

July 2024 Candidate for RRC



Mary Elizabeth Miskimon, Candidate for NC House District 21

Mary is a mother, small business owner, former teacher, and community volunteer who has lived in North Carolina for more than three decades. As a long-time Apex resident, Mary understands and values what makes North Carolina such a desirable place to live and raise a family. Her desire is to work for the people of NC House District 21 to protect and enhance their quality of life. She knows that North Carolinians value

what makes the state such a desirable place to live: low crime, affordability, and good-paying jobs--all of which are the result of conservative policies.

An award-winning journalist, Mary covered the state as a news reporter for WPTF/WQDR and Capitol Broadcasting then decided to leave behind the fast-paced news world for a new career: Mom. She is the proud mother of Alexander and Andrew and has served as a room mom, substitute teacher, and winning Science Olympiad coach. In addition to teaching and coaching, Mary served on the board of the prestigious Raleigh Boychoir while her sons performed with the group. She understands how much these experiences enriched the lives of her children and she knows that North Carolina families want the same access to top-notch educational opportunities.

Mary currently provides administrative services for a national non-profit and financial planning firm and she operates her own landscape design business. She volunteers as chair of the Town of Apex's Tree Citizens Advisory Panel and her neighborhood's grounds committee. In addition she serves her community by creating and delivering hundreds of cards each holiday for seniors residing in area assisted living centers. As an animal lover, Mary acts as host to homeless dogs and has herself adopted two rescue dogs.

Like so many others, Mary has seen crime rates increase. Because she believes that communities that value public safety tend to be safer, she supports law enforcement and vows to work with local communities to ensure that they have the necessary resources to provide the safest environment possible for residents and businesses alike.

Although North Carolina has a strong business climate and relative affordability, she has seen first-hand how dramatically housing costs have spiked, especially over the past four years. Demand coupled with recent federal policies that caused inflation to spike are driving up costs for just about everything including energy, housing, and insurance. To ensure our children can afford to live in North Carolina, her goal when she is in the Legislature will be to streamline government, keep taxes low, and develop policies that spark innovation and create good paying jobs.

Regarding energy, Mary believes it is critical that the state delivers *reliable* and affordable energy to all North Carolinians. Rather than picking winners or losers, North Carolina should let consumers drive the market. After all, they are the ones paying for it.

<https://www.marymiskimon.com/>



Mike Schietzelt, Candidate for NC House District 35

Mike Schietzelt is a husband, father, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and attorney. The son of a disabled Vietnam Veteran, Mike grew up in a single-parent family in Burlington, N.C., where he learned the importance of service and hard work at an early age. Mike's father often worked two jobs to take care of his sons. For Mike, school often took a backseat to helping his father keep food on the table. Fortunately, he had great teachers, engaged mentors, and a love for music that kept him in school.

As a young adult, Mike toured the world as a professional musician, performing in amusement parks and on cruise ships. In 2011, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps as a member of "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. While stationed in Washington, D.C., Mike represented the Marine Corps before many of the highest ranking civilian and military officials in America, and he sounded Taps for military funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mike currently works as a litigation attorney with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, where he represents small businesses, health care professionals, and faith-based organizations in civil disputes. He has authored briefs in high profile cases on behalf of Members of Congress, retired judges, and student ministries. Additionally, he has successfully advocated in the North Carolina General Assembly for sensible reform of the State's criminal laws. Mike previously clerked for then-N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Martin during the 2018-19 term.

From his father's example, Mike learned the importance of perseverance and the value of serving others. As a Marine, he developed the discipline, tenacity, and focus required to get things done. As an attorney, he is a strong, effective advocate for his clients. Now, he is ready to serve as a tenacious, results-oriented advocate for the citizens of northern Wake County.

A product of North Carolina's public schools, Mike earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), and his Juris Doctorate from the Duke University School of Law. He lives in Wake Forest with his wife, Carmon, and their four young sons (Arthur, Calvin, Daniel, and EJ) and they attend Summit Church.

"The Greek physician Hippocrates once wrote, 'First, do no harm.' This is fiscal conservatism in a nutshell. You know best how to use your hard-earned money for the benefit of your family or your business. Every tax dollar out of your pocket is a dollar that you can't use for that purpose. You deserve to know how those tax dollars are going to benefit your family, your business, and your state.

"For years, Democrats in North Carolina over-taxed and over-regulated our people and our businesses. When the Great Recession hit, the results were disastrous. Since 2011, North Carolina Republicans have worked hard to lower taxes and cut regulations. The result? North Carolina now offers one of the best business climates in America. To keep it that way, we must keep our taxes low and use those tax dollars to maintain a strong workforce and quality infrastructure. As your representative, I'll advocate to ensure public dollars are spent wisely and provide tangible returns for our state."

Read more about Mike at: <https://mikeschietzelt.com/>



Jerry Doliner, Candidate for NC House District 40

I have lived in Raleigh since 1953 and attended the Raleigh and NC public schools from Clarence Poe Elementary to UNC Chapel Hill. My wife and I have three grown children and four grandchildren. I've been a small business owner since graduating from college. I owned the Blimpie Base sub shop in Chapel Hill right out of college, then went on to owning and running a small chain of Dry Cleaners and Coin Laundries named "The Cleaners"; I've also owned several rental houses.

In April, 2020, I retired fully so people may ask, "Why politics now?" My response, "The extreme divisiveness in our country scares me. The lack of a well-informed populace coupled with a media that is not neutral is pushing our Republic to the brink. Maybe I can bring a bit of truth and civility to this race and to the NC Legislature after I win this election." As your NC Legislative representative, I believe my job will be to work for the people.

Regarding education:

I do not think the government public schools are properly educating our children. Regardless of how you feel about CRT, DEI, sex education in early grades, book banning, and all the other issues affecting the schools, we all want our children to be taught, and to LEARN the basics--reading, writing and arithmetic--as we used to call it. School boards routinely ask for more money for ongoing expenses and to remodel older facilities and build new schools. School boards and especially the teachers' unions (don't be fooled, the NCAE IS a union and is affiliated with the larger, nationwide teachers' union) ask for more money so they can educate better. Bigger budgets do not always equal better outcomes. Charter schools ARE public schools. They receive public money from local taxes and are required to provide the state approved curricula. Students who attend charter schools, in general, learn better than students in the government-run schools. That is a fact. Click [here](#) to read a recent article in the N&O. 12 of the top 20 middle schools are in the triangle. The best public middle school in the Triangle is a Charter school. The next eight are also Charter schools. The last three are traditional public schools and only one is in Wake County. ONE of the top 20 middle schools in NC is a WCPSS school! That is NOT acceptable. I will not support any additional funding for public schools until overall test scores improve! There is too much bloat in school administrations; if we reduce admin staff we can increase teacher pay. We need to hold school boards responsible and demand, and then expect, better educational outcomes. I do not believe the teachers unions act on the behalf of our children.

My campaign is currently SELF FUNDED, in other words, I am paying for ALL of it. I am not taking outside donations from individuals, PACS, Law firms, Real Estate Developers, or Lobbyists, to name a few groups.

As a legislator, my personal beliefs will not interfere with my obligation to legislate in a manner that will be fair to all, but still be true to my conservative principles.

Read more at: <https://www.doliner4house40.org/>



Jacob Arthur, Candidate for Wake County Commissioner

My name is Jacob Arthur and I'm running for Wake County Board of Commissioners in District 6. Almost a decade of single-party rule on the Board has resulted in taxes consistently rising, public safety worsening, and public schools declining. District 6 residents have been subjected to the misplaced priorities and unaccountability of the Wake County Board of Commissioners for long enough. **I refuse to standby and watch the managed decline of this great county!** I have served, traveled, and lived around the country and I truly believe Wake County should be the greatest place to live and raise a family in the United States. I do not want to see Wake continue on the path of so many once great communities in this country. It is time for a new voice on the Board of Commissioners. **Together, we can** reduce taxes, reign in spending, increase public safety, and provide accountability in public school funding.

Jacob is a Wake County native, born and raised in Raleigh. He is a husband, Attorney, Businessman, US Navy veteran, and most importantly a father of four wonderful children. He and his wife attended Wake County Public Schools, graduating from Sanderson High School in 1997, and three of Jacob and Lisa's four children currently attend Wake County Public Schools.

Unfortunately, Wake County has been led by single-party rule for almost a decade. During that time residents have continued to see property values rise over the last decade. While this has been great for creating equity for many home owners, it has also meant yearly tax bills on properties have also risen. Adding to that burden, the Board of Commissioners have consistently increased property taxes over that same time period. This, on top of inflation causing the ever increasing prices of goods and services, has created a financial burden on many residents of Wake County. Multiple bond initiatives have also given the Board another avenue to tax our residents. It is time for Wake County government to live within its means and lower the tax burden on our residents. As the Wake Commissioner for District 6 I will fight to lower taxes and get your county government to budget spending priorities, just like you do around your kitchen table.

Crime is on the rise nationally, and while Wake County is statistically considered one of the safer areas of the country, we have not been immune to the trend of increasing crimes against persons and property. In fact, one set of statistics indicated in the area encompassing District 6, you have a 1 in 19 chance of being a victim of crime, compared to 1 in 58 in the southwest part of the county. To coincide with the rise in crime, we have seen a reduction in law enforcement. The Board of Commissioners' most recent budget summary indicated the Sheriff's Department had over 200 vacancies. Public safety should be the top priority of the Board. If we don't prioritize public safety in Wake County the rise in crime will continue and Wake will begin to resemble other once prosperous areas around the country. Fighting to increase public safety will be a top priority for me.

For nearly a decade the Wake Co. Board of Commissioners and the Wake Co. School Board have been under single-party rule. During that time we've seen a decline in academics and a rise in discipline issues. 57% of the 2024 Wake budget went to education and over \$644.2 million of that was for public schools. It is time to call for accountability from the School Board, rather than writing them a blank check. I will fight to tie specific public school spending to accountability mechanisms in the Wake Co. budget. Wake County Schools need to prioritize academics, discipline, and teacher retention. I will work to end the county providing funds for DEI initiatives and liberal policies that have lowered Wake County Public School's once high national ranking. Read more at: <https://jacobarthurforwake.com/issues/>



Chief Judge Donna Stroud, NC Court of Appeals

Judge Stroud currently serves as Chief Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She was born and raised in Kinston, NC, and attended Campbell University School of Law, graduating first in her class in 1988. Prior to becoming a judge, Chief Judge Stroud was in private practice from 1988 to 2004. She represented individuals, businesses, and municipalities in a wide variety of cases and tried cases in many counties across the state. In 2004, she was elected as a District Court Judge in Wake County where she served until her election to the Court of Appeals in 2006. Chief Judge Stroud has been an adjunct professor at Campbell Law School since 2008. In 2014, Chief Judge Stroud graduated from Duke University's School of Law LL.M. program in Judicial Studies.

She and her husband J. Wilson Stroud have been married since 1986 and have two adult sons, Aaron and Isaac.

Since her first election in 2006, Chief Judge Stroud has faithfully served nearly two full judicial terms as one of its fifteen judges, with the start of 2022 marking her **15th year** of service on the court and her first year as Chief Judge.

She believes that it is her job to enforce the law as it is written, uphold the Constitutions of the United States and North Carolina, and ensure our state courts enforce laws as they are written and every person in every case is treated fairly.

During over 15 years of service on the NC Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Donna Stroud has published over 1,000 judicial opinions. Throughout her career, this body of work has demonstrated her pro-people, pro-law and order, and pro-constitution convictions.