

Know Before You Go: NC-13 District Primer

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In the last election, Republican Ted Budd won this district by only 43,000 votes (12%).

That's close! With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Incumbent

Introduction: Republican Ted Budd is the first representative to be elected from the newly minted NC-13 district, winning with 56% of the vote. He lives on his family's farm in Davie County, and he owns and operates ProShots, a shooting sports retail store and indoor firing range.

Issues: Budd opposes gun control, is concerned about border security, and distrusts the Trans-Pacific trade deal. Budd is pro-life and ran on elements of the Trump platform: Build the wall and cut regulations.

Strengths: As a freshman congressman, Budd is taking on issues of interest to his constituents. He co-authored the Drain the Swamp Act of 2017, which would require all agencies in Washington to relocate their headquarters outside of the D.C. metro area. Budd recently tried to halt the sale of surveillance planes to Kenya because a more experienced, lower-bidding Mooresville-based company, IOMAX, lost the contract to a large defense company in NY.

Potential Weaknesses: Budd's relationship with Guilford County, which is 47% of the district, is important. Most Guilford County voters are not conservative Republicans, and Budd won less than 40% of the county's vote. The repeal of environmental regulations might become an issue with voters, as they have recent experience with coal ash dumping in their streams; a vote that Budd supported. In addition, voters could turn on Budd if they don't see increased employment opportunities, because the area has suffered significant job losses these past years.

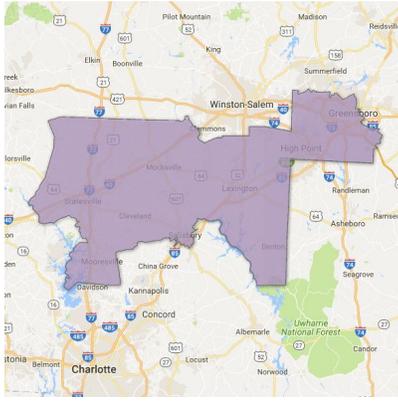
About the Challenger

Introduction: Democrat Kathy Manning comes to her candidacy with a background in immigration law, small business ownership, and experience in civic leadership and fundraising on the local and national level. A strong campaign yielded 70% of the vote in the Democratic primary and raised 1.26M as of the 5/8 primary, outraising the Republican incumbent's campaign. The race has drawn national attention: the DCCC has included Manning on the "Red to Blue" list, and the Republican-affiliated Congressional Leadership Fund opened a field office in NC-13 in March 2018. Incumbent Ted Budd's campaign launched a parody website attacking Manning's candidacy close on the heels of her declaration to run in the primary.

Issues: Affordability and accessibility of healthcare have been key elements of Manning's platform, specifically referencing her own family experiences with high prescription drug costs and the difficulties of navigating the systems of health insurance. She is also in support of preserving and continuing Medicare and Social Security in their current form as opposed to any privatization.

With a Veterans Affairs Medical Center and many veterans in the district, Manning's campaign speaks to the need for veteran benefits in the areas of healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Quality of education and affordability of higher education, job creation and economic development, and environmental protection are additional pillars of the campaign.

Manning has pledged not to accept corporate PAC contributions.



NC-13: Better Know the District

Geography

NC-13 sits in North Carolina's rural Piedmont region. It's a transportation and connection hub, with I-77, I-40, and parts of I-85 shaping the district. The dis runs north-south in a narrow band from the suburbs of Greensboro and High Point to the suburbs of Charlotte, but it excludes all but the furthest outlying bedroom communities of those urban, more liberal cities. NC-13 includes parts of these counties: Guilford, Davidson, Rowan, Davie, and Iredell. The district includes the birthplace of NASCAR, the birthplace of a traditional type of North Carolina BBQ, and a nationally renowned bass-fishing tournament.

NC-13: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Greensboro (partial), 730,342
- High Point, 105,723
- Mooresville, 35,300
- Salisbury, 33,710
- Thomasville, 26,983
- Statesville, 24,932

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 160K (44%)
- Trump: 194K (53%)

2016 House Results

- Davis (D): 156K (44%)
- Budd (R): 199K (56%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 221K
- Eligible, not registered: 120K

2014 House Results

- Cleary (D): 115K (43%)
- Holding (R): 154K (57%)

Citizenry

The region includes mostly rural and small town areas, often economically depressed and populated with mostly conservative voters. Though majority white, the district is racially diverse, ranging from a population that is 20% black in the rural areas to 40% black in the cities of High Point and Greensboro. The area population is less than 10% Hispanic.

Employment

NC-13 includes previously prosperous areas that were dependent on tobacco, textile mills, and furniture manufacturing; all of these industries are now dying and/or globally outsourced. Current employment opportunities vary by county or city: dairy farming in Davie county, Food Lion corporate offices in Salisbury, Lowe's Home Improvement offices and NASCAR teams in Mooresville, and various school systems, hospitals, and colleges around the district.

Higher Education

There are 11 colleges or universities in NC-13. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro was one of the state's first colleges to admit women, and North Carolina A&T, also in Greensboro, is on the roster of historically black colleges and universities. With tens of thousands of students in the district, campuses represent solid voter registration opportunities.

Elections

The vote is split by county in this district. Guilford County went strongly Democratic in 2016, choosing Clinton in the presidential race, Cooper in the governor's race, and Davis in the House race. The other counties in the district all went strongly Republican, voting for Trump, McCrory, and Budd.