



NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2016 NORTH CAROLINA SENATE RACE

	Richard Burr (Incumbent – R)	Deborah Ross (D)
<p>For mobile-friendly version and other guides, see campuselect.org/guides.html</p> <p>To volunteer, visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • burrforsenate.com or • deborahross.com 		
Abortion: Should abortion be highly restricted?	Yes	No
Campaign Finance: Support DISCLOSE Act, requiring key funders of political ads to put their names on those ads?	No	Yes
Campaign Finance: Support Supreme Court <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited independent political expenditures by corporations and unions?	Yes	No
Climate Change: Believe that human activity is the major factor driving climate change?	No ¹	Yes
Climate Change: Should government limit the levels of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere?	No	Yes
Contraception: Allow employers to withhold contraceptive coverage from employees if disagree with it morally?	Yes	No
Economy: Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	No	Yes
Financial Regulation: Support the Dodd-Frank Act, establishing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and increasing regulation of Wall Street corporations and financial institutions?	No	Almost certainly a yes, based on other stands, but no direct statements found
Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage?	No ²	Yes
Gay Rights: Should transgender individuals have the right to use public bathrooms of their choice?	No ³	Yes
Gun Control: Support enacting more restrictive gun control legislation?	No	Yes
Healthcare: Repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?	Yes	No
Healthcare: Should Planned Parenthood be eligible to receive public funds for non-abortion health services?	No	Yes
Immigration: Support the DREAM Act, which would allow children brought into the country illegally to achieve legal status if meet certain conditions? ⁴	No. Considers Obama’s Executive Order to be overreach.	Yes
Immigration: Earned path to citizenship for America’s 11 million undocumented residents?	No	Yes
Iran: Support the US-Iran treaty that limits Iran’s nuclear capability in return for lifting economic sanctions?	No	Yes

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Iraq: How should the US combat ISIS?	Eliminate Isis rather than contain it, specific plans unclear.	“Take them out, cut off supplies, work with allies.”
Marijuana: Support efforts to decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana?	No. Opposes medical and recreational. ⁵	Supports medical marijuana
Minimum Wage: Support raising the federal minimum wage?	No	Yes
Prisons: Should money be switched from prisons to preventive measures like education and social services?	Unknown. Did vote for easing mandatory minimum sentencing.	Increase community policing & no incarceration for nonviolent misdemeanors.
Renewable Energy: Support government mandates and/or subsidies for renewable energy?	No	Yes
Social Security: Support full or partial Social Security privatization?	Yes	No
Student Debt: Support refinancing of student loans at lower rates, paid for by increasing taxes on high earners?	No. Supported bills to simplify repayment, but opposed expanding subsidies to support refinancing.	Yes. Supports refinancing student loan debt, reining in private for-profit colleges, & making first two years of community college free.
Student Financial Aid: Should federal student financial aid, like Pell Grants, be increased?	No	Yes
Supreme Court: Support the Senate holding hearings to consider Obama Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland?	No	Yes
Taxes: Signed Americans for Tax Reform Pledge to oppose any tax increases to raise revenue?	Yes	No
Taxes: Increase taxes on corporations and/or high-income individuals to pay for public services?	No	Yes. Wants “corporations and the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.”
Voting Rights: Support stricter voting rules such as voter ID requirements or reduced registration times, even if they prevent some people from voting?	Yes ⁶	No

Other senate candidates include [Sean Haugh \(L\)](#) Due to limited space, we can’t include his positions, but invite you to check out his website.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a non-partisan effort to help college and university administrators, faculty, and student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [Ballotpedia.org](#), [Countable.us](#), [OntheIssues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), and public candidate statements. For a guide to all races, see [Vote411.org](#), from the League of Women Voters, and [Ballotready.org](#).

¹ Considered a climate denier throughout his career, in 2015 Burr voted in [favor](#) of an amendment that stated “climate change is real and not a hoax” while simultaneously voting [against](#) an amendment that stated “climate change is real and human activity contributes to [it].”

² Personal belief that marriage is between a man and a woman. Legislatively, [voted several times through 2010 to ban same-sex marriage](#). In anticipation of Supreme Court ruling, took the position that [it should be decided by the states](#).

³ Opposed Obama’s Executive Order, stating [decision should be made by states, parents, and communities](#). Later, in response to backlash against NC anti-LGBT legislation, said [state had gone too far](#) and should “rein it in before a judge does it for them.”

⁴ Need to have graduated from high school, have a clean legal record, and attend college or serve in the military.

⁵ Recent public statements focus on enforcing federal law regarding marijuana. [Opposes medical as well as recreational use](#), stating in 2010 that “I’m on the record for believing that medical marijuana has no real intrinsic values that you can’t get through other things.”

⁶ Supported NC’s more restrictive state voting laws and voted for 2013 amendment to require voter ID for federal elections.