



ORANGE GOP

Your Orange County Conservative News

Volume 5, Issue 12

March 2025

Save the Dates

Triangle Republican Women

Wed, Mar 12, 7:00pm
Mayflower Seafood Restaurant
3742 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham
RSVP by Mar 10 to:
trianglerеспублиcanwomen@gmail.com

OCGOP Monthly Meeting

No meeting in March due to the County Convention

RWCH-Chatham

Thurs, Mar 27, 11:30am
Chapel Hill Country Club

OCGOP County Convention

Sat, Mar 29, 9:00am-12:00pm

4th District Convention

Sat, Apr 12, 10:00am
Whitted Human Services Ctr
300 W Tryon St, Room 230
Hillsborough

NCGOP State Convention

June 5-8, Joseph Koury
Convention Ctr., Greensboro

Get Involved!

The Orange County GOP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors who are interested in smaller and more effective government that follows conservative principles.

Your help will make a difference! To volunteer visit orange.nc.gop/volunteer.

To join our email list, sign up at <https://orange.nc.gop>.

Questions? Email us at info@orangencgop.com

OCGOP Headquarters:

125 Boone Square Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 245-1777

Office Hours

M, W, F 12pm-2pm

Orange County GOP Convention

There will be no regular monthly meeting in March as we prepare for our County Convention. Please plan to participate! See next page for details and to register.

WHAT: Orange County GOP Convention

WHEN: Saturday, March 29, 2025, 9:00am – 12:00pm

WHERE: Whitted Human Services Center, 300 W Tryon St., Room 230, Hillsborough, NC

Work to be Done

This will be my last column. I will not be running for chairman at our upcoming Orange County Convention on March 29th. Our Nominating Committee is determining our next slate of Executive Board members for your consideration. I have enjoyed my time as chairman.

I want to share the highs and lows of my tenure. First the bad. I wish I could have had the time to put forward the effort in changing our illegal arrangement of our Board of County Commissioners. The NC State Supreme Court, while still under the control of Leftist judges, determined that the NC County Commissions should not have Districts where all voters across the county vote. In Orange County, we have that. In Northern Orange County, I live in District 2, but voters in Chapel Hill and Carrboro vote for my District Representative. When asked about it, board member Earl McKee was afraid that the Republican majority of the General Assembly would punish Orange County. I disagree, and the State Supreme Court agrees. We need true district representation in Orange County. My second regret is that we could not get more names on the ballot. Our voters deserve better. It's not for lack of trying to get candidates. If you or someone you know would consider running, let county leadership know.

My biggest success is in what I consider the Chairman's job entails. I end my term with more money in the bank; we sold a lot of Donald T-shirts in 2024! We were also supported by BBQs, pancake breakfasts, and Lincoln-Reagan Dinners. We are ahead financially, despite backing a Congressional candidate in the 2022 election more than we ever had in recent memory. That outlay of \$6,000 for a voter mailer, and the tremendous effort that Courtney Geels put forth as a candidate, did not move the needle when the votes were counted. Durham County GOP also joined in the effort and we lost by 33% to the Democrat candidate. With David Price retiring, we thought we had a chance. We know how the district is drawn, and we put in the effort to try to win. But with the finances of OCGOP in a good position, we can put up a good fight in the upcoming mid-terms in 2026. Another plus is how our election Get Out The Vote and election integrity efforts have changed, and we have been able to change with it.

As chairman, I am also blessed to be surrounded by so many members of Orange County GOP that have volunteered and given in the effort. When I came into office I asked our former chairs for their help. They all stepped up and aided and advised me. I want to thank Virginia Ferguson, Dan Ashley, Bob Randall, and Waddy Davis. We changed our treasurer this year, and I will miss my interactions with Jim Carroll, but know Kevin Winpisinger will help guide us just as easily. I want to thank all of you. If you are reading this, then you helped in the victories we have had. We have kept the office open. We have continued our voter integrity operation to keep elections honest and fair. We continue to place volunteers to work at the polls as judges and chief judges. Being on both sides of the table is the best service we can give to the citizens of Orange County. I will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as a past Chair, and look forward to fighting for the Right in the future.

In the Cause of the Right,

- Rev. John B. Gaither, Chairman, Orange County Republican Party

2025 OCGOP County Convention

Our annual precinct meetings and County Convention will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025. As a Republican in Orange County, this is your chance to participate in the real grassroots of the party and create change at the local precinct, county, and state level! If you've never been to a political convention before, this is where you start.



So what is a convention? In a nutshell, it is where the business of the party is conducted. We elect our leaders and delegates, vote on resolutions, and hear from speakers and candidates for office. Please visit the County Convention page of our website for details, including the FAQ page, if you are new to the process and terminology.

At this year's County Convention, we will be electing new OCGOP officers and Precinct Chairs. Chairman John Gaither will be stepping down from his role as County Chair after serving two terms. We will also elect those who wish to serve as delegates to our district and state conventions. Those delegates will go on to have a voice in the election of our state GOP chair at the state convention in June. Jason Simmons, the current NCGOP chair, is running for re-election, but a challenger has now emerged and the battle for control over the state party is sure to get interesting! Note that you *must* attend your Precinct Meeting to be able to attend the state convention as a voting delegate (see the [County Convention page](#) on our website for details and absentee rules).

Our Resolutions Committee is still soliciting resolutions to present at the Convention. Let Waddy Davis know if you would like to put one together; email him at waddydavisstaystrong@gmail.com by Monday, March 17th, at 5:00pm to have it considered.

The Convention will be held at the Whitted Human Services Center, 300 W Tryon St, Room 230, in Hillsborough. Precinct meetings begin at 9:30am, and the County Convention begins at 10:00am. [Registration](#) is now open on our website. Registration fee is \$10 (waived for students).

So please consider getting engaged, becoming a Precinct Chair, or otherwise serving our county party!

Register Today!

Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Gala

Thank you to all who enjoyed a wonderful evening at our Lincoln-Reagan Dinner this past Friday night. We hosted 21 UNC and Duke college students who were sponsored by our donors. Hearing Steve Baker, Blaze News investigative journalist and J6 defendant, talk about our two-tiered Justice Department opened the eyes of many in the room.

We also paid tribute to our newest OCGOP Hall of Fame inductee, Jim Carroll. Jim served as OCGOP Treasurer for the past 13 years, just recently passing



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Donate at <https://orange.nc.gop/donate>





NCGOP Chairman Jason Simmons poses with College Republicans from UNC and Duke University.

the torch in the fall. We are grateful for his selfless dedication and service over those many years. Congratulations, Jim!

All-in-all, the evening was a big success and we were able to raise over \$7,500. Thank you again to all of our volunteers, sponsors, and donors who made it great!

Republican Women of Chapel Hill-Chatham

The Republican Women of CH-C will meet at 11:30am on Thursday, March 27, at the Chapel Hill Country Club. Their guest speaker will be Marc Hetherington, the Raymond H. Dawson Distinguished Bicentennial Professor of Political Science, who will speak on the history of North Carolina politics.

To attend, RSVP at their website (<https://rwchc-chathamncgop.nationbuilder.com/>) by 5:00pm on Monday, March 24th. For more information contact RWCHC Vice-Chairman Terri Tyson at (919) 923-2476 or territyson100@gmail.com.

Triangle Republican Women

TRW will have a special treat at their upcoming meeting on March 12 at Mayflower Seafood Restaurant, located at 3742 Chapel Hill Blvd. in Durham at 7:00pm. Marylyn Flannery, beloved founder of TRW (club founded in 1968) will share TRW club history and impact. Members will recognize any prior club presidents in attendance and discuss plans and topics for 2025, including growing the membership and impact. RSVP for the meeting by March 10 at trianglerеспублиcanwomen@gmail.com.

NCEIT News

The North Carolina Election Integrity Team (NCEIT) is tracking a number of election-related bills moving through our state legislature this session. Here is a brief summary:

- H20 – Fair Maps Act: this is a Democrat bill that is NOT supported by NCEIT
- H31 – Election Day as Federal Holiday (for state employees): neutral since it covers only state employees
- H66 – Reduce Early Voting Period to 6 days (Mon thru Sat before an election): conditionally support, as it's a start
- H93 – Constitutional Amendment to repeal the literacy test: support
- H127 – Voter Registration Drive Form: bill under review with modifications being proposed
- H129 – Non-Partisan Judicial Elections: NOT supported

In addition, H770 – the Cast Vote Records bill, is being revived from last session along with requested modifications to require the CVRs with corresponding ballot images be made available to the public within five days of polls closing. Rep. Neal Jackson is sponsoring this bill so look for it to be reintroduced soon.

NCEIT is still asking citizens to contact their state and federal elected officials and ask them to support the US Citizens' Election Bill of Rights. For further instructions and a sample letter you can use to email your representatives, check out the Action Alert at the NCEIT website.

While contacting your Congress members in DC, also encourage them to support HR 22, the SAVE Act. This bill requires individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections. So far, only 4 of North Carolina's 10 Republican Congressmen have co-sponsored the Act. As expected, none of the 4 Democrat Congressmen from NC have done so.

Finally, the NC State Board of Elections is seeking to make permanent three rules on election observers and to alter rules on election protests and recounts. The public comment period expires April 21st, so look for guidance on how you can help in our April newsletter once we get more details.

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