

Findings



Dedicated to the
Preservation of the Family.

2003 Legislative Directory

You Can Make A Difference!

By John L. Rustin and Jacqueline Schaffer



Most citizens greatly underestimate the ability they have to impact the laws and regulations that govern them—especially on the state and local level. Instead of taking time to become educated on the issues and involved in the public policy process, many citizens live under the assumption that they have little or no ability to impact what their elected officials do. Nothing could be further from the truth!

This special Legislative Contacts publication will give you the basic information you need to have an effective voice in North Carolina's public policy arena. That information falls in three areas: People, Policy, and Process.

People

Legislators are people too. While they have entered the realm of elected politics and now are entitled to be addressed as "The Honorable," the truth is that they are citizens just like you! They have the same basic needs, wants and desires as anyone else. In fact, as a result of all of the duties and responsibilities that come with their elected position, they are often very reliant upon others for information, help and guidance. They would not have sought the position if they did not have a desire to serve, and they are interested in hearing from and developing relationships with the people that they represent.

As with any relationship it is important that you treat your elected representatives with courtesy and respect. Treat them as you would want to be treated, and recognize that they are very busy people. The best time to develop a relationship with your elected representatives is right now. Use the information in this publication to find out who they are and how you can make contact. Drop them a note and congratulate them on their election and tell them that you look forward to working with them this session. You may be surprised at how few people take the time to actually contact their legislators, and you may also be surprised at how receptive your legislators will be.

Policy

"Policy" simply means the issues in which you have an interest. In addition to knowing your elected officials, it is important that you know the issues. This doesn't mean that you have to be an expert on every topic that you care about, but it does mean that you should understand the issues and be able to communicate with others about why you feel the way you do.

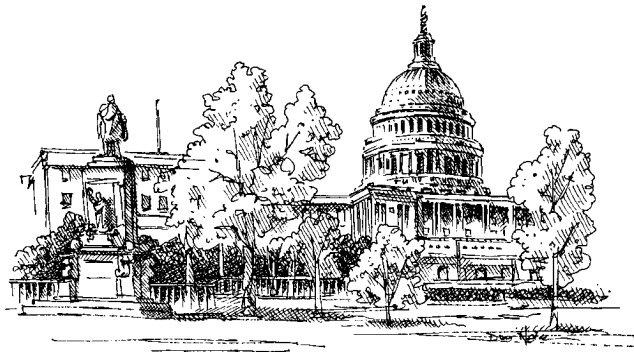
A primary job of the North Carolina Family Policy Council is to be a resource to lawmakers and the public on policy issues that affect the family. We not only conduct in-depth research on a wide variety of topics, but we also provide timely, daily updates on our website at www.ncfamily.org to keep you fully informed on what is happening on family issues in North Carolina and

across the country. Take the time to learn about the issues you care about and make sure to note helpful resources as you research.

Process

Finally, when you know who represents you and when you have an opinion on a policy issue, take the time to share it. Any time is a good time to contact your elected officials about an issue with which you are concerned. Write them a letter, send them an email, send a fax, give them a phone call—or do all four. When you

contact them, be clear and concise. You can target your communications even more effectively if you know where a bill is in the legislative process. Check the bill status on the North Carolina General Assembly website or contact the North Carolina Family Policy Council to receive our timely Legislative Alerts. If your representative is on a committee that is considering a bill, give them your input on the issue. If a vote is imminent, use the phone and send an e-mail or a fax. There are many opportunities as bills progress through the General Assembly to have input. If you hear that your legislator's position may not agree with yours, go see them. Never assume that someone else will do it for you. Realize that legislators get very few calls and letters on most issues and none on many issues. Your contact can make a difference!



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919-231-1970

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35 • Jennifer Weiss
303 Tibbetts Rock Drive
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919-678-1367

36 • David Miner
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37 • Paul Stam
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38 • Deborah Ross
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919-832-6508

39 • Sam Ellis
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919-772-6434

40 • Rick Eddins
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Dunn, NC 28334
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54 • Joe Hackney
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919-929-0323

55 • Gordon Allen
233 Crestwood Drive
Roxboro, NC 27573
336-599-2943

56 • Verla Insko
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919-929-6115

57 • Joanne Bowie
106 Nut Bush Drive E.
Greensboro, NC 27410
336-294-2587

58 • Alma Adams
#2 Mandela Court
Greensboro, NC 27401
336-273-9280

N.C. General Assembly

You can find out who represents you and reach your representative via e-mail through the General Assembly's website at:

www.ncleg.net

Click on "Representation," then click on "Who Represents Me" and enter your full zip code (nine digits).

When the legislature is in session, members are usually in Raleigh from Monday evening through Thursday afternoon. To reach them by phone, call:

(919) 733-4111

Members mailing address at the legislature is:

**North Carolina General Assembly
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096 (House)
-2808 (Senate)**

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336-349-6734

66 • Wayne Sexton
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Eden, NC 27288
336-627-1418

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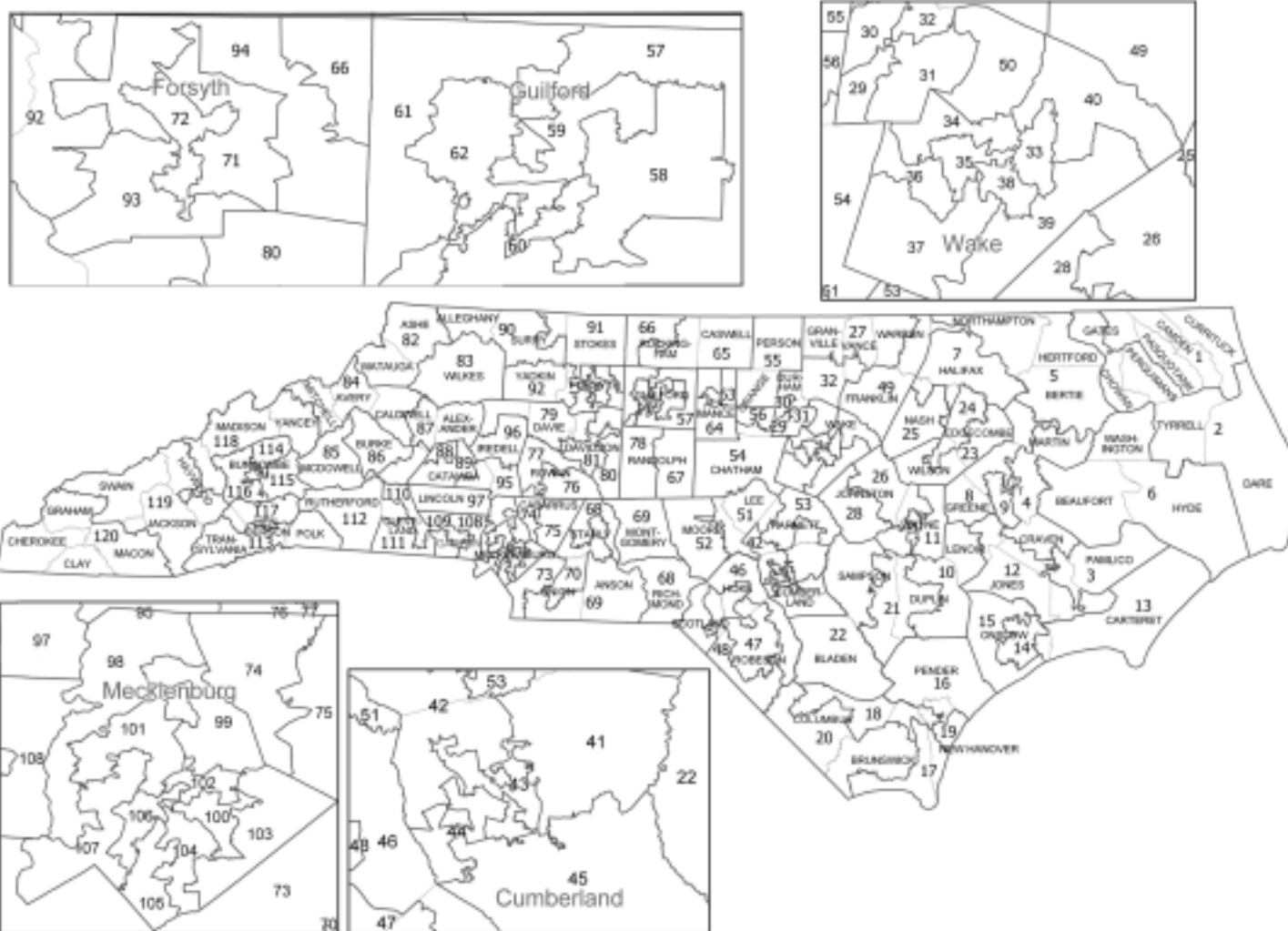
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House Districts

*(District numbers precede
Members' names)*



Maps provided by the North Carolina General Assembly's Information Systems Division.

79 • Julia Howard
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336-751-3538

80 • Jerry C. Dockham
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336-859-2281

81 • L. Hugh Holliman
223-D S. Main Street
Lexington, NC 27292
336-248-6272

82 • Gene Wilson
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828-264-5365

83 • R. Tracy Walker
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Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-838-0606

84 • Phillip Frye
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85 • R. Mitchell Gillespie
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Visit Us Online at www.ncfamily.org

Our website is a great resource for keeping you up-to-date with what's happening in the public policy arena. Sign on daily for updated news stories related to pro-family issues in North Carolina and around the country, including timely updates on legislative activities at the General Assembly. Our website also features easy access to:

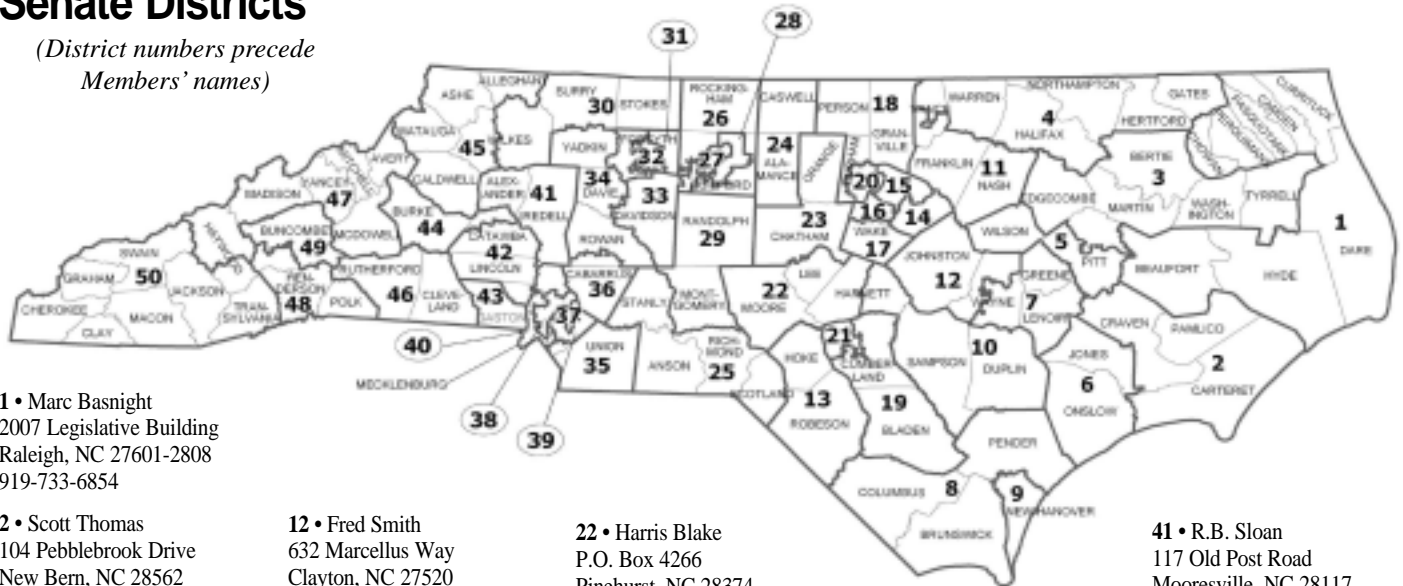
- View "Bills of Interest" that the Family Policy Council is tracking at the state legislature.
- Download our *Findings* policy papers on a wide range of public policy issues.
- Listen to our weekly radio program *Family Policy Matters* over the Internet.
- Sample various audio files and video clips of policy related events.
- Find helpful links to government sites and other organizations.

Stay Informed With Family Policy Facts!

The North Carolina Family Policy Council publishes a weekly update on state and national public policy issues that can help you stay informed about what is happening in Congress and at the General Assembly. The *Family Policy Facts* is sent out each Friday by e-mail, fax or mail. If you are interested in receiving this update, please contact the NCFPC by phone at 919-807-0800 or by e-mail at admin@ncfamily.org. Sign up now for *Family Policy Facts* and stay on top of the issues!

Senate Districts

*(District numbers precede
Members' names)*



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48 • Tom Apodaca
114 South Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-696-3510

49 • Steve Metcalf
26 Highland Pointe Drive
Weaverville, NC 28787
828-645-3280

50 • Robert C. Carpenter
29 Admiral Drive
Franklin, NC 28734
828-524-5009

Telephone numbers and addresses are for Washington offices. E-mail addresses are also provided when available. For representatives without an e-mail address, website addresses are provided. You can send your representative an e-mail through their website.

Senate

Senator John Edwards
United States Senate
225 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3154
<http://edwards.senate.gov/contact.html>

Senator Elizabeth Dole
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6342
<http://dole.senate.gov>

House of Representatives

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413 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3101
www.house.gov/ballance

2 • Bob Etheridge
1533 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4531
www.house.gov/etheridge

3 • Walter B. Jones, Jr.
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Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3415
www.house.gov/jones

4 • David Price
2162 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
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13 • Brad Miller
1505 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3032
www.house.gov/bradmilller

Congressional Districts

(District numbers precede Members' names)



Communications Checklist

1. Would a letter, e-mail or phone call be more appropriate?
2. Is time of the essence?
3. Is the letter or e-mail properly addressed?
4. Is the issue stated clearly?
5. Have you recommended a proposed course of action that is feasible?
6. Is it clear why this action is the best public policy?
7. If needed, is supporting information included?
8. Is the information from a reliable source and clearly documented?
9. Is the letter written in a polite tone?
10. Does the letter contain a return address and/or means of contacting you?

Contacting Congress

When Congress is in session, members are usually in Washington, D.C., except on the weekends. To reach your elected officials by phone, call their Washington office by dialing the numbers listed above or by dialing the U.S. Congress switchboard and asking for the member by name.

(202) 225-3121