



ORANGE GOP

Your Orange County Conservative News

Volume 6, Issue 10

Jan 2026

Save the Dates

OCGOP Monthly Meeting

Thurs, Jan 8, at OCGOP HQ
Meeting starts at 7:00pm

Triangle Republican Women

Wed, Jan 14, 6:30pm
Mayflower Seafood Restaurant
3742 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham

RWCH-Chatham

Thurs, Jan 22, 11:30am
Governors Club
11000 Governors Dr
Chapel Hill

Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Gala

Sat, Feb 21, at 5:00-8:30pm
Umstead Pines Golf Club
253 Country Club Dr, Durham

OCGOP Convention

Sat, Mar 21, 9:00am-12:00pm
Whitted Human Services Ctr
300 West Tryon St, Room 230
Hillsborough

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 #9
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 245-1777

Office Hours
M, W, F 12pm-2pm

OCGOP Monthly Meeting

Our speaker this month will be Hal Mettes. Hal lives in Durham and is an active member of the Durham GOP.



Hal will give a brief tutorial on Islam. He has been studying Islam for over 40 years and will share the essentials of Islam that most Americans need to know but don't.

WHAT: OCGOP Monthly Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, Jan 8, 7:00pm

WHERE: OCGOP HQ, 125 Boone Square St, Hillsborough

Chairman's Corner

As a new Chair of the party, I look back on 2025 and am grateful for all that we were able to accomplish since taking over in April.

I want to thank my Vice Chair, Earl Tye, my secretary, Becky Mela, treasurer, Kevin Winpisinger, and Shawnee Seese for the time she served as Second Vice Chair (before life circumstances required her to resign) and Amy Rosenthal who now serves as the Second Vice Chair. I could not do this without them and the countless hours they put into the operation of the Orange County Republican Party.

To everyone who has volunteered in any way or given any amount to the party, a huge *Thank You!* However, I have noticed that many of the faces that support the party are the same as years past. I encourage you that if you are reading this and have not been a volunteer, please consider joining us. This year we were able to increase our number of Republican judges at the polling sites and now have the majority on the Board of Elections. We had a successful BBQ fundraiser and are now working on the Lincoln-Reagan dinner scheduled for February 21. You can read below for more information on that and I hope you can attend. The mid-terms are right around the corner and we will need poll observers and help to Get Out The Vote.

As you can see, it never stops and the more volunteers we have helping, the less a handful of people have to do. There are 13,000 Republicans in Orange County and our presence makes a difference, just as our recent efforts in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district proved. We hope to see you at our next meeting or event!

Standing for Freedom!

Larry C. Smith
Chairman, Orange County Republican Party

Holiday Food Drive Wrap-Up

Thank you to all who dropped off donations for our Holiday Food Drive to benefit Orange Congregations in Mission. All donations have been delivered and will surely help our fellow neighbors in need who are struggling at this time of year.

Thanks to all for your generosity!

Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Gala



Our 2026 Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Gala will be held on **Saturday, Feb. 21, at Umstead Pines Golf & Swim Club** (253 Country Club Dr., Durham, NC 27712). A VIP reception will be held from 5-6pm, while doors open for general admission/social hour with cash bar at 5:30pm. This is our premiere fundraising event of the year, so we hope you will join us to support the cause of conservatism in Orange County!

Our keynote speaker will be Pastor John Amanchukwu, Sr. Pastor Amanchukwu is an influential preacher, author, and activist who spreads God's truth zealously and without fear. Along with serving his local church in North Carolina, John travels nationally to speak, preach and confront school boards, for which his notoriety has spread coast to coast with 300 million + views on videos of his now famous challenges to woke school board officials.

General admission tickets are \$100 per person or \$35 for students. Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

- Gold: \$1000 includes 8 tickets/4 VIP passes
- Silver: \$500 includes 4 tickets/2 VIP passes
- Bronze: \$250 includes 2 tickets/1 VIP pass
- Sponsor-A-Student: \$35 covers general admission for one student



VIP Upgrades are available for any general admission ticket for \$50 each (limited quantity available on a first-come, first-served basis).

Use the QR code above to purchase tickets through February 11 or until sold out.

Volunteer: Volunteers are needed to help make this event successful! If you can help with planning or with setup on the day of the event, please email us.

Sponsorships/Ticket Sales: We also need people to help make calls (script and numbers provided). Are you willing to call 10 conservatives? If so, please email us.

Live & Silent Auction Items: If you would like to showcase your business services or have an item you would like to donate, please contact Chairman Larry Smith at chair@orangencgop.com. A flyer for your business will be displayed and a special thanks delivered with winning bids.

Candidates & Affiliate Organizations: Anyone wishing to have a display table at the event should also contact Chairman Smith at chair@orangencgop.com.

You can also help by just sharing the flyer on our website with a friend!



2026 Election Update

The first contest of the 2026 election season is the statewide Primary being held on **Tuesday, March 3**. Believe it or not, absentee-by-mail voting begins Monday, January 12, while early voting is scheduled to run from Thursday, February 12, through Saturday, February 28.

Six Republican candidates have filed for the US Senate seat being vacated by Thom Tillis, while two Republicans have filed for NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 1, triggering primaries in both races.

Our Republican candidates in other local races are running unopposed, giving them a "bye" until the general election in the fall where they will go up against their Democrat counterparts. Thank you to the following Republicans who have stepped up to give our fellow conservative voters in Orange County a choice in 2026!

- Lou Capitanio, County Commissioner District 2
- Jeff Hoagland, County Commissioner At-Large
- Laura Pichardo, State Senate District 23
- Mahesh (Max) Ganorkar, US House of Representatives, 4th District

Like us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/OfficialOrangeCountyNCGOP/>

Follow us on X at https://x.com/orange_gop and Instagram [@orange.nc.gop](https://www.instagram.com/orange.nc.gop)

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



Keep an eye out for them as they begin campaigning ahead of the general election in November. If you'd like to help support these candidates in their campaigns, let us know and we can connect you. We are grateful for their willingness to run for local office to help create change here in Orange County. Many people talk about the problems in government, but these patriots are willing to do the hard work to find solutions.

Thank you Lou, Jeff, Laura, and Max!

Finally, as always, poll observers are needed to help ensure free and fair elections in 2026! If you are interested in serving as a poll observer, please contact us at info@orangencgop.com and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Training is required and will be provided as the election nears.

Republican Majority Leader Brenden Jones Protects Children in Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools

When Rep. Brenden Jones learned that the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School district (CHCCS) refused to follow the Parents' Bill of Rights law, SB 49, Jones and his team sprang to action. He called CHCCS school board Chair George Griffin and Superintendent Rodney Trice to testify before the NC General Assembly Oversight Committee on December 10th. Orange County Republicans attended the hearing, and our friends at NC Values called in others from the area, including Moms for Liberty, to support Jones' efforts.

It was a rather fiery show. Jones highlighted some problematic books such as *Santa's Husband* and *These are my eyes, this is my nose, this is my vulva, these are my toes*, and *It Isn't Rude to be Nude*. Griffin was on record both in video and in writing saying his school district would not follow the law, yet in front of the Committee, he repeatedly claimed that CHCCS is following the law.

Jones and his colleagues weren't buying it. They wrote a follow-up letter to Griffin calling out his "bureaucratic legalese." They demanded that Griffin answer a list of questions in writing. In addition, CHCCS must provide monthly reports "responsive to the requests made in our initial letter" dated October 30.

Clearly this is an ongoing situation, and we will continue to keep an eye on our schools. If you want to join our efforts or have information to share, please write to us at FriendsofCHCCS@gmail.com.

UNC Turns Left (Again) While Normalizing Terrorism

The University of North Carolina established the new School of Civic Life and Leadership (SCiLL) at least in part to counter left-wing bias in education. Yet if the course SCLL 190.2 "Courageous Conversations: Israel and Palestine on Campus" is any indication, the project isn't going too well. The school brought instructors in from The Nantucket Project (TNP) to work with students. Per TNP, "Our mission is pluralism, our method is dialogue."

The course focused on conversation itself rather than foundational knowledge and facts. Students were told "don't take sides" regarding terrorism, i.e., there is no right or wrong. It's no wonder that students said they left the class feeling confused.

The course isn't cheap either. It cost \$500,000, with plans to increase in 2026. To make matters worse, they will hire Nantucket staff on as UNC faculty.

To learn more about this concerning situation at UNC, you can read an article by local activist Amy Rosenthal at <https://www.jns.org/civil-discourse-class-about-israel-and-palestine-leaves-students-confused/>.

Did you know that our own District 4 risks being represented by a radical socialist/Islamist like Mamdani of New York City? Nida Allam, endorsed by socialist Bernie Sanders and Islamist Ilhan Omar, is running against incumbent Democrat Valerie Foushee in the upcoming primary. Voters who have been taught (indoctrinated) at UNC and our K-12 schools are likely to support Allam and may put her into office. You can see more about her anti-Trump, anti-ICE agenda on her Instagram account: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DRNMRYqjqa6/>.



Save the Date for our 2026 Orange County GOP Convention

Each year we join together in March for our County Convention. The purpose of a County Convention is to conduct the business of the local Republican Party. We propose and vote on Convention Rules, Resolutions, the Party Platform, and our County Plan of Organization.

The Convention is open to *all Republicans who are registered on or before January 31st, 2026*. This year, the convention will be held on **Saturday, March 21, 2026**.

The Convention will be at the Whitted Human Services Center, 300 W Tryon St, Room 230, Hillsborough, NC 27278. Set-up will begin at 8:00am, check-in opens at 9:00am, Precinct Meetings begin at 9:30am, and County Convention begins at 10:00am. Registration for the Convention will open in February on our website.

We need volunteers to head up the various committees (Credentials, Rules, Resolutions, POO, Platform) and to help us run the convention. If you are interested, please contact Chairman Smith at chair@orangencgop.com.

Finally, the convention represents an opportunity to fill open precinct chair positions. Precinct chairs are responsible for making calls to other Republicans in their precinct to connect and share information. Training, call lists, and other resources are provided to help get you started.

So if you are interested in serving as a precinct chair and being part of the Executive Committee, or want to learn more about it, please let Chairman Larry Smith know by emailing him at chair@orangencgop.com.

Precincts with open chair positions include the following: Carr, Carrboro, Coker Hills, Coles Store, Damascus, Dogwood Acres, Eastside, Eno, Estes Hills, Glenwood, Hillsborough, Hogan Farms, Kings Mill, Northside, OWASA, Patterson, Ridgefield, Tolars, Town Hall, UNC, Weaver Dairy.

Not sure what precinct you reside in? You can look up your precinct in your voter record by visiting <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>.

Republican Women of Chapel Hill-Chatham

The Republican Women of CH-C will host their next monthly luncheon on **Thursday, January 22, at 11:30am** at the Governor's Club. RSVP by midnight on Sunday, Jan. 18. Their speakers will be Susan Tillis and Betsy McCorkle. They will speak about the Baby Bundles program and give updates on the project. Betsy is a member of the Board of the Susan Tillis Foundation. Members are asked to bring baby items to the meeting to support junior military families serving our country.

Triangle Republican Women (TRW)

The next monthly meeting of TRW will be on **Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30pm** at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant, 3742 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham. RSVP by Monday, January 12, to trianglerеспублиcanwomen@gmail.com. The speaker will be Tim Curlington, Exec. Director of Prison Alliance.

Renewals for 2026 are being accepted. Membership applications are available.

