

NC-01 District Primer

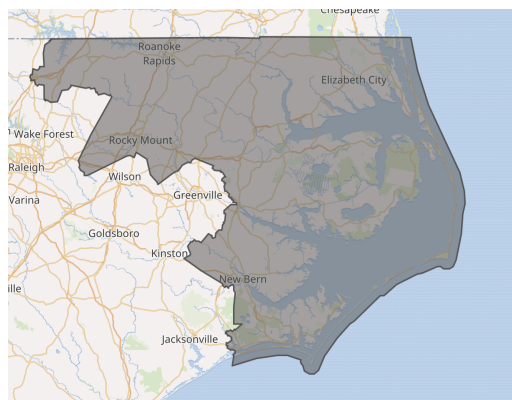
In 2024, Democrat Don Davis won this seat by 6,307 votes. **That's close!** With a winning margin of just 2 votes per precinct, we can't afford to lose a single vote. With your help, we're going to **HOLD** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: December 19, 2025
Primary: March 3
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Trump: 194,701 (51.16%) Harris: 182,919 (48.06%)	Don Davis (D): 186,341 (50%) Laurie Buckhout (R): 180,034 (48%)	Don Davis (D): 134,996 (52%) Sandy Smith (R): 122,780 (48%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Rocky Mount, pop. ~54,000
- Wilson, ~50,000
- Goldsboro, ~35,000

Geography

NC-01 is a largely coastal district. It is anchored in northeastern North Carolina stretching from the Virginia border south toward the Inner Banks. NC-01 includes barrier islands, wetlands, and rural inland counties.

Citizenry

A Black-plurality district of approximately 750,000 people, NC-01 is among the lowest income districts, with one of the highest poverty rates, in the state. There are ~22,000 veterans in the district. More than 20% of residents rely on Medicare; another 24% rely on Medicaid or similar programs. About 97% of residents are U.S. citizens; approximately 50,000 households speak a language other than English, mainly Spanish.

The Local Vibe

While a deal with Trump encouraged the pharma giant Johnson & Johnson to construct a new manufacturing plant in Wilson, many in the district are struggling to pay for health insurance now that the more generous ACA subsidies negotiated by Democrats' under the American Rescue Plan have expired.

In 2025, North Carolina Republicans redrew the state congressional map to improve their chances of winning an extra House seat, making Rep. Don Davis among the most endangered Democrats in Congress this year.

In January 2026, residents learned that ICE is considering repurposing the Rivers Correctional Institution to hold ICE detainees. Dozens of local protesters in the small town nearby showed up to protest the proposal.

Key Issues

- **Health insurance:** Many residents are losing access to affordable health care through cuts to ACA subsidies and Medicaid.
 - **Proposed data center:** Residents are concerned about the impacts of a proposed data center in the district.
 - **Immigration:** The intent to build an ICE detention facility in the district has prompted protests from residents.
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About the Candidates

Don Davis | Democratic Incumbent

Rep. Don Davis was first elected to represent NC-01 in 2022. He is a 1994 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and he served 12 years as a state senator before running for Congress. Davis won election in 2024 by less than 2 points over Republican challenger Laurie Buckhout. Davis overcame 2024 gerrymandering that created a majority-white electorate and took Black voters out of the district, which had been represented by a Black congressperson since 1992. Davis has focused on issues important to his district such as lowering costs and reasonable immigration policies. Davis has \$3.2M in campaign funds on hand. He is endorsed by numerous prominent organizations, including the Congressional Black Caucus, VoteVets, and the AFL-CIO. While the recent redistricting makes Davis's home now outside of the district, he has stated he plans to move into the district soon.

Davis' priorities are lowering the cost of living, boosting economic growth, helping veterans and military families, improving infrastructure and expanding broadband access, and making health care affordable and accessible. He sits on the Agricultural Committee and is the vice-ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee. Davis recently delivered \$54 million in community grant funding to the district for infrastructure projects.

Laurie Buckhout | Republican Challenger

Laurie Buckhout won a crowded GOP primary by 5 points for the right to challenge Don Davis for the NC-01 seat a second time. Buckhout is a retired Army Colonel who was in combat in the Iraq war. Buckhout built a cyber and defense business and served in the Trump administration as Acting Assistant Secretary of War for Cyber Policy. She is a Virginia native, graduated from James Madison University, and has a MS in information management from Webster University. She lives with her husband in Edenton, NC.

Buckhout's priorities mirror those of the Trump administration and she was quickly endorsed by Trump after winning the primary. She is one of 17 Republican congressional candidates in which the NRCC has chosen to invest as part of its MAGA Majority campaign to retain control of the House. Buckhout has \$2.7 M accumulated in campaign funds, \$2M of which is self-funded. She has a net worth of \$35 M and has not consistently lived in the district since her 2024 loss to Davis.

The contrast: While Buckhout focuses narrowly on Trump's agenda, Rep. Davis has become one of the more bipartisan members of the house and has consistently sponsored or co-sponsored legislation focused on the needs of his district. Unlike his opponent, it is a place he knows well. Davis has lived within or near the district for most of his life, while Buckhout is a native of another state, and she has only in the last several years moved to North Carolina and has only lived there sporadically.