## The Issues

### Abortion

**Ban or legal?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: Legal. Believes "a woman’s choice is a woman’s right [and] will always defend Roe v. Wade against partisan attacks."
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: Ban. Signed a brief asking the Supreme Court to *overturn* Roe v. Wade, "I will never stop fighting for the sanctity of life."

### Affordable Care Act

**Support Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: Yes. "Strengthen and extend coverage under the ACA.” Wants North Carolina to expand Medicaid.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: No. Voted to *repeal* ACA. Calls it "a failed health care plan." Would protect pre-existing conditions, but with no lifetime cost cap.

### Campaign Finance

**Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: Yes. Supports HR1 and wants to eliminate “dark money” donations from anonymous donors. Overturn Citizens United decision.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: No position found.

### Climate Change

**Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat? Support government action?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: Yes. "One of the most urgent issues facing us.” State has “seen the effects of climate change firsthand through the historic storms and flooding.” Supports efforts to move to 100% renewable energy by 2050, rejoin Paris Agreement and train workers for green jobs.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: Mixed. Previously doubted human role and supported Trump withdrawal from Paris climate agreement. Now sees climate change as solvable with “responsible market-driven solutions.” Supported Trump rule easing emission limits on coal-fired power plants.

### Court

**Support nominations of Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: No. Sees Kavanaugh as a threat to Roe v. Wade. See CEEP Supreme Court guide.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: Yes. On Kavanaugh, said Democrats worked to “destroy a good man’s reputation.” Strong Gorsuch supporter. See CEEP Supreme Court guide.

### COVID-19

**Support administration’s response to coronavirus pandemic?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: No. Administration “was caught flat-footed and continues to botch [its] response.” Needed more protective equipment.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: Yes. “I applaud President Trump for declaring a national emergency to combat the coronavirus.”

### COVID-19 Economic Response

**Best economic response to coronavirus pandemic?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: Service and infrastructure projects to “put people to work,” support for rural hospitals, more unemployment benefits, aid to farmers and greater oversight of federal response.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: A “Cold War-style approach” to punish China for its virus response. End federal regulations to make it easier for businesses.

### Education

**Use public funding for private schools?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: No. Supports phasing out school vouchers to pay for private-school tuition.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: Yes. Supports vouchers for students to attend private schools with government assistance.

### Environment

**Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?**

- **Cal Cunningham (Democrat)**: Tighten. As a state senator, supported a Clean Smokesstacks Act, requiring coal-fired power plants to reduce carbon emissions.
- **Thom Tillis (Republican, Incumbent)**: Loosen. Supports Trump EPA head Andrew Wheeler’s attempts to loosen regulations as needless red tape. Environmental groups have criticized Wheeler’s actions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUES</th>
<th>CUNNINGHAM (D)</th>
<th>TILLIS (R)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL REGULATION</strong></td>
<td>Tighten. <em>Early backer of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.</em> Address “tax loopholes ... that benefit corporations and the wealthy.”</td>
<td>Loose. <em>Voted in favor of rolling back Dodd-Frank banking regulations.</em> Says the CFPB needs more “oversight from Congress.”</td>
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<td><strong>GAY RIGHTS</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Wants to stand “with the LGBTQI community and communities of color in the fight against regressive policies.”</td>
<td>Mostly no. In 2012 helped <em>add same-sex-marriage ban to North Carolina constitution.</em> Supported repeal of “bathroom bill.”</td>
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<td><strong>GUN CONTROL</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Wants to “expand background checks, ban high-capacity magazines, pass red-flag laws and fund gun-violence research.”</td>
<td>No. Supports <em>promoting Second Amendment rights</em>. Co-sponsored bill to allow concealed-handgun carry across state lines.</td>
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<td><strong>IMMIGRATION</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Calls for “comprehensive immigration reform” that “protects DREAMers and provides a fair pathway to citizenship.”</td>
<td>Yes, 15-year process <em>paired with increased border security, limits on sponsoring relatives, and revocation of status for any violation.</em></td>
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<td><strong>IMMIGRATION</strong></td>
<td>Mixed. Against Trump diverting funds from military bases for border wall, but wants a mix of “physical barriers, technology and manpower.”</td>
<td>Yes. Called Trump’s declaration of a national emergency to extend the wall <em>executive overreach.</em> Later voted for it as giving president tools to “keep America safe.”</td>
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<td><strong>IMPEACHMENT</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Was “appalled the Senate did not hear from witnesses or request documents.” Would “vote to convict” Trump. Considers him bad role model for the next generation.</td>
<td>No. Said impeachment “motivated by partisan politics.” Voted “no,” and against allowing witnesses, “Trump deserves to be defended.”</td>
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<td><strong>IRAN</strong></td>
<td>Unclear. Sees killing of Iranian general as “high risk.” “Congress needs to reassert its role in conducting military operations.”</td>
<td>No. Voted against a <em>bipartisan Senate resolution requiring congressional authorization</em> for military action in Iran.</td>
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<td><strong>LABOR</strong></td>
<td>Mixed. Endorsed by <em>major unions.</em> Calls for a “living wage” and defending workplace protections.* In 2014 endorsed state’s unique “right-to-work laws.”</td>
<td>Yes. Co-sponsored <em>National Right to Work Act.</em> As state speaker of the House, vowed to keep North Carolina “the least unionized state in the United States.”</td>
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<td><strong>MARIJUANA</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Supports “allowing states to develop own regulation and taxation of cannabis.”</td>
<td>No. <em>Opposes marijuana legalization,</em> but backs study of effectiveness for medical use.</td>
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<td><strong>MINIMUM WAGE</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Supports “raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour and eliminating the subminimum wage.”</td>
<td>No recent position found. In 2014 opposed a federal minimum wage, calling it a “defeatist mentality” compared to focusing on jobs.</td>
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<td><strong>PLANNED PARENTHOOD</strong></td>
<td>Yes. “Will strongly oppose partisan efforts in Washington to attack and defund Planned Parenthood.”</td>
<td>No. Joined court brief to allow states to prohibit Planned Parenthood receiving funds for non-abortion services.</td>
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<td><strong>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</strong></td>
<td>Mostly yes. Wants to lower the cost of college, let students refinance college loans, fix loan forgiveness and expand Pell Grants. Unclear on forgiving student debt.</td>
<td>Unclear. Supported Trump rule making it harder for students to discharge their loans if defrauded by for-profit schools. Joined unanimous vote <em>supporting Minority Serving Institutions.</em> No student debt position found.</td>
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<td><strong>TAXES</strong></td>
<td>No. <em>Overwhelmingly benefits “the largest corporations and the ultra-wealthy while leaving middle-class and poor ... behind.”</em></td>
<td>Yes. Called the tax cuts “historic tax reform that will lead to bigger paychecks for hard-working Americans.”</td>
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<td><strong>VOTING RIGHTS</strong></td>
<td>No. Supports reinstating protections under the <em>Voting Rights Act.</em> Supports automatic and same-day registration and early voting.</td>
<td>Yes. <em>Under Speaker Tillis, the N.C. House passed a package of restrictive election rules, later overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals.</em></td>
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Campus Election Engagement Project is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](http://Votesmart.org), [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), [Politifact.com](http://Politifact.com) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) and [Ballotready.org](http://Ballotready.org) offer guides to local races.