

OUR CAROLINA PROMISE

A STATE THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE



Democrats are committed to building a stronger economy. Our promise to bring more jobs and better pay starts with North Carolina workers like you.

- **Create an economy that works for everyone**
- **Rebuild our infrastructure**
- **Equal pay for equal work**
- **Require polluters, not rate payers, to pay for clean up**
- **Promote programs for job training and retraining**
- **Ensure workers get the pay and benefits they earned and deserve**
- **Ensure people earn a living wage in their community.**
- **Bring back the state Earned Income Tax Credit**
- **Increase access to high quality broadband for rural NC**



North Carolina was once known as a national leader in public education. It's time to reclaim that title through a promise to invest in our students, our teachers, and our future.

- **Build and fund a first class public educational system.**
- **Raise teacher and principal pay to the national average.**
- **Give our schools the resources they need to succeed.**
- **Provide the nurses and support staff needed to keep students healthy and safe.**
- **Expand early childhood programs to ensure all children are ready for school.**



Everyone deserves clean air, clean water, and access to quality health care. Democrats promise to create a healthier, safer North Carolina.

- **Expand Medicaid to save lives and keep hospitals and health care jobs in our rural communities.**
- **Ensure clean air and safe drinking water.**
- **Fight the opioid crisis and increase programs to prevent drug addiction.**
- **Pass common-sense gun safety laws.**



Building a better North Carolina starts with ensuring that our government is responsible to the people. Democrats promise to put our people before special interests to build a better state.

- **Protect the right to vote for everyone.**
- **Pass independent redistricting to end gerrymandering once and for all.**
- **Keep judges fair and independent.**
- **Stand for equal rights and protections for all.**



OUR CAROLINA PROMISE

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for **OUR JOBS**

CREATE AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

We've come a long way since the Great Recession but those at the top still are getting so much while the middle class and the poor struggle to afford things like health care, retirement, and a good quality of life. We need to prioritize economic development and bring in good paying high tech, biotech and clean energy jobs so that North Carolina's workers have access to the jobs of the future.

REBUILD OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Whether roads and bridges, wastewater systems, public facilities, or water systems, we need to reinvest in North Carolina. Our state had the 8th highest fatality rating on non-Interstate rural roads of any state in the nation last year and one in ten rural roads are rated in poor condition. Public safety, our quality of life, and economic prosperity depend on solid infrastructure. Let's get to work.

ENSURE WORKERS GET THE PAY AND BENEFITS THEY EARNED AND DESERVE

Workers who put in the hours deserve the pay they earned. Democrats pledge new protections for workers, such as cracking down on companies that dock overtime pay, hold on to employees' tips, or refuse to pay workers the pay they've earned. Our laws must also protect workers from exploitation, including employer misclassification and wage theft, to ensure that workers get what they earn.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

If you do the same work, you should get the same pay. North Carolina women make 82 cents to every dollar a man makes; African-American women make 63 cents; Latina women, just 48 cents. Meanwhile, more families are headed by women breadwinners or co-breadwinners. Ensuring equal pay for equal work isn't just the right thing to do – it's smart for our families and our economy.

PROMOTE PROGRAMS FOR JOB TRAINING AND RETRAINING, LIKE "EARN WHILE YOU LEARN" PROGRAMS, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

From manufacturing and construction to information technology, the jobs of today and tomorrow increasingly require skilled workers and specialized training. Job training and retraining can help close the skills gap. Democrats will increase access to vocational education to help workers learn the skills employers need and open new doors to well-paying jobs for more North Carolinians.



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for **OUR JOBS**

ENSURE PEOPLE EARN A LIVING WAGE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

No one working full time should be forced to raise their child in poverty. The minimum wage in North Carolina hasn't moved in nearly a decade, making it difficult to raise a family or make ends meet – it's time to change that. It's good for our workers, for our economic competitiveness, and for our state.

REQUIRE POLLUTERS, NOT RATE PAYERS, TO PAY FOR COAL ASH, CHEMICAL SPILLS, AND OTHER POLLUTION

You shouldn't be on the hook to clean up after polluters. When businesses dump coal ash, chemical spills, and other pollution into our public waterways, consumers shouldn't be left to pick up the tab. Democrats will continue to push for new laws that shield consumers from rate hikes and that make sure that companies – not consumers – are paying for the cleanup.

BRING BACK THE STATE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT TO PUT MORE MONEY IN WORKING FAMILIES' POCKETS

Nearly one million poor and middle-class families relied on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) each year to put more money in their pockets and more food on the table. But North Carolina eliminated it in 2014, the only state to do so in 30 years. We need to bring relief to working people and put more money in their pockets by bringing back the EITC.

INCREASE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY BROADBAND, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Too many North Carolinians, especially those in rural areas, don't have reliable access to the internet. Students need the internet for homework, workers rely on fast connections to tele-work, and businesses need to connect instantly with suppliers and customers. Let's close the "Homework Gap" and connect rural households and underserved businesses to the 21st century economy.



OUR CAROLINA PROMISE

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for OUR HEALTH & SAFETY



EXPAND MEDICAID TO SAVE LIVES AND KEEP HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE JOBS IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

More than 600,000 working people fall in the health care coverage gap. Let's close this gap by accepting federal funds meant to help working families who earn just a little bit too much to be eligible for Medicaid but still can't afford to pay for health care. Expanding Medicaid would ease the burden on rural hospitals, create 40,000 jobs, save lives, and connect people with quality mental health care. It's time we help people get the quality health care they need.

PASS COMMON SENSE GUN SAFETY LAWS

Democrats and Republicans can find common ground to ensure that deadly weapons don't end up in the wrong hands or in our schools. Common-sense reforms like strengthening background checks, banning bump stocks, and empowering people to ask the courts to take guns temporarily from an individual who is a danger to themselves or the community can help save lives. Let's not wait for a tragedy to spur us to action – let's work together to prevent a future tragedy.



FIGHT THE OPIOID CRISIS AND INCREASE PROGRAMS TO PREVENT DRUG ADDICTION

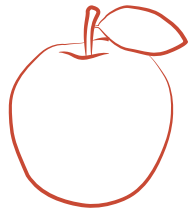
Too many in North Carolina are suffering from opioid addiction. From 1999 to 2016, more than 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid-related overdoses. This epidemic is devastating families and communities and overwhelming medical providers. We need to continue to address this epidemic head-on by expanding opioid treatment programs, expanding Medicaid, and offering compassion not jail sentences to those suffering from addiction.

ENSURE CLEAN AIR AND SAFE DRINKING WATER

From the Blue Ridge mountains to the Outer Banks, North Carolina's natural treasures are the most beautiful in the country. We need to protect them and ensure that our citizens have clean air and drinking water free from pollutants like GenX. That begins with reversing harmful cuts to the Department of Environmental Quality; since 2013, 70 water quality and water resources positions have been cut from state environmental stewards. Democrats will fight to tackle emerging threats, such as GenX, and clean up old ones, like coal ash.

OUR CAROLINA PROMISE

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for **OUR SCHOOLS**

BUILD AND FUND A FIRST CLASS PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

North Carolina was once known as a national leader in public education. It is time to reclaim that status. Every North Carolina citizen deserves a quality public education no matter their zip code. That starts with raising educator pay, investing in students and support staff, and expanding opportunities for our youngest students.

RAISE TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL PAY TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

North Carolina teachers make nearly \$10,000 less than the national average. Adjusting for inflation, teachers earn 9.4 percent less today than they did in 2009. Good teachers are leaving to teach in other states. That hurts our students and holds back our economy. Our teachers deserve better. Now is the time to put our teachers and students first.

EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS TO ENSURE ALL CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Quality preschool programs are critical to long-term success for our children and our state. More than 1,800 additional 4-year-olds attended the NC Pre-K program last fall thanks to Democratic efforts. But that's not enough. Democrats promise to expand early childhood programs to not only end the pre-K waitlist but to ensure that parents who are trying to help their children get a quality education have access to early childhood education programs.



PROVIDE THE NURSES AND SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED TO KEEP STUDENTS HEALTHY AND SAFE

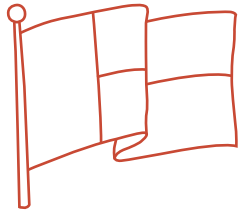
School nurses, social workers, counselors, psychologists, and school support staff are critical resources that help identify and treat youth mental health needs and offer counseling that helps our children become productive students. North Carolina Democrats are committed to keeping our students and schools healthy and safe by bringing NC up to the national standard for number of school nurses and supporting new support staff for our schools.

GIVE OUR SCHOOLS THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

North Carolina spends \$2,400 less per-student than the U.S. average. We need to reduce class sizes, give students updated textbooks, and be sure teachers and parents aren't forced to pay for basic school supplies out of their own pockets. Democrats will prioritize investing in our classrooms because we know our students must be able to compete for 21st century jobs.

OUR CAROLINA PROMISE

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for **OUR PEOPLE**

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR EVERYONE

The right to vote is the most fundamental right of all. We need to make it easier for people to make their voices heard by lowering hurdles to voting. Democrats are committed to making it easier for people to vote and will stand against measures that create new barriers to the ballot box.

PASS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING TO END GERRYMANDERING ONCE AND FOR ALL

North Carolina has seen first-hand the harmful impacts of hyper-partisan gerrymandering. We're a purple state, but thanks to efforts to rig our district lines and our elections, many voters feel their votes don't matter. Let's put an end to gerrymandering and empower an independent redistricting commission to draw our election lines.

KEEP JUDGES FAIR AND INDEPENDENT

One of the foundations of our democracy is a fair, independent judiciary. Recent actions have undermined that independence, inserting politics into our judiciary and threatening voters' right to elect judges. Democrats stand for a fair, honest, and independent judiciary.

STAND FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR ALL

Equal rights before the law, equal protections for all, and equal opportunity to create and live a better life are the touchstones of a free and fair North Carolina. Democrats are committed to promoting equal rights and protections for all, including ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. This is non-partisan, it benefits every citizen – and it's long overdue.

