

# [***Could Dems Flip North Carolina In 2024?; 'A real shot to win'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BKY-2R01-DXXD-706Y-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GettyImages-1258567489-scaled-e1710525005616.jpg)

* Democrats are hoping to flip North Carolina in 2024 after former President Donald Trump secured the red state in both 2016 and 2020.

1. The narrow margin Trump won by in 2020, demographic changes in the state and the election of Republican gubernatorial nominee Mark Robinson might put North Carolina back on the map for President Joe Biden this cycle, political scientists and state operatives told the Daily Caller News Foundation.
2. “We like our chances here, we think they have a real shot to win,” Morgan Jackson, a Democratic strategist based in North Carolina, told the DCNF.

Several electoral and demographic factors in North Carolina could put the red state in play for President Joe Biden in November, political experts told the Daily Caller News Foundation.

Democrats are setting their [*sights*](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/03/06/north-carolina-top-battleground-swing-state-2024-what-super-tuesdays-primary-results-tell-us/72758256007/) on North Carolina as opposed to other battleground states like [*Georgia*](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/11/us/politics/biden-trump-north-carolina-georgia.html) for a rematch with former President Donald Trump. The narrow margin Trump won by in 2020, population changes in the state and the election of Republican gubernatorial nominee Mark Robinson might put North Carolina back on the map for Biden this cycle, according to political scientists and state operatives.

“Looks like at this point, North Carolina is the Trump state that is most likely to be in play in 2024, while there are half a dozen Biden states that are expected to be in play,” Charles Bullock, a political science professor at the University of Georgia who specializes in southern ***politics*** and elections, told the DCNF. [***(RELATED: New Poll Spells Bad News For Biden In Six Battleground States)***](https://dailycaller.com/2024/01/08/arizona-pennsylvania-north-carolina-florida-michigan-georgia-new-poll-trump-leading-biden-six-swing-states/)

All of the swing states that were critical to Biden's win last cycle are currently leaning toward Trump in the RealClearPolitics (RCP) averages, including [*Arizona*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2024/arizona/trump-vs-biden), [*Nevada*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2024/nevada/trump-vs-biden), [*Georgia*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2024/georgia/trump-vs-biden), [*Michigan*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2024/michigan/trump-vs-biden), [*Wisconsin*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2024/wisconsin/trump-vs-biden) and [*Pennsylvania*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2024/pennsylvania/trump-vs-biden). The former president is also ahead of Biden by 5.5 points in [*North Carolina*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2024/north-carolina/trump-vs-biden), where Trump received his slimmest [*margin*](https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/09/politics/2020-election-trump-biden-closest-states/index.html) of the 2020 cycle.

Since then, the state has [*grown*](https://www.osbm.nc.gov/blog/2023/10/10/latest-population-estimates-show-most-nc-counties-and-municipalities-growing) rapidly, particularly in urban areas like Raleigh, Charlotte and Durham. North Carolina accounted for some of the nation's highest population growth between 2022 and 2023 behind only Texas and Florida, and has the fifth fastest rate in the nation, [*according*](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/population-trends-return-to-pre-pandemic-norms.html) to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Many of these individuals moving into urban areas in North Carolina typically lean Democratic, according to the political experts.

“One of the reasons that President Biden is so laser focused on North Carolina is because North Carolina's a state in transition, and is a state that demographically is urbanizing, is getting more college educated, the urban areas are growing really rapidly, and that is having the biggest impact on North Carolina's electoral landscape for the last five years and for the next ten or 20 years,” Morgan Jackson, a Democratic consultant based in the state, told the DCNF. “Virtually every county in the state that is growing rapidly in population is getting more Democratic.”

North Carolina has also [*seen*](https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegStat/Stats?Date=11/03/2020&CountyName=Totals) an [*increase*](https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegStat/Stats?Date=03/09/2024&CountyName=Totals) of unaffiliated individuals, who now make up more of the registered voter population than either major party, according to the state's data. Democrats have actually lost voters since the 2020 election, while Republicans have seen a slight increase.

“I call it the swingiest of all swing states, and that's because of the rapid growth of unaffiliated voters. In the last ten years, we've added almost a million unaffiliated voters,” Paul Shumaker, a Republican strategist based in North Carolina, told the DCNF. “Unaffiliated voters are going to determine who wins and who loses, and that means North Carolina will be in play on both sides for at least the next two to three election cycles, regardless of who the candidates are.”

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GettyImages-1239877210-scaled.jpg)

SELMA, NC - APRIL 09: Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson joins the stage with former U.S. President Donald Trump during a rally at The Farm. (Allison Joyce/Getty Images)

[*Robinson*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/05/mark-robinson-wins-north-carolina-gubernatorial-primary/), North Carolina's lieutenant governor, secured the GOP gubernatorial nomination on Super Tuesday, earning nearly 65% of the share, [*according*](https://apnews.com/projects/election-results-2024/north-carolina/?r=35549) to The Associated Press. Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein won his party's primary with 69.6% support.

The Trump-endorsed candidate has only [*held*](https://ballotpedia.org/Mark_K._Robinson_(North_Carolina_lieutenant_governor)) public office since 2020, but has [*made*](https://dailycaller.com/2021/10/11/north-carolina-mark-robinson-transgenderism-homosexuality-filth/) a [*series*](https://checkyourfact.com/2023/07/12/fact-check-robinson-dictators-recent-speech/) of [*remarks*](https://checkyourfact.com/2024/03/08/fact-check-video-showing-mark-robinson-talking-about-women-and-voting-is-taken-out-of-context/) on various social issues that critics have pointed to when arguing against his candidacy and electability.

“What I think makes North Carolina more attractive to Democrats right now is the nomination of Mark Robinson and his record of statements,” said Bullock. “He has endorsed Trump, Trump has endorsed him, and so there'll be efforts to link those two on that issue of the role of women in ***politics***, on abortion, a whole bunch of social issues.”

Jackson echoed Bullock's sentiment, and argued Robinson's candidacy will serve as a drag to Trump's.

“Not only does Trump have real problems with suburban voters, when you add on Mark Robinson to suburban voters, it's like spraying insect repellent on suburban, college-educated voters,” said Jackson. “There's no question in my mind that Mark Robinson leading the ticket in North Carolina for Republicans is hurtful to Donald Trump.”

Conversely, Jon Green, elections expert and political science professor at Duke University, is skeptical of the scenario's potential “reverse coattails.”

Forward-looking and inclusive is an interesting way to phrase a campaign that talks more about his opponent than anything he's done on behalf of the people. The career politicians (elites) can't stand when someone connects w/ the people the way Mark Robinson does. [*#ncpol*](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ncpol?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [*#ncgov*](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ncgov?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [*https://t.co/daXJ0ZUq2a*](https://t.co/daXJ0ZUq2a)

- Matt Mercer (@mattmercer) [*March 10, 2024*](https://twitter.com/mattmercer/status/1766859805400965196?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“I think the Trump ties and sort of Mark Robinson being very much a Trump-aligned figure is likelier to hurt Robinson than it is to hurt Trump, if that makes sense. I think people are going to tend to evaluate the top of the ticket as the top of the ticket,” said Green.

Shumaker argued that North Carolina's presidential race currently leans Republican and the gubernatorial race “should favor the Democrats” - but there's a caveat for both in his view.

“The problem Josh Stein has is Joe Biden. The problem that Donald Trump has in North Carolina is Mark Robinson. Because the Democrats are going to try to link him to Mark Robinson's radical, way-out positions, and hopefully fix their intensity problem,” said Shumaker, citing the enthusiasm gap between the party primaries on March 5. “They're gonna try to fix their intensity problem with social issues. Can they do that? Don't know.”

Roughly 376,000 more North Carolina voters participated in the Republican primary than the Democratic primary when Trump beat former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley by roughly 51 points. Biden secured 87.3% support compared to the “no preference” ballot option's 12.7% after Pro-Palestinian activists encouraged voters to [*oppose*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/06/joe-biden-super-tuesday-victories-marred-protest-votes-massachusetts-minnesota-north-carolina-colorado-tennessee-alabama/) the president's candidacy over his handling of the Israel-Hamas war.

Additionally, North Carolinians have a history of ticket-splitting in presidential elections.

For instance, the state went for Trump and incumbent Republican Sens. Richard Burr and Tom Tillis in [*2016*](https://www.cnn.com/election/2016/results/states/north-carolina) and [*2020*](https://www.cnn.com/election/2020/results/state/north-carolina), respectively, while electing Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper both cycles.

A WRAL-TV/SurveyUSA [*survey*](https://wwwcache.wral.com/asset/news/state/nccapitol/2024/03/12/21325738/3247050-Poll_Report_-_PollPrint-DMID1-628w54pob.pdf) released Monday found Trump leading Biden by five points, while Robinson lagged behind Stein 44% to 42%.

“Voters in North Carolina are quite experienced in splitting their tickets. And again, sure, if you wear a red MAGA hat, you're not gonna split your vote, and a true blue Democrat isn't neither. But there [is] a component of North Carolina voters that do,” said Bullock. “You're gonna see some share of that vote in North Carolina, you know, hopscotching down the ballot rather than just going, 'bing, bing, bing, bing, bing' for one party or the other.”

In 2020, Biden was beating the incumbent nearly all cycle in the RCP's [*average*](https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/president/general/2020/north-carolina/trump-vs-biden), with Trump only leading in 19 surveys all cycle. Trump has already led Biden in nearly every 2024 North Carolina poll, boasting leads anywhere from one to 11 points, according to the RCP's compilation.

The political experts argued that current polling is likely not a predictor of how the state will go this cycle, as there are still many undecided voters eight months out.

Green believes the surveys are “probably an overestimate of how Trump's gonna do in November.”

“Early polls are what they are, and they should be interpreted sort of as nothing more and nothing less than early polls, right? State of the race where it is right now,” said Green. “We know that a lot of people are not paying super close attention to ***politics*** right now, so there's more room for movement I think now than there will be later on after the conventions, after people who don't typically pay very close attention to ***politics*** start tuning in.”

Shumaker argued that if Biden is able to defeat Trump in North Carolina, “there's no pathway for him to win the presidency.”

NORTH CAROLINA POLL: [*@cygnal*](https://twitter.com/cygnal?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

President

Trump 45% (+5)

Biden 40%

-

Governor

Robinson 44% (+5)

Stein 39%

Ross 2%

Turner 1%

-

State Supreme Court

Griffin 41% (+2)

\*Riggs 39%

-

Attorney General

Bishop 41% (+2)

Jackson 39%

-

Labor commissioner

... [*pic.twitter.com/a9auTYyrkl*](https://t.co/a9auTYyrkl)

- InteractivePolls (@IAPolls2022) [*March 12, 2024*](https://twitter.com/IAPolls2022/status/1767617326323483045?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

North Carolina has only [*elected*](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_election_in_North_Carolina,_2024) a Democratic president twice since 1964 - Jimmy Carter in 1976 and Barack Obama in 2008.

“We like our chances here, we think they have a real shot to win,” said Jackson.

The Trump, Robinson, Biden and Stein campaigns did not respond to the DCNF's requests for comment.

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**Graphic**

FORT LIBERTY, NORTH CAROLINA - JUNE 9: President Joe Biden speaks to service members and their families in support of Joining Forces, the initiative to support military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors on June 9, 2023 at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. Fort Bragg changed its Confederate namesake to Fort Liberty in May, 2023. The change is part of a Department of Defense initiative to rename US military installations bearing the name of Confederate soldiers. (Photo by Eros Hoagland/Getty Images)

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