



ORANGE GOP

Your Orange County Conservative News

Volume 6, Issue 11

Feb 2026

Save the Dates

Triangle Republican Women
Wed, Feb 11, 6:30pm
Mayflower Seafood Restaurant
3742 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham

OCGOP Monthly Meeting
Thurs, Feb 12, at 7pm
OCGOP HQ

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

RWCH-Chatham
Thurs, Feb 26, 11:30am
Governors Club, 11000
Governors Dr, Chapel Hill

OCGOP Exec Comm Meeting
Thurs, Mar 12, at 6:30pm
OCGOP HQ

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@orangengop.com

OCGOP Headquarters:
125 Boone Square Street #9
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 245-1777

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

	<p style="text-align: center;">OCGOP Monthly Meeting</p> <p>Early voting begins the same day as our February meeting, so we will use this opportunity to talk about the upcoming primary election. John Sims, our Republican-appointed chairman of the Orange County Board of Elections, will give us an update on what's happening at the BOE.</p> <p>WHAT: OCGOP Monthly Meeting WHEN: Thursday, Feb 12, 7:00pm WHERE: OCGOP HQ, 125 Boone Square St, Hillsborough</p>
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Chairman's Corner

Our Lincoln Reagan fundraiser on **February 21** is rapidly approaching and I want to thank all that have already purchased sponsorships, bought tickets, or helped prepare in any way. We are continuing to look for auction items. If you have a vacation home or access to any item that would be desirable, please let me know. I'm looking forward to a wonderful night as we join together for fellowship and become energized for the very important mid-term elections. It is very important that we maintain control of the House and Senate because I fear that if the Democrats take control, we will be back to the endless calls and hearings for impeachment.

Our county convention date has been set for **March 21** at the Whitted building, located at 300 W. Tryon St. in Hillsborough. We are excited to announce that Rep. Brenden Jones has agreed to be our speaker. Representative Jones is the Majority Leader of the NC House of Representatives and is the Chairman of the House Oversight Committee. He called the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Superintendent and Board Chair to appear before the legislature to answer for violating the law as it relates to materials in the schools. Please go ahead and mark your calendars for the convention.

Finally, thanks to all who help with our party in any way.

Standing for Freedom!

Larry C. Smith
Chairman, Orange County Republican Party

Election Help Needed

OCGOP is looking for someone to coordinate operations around election day and early voting for the upcoming primary. This would entail scheduling poll greeters, managing campaign materials like sample ballots and signs for the various sites, and other associated tasks.



Also, poll observers are needed to help ensure free and fair elections in 2026! (Training required and will be available.)

If you are interested in either volunteer opportunity, please email us at info@orangengop.com. Early voting starts February 12!

Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Gala



Tickets are going fast for our 2026 Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Gala coming up 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!

Pastor John Amanchukwu, Sr., an influential preacher, author, and activist, is our keynote speaker. Known for his passionate challenges to woke school boards, Charlie Kirk said, "Pastor John is as bold as a lion at a time when most pastors are cowards." John will be speaking on the state of education in North Carolina. You can watch an interview of John on The Megyn Kelly Show by visiting the link on our website [WARNING: graphic language]. Go to orange.nc.gop and click the Dinner Gala tab in the upper right corner.

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



We expect this event to sell out, so don't wait! Use the QR code above to purchase tickets. The deadline is **February 11** or whenever tickets are sold out.



Live & Silent Auction Items: If you would like to showcase your business services or have an item you would like to donate for auction, 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.

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 go to our SignUp Genius link on our website or email us at info@orangencgop.com.

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

Help us spread the word by sharing the flyer on our website with a friend or at your church!

2026 Election Update

The first contest of the 2026 election season is the statewide Primary being held on **Tuesday, March 3**. Absentee-by-mail voting began 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

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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.

Thank you Lou, Jeff, Laura, and Max for being willing to run and giving conservatives a choice on the ballot in 2026!

Registration Now Open for the 2026 Orange County GOP Convention. Resolutions Due Feb. 23!

ANNOUNCING THE ORANGE GOP

2026 COUNTY CONVENTION & PRECINCT MEETINGS

SAT, MAR 21, 2026 - 9AM TO NOON

Event Schedule
9:00 Doors Open
9:30 Precinct Meetings
10:00 County Convention

Guest Speaker
REP BRENDEN JONES, NC DIST 46
Majority Leader, NC House of Representatives
Chairman, House Oversight Committee

WHITTED HUMAN SERVICES CENTER
300 WEST TRYON ST, ROOM 230, HILLSBOROUGH, NC
REGISTER AT https://orange.nc.gop/county_convention

SCAN OR FOR MORE INFO

All Orange County Republicans are welcome! You must be a registered Republican as of Jan 31, 2026 to vote. Republicans registered after Jan 31 may attend as a visitor but may not vote.

Planning for our County Convention is in full swing. This year, the Convention will be held on **Saturday, March 21, 2026**. We are excited to announce that Rep. Brenden Jones (NC-Dist 46) will be our guest speaker. Representative Jones is the Majority Leader of the NC House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Oversight Committee. Chairman Jones led the recent hearing exposing Chapel Hill-Carrboro's willful refusal to follow the law with respect to the materials in our schools' classrooms.

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 the County Convention begins at 10:00am. More information is available at orange.nc.gop/county_convention; registration is open to *all Republicans who were registered on or before January 31st, 2026*.



We are also soliciting resolutions for our Resolutions Committee to present at the Convention. Let Amy Rosenthal, chair of the Resolutions Committee, know if you would like to put one together; email her at amjocare12@aol.com by **Monday, February 23**, to have it considered. You can find more information on resolutions at orange.nc.gop/information_on_resolutions.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the various committees (Credentials, Rules, Resolutions, Plan of Organization, 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. 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/>.

Save the Date: Executive Committee Meeting

Calling all officers and precinct chairs! Please save the date for our next quarterly Executive Committee meeting on **Thursday, March 12, at 6:30pm** at OCGOP Headquarters. As this is an evening meeting, there will be no Precinct Chair meeting following. Anyone with items for discussion they would like to add to the agenda should submit them to the OCGOP Secretary at secretary@orangencgop.com by **Thursday, March 5**. A final agenda with more information will be emailed to Executive Committee members as the date nears.

Note that, due to the County Convention, there will be no regular monthly meeting in March.

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



Republican Women of Chapel Hill-Chatham

The Republican Women of CH-C will host their next monthly luncheon on **Thursday, February 26, at 11:30am** at the Governor's Club. RSVP by midnight on Sunday, Feb. 22. Their speaker will be Adele Sommerville, candidate for Chatham County School District 3, and Michael Byrne, candidate for NC Court of Appeals.

Triangle Republican Women (TRW)

The next monthly meeting of TRW will be on **Wednesday, February 11, at 6:30pm** at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant, 3742 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham. RSVP by Monday, February 9, to trianglerepublicanwomen@gmail.com. Come early if you plan to eat so you can order.

The speaker will be Immanuel Jarvis from the Fredrick Douglass Foundation in honor of Black History Month. His topic will be "Unsung Black Women Heroes."

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

American Institute for Economic Research (AIER)

Join AIER for a Harwood Salon in Raleigh on **Wednesday, February 11**, at 6:00 pm for a discussion with Peter Arcidiacono titled, "How Holistic Admissions is Subverting Higher Education." Peter is currently the William Henry Glasson distinguished professor of economics at Duke University and a Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

In this conversation, Peter will examine how admissions have moved away from merit-based standards, the role racial preferences play within holistic review, and the damage these practices can cause to universities, students, and public trust in higher education. Drawing on recent court cases involving Harvard, UNC, and the U.S. Naval Academy, we will explore what these cases revealed about how admissions decisions are made and how racial preferences operate in practice. We will also look ahead to possible reforms.

Registration **required by February 9** at <https://aier.org/event/how-holistic-admissions-is-subverting-higher-education>. Event is free for first-time attendees. Return guests are asked for a suggested \$25 tax-deductible donation to help defray the cost of the venue (MacGregor Downs Country Club in Cary).

AIER's Harwood Salons bring together people for discussions on topics like personal freedom, free enterprise, property rights, limited government, and sound money.

Anyone interested in carpooling from Orange County should contact OCGOP member George Abell at roegeorge@earthlink.net to join the group that departs from his home in Hillsborough at 4:30 pm for the drive to Cary.

