

# North Carolina Senate



## THE ISSUES

**CAL CUNNINGHAM**

DEMOCRAT



**THOM TILLIS**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

See <a href="#">Guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources	Volunteer for Cal Cunningham <a href="http://calfornc.com">calfornc.com</a>	Volunteer for Thom Tillis <a href="http://thomtillis.com">thomtillis.com</a>
<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	Legal. Believes <a href="#">“a woman’s choice is a woman’s right [and] will always defend Roe v. Wade against partisan attacks.”</a>	Ban. Signed a brief asking the Supreme Court to <a href="#">overturn Roe v. Wade</a> . “I will never stop fighting for <a href="#">the sanctity of life</a> .”
<b>AFFORDABLE CARE ACT</b> Support Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare?	Yes. <a href="#">“Strengthen and extend coverage under the ACA.”</a> Wants North Carolina to expand Medicaid.	No. <a href="#">Voted to repeal ACA</a> . Calls it <a href="#">“a failed health care plan.”</a> Would <a href="#">protect pre-existing conditions, but with no lifetime cost cap</a> .
<b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE</b> Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?	Yes. <a href="#">Supports HR1</a> and wants to eliminate “dark money” donations from anonymous donors. <a href="#">Overturn Citizens United decision</a> .	No position found.
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat? Support government action?	Yes. <a href="#">“One of the most urgent issues facing us.”</a> State has <a href="#">“seen the effects of climate change firsthand through the historic storms and flooding.”</a> Supports efforts to <a href="#">move to 100% renewable energy by 2050</a> , rejoin Paris Agreement and train workers for green jobs.	Mixed. Previously <a href="#">doubted human role</a> and supported <a href="#">Trump withdrawal from Paris climate agreement</a> . Now sees climate change as solvable with <a href="#">“responsible market-driven solutions.”</a> Supported Trump rule <a href="#">easing emission limits on coal-fired power plants</a> .
<b>COURT</b> Support nominations of Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court?	No. <a href="#">Sees Kavanaugh as a threat to Roe v. Wade</a> . See CEEP <a href="#">Supreme Court guide</a> .	Yes. On Kavanaugh, <a href="#">said Democrats worked to “destroy a good man’s reputation.”</a> <a href="#">Strong Gorsuch supporter</a> . See CEEP <a href="#">Supreme Court guide</a> .
<b>COVID-19</b> Support administration’s response to coronavirus pandemic?	No. Administration <a href="#">“was caught flat-footed and continues to botch [its] response.”</a> <a href="#">Needed more protective equipment</a> .	Yes. <a href="#">“I applaud President Trump for declaring a national emergency to combat the coronavirus.”</a>
<b>COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE</b> Best economic response to coronavirus pandemic?	<a href="#">Service and infrastructure projects to “put people to work,”</a> support for <a href="#">rural hospitals, more unemployment benefits, aid to farmers</a> and <a href="#">greater oversight of federal response</a> .	A <a href="#">“Cold War-style approach”</a> to punish China for its virus response. <a href="#">End federal regulations</a> to make it <a href="#">easier for businesses</a> .
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding for private schools?	No. Supports <a href="#">phasing out school vouchers</a> to pay for private-school tuition.	Yes. <a href="#">Supports vouchers</a> for students to attend private schools with government assistance.
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?	Tighten. As a state senator, supported a <a href="#">Clean Smokestacks Act</a> , requiring coal-fired power plants to <a href="#">reduce carbon emissions</a> .	Loosen. Supports Trump EPA head Andrew Wheeler’s attempts <a href="#">to loosen regulations</a> as needless red tape. Environmental groups <a href="#">have criticized</a> Wheeler’s actions.

ISSUES	CUNNINGHAM (D)	TILLIS (R)
<b>FINANCIAL REGULATION</b> Tighten or loosen regulation of banks and credit card companies?	Tighten. <a href="#">Early backer of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau</a> . Address <a href="#">“tax loopholes ... that benefit corporations and the wealthy.”</a>	Loosen. <a href="#">Voted in favor of rolling back Dodd-Frank banking regulations</a> . Says the CFPB needs <a href="#">more “oversight from Congress.”</a>
<b>GAY RIGHTS</b> Support same-sex marriage and extension of LGBTQ rights?	Yes. Wants to stand <a href="#">“with the LGBTQ community and communities of color in the fight against regressive policies.”</a>	Mostly no. In 2012 helped <a href="#">add same-sex-marriage ban to North Carolina constitution</a> . <a href="#">Supported repeal</a> of “bathroom bill.”
<b>GUN CONTROL</b> Enact more restrictive legislation on guns?	Yes. Wants to <a href="#">“expand background checks, ban high-capacity magazines, pass red-flag laws and fund gun-violence research.”</a>	No. Supports <a href="#">promoting Second Amendment rights</a> . Co-sponsored <a href="#">bill to allow concealed-handgun carry across state lines</a> .
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> Create path to citizenship for “DACA” residents brought as children to U.S.?	Yes. Calls for “comprehensive immigration reform” that <a href="#">“protects DREAMers and provides a fair pathway to citizenship.”</a>	Yes, 15-year process <a href="#">paired with increased border security, limits on sponsoring relatives, and revocation of status for any violation</a> .
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> Support additional border walls.	Mixed. Against Trump diverting funds from military bases for border wall, but wants a <a href="#">mix of “physical barriers, technology and manpower.”</a>	Yes. Called Trump’s declaration of a national emergency to extend the wall <a href="#">executive overreach</a> . Later voted for it as giving president tools to <a href="#">“keep America safe.”</a>
<b>IMPEACHMENT</b> Support U.S. Senate calling witnesses and voting to convict President Trump? Judgment of Trump Presidency.	Yes. Was <a href="#">“appalled the Senate did not hear from witnesses or request documents.”</a> Would “vote to convict” Trump. <a href="#">Considers him bad role model for the next generation</a> .	No. Said impeachment <a href="#">“motivated by partisan politics.”</a> Voted <a href="#">“no,” and against allowing witnesses</a> . <a href="#">“Trump deserves to be defended.”</a>
<b>IRAN</b> Oppose military attacks on Iran without congressional approval?	Unclear. Sees killing of Iranian general as <a href="#">“high risk.”</a> <a href="#">“Congress needs to reassert its role in conducting military operations.”</a>	No. Voted against a <a href="#">bipartisan Senate resolution requiring congressional authorization</a> for military action in Iran.
<b>LABOR</b> Support “right to work” laws, banning unions from mandating dues for workers they represent?	Mixed. Endorsed by <a href="#">major unions</a> . Calls for a <a href="#">“living wage” and defending workplace protections</a> . In 2014 endorsed state’s unique <a href="#">“right-to-work laws.”</a>	Yes. Co-sponsored <a href="#">National Right to Work Act</a> . As state speaker of the House, vowed to keep North Carolina <a href="#">“the least unionized state in the United States.”</a>
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Decriminalize or legalize?	Yes. Supports <a href="#">“allowing states to develop own regulation and taxation of cannabis.”</a>	No. <a href="#">Opposes marijuana legalization</a> , but backs study of effectiveness for medical use.
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?	Yes. Supports <a href="#">“raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and eliminating the subminimum wage.”</a>	No recent position found. In 2014 <a href="#">opposed a federal minimum wage</a> , calling it a “defeatist mentality” compared to focusing on jobs.
<b>PLANNED PARENTHOOD</b> Support Planned Parenthood’s receiving public funds for providing health care?	Yes. <a href="#">“Will strongly oppose partisan efforts in Washington to attack and defund Planned Parenthood.”</a>	No. Joined court brief <a href="#">to allow states to prohibit Planned Parenthood receiving funds for non-abortion services</a> .
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Reduce cost of college for lower-income individuals? Forgive student debt?	Mostly yes. <a href="#">Wants to lower the cost of college</a> , let students refinance college loans, fix loan forgiveness and expand Pell Grants. Unclear on <a href="#">forgiving student debt</a> .	Unclear. <a href="#">Supported</a> Trump rule <a href="#">making it harder for students to discharge their loans if defrauded by for-profit schools</a> . Joined unanimous vote <a href="#">supporting Minority Serving Institutions</a> . No student debt position found.
<b>TAXES</b> Support administration’s \$1.9 trillion (2017) tax cuts?	No. <a href="#">Overwhelmingly benefits “the largest corporations and the ultra-wealthy</a> while leaving middle-class and poor ... behind.”	Yes. Called the tax cuts <a href="#">“historic tax reform that will lead to bigger paychecks for hard-working Americans.”</a>
<b>VOTING RIGHTS</b> Strict ID and other rules to combat possible fraud, even if limiting access?	No. <a href="#">Supports reinstating protections under the Voting Rights Act</a> . Supports automatic and same-day registration and early voting.	Yes. <a href="#">Under Speaker Tillis, the N.C. House passed a package</a> of restrictive election rules, <a href="#">later overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals</a> .

[Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.