- **Length of State Senate and House Terms:** 2 years
- **Candidate Filing Deadline:** December 20, 2019
- **State Legislative Primary Date:** March 3, 2020
- **Redistricting:** Congressional and state legislative lines drawn by state legislature; Governor does not have veto power
- **Electoral College Votes:** 15

BROADER 2020 OPPORTUNITIES

- North Carolina is a battleground presidential state this year. Obama carried NC in 2008 before Romney won in '12 by 2 points, and Trump won it by just 3 points. Democrats have a tremendous opportunity to claim NC's 15 Electoral College votes this year.
- Democratic Governor Roy Cooper is up for re-election in 2020. It'll be a very competitive reelection race.
- There is also an important, very competitive Senate race in North Carolina this year (R-Tillis), as well as competitive Congressional races (including NC-02, NC-06, and NC-09).
- Working to support NC state legislative candidates will be instrumental in helping drive turnout up and down the ticket in this historic election year.