

# SYDNEY BATCH

NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 37



Sydney Batch is a lawyer, social worker, and child welfare advocate who was raised in North Carolina. Sydney received her undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she remained for her Juris Doctorate and Masters of Social Work. Following law school, Sydney entered private practice with her husband, J. Patrick Williams. She is the founding partner at the law firm, Batch, Poore & Williams, PC. Her practice primarily focuses on family law, child welfare law, and appellate work.

In 2018, Sydney was elected to the NC House of Representatives. She represents House District 37, which encompasses southern Wake County. She currently serves on the following committees: Judiciary, Finance, Elections Law, and Ethics, and State and Local Government. As a legislator, Sydney believes that policy and evidence-based research should inform and guide the legislation passed in the North Carolina General Assembly. Since being elected to office she has advocated for paid family leave, Medicaid expansion, the expansion of early childhood education and mental health reform.

She lives in Holly Springs with her husband and two sons. In her free time, she enjoys quilting, traveling, and spending time with her husband and children.

## WEBSITE

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## ON THE ISSUES

### PAID LEAVE

Sydney was proud to co-sponsor a paid family and medical leave insurance bill in North Carolina. It shares costs between the employer and employee; and covers small businesses and people who are self-employed. It also uses an inclusive definition of family, provides job protection, and addresses the needs of military families.

Sydney knows that a lack of job protection is a major barrier that prevents working people from taking leave. Ensuring that all workers -- including those at small businesses, those who work part-time, and those who are recent hires -- have job protection is essential for employees to feel comfortable with taking paid leave. All workers deserve the right to be able to care for themselves or a loved one without the fear of being fired or paying their bills while out of work.

### HEALTHCARE

Hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians do not have access to healthcare. Expanding Medicaid will insure an additional 500,000 people, but many will

still be left uninsured. Medicaid expansion simply isn't enough. It is incumbent upon legislators to find solutions that provide people with access to affordable health care. We need to make it more affordable for small businesses to provide health insurance to their employees and make the healthcare market more accessible and affordable for those who are independent contractors, such as real estate agents. By taking a holistic approach to healthcare reform, we will be able to drastically decrease our uninsured population.

### SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. Yet, they face obstacles that prevent them from expanding their businesses. As a small business owner, Sydney understands the challenges of being able to recruit the best employees due to an inability to compete with larger businesses. While she provides health insurance, retirement plans and paid leave for her employees, not every business can due to a lack of financial resources.



SISTER DISTRICT  
PROJECT

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It is imperative that we find solutions for small businesses, such as paid family leave and affordable health care options so that they can attract and retain the top talent. We also need to ensure that they have the ability to access capital through low interest small business loans so they can grow their businesses and continue to create new jobs.

## EDUCATION

**Schools.** While North Carolina's schools look different across the state's 100 counties, Sydney knows that we need to ensure that every child is able to learn and achieve her highest potential in an environment that has all of the basic resources students, teachers and administrators need. Enrichment classes, such as art, physical education, and music should not be eliminated from the curriculum. Our children have a constitutional right to a free, public education. Sydney greatly benefited from her NC public school education, all the way from elementary school through her two graduate degrees. She now has children enrolled in public schools. She sees the struggle for resources today that were not there in years past. From the state level, we must collaborate and strategize with counties to strengthen every school system in our state.

**Students.** Education is the great equalizer. NC's tradition and reputation for providing the highest quality education has eroded in recent years as a direct result of lawmakers' policy and funding decisions. North Carolina ranks 44th in the country in per pupil funding. ALL of our children need to be on the top of our priority list because they are our future workers, parents, and community leaders. Having a robust educational foundation supports the current and future jobs and careers that North Carolina needs.

**Teachers.** We must support and incentivize our teachers to do what they do best: educate our children. Teacher pay needs to be increased to at least the national average. Teachers need flexibility in order to engage students to learn the critical thinking skills to succeed in our 21st century world. They should not be forced to teach to a test. Too often, teachers are underpaid, over-regulated, and overworked. They need to be paid a fair

and competitive salary for their work and dedication to the ever-changing educational needs of our children.

## ENVIRONMENT

**Clean Air & Safe Water.** Every person deserves to breathe clean air and have safe, drinkable water. This should not be a privilege, but a right. Our state government has a unique and non-delegable role to play in ensuring a safe and protected environment. For too long now, Republicans have allowed corporations to increase and pocket their profits while forcing taxpayers to clean-up after their environmental damage. As one example, Republicans have refused to hold Duke Energy accountable for the coal ash spill of 2014 and have allowed the costs to be passed on to taxpayers. North Carolinians deserve better from corporations and from our elected officials, who are often looking out for their interests rather than the public at large.

**Stronger Legislation.** We need laws that:

- Support and encourage companies to expand into renewable sources of energy
- Allow citizens to purchase clean and renewable energies, such as wind and solar from third parties
- Provide tax credits to those companies and families that invest in renewable energies
- Require companies to bear all of the burdens for cleaning up the environmental disasters they have caused in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

As an attorney, Sydney has seen the harmful impacts that substance use and abuse have on individuals, families, and communities. She has worked with many people who want to obtain sobriety and are ready to participate in treatment programs that have a proven track record. Unfortunately, very few people are able to access treatment because they do not have insurance, or they do not have the assets to pay privately. Like every other state facing the opioid crisis, Sydney believes we must fund treatment programs for those North Carolinians who want to tackle their addictions and live a life of sobriety.



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## ABOUT THE DISTRICT

### Nested Congressional Districts

CD2: D+19

As of the 2010 census, a total of 83,318 civilians reside within North Carolina's thirty-seventh state house district. North Carolina state representatives represent an average of 79,462 residents. The state has grown - after the 2000 Census, each member represented approximately 67,078 residents. This district is located in the Raleigh area, in southern Wake County. It's largest towns include Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina.

## DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other
83,318	73.20%	18.30%	3.60%	2.1%	2.8%

## ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Republican Erin Pare is running to challenge Representative Batch. She is running on a strongly anti-abortion, pro-gun, and pro-voter suppression platform. Pare advanced from the Republican primary on March 3, 2020.

There is also a Libertarian, Liam Lever, running as well.

## PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

2016 GUBERNATORIAL:

Democrat: 50.80%

Republican: 49.20%

2018 STATE HOUSE

Democrat: 49.9%

Republican: 47.9%

2018 STATE SENATE

Democrat: 54.70%

Republican: 45.30%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Democrat: 49.10%

Republican: 50.90%

2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Democrat: 47.70%

Republican: 53.30%

## WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

To flip this chamber, Democrats need to win 6 House seats. But of course, we cannot win if we do not also protect our fragile Democratic incumbents including Representative Batch. 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



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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.

**Unfortunately, a few seats held by Democrats were redrawn in a way that makes the district less competitive for Democrats. This is the case for Representative Batch's district, which lost several Democratic precincts and became more difficult to hold in the recent redraw.**

North Carolina's state house contests are 'last chance' races: whoever is elected in 2020 will draw the next round of district lines.

## REDISTRICTING & 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 - they create some new opportunities for Democratic gains, but also place certain incumbents in a fragile position.

## 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.