

The Stokes Republican

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NC GOP Senate Candidate Michael Whatley speaks in King on January 10th

KING—Former National Republican Party Chairman **Michael Whatley**, attended a Meet & Greet by the Stokes County Republican Party and NC State Representative Kyle Hall. The event was held at Little Italy in King and drew a standing-room only crowd.

Chairman Whatley briefly spoke to the crowded room and then took questions from those in attendance.



Former National Republican Party Chairman Michael Whatley is shown addressing a Meet & Greet held at Little Italy in King on January 10, 2026.

Stokes County GOP Christmas Party held December 6th

KING—The Annual Christmas Dinner & Cake Auction for the Stokes County Republican Party, sponsored by the **Stokes County Republican Ladies Club** was held on December 6, 2025, at the Sauratown Fire Department in King. This was a fundraiser for the Stokes County Republican Party. See Pages 4 & 5 for photos from this event.

Poll Workers needed for the March 2026 Primary

DANBURY—Stokes County Republican Party Chair **Shelly Carter** has requested help with poll workers for the March 3, 2026, NC Primary. Should you wish to volunteer as a poll worker, contact **Shelly** at stokesgop-chair@gmail.com. Upcoming training sessions will be announced at a later date.

Current Voter Registration Totals As of December 10, 2025

Stokes County:	Total Voters = 33,507 Republican = 18,025 Democrat = 4,715 Unaffiliated = 10,538 Libertarians = 210 Green Party = 19
North Carolina:	Total Voters = 7,636,335 + Republican = 2,315,067 Democrat = 2,312,990 Unaffiliated = 2,957,513 Libertarians = 46,458 Green Party = 4,307

Source: Stokes County Board of Elections and the NC GOP

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The Answer to Voter Apathy

*By Ken Raymond, 1st Vice-Chair
10th District GOP*

We've faced many challenges and fought many battles to help ensure electoral success during each election cycle. We've fought election fraud in various forms, corrupt election officials on the state and local level, and unprincipled judges with the judiciary.

We've had our successes and failures throughout the decades. And through it all, there appears to be one obstacle that's always defeated us. There seems to be one mountain that's unmovable; one obstruction that we've yet to overcome, and one thing stands between us and greater success in our elections.

This undefeated foe is known as voter apathy.

Voter apathy was in full display during the 2025 elections. Statewide, voter turnout was about 19.7 percent and some municipalities finished with lower percentages. And changing non-partisan races to partisan appears to have made no difference.

Voter apathy weakens the power of the people to make positive changes in their communities, it strengthens the ability of a handful of people to impose new taxes on entire cities, and it stops voters from hearing powerful messages from great candidates.

Unfortunately, too many voters believe that voting during presidential election years only is enough to ensure good government across the board. And although more voters show up for midterm elections, these same individuals will likely stay home when the time comes for local elections.

This mindset helps the Democrats stay in power locally. This way of thinking is, arguably, just as powerful as the mindset that we know exists in minority communities about voting Democrat.

Regardless, this mindset must be broken.

But how do we do it? I believe that NCGOP Chairman Jason Simmons provided the key to breaking the apathetic feelings within voters during the NCGOP Executive Committee meeting, earlier this month, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

"We've got to make sure that we're continuing across all 2,600 precincts to find those volunteers and give them the tools,

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the resources, the support, and the training that they need. We must expand our number of volunteers and make sure that we continue to work across all 2,600 precincts and make sure that when it comes time, we have teams that are reaching out and getting the people to the polls,” Simmons said during the meeting.

Precinct Organization is the answer!

Imagine, for a moment, that you’re an apathetic voter. It’s 2025 and you’re not tuned into the elections at all.

One day you’re at the grocery store and you run into a neighbor, in produce section, and you know that he’s part of the Republican Precinct Organization as a Block Captain in your voting precinct. You say “hello” , engage in a little small talk, and he asks you if you voted yet.

Because you’re so apathetic, you didn’t even know there was election going on. So, your neighbor talks with you about the elections, who’s running, and urges you to get out and vote because early voting has started.

A few days later, you’re pulling your garbage bin to the curb for trash collection the next morning. And you see that same annoying neighborhood block captain doing the same thing. You wave at each other and suddenly he shouts, “Have you voted yet?” You respond by saying, “no, not yet”. And then you leave the garbage bin at the curb and go back inside.

The very next weekend, early Saturday morning, there’s a knock at your door. You answer and it’s your pesky neighborhood Republican Block Captain. You’ve seen him multiple times since trash day and each time he’s reminded you to go vote. And he’s there to ask you again and will continue harassing you until you do.

Do you see my point?

We have about 2600 voting precincts in North Carolina. And each precinct needs a Republican precinct chair that will build their organization to have as many relentless, determined, block captains as possible that will persevere and compel as many voters as possible to go to the polls--especially the apathetic voters. And when it’s over, the voters may think the Republican block captains are the most bothersome people in the neighborhood, but it will be certainly worth it.

In fact, Republican block captains should be the most annoying neighbors anyone can have, especially during an election year.

We need precinct organizations with block captains who refuse to allow their neighbors to be indifferent about any elections.

What happens in each election?

After 30 years of being involved with the NCGOP, in Forsyth County and statewide, it’s not hard to figure out what happened in 2025.

Volunteers were needed to be precinct judges, poll observers, and greeters. So, every volunteer, including precinct chairs, were used to fill these positions. And there was no left to work as a block captain to compel voters to get out and vote. There’s no left to be that annoying neighbor

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that makes sure everyone in his precinct has voted.

It happens every time.

And the answer to this is for County Chairs, or their Precinct Organization Chairs, to take at least two hours, every weekend or whenever possible, to recruit people to work as block captains and urge their Precinct Chairs to do the same thing—every weekend. These new volunteers can be found by using GOP Data Center.

That's what I did, every weekend, throughout 2024. And every Saturday, via email, I urged our Precinct Chairs to do the same thing. And some of the best Precinct Chairs in Forsyth County were found that way and are still Precinct Chairs today.

Yes, it may mean sacrificing a football game. But think about it, all it takes is at least two hours of your time each week. That's nothing.

There's No Substitute for Hard Work

After the General Assembly passed a bill that changed some local elections from nonpartisan to partisan, many people, including myself, believed that the change would certainly help secure GOP election victories in suburban areas, but it didn't work. It didn't work in Kernersville, and it certainly didn't work in Lewisville.

And that tells us that there is absolutely no substitute for hard work. And that means that, immediately after the holidays, our County Chairs, Precinct Organization Chairs, and Precinct Chairs must put in the work and build their precinct organizations and add as many block captains as possible.

It's the only way to defeat voter apathy.

Ken Raymond serves as First Vice Chairman of the 10th District GOP

Stokes County Republican Party Christmas Party



Shown from right are Von Robertson, Congresswoman Virginia Fox, and State Representative Kyle Hall.



Stokes County GOP Chair Shelly Carter

Stokes County Republican Party Christmas Party



Linda Mabe is shown with the 2025 Miss Stokes County, Adleigh Oakley



The Stokes County Republican Ladies Club provided the buffet supper.



There was practically a standing room only crowd in attendance for the Christmas Party held at the Sauratown Fire Department in King. A Cake Auction to benefit the Stokes County Republican Party was held throughout the night and was very successful. Lisa Robertson was honored at the dinner for her outstanding service to both the men's and ladies club.