



Commissioner Brad George
Announces Resignation from
Board of Commissioners.



At the June 15th Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioner George (District 1) announced his resignation from the Board of Commissioners, effective August 1, 2026.

The Pender County GOP would like to thank Commissioner George for his outstanding service to Pender County—not only during his time as a County Commissioner, but also through his previous service on the Board of Education. The positive impact of his dedication and leadership will benefit our county for years to come.

The Pender County GOP will fulfill its responsibility under N.C. General Statute §153A-27.1 by working through the Party’s Executive Committee to determine a qualified replacement.

More information will follow as the process moves forward.

NCGOP State Convention.

The weekend of June 11-14, the North Carolina GOP hosted its annual state convention in Greensboro. Party delegates from across the state gathered to hear from an outstanding slate of speakers and discuss key priorities heading into the 2026 General Election.

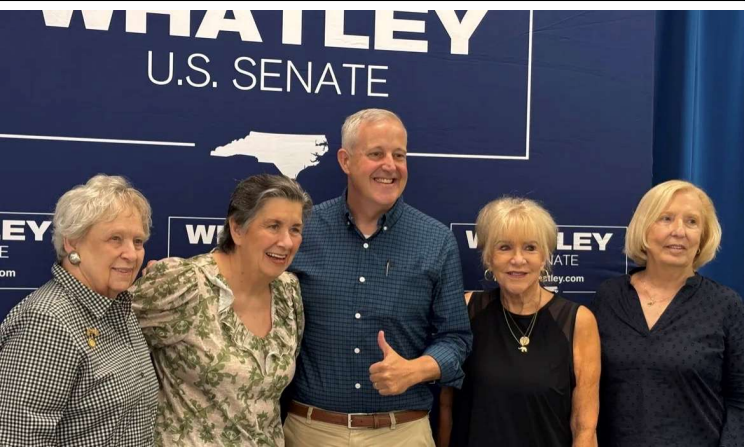


Representing Pender County at the convention were the Party Secretary Lynn and her husband Charles Norwood, Tiffany Norris, and Jennifer Hornacek.

No Tax on Social Security.

U.S. Senate Candidate Michael Whatley Meets
with Local Seniors and Leaders.

On June 18th, in New Hanover County, a group of Pender County residents met with U.S. Senate candidate Michael Whatley to discuss the benefits of the *Big Beautiful Bill* and its provision eliminating taxes on Social Security benefits.



Carolyn Justice, Ellen Donovan, Michael Whatley, Suzan Greene, and Lynn Norwood

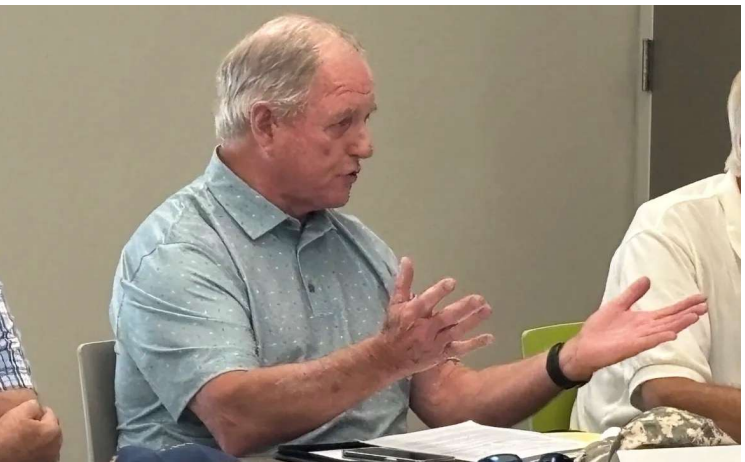


John Hinnant, Ryan Collins, Michael Whatley, and Lynn Norwood

Mr. Whatley spoke with those in attendance about the importance of this legislation and his commitment to pursuing additional tax relief—not only for seniors, but for all North Carolinians.

Pender County residents Lynn Norwood, Al Hegarty, Ray Rodgers, and Kenny Ramsey shared personal stories about how eliminating taxes on Social Security would directly benefit seniors in our community.

Joining Mr. Whatley was Pender County’s own candidate for County Commissioner, Ryan Collins. Mr. Collins took the opportunity to discuss not only the importance of eliminating taxes on Social Security, but also the challenges seniors face in remaining in their homes amid property revaluations and future property tax increases.



Al Hegarty at the Michael Whatley event.

June Party Meeting.

The Pender County GOP held its monthly meeting on June 18th in Burgaw. The meeting provided party members an opportunity to hear from several Republican nominees for the upcoming General Election.



Andy DeVane (BOCC Candidate, District 3) addressed the meeting.

Candidates who addressed the membership included Camille Harrell (Clerk of Superior Court), Ryan Collins (BOCC Commissioners - District 2), and Andy DeVane (BOCC - District 3).

Elected officials in attendance included Judge Kent Harrell, Clerk of Superior Court Elizabeth Craver, Commissioners Jimmy Tate (District 4) and Brent Springer (District 5), and Board of Education Member Jennifer Hansen. Chairman Josh Smith, Vice Chairman Louis Saunders, and Secretary Lynn Norwood represented the party's leadership.

One of the main items of business was Chairman Josh Smith addressing party members regarding inappropriate attacks against fellow Republicans on social media. Chairman Smith emphasized that disagreements and concerns should be addressed through appropriate channels, including party meetings, with issues ultimately decided by voters at the ballot box.



Upcoming Pender County GOP Events

No Monthly Meeting in July!

The next regular Pender County GOP meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20th, in Hampstead.

The annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner is scheduled for September 12th at The Barn at Five Star Stables in Hampstead.

In October, we will need volunteers to help staff early voting locations (October 15-31) and support election efforts on Election Day, November 3rd.

More details will be provided as these events approach.

The Lower Cape Fear Republican Women's Club's next event will be held on August 6th at the Surf Club. The special guest will be Michael Whatley.

For more information, contact Carolyn Justice at carolynjustice16@gmail.com

The GOP Comes Out for the Blueberry Festival.

Burgaw hosted its annual Blueberry Festival in Courthouse Square from June 18-20. First, a special thank you to Mayor Olivia Dawson and the entire Blueberry Festival team for organizing such an outstanding event and showcasing the very best of Pender County.

Many Republican leaders and candidates were in attendance throughout the festival. U.S. Senate candidate Michael Whatley took the opportunity to meet voters from across Eastern North Carolina and hear from members of the community.



Suzanne and Michael Whatley, Commissioner Dr. Jimmy Tate, Mayor Olivia Dawson, State Auditor Dave Boliek, and Wellie Jackson (NC House Candidate, District 22)

Local candidates for the Board of Commissioners—Jimmy Tate, Andy DeVane, and Ryan Collins—spent time speaking with residents, supporting the event, and highlighting the many great things about Pender County to Mr. Whatley. Member of and Candidate for the Board of Education, Jennifer Hansen, supported the Blueberry Festival as a member of the Burgaw Tourism Commission.

Dr. Tate also had the opportunity to meet with State Auditor David Boliek while enjoying the festivities.

A wonderful time was had by all, and the Blueberry Festival once again demonstrated the strong community spirit that makes Pender County such a special place.



Michael Whatley and Andy DeVane



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