



**NORTH CAROLINA MAGA REPUBLICANS  
HELPED PLAN AND EXECUTE  
THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACKS  
AND ARE RUNNING TO CORRUPT  
FUTURE ELECTIONS**

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# Defend Democracy Project

## **FACT SHEET:**

### **North Carolina MAGA Republicans Helped Plan And Execute The January 6th Attacks And Are Running To Corrupt Future Elections**

*The North Carolina GOP has always been involved in the MAGA conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election. On January 6th, Rep. Madison Cawthorn (NC-11) spoke at the ‘Stop the Steal’ rally—with House candidate Sandy Smith (NC-1) in attendance—where he actively encouraged MAGA protesters to attempt to stop the certification of the 2020 election results. North Carolina-based Oath Keepers brought weapons and ammunition from the state in preparation for the attack. Meanwhile, former North Carolina Representative Mark Meadows worked with Trump and his inner circle of MAGA Republicans to fight the certification. By the end of the day, 7 out of the 8 Republican members of North Carolina’s House delegation had voted to reject the election results.*

*In 2022, it’s clear that North Carolinians’ right to elect their leaders is on the ballot. Senate nominee Ted Budd is a Trump loyalist who spent months sharing election conspiracy theories and joining legal efforts to overturn the election. North Carolina GOP party leaders have been pushing for changes to the state’s elections ever since 2020. As part of their push for so-called election ‘integrity’, many House candidates in North Carolina are engaged in an ongoing campaign to delegitimize the 2020 election, including Trump-endorsed incumbent Representatives Dan Bishop (NC-9) and Virginia Foxx. Other House candidates David Rouzer (NC-7) and Gregory Murphy (NC-3) have pushed for legislation restricting voting access in future elections. These MAGA candidates intend to continue using these dangerous conspiracies to threaten North Carolina’s election infrastructure for years to come.*

#### **North Carolina Republicans Attempted To Overturn The 2020 Election**

**January 2021: Seven North Carolina Republicans Voted Against Certifying The 2020 Election On January 6th.** During the Electoral College certification on January 6th, seven Republican Representatives from North Carolina objected to Arizona and/or Pennsylvania’s electors. GOP Reps. Dan Bishop (NC-9), Ted Budd (NC-13), Madison Cawthorn (NC-11), Virginia Foxx (NC-5), Richard Hudson (NC-8), Gregory Murphy (NC-3), and David Rouzer (NC-7) all [voted to overturn](#) the 2020 election. The House challenge to Arizona’s electors was [rejected](#) 121-303, and the Pennsylvania challenge [failed](#) 138-282. All seven Representatives had [announced](#) their plans to object to the results in the days and weeks leading up to the certification. Just before the vote, Rep. Bishop [circulated a document](#) claiming that a national effort to “weaken ballot security, undermine positive identification of voters, and provide opportunities for post-election ballot-box stuffing,” ‘tainted’ some states’ election results. [New York Times, [1/7/21](#); U.S. House Clerk, [1/6/21](#), [1/6/21](#); News Observer, [1/6/21](#); Rep. Dan Bishop, [1/5/21](#)]

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- **Rep. Madison Cawthorn Told Congressional Colleagues “Everybody Is Coming After You” At ‘Stop The Steal’ Rally.** On January 6th, Rep. Cawthorne [spoke at the ‘Stop the Steal’ rally](#), where he [actively encouraged](#) MAGA protesters to attempt to stop the certification of the 2020 election results. Rep. Cawthorn accused Democrats of ‘doing’ “all the fraud” during the election, and later urged the audience to tell certain members of Congress: “I’m coming after you, Madison Cawthorn is coming after you. Everybody is coming after you.” His words [reportedly](#) “helped light the match, resulting in death and destruction at the US Capitol.” Cawthorn was also involved in discussions with the White House about the plot to overturn the election, and plans for the January 6 demonstration. [Rolling Stone, [10/24/21](#); Reuters, [2/4/21](#); Campaign for Accountability, [1/22/21](#)]
- **Rep. Ted Budd, GOP Senate Nominee, Backed GOP Efforts To Challenge The Election.** On January 6th, Rep. Budd [voted](#) to overturn the election results in Pennsylvania while serving as a U.S. House Representative. Shortly before the vote, he [tweeted](#), “I cannot consent to accepting Pennsylvania’s electoral votes,” after [delivering a speech](#) during which he claimed that Pennsylvania officials acted “illegally,” and “violated” unspecified constitutional statutes. Between the election and Jan. 6, Budd posted [numerous conspiracies](#) about Antifa, voter rolls, ‘[interference](#)’ from “mega corporations,” and ‘[inequitable](#)’ conduct. His comments came as a sharp reversal; months before the election, Budd [expressed concerns](#) that not all mail-in ballots would be counted. [New York Times, [1/7/21](#); Congressman Ted Budd Twitter, [1/7/22](#), [11/15/20](#), [12/30/20](#), [1/6/20](#); Washington Post, [8/31/21](#); Ted Budd Twitter, [12/23/20](#); [7/14/20](#)]

**GOP House Nominee Sandy Smith (NC-1) Attended The ‘Stop the Steal’ Rally In D.C.** On January 6th, Sandy Smith [attended](#) both the ‘March for Trump’ and ‘Stop the Steal’ rallies that preempted the January 6th attacks. Days later, she [confirmed her attendance](#) in a tweet claiming, “I still stand with [Trump] and my voice still matters. #MAGA” Her campaign later [released a statement](#) claiming she was “fighting for our country and our Constitution,” and suggesting that she acted to, “make the establishment listen!” In May 2022, Smith [won the Republican primary](#) for North Carolina’s first congressional district, after losing her election to Democratic Rep. Butterfield in the 2020 election. [WBTV, [1/10/21](#); Sandy Smith NC Twitter, [1/8/21](#); Sandy Smith Campaign Email, [1/10/21](#); Daily Dot, [5/22/22](#)]

**Nearly Two Dozen North Carolinians Have Been Arrested For Involvement In January 6th Attack.** [22 North Carolina residents](#) have been arrested for their involvement in the January 6th insurrection. The charges are wide-ranging, and include conspiracy, unlawful entry, violent entry, disorderly conduct, obstruction of an official proceeding, obstruction of justice, aiding and abetting destruction of government property, physical violence in the Capitol, and assaulting officers. Among the most well-known is the Steele case, [involving a group](#) linked

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to the Oath Keepers who broke into the Capitol and attempted to enter both the Senate chamber and Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office. [U.S. Department of Justice, Accessed [6/21/22](#); [1/8/21](#)]

- **North Carolina Served As 'Staging Ground' For Oath Keepers.** The leader of a North Carolina chapter of the Oath Keepers, William Todd Wilson, [pled guilty](#) to seditious conspiracy and obstruction of an official proceeding for seeking to stop the transfer of power on Jan. 6. Wilson has been [organizing](#) 'Oath Keepers Summits' for several years, preparing attendees for "civil disorder," and stockpiling supplies and weapons—including "an AR-15-style rifle, a 9mm pistol, about 200 rounds of ammunition, body armor, pepper spray and a large walking stick 'intended for use as a weapon,'" that Wilson [brought to a hotel](#) in Northern Virginia on Jan. 5. [U.S. Department of Justice, [5/4/22](#); Scalawag Magazine, [6/25/17](#); Washington Post, [5/4/22](#)]

**Former North Carolina Representative Mark Meadows Worked With Trump To Overturn The Election.** Former North Carolina Representative (NC-11) Mark Meadows, Trump's former chief of staff, was subpoenaed for his text messages with prominent Republicans after the election. Meadows' [text messages](#) have provided a wealth of alarming detail about the [scale of the plot](#) to overturn the 2020 election and the events of January 6. The texts include communications with more than 40 GOP members of Congress, including subpoenaed Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Mike Lee (R-UT), Reps. Andy Biggs, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Jim Jordan, and Mo Brooks. He also contacted Fox News correspondent Sean Hannity and Rep. Ivanka Trump, among numerous other White House staffers, campaign officials, Cabinet members, January 6 rally organizers, and right-wing media figures about efforts to spread Trump's conspiracy theories. In January 2022, Meadows was [held](#) in criminal contempt by the January 6th Committee for his defiance of a [subpoena](#). Six months later, the Justice Department [declined](#) the House's referral due to Meadows' cooperation with the committee regarding his text messages. [CNN, [6/2/22](#); Washington Post, [3/24/22](#); New York Times, [12/14/21](#), [6/3/22](#); Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack, [9/23/21](#)]

- **Mark Meadows Knew Plot For Mike Pence To Stop Certification Was Illegal.** During the third televised hearing of the January 6th committee, Pence's former staffer Marc Short [testified under oath](#) that Mark Meadows had acknowledged on multiple occasions that "the vice president has no role" in certifying electors. Short also stated that Meadows, "told so many people so many different things," but said Meadows clearly understood that Pence had no role, "despite the fact that he may have said other things to the President or others." [Citizen Times, [6/20/22](#)]

**November 2020: The North Carolina GOP Orchestrated Protests Before Ballots Were Fully Counted.** Shortly after the election, GOP Chairman Michael Whatley [organized news conferences and protests](#) outside of elections offices in Raleigh and Charlotte—even as tens of thousands of ballots [had not been fully counted](#). Whatley [alleged](#) that the North Carolina

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Board of Elections was “playing games with the data.” On Nov. 12, state House Speaker Tim Moore [visited](#) Pennsylvania for a “ballot count oversight and elections integrity effort.” [North Carolina GOP Twitter, [11/5/20](#); Charlotte Observer, [6/13/22](#); North Carolina GOP, [11/9/20](#); Speaker Tim Moore Twitter, [11/12/20](#)]

- **MAGA House Republicans From North Carolina Spread Trump’s Election Conspiracy Theories.** After the election, Rep. **Madison Cawthorn** [spread election conspiracy theories](#) in an attempt to delegitimize Biden’s victory. Rep. **Dan Bishop** also [spread misinformation](#) about “illegal ballots” shortly after the election. He [filed](#) a ‘legal report’ about election authority and [encouraged](#) voters to “Fight!” alleged “implausible ballot dumps overnight.” Rep. **Richard Hudson** [claimed](#) there was ‘incontrovertible’ evidence “of voter irregularity—if not outright fraud—in multiple states.” Rep. **Virginia Foxx** [spread](#) a conspiracy theory that post-election MAGA protesters were “unhinged mobs” of “Antifa thugs.” Rep. **Gregory Murphy** [urged](#) North Carolina voters to “help stop voter suppression, irregularities, and fraud” by reporting cases to the Trump campaign. Murphy [told a radio talk show](#), “I truly believe that fraud has occurred in this election. I know it’s occurred in the 3rd District. I know it for a fact.” Rep. **David Rouzer** also [urged](#) North Carolina voters to “register any concerns” about ‘improper’ election procedures with the Trump campaign. After the election, he [claimed](#) that “fraud was significant in these cities run by Democrats” and [signed a joint letter](#) urging the Attorney General to “minimize fraud and misconduct” in future elections. [Madison Cawthorn Twitter, [11/20/20](#); Dan Bishop Twitter, [11/4/20](#), [11/5/20](#); Rep. Dan Bishop Twitter, [1/5/21](#); Rep. Richard Hudson, [1/3/21](#); Virginia Foxx Twitter, [11/15/20](#); Dr. Greg Murphy Twitter, [11/5/20](#); North Carolina Public Radio, [5/16/22](#); David Rouzer Twitter, [11/6/20](#); David Rouzer Facebook, [12/2/20](#); Rep. David Rouzer Twitter, [12/4/20](#)]

**December 2020: GOP Senate Hopeful Ted Budd Backed GOP Efforts To Challenge The Election.** On Dec. 10, Rep. Budd [signed on](#) to the House GOP’s [amicus curiae brief](#) in support of a [Texas lawsuit](#) seeking to overturn the election. The brief alleged without evidence that unspecified “unconstitutional irregularities” in the 2020 election, “cast doubt upon its outcome and the integrity of the American system of elections.” Fellow North Carolina Reps. Bishop, Foxx, Hudson, Murphy, Rouzer, and Mark Walker (NC-6) [also signed the brief](#). The next day, the Supreme Court [dismissed](#) the case for lack of standing. [Roll Call, [9/15/21](#); Supreme Court of the United States, [12/10/20](#); Texas Attorney General, [12/7/20](#); ProPublica, Accessed [6/21/22](#)]

*[Election Integrity Is On the Ballot in North Carolina](#)*

**North Carolina GOP Has Attempted To Change Election Law Since the 2020 Election.** In June 2022, the state Republican Party requested that [the State Board of Elections adopt a rule](#), “requiring county election boards to conduct signature checks on the thousands of

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requests they received for absentee ballots.” North Carolina [already employs](#) “among the nation’s toughest rules” by requiring a notary’s signature or two witnesses for all mail-in ballots. Since 2020, Republican state lawmakers have [reportedly](#) attempted a number of attempts to “[change the rules](#) of mail-in voting, scrub supposedly fraudulent voters from the state’s [voter rolls](#) and seize [voting machines](#).” Most elected North Carolina Republicans have [refused to publicly denounce](#) Trump’s persistent claims of voter fraud, even if they haven’t repeated them, and remain loyal to him by seeking out his endorsement. [North Carolina GOP, [5/14/22](#); NC Policy Watch, [6/21/22](#); Charlotte Observer, [6/13/22](#), [6/19/21](#), [10/24/21](#), [11/12/20](#); The News & Observer, [7/15/21](#)]

## **Rep. Ted Budd Plans To Manipulate Future Elections If Elected To The U.S. Senate.**

As early as December 2020, Budd [announced proposals](#) to manipulate future elections, namely ending ‘ballot harvesting’, requiring ballots “be delivered by Election Day,” and requiring ‘signature verification’ on all ballots. If elected, Budd has also [promised](#) to fight for legislation with voter ID restrictions, citizenship verification, and voter roll purges. [Congressman Ted Budd Twitter, [12/4/20](#); Ted Budd Campaign Website, Accessed [6/21/22](#)]

## **MAGA GOP House Nominees From North Carolina Continue to Spread**

**Conspiracies and Restrict Election Access.** Six Trump-endorsed GOP House candidates are up for (re)election in North Carolina this year: [Bo Hines](#) (NC-13), [Dan Bishop](#) (NC-9), [Richard Hudson](#) (NC-8), [David Rouzer](#) (NC-7), [Gregory Murphy](#) (NC-3), and [Patrick McHenry](#) (NC-8). Several of these MAGA candidates have shared false election conspiracies and announced plans to manipulate future elections. Newcomer 26 year-old **Bo Hines** is [running](#) on a far right MAGA platform [supporting](#) Trump’s “election integrity” claims. In January 2022, incumbent Rep. **David Rouzer** (NC-7) [released a newsletter](#) highlighting his actions taken since the election to limit access to the ballot. He cosponsored HR 322, which would have banned automatic mail-in ballots, required Social Security Numbers to register to vote, and banned automatic voter registration. Rouzer also signed onto an amicus brief supporting Georgia’s restrictive SB 202 election reform legislation. Rep. **Gregory Murphy** [claimed](#) that opposition to voter ID restrictions intended to “legitimize voter fraud. Additionally, House candidate **Sandy Smith** (NC-1) [said she would](#) make voter ID “mandatory,” eliminate “universal mail in ballots,” limit absentee ballots, require annual voter roll purges, eliminate “extended voting periods,” and finally “require all absentee votes “be received the day before the election.” [The Hill, [5/14/22](#); Wall Street Journal, [5/17/22](#); Bo Hines Twitter, [3/23/22](#); Congressman David Rouzer, [1/5/22](#); Congressman Greg Murphy Twitter, [1/5/22](#); Sandy Smith For Congress, Accessed [6/21/22](#)]

## *The North Carolina GOP’s Ongoing Campaign To Delegitimize The 2020 Election*

**Both GOP Senators Voted Against Joint January 6th Commission.** North Carolina Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr, both Republicans, voted against a joint commission to investigate the January 6th insurrection. Sen. Tillis [accused](#) the proposal of “politiciz[ing] the

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Capitol Police,” while Sen. Burr [suggested](#) that the joint commission would be unnecessary and unwise. [Senator Thom Tillis, [5/20/21](#); Senator Richard Burr, [5/20/21](#)]

**MAGA GOP House Nominees From North Carolina Continue to Knowingly Spread False Election Conspiracies.** Representative **Dan Bishop** (NC-9) has continued to claim that corporations influenced the 2020 election. In April 2022, he [tweeted](#): “Twitter put their thumb on the scale in the last election.” Rep. **Virginia Foxx** (NC-5) has [continued to allege](#) ‘fraud’ conspiracies: “Other states have been subjected to irregularities and allegations of voter fraud and that is of grave concern to me.” In May 2021, Rep. Foxx was [fined](#) \$5,000 for failing to comply with security measures put in place in the House after the January 6th attack. [Rep. Dan Bishop Twitter, [4/18/22](#); Rep. Virginia Foxx, [1/7/21](#); USA Today, [5/18/21](#)]

**Ted Budd Works Closely With Trump, Voices Election Conspiracy Theories On The Campaign Trail.** In April 2021, Rep. Budd [reportedly](#) went to Mar-a-Lago on April 23 to speak with Trump about the North Carolina Senate race. He announced his candidacy five days later. During the June 2021 North Carolina GOP Convention, Trump [invited](#) Budd onstage to [endorse](#) him for the open Senate seat. In January 2022, Budd released a video dismissing the January 6th attack on the Capitol as “just patriots standing up,” and said “it was nothing.” Just [one year earlier](#), Rep. Budd ‘condemned’ the “mob violence [he] witnessed on January 6th,” in “the strongest possible terms.” [Washington Post, [8/31/21](#), [6/6/21](#); Forbes, [5/17/22](#); Representative Ted Budd, [1/7/21](#)]