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LEGISLATIVE REPORT
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As soon as session finally winds down, we know that campaign season is soon to follow! Many candidates started announcing what races they were going to run for and also started raising money right away. I started getting emails and calls about support for candidates and requests for contributions before the filing period even opened! We have seen quite a few surprises already and I am sure there are more to come as the last day of filing always has some treats in store. Candidate filing officially began on December 4th and will continue to this Friday, December 15th. Once the filing period comes to a close there will be a great deal of analysis about who “should” win and “why” but this will be an especially interesting campaign season in North Carolina with highly contested Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General races, along with the battle in the legislature for seats. We have already seen some retirement announcements that have been surprising and have candidates who announced they were running in one race, only to change and run for another! Here are just a few updates so far – we will send a complete list of candidates for statewide and legislative offices once the filing period is over.



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE
OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



US REP. PATRICK MCHENRY NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION

Rep. Patrick McHenry, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, and known for his recent stint as the interim Speaker of the US House, has announced that he will not seek re-election. “I will be retiring from Congress at the end of my current term. I believe there is a season for everything and—for me—this season has come to an end. I look forward to what comes next for my family and me,” McHenry said in his announcement. Republican Congressman McHenry’s district encompasses all of Lincoln, Catawba, Iredell, and Yadkin counties, as well as part of Forsyth.

Since Rep. McHenry’s announcement, Speaker Moore’s main primary opponent, Green Beret small businessman Pat Harrigan has announced that he will run in McHenry’s district instead. This seems to have cleared the runway for Speaker Moore to become the next Congressman to represent the newly-created, Republican-leaning 14th district. However, things could just be getting started in the now-open 10th Congressional district. There has been some speculation over House Appropriations Chairman Jason Saine’s plans following Congressman McHenry’s announcement. Saine, of

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Lincoln County, has told reporters that he's received numerous calls since McHenry's plans went public and is weighing his options.

REP. JOHN BRADFORD RUNNING FOR CONGRESS

Republican Rep. John Bradford, who was running for State Treasurer, announced last week that he will run to represent his home Congressional district. The district is currently represented by Rep. Dan Bishop. With Bishop running for Attorney General, this Republican-leaning district was prime for a new candidate. Some speculated that Rep. Tricia Cotham would run for this open seat, but she has since announced that she will run for a newly-drawn House district that encompasses her Mecklenburg County home. Rep. Bradford is the only other Mecklenburg County Republican in the General Assembly. He was a frontrunner in the Treasurer race. Following Rep. Bradford's announcement, former NCGOP District Chairman and NC Lottery Commissioner A.J. Daoud has announced that he will run for state Treasurer.

US REP. KATHY MANNING NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION

Democratic Congresswoman Kathy Manning has announced that she will not run for re-election in 2024, citing her newly drawn district as the reason. "I would love nothing more than to continue representing our community in Congress," Manning said in a news release. "Unfortunately, the egregiously gerrymandered maps do not make this race competitive, and I cannot in good conscience ask people to invest their time, resources and efforts in a campaign that is rigged against us." Under the new maps, her Greensboro-based district moves from a strong Democrat leaning district to a Republican leaning district. She is the 4th member of Congress to announce that she will not return to the Hill in 2024, following Reps. Bishop and Jackson who are running for Attorney General and Rep. Patrick McHenry.

SEN. JOYCE KRAWIEC RETIREMENT

One of the Senate's most beloved members has announced that she will retire at the end of this term. Republican Sen. Joyce Krawiec has served in the Senate for over 5 terms representing Forsyth and Stokes counties. Krawiec is a chair of the Senate Health Care Committee. She has endorsed Dana Caudill Jones of Kernersville to be the 31st District's next Senator. Caudill Jones is a former member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Boards of Education.

SEN. DEAN PROCTOR RETIRING

Senate Commerce Chairman, Sen. Dean Proctor has announced that he will not seek re-election in 2024. While in good health, Proctor, a retired beverage wholesaler, determined it was time to step away after this term due to his age. "I would be in my middle 80s by the time my next term would be finished and that's just simply too old," Proctor told reporters. "I don't have a health problem. I'm very fortunate but a lot of things can happen in the next three years." There are already two candidates who plan to run to replace Sen. Proctor in his Republican-leaning district. Proctor has come out in support of Nancy Meek as his replacement. Meek is a staffer for Congressman Patrick McHenry and the wife of Catawba County's Republican Chair.

REP. ERIN PARE SEEKING RE-ELECTION TO NC HOUSE

House Health Chair Rep. Pare has announced that she will run for re-election to the state House instead of running for the US House in 2024. Pare announced her intention to run for Congress earlier this year ahead of the new maps being drawn. She planned to run to represent the newly drawn 13th Congressional District, which encompasses some of the Triangle, and all of Johnston, Harnett, Lee, Franklin, Person, and Caswell Counties. This district was one of the most competitive

in '22, with former Democratic State Senator Wiley Nickel winning the seat against Bo Hines. This district will still be competitive in '24, but is slightly more favorable to Republicans since the redraw. There is no shortage of candidates vying to represent this district in the upcoming cycle. While the Democratic party seems to be standing behind Congressman Nickel to regain his seat in 2024, there are roughly 8 Republican candidates who have thrown their hat in the ring to turn this district red.

FORMER REP. BRIAN TURNER RUNNING AGAIN

Western NC Democrat Brian Turner has announced that he will seek re-election to the NC House in 2024. Rep. Turner served in the NC House from 2014 until he opted against running for re-election in '22. He will now be running in a newly-drawn district back home in Asheville for him. This district is also home to freshman Rep. Caleb Rudow. Rudow has announced he plans to run for Congress in 2024.

REP. MARVIN LUCAS RETIREMENT

Cumberland County Democrat Rep. Marvin Lucas has announced that he is retiring at the end of his term. Lucas has served in the House since 2001. Prior to serving in the House, Lucas served as a town alderman for 20 years and then as mayor of Spring Lake. Rep. Lucas has endorsed Mike Colvin of Fayetteville to fill his seat in 2024. Colvin is a funeral director and active in local Democratic politics; his brother is also mayor of Fayetteville.

REP. ROSA GILL RETIREMENT

After nearly 8 terms in office, Wake County Democrat Rep. Rosa Gill has said it's time to go home. "I'm ready to retire, I've served long enough," Gill told reporters.

REP. KELLY ALEXANDER RETIREMENT

One of the longest serving members from Mecklenburg County has announced his retirement. Democratic Rep. Kelly Alexander has served in the House since 2008. Due to his age and health, Alexander said it was time to retire at the end of this term.

NEW STATE AUDITOR

Gov. Cooper has appointed a new state auditor to complete the remainder of former State Auditor Beth Wood's term. Jessica Holmes, a lawyer and former Wake County Commissioner, will be the state's new watchdog and also plans to run for a full term in 2024. Holmes ran for Labor Commissioner in 2020. She will be the first Black woman to serve on North Carolina's Council of State. "I'm here today, not because I'm Black, and not because I'm a woman, but because I'm the person to do the job, and my credentials back that up," Holmes said. "That said, I learned this when I was a county commissioner, I have a quote, 'It's hard to be what you can't see.' And when I look at some political offices, it's hard to imagine myself in those offices."

SEN. THOM TILLIS ENDORSES BILL GRAHAM FOR GOVERNOR

Sen. Thom Tillis has endorsed attorney Bill Graham for Governor. This is an uncommon move in the Republican party, who have mostly backed Republican frontrunner Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson for the race. "Mark Robinson's a good enough guy. I don't know him that well," says Tillis. "But he has virtually no legislative experience, very little business experience. We're a very, very important state and we have to have people with that kind of experience, I think, to continue this track record that we've had since Republicans took control of North Carolina when I became speaker. And so, for those reasons, I've decided to support Bill."

ELECTIONS BOARD CHANGES BLOCKED

A law passed by the Republican-led General Assembly that would remove the Governor's authority to select election board members and hand it to the General Assembly has been blocked unanimously by trial judges this week. Gov. Cooper's lawyers sought a preliminary injunction citing constitutional issues with the policy change. Republican legislative leaders can appeal the decision to the state Court of Appeals. This injunction and overall pending litigation over this new law could impact our 2024 elections, with the potential of an entirely new Elections board makeup. Our current five-board member arrangement, with 3 appointed by our state's Governor dates back to 1901. The new law would change the makeup to an 8-member board completely selected by leaders in the General Assembly, including Minority leaders in both caucuses. The likely result would be a 4-4 partisan split board.

WHO'S THE NEXT HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER?

While the debate over the next House Speaker seems to have come to an end, the next House Majority leader remains unresolved. When Speaker frontrunners Reps. Saine and Bell backed Rep. Destin Hall, the plan appeared to be that Saine would remain the Appropriations Chair and Majority Leader John Bell would become House Rules Chairman. That would leave an opening for Leader Bell's position when the time comes. Rep. Brendan Jones's name had been thrown around almost immediately, but it would appear he'll have some competition for the role. Two others have announced their intention of running for the position, as well: Reps. Jimmy Dixon and Jake Johnson.

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