

RICKY HURTADO

NORTH CAROLINA | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 63



Ricky Hurtado, a son of working-class immigrants, grew up in rural North Carolina and is a product of the state's public schools. Working two jobs while juggling high school classes and sports, Ricky strived to achieve a dream familiar to many North Carolinians: going to college and getting a good job to support his family.

A first-generation college graduate, Ricky earned a degree in Business Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill, where he attended as a Morehead-Cain Scholar. He found his passion for public service while at UNC, mentoring high school students who grew up in similar circumstances to his own. These experiences set him on a path to a Masters in Public Administration from Princeton University. There, he focused on how to create effective public policy to fight poverty and inequality and build strong, vibrant communities.

After a brief time as a consultant and policy analyst supporting nonprofits and foundations across the country, Ricky knew it was time to return to North Carolina and do this work where it mattered most. Now he serves as an instructor at UNC Chapel Hill and the Co-Executive Director of an education initiative that helps first-generation college students and immigrant families break down barriers to educational opportunity.

Beyond fighting to expand access to quality education, Ricky holds a number of community leadership positions in North Carolina. He serves on the steering committee for Alamance Achieves, an innovative education initiative in Alamance County, as well as the Board of Directors of the United Way of North Carolina. He is also Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for NC Child, a statewide child advocacy organization, and is a Commissioner for MyFutureNC, a commission to advance college attainment and workforce development across North Carolina.

WEBSITE

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ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

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ON THE ISSUES

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

North Carolina is one of only thirteen states that has not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Ricky believes that all North Carolinians deserve access to quality care they can afford, especially those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. He will push to expand Medicaid, which will expand healthcare access to 10,000 people in Alamance County alone.

FIGHT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Ricky believes in the right to a quality public education for every child. He will fight for greater investment in North Carolina's teachers and students, not play politics with future generations. He will fight for increased access to early childhood education, higher teacher pay, investment in supplemental staff to support students' needs, and incentives to recruit and retain diverse educators to work with the state's increasingly diverse student population.

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

Ricky believes that North Carolina must build an inclusive economy that works for everyone. This vision begins with investing in public higher education so that it is affordable for working families. He is committed to making it cheaper for students to attend college and creating innovative partnerships with the private sector to prepare the state's workers for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Ricky sees protecting clean air and water for the health and safety of North Carolinians as a top priority. He will work to reverse the Republican legislators' harmful deregulation policies and make sure that state agencies have the resources they need to keep polluters accountable. Ricky will drive North Carolina forward as a national leader in renewable energies to mitigate the impact of climate change.

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RESTORE OUR DEMOCRACY

Ricky believes that North Carolina must end gerrymandering and voter suppression in North Carolina. He is committed to making it easier, not harder, for people to vote through automatic voter registration. He is also committed to ending gerrymandering for good by implementing nonpartisan, independent redistricting to ensure voters are choosing their elected officials, not the other way around.

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Republican Stephen M. Ross has represented North Carolina's sixty-third State House District since 2013. Ross has a pro-gun voting record that has earned him a 73% rating from the NRA in 2018. He has voted for a bill that [allowed](#) concealed carry in churches and for a bill that made information regarding concealed carry of a firearm confidential.

Ross has also advanced policies that make it harder for people to vote. In 2013, his first year in the State House, he co-sponsored a [voter suppression bill](#) that included voter ID requirements, banned same day voter registration, and prohibited a voter's ballot from being counted if that otherwise eligible voter cast their ballot at the wrong location.

In 2013, he voted for a bill that [repealed North Carolina's Racial Justice Act](#), which allowed inmates to challenge their death sentences on racial grounds. That same year, he also voted to [prohibit medicaid expansion](#).

During the pandemic, Ross joined his Republican colleagues in calling for North Carolina to open too early, endangering the lives of the states' residents. As early as May 2020, he [voted](#) to open bars and restaurants for indoor dining.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

NESTED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
NC-06 (R+9)

North Carolina's 63rd state house district is located in the Burlington metropolitan area in northern North Carolina. As of the 2010 census, a total of 75,550 civilians reside within the district. 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

2016 GUBERNATORIAL

Dem: 51.0%

Rep: 49.0%

2018 STATE SENATE

Dem: 50.3%

Rep: 49.7%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Dem: 47.49%

Rep: 50.01%

2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Dem: 43.77%

Rep: 55.31%

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Popula- tion	House- holds	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% Un- employ- ment	% College	%HS Grad	%No HS
79,213	32,328	16.55%	66.1%	26.6%	4.9%	0.7%	0.4%	\$44,800	13.44%	4.4%	33.5%	52.6%	13.9%



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

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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.

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

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.

