

# NC-11 District Primer

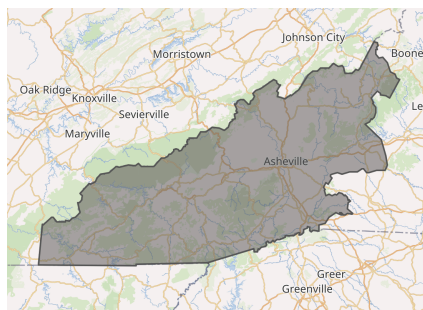
In 2024, Republican Chuck Edwards won this seat by 58,569 votes—that’s 23 votes per precinct. If we can persuade just 24 voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we’re going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
<b>Primary:</b> March 3, 2026
<b>Filing deadline:</b> December 19, 2025
<b>Midterms:</b> November 3, 2026

## Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
<b>Harris:</b> 196,320 (45%) <b>Trump:</b> 238,092 (54%)	<b>Caleb Rudow (D):</b> 186,977 (43%) <b>Chuck Edwards (R):</b> 245,546 (57%)	<b>J. Beach-Ferrara (D):</b> 144,165 (44.5%) <b>Chuck Edwards (R):</b> 174,232 (53.8%)

## District Facts & Stats



### Largest Cities

- Asheville, 95K
- Hendersonville, 15K

### Geography

NC-11 encompasses most of western North Carolina, bordering on Tennessee to the west. The district includes most of the Appalachian mountains to the west and a small part of the central Piedmont Plateau to the east.

### Citizenry

96.9% of district residents are citizens, and 85% of residents are white. 7.3% are two or more races, 3.2% are Black, and 3.7% are Hispanic. 8% speak a non-English language at home, mainly Spanish. 1 in 4 residents relies on Medicaid for healthcare. In Buncombe County (Asheville) 30,000 residents rely on SNAP for food; in rural and mountain counties the need is also great. The largest employers in Asheville are Mission Health Hospital and the Buncombe County Public Schools.

### The Local Vibe

Residents fear that Trump’s cuts to Medicaid and Medicare will lead to the closure of their regional hospitals, making access to healthcare even more difficult, especially for those in rural areas.

Massive *No Kings* rallies in Asheville have drawn thousands of participants, 11,000 in the most recent rally in March. Hundreds of students have joined walkouts to stand for immigrant protections. Residents are also unhappy about cuts to federal agencies, resulting in job losses in veteran services, parks and schools.

There will also be a race for US Senator on the 2026 ballot, between former Gov. Roy Cooper and Michael Whatley.

## Key Issues

- **Threats to rural healthcare:** Federal cuts put multiple rural hospitals at risk in a district which already struggles to provide rural healthcare access.
  - **Cuts to benefits:** Many in the district are vulnerable to cuts in SNAP and Medicaid.
  - **Jobs:** Many jobs here are in hospitals and schools, two sectors that are greatly harmed by Trump's budget cuts.
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## About the Candidates

### Chuck Edwards | GOP Incumbent

**Chuck Edwards** attended Blue Ridge Community College and has owned McDonald's franchises. He has also worked in real estate and was director of Entegra Financial, the holding company of Entegra Bank. He served in the NC State Senate and assumed his Congressional seat in 2023.

Even Edwards's critics *on the right* complain about his inaccessibility and his close alignment with Trump. The long delay in his ability to obtain funds for Hurricane Helene recovery was an issue in the GOP primary. He generally hews very closely to MAGA priorities on taxes, defense spending, immigration and renewable energy, and he is a full-throated supporter of Trump's disastrous war with Iran. A House ethics investigation of him has recently been opened in response to allegations of sexual harassment.

Edwards has served on the House Committee on Budget and the Committee on Appropriations. He has endorsements from the NRA, AIPAC, and Trump.

### Jamie Ager | Democratic Challenger

**Jamie Ager** is a 4th-generation farmer who co-owns Hickory Nut Gap Farm in Fairview, NC. His grandfather served in the US Congress and state legislature, and his father served in a State House seat that his older brother, Eric, currently holds.

In a recent address to the Henderson County Democratic Party convention, Ager discussed the need for Hurricane Helene recovery, improving economic conditions for the working class, and rebuilding a trustworthy government. He has also addressed the need for comprehensive immigration reform, accessible health care, campaign finance reform and the problem of stock trading by members of Congress.

He holds liberal positions on veterans, local farms, small businesses, the environment and public lands.

Ager is supported by the DCCC's Red-to-Blue program and endorsed by former Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg.

**The contrast:** Edwards is so subservient to Trump that he was unable even to demand speedy hurricane recovery funds for his district, leaving his constituents alone to deal with devastating flood damage. Unlike him, Ager clearly keeps the needs of the community foremost in mind and will work to make the federal government a reliable partner for the people of NC-11.