



NCFREE
NORTH CAROLINA FREE
ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION

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2021 Legislative Business Ratings

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Overview of the Legislative Business Ratings

Traditionally, NCFREE has released its Legislative Business Ratings (LBR) at the conclusion of the session of the North Carolina General Assembly that occurs in the odd-numbered year (what's commonly referred to as the 'Long Session').

NCFREE's analytical assessment of the business disposition of all 170 state House and Senate members is based on confidential input from a group of more than 300 business leaders, business trade association executives, and government affairs professionals.

This survey pool represents a diverse cross-section of business interests, with geographic diversity as well as an appropriate array relative to company size and scope, and industry sectors.

The 2020-2021 LBR contains two parts:

<p>objective</p> <p>1</p> <p>An Objective evaluation consisting of recorded votes taken during the 2021 long session, where the votes 'presented a clear philosophical division on key issues of interest and concern to the business community.' The vote could be for a bill, an amendment, concurrence, or to override a veto.</p>	<p>subjective</p> <p>2</p> <p>A Subjective assessment, conducted in 2021, in which survey respondents rated every legislator based on the respondent's 'personal experience as to the percentage of time that legislator was supportive on issues important to the overall business climate of North Carolina.'</p>
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Those surveyed were asked to consider factors such as 'legislators making themselves accessible or information sharing and discussion, and maintaining a business-like approach to the conduct of legislative duties.' Respondents made this assessment using a 100-point scale (in 10-point increments) and were asked to rate only those legislators they knew and interacted with during session.

Understanding the NCFREE Legislative Business Rating

The 2021 LBR is the 2:1 average of the **Objective** and the **Subjective** ratings. Legislators who were the primary sponsors of legislation selected for the LBR were given a .25 “bonus” credit that was added to their individual rating.

$$\left[\frac{(\text{Objective} * 2) + (\text{Subjective})}{3} \right] + (\text{\# of key bill primary sponsorships} * .25) = \text{2021 Session LBR}$$

The 2021 final rating provides a straightforward metric: the closer the rating is to 100, the more aligned with the principles of free enterprise that legislator was during the 2021 long session of the General Assembly.

NCFREE determined that the rating of 70 or higher indicates that a legislator can be counted on — both in votes cast as well as general disposition on business issues and in their approach to legislative duties — to consistently exhibit strong support for free enterprise, and comprise the solid base of business-minded legislators. Those with a rating between 70 and 55 are considered to be occasional in their support of free enterprise issues.

For additional information on our methodology and key votes, please refer to page 8.

2021 LBR RATING

Senate

Member	District	Home County	2021 LBR
Brent Jackson	10	Sampson	100.3
Phil Berger	30	Rockingham	99.7
Paul Newton	36	Cabarrus	99.3
Todd Johnson	35	Union	98.2
Jim Perry	7	Lenoir	97.7
Danny Earl Britt, Jr.	13	Robeson	97.7
William (Bill) Rabon	8	Brunswick	97.6
Tom McInnis	25	Richmond	97.3
Kathy Harrington	43	Gaston	96.8
Kevin Corbin	50	Macon	96.7
Michael A. Lazzara	6	Onslow	96.7
Vickie Sawyer	43	Iredell	96.6
David W. Craven, Jr.	26	Randolph	95.9
Joyce Krawiec	31	Forsyth	95.5
Dean Proctor	42	Catawba	95.2
Chuck Edwards	48	Henderson	95.1
Lisa S. Barnes	11	Nash	94.9
Bob Steinburg	1	Chowan	94.7
Deanna Ballard	45	Watauga	94.7
Michael V. Lee	9	New Hanover	94.7
Amy S. Galey	24	Alamance	94.3
Ralph Hise	47	Mitchell	94.1
Steve Jarvis	29	Davidson	92.9
W. Ted Alexander	44	Cleveland	92.3
Norman W. Sanderson	2	Pamlico	91.4

Member	District	Home County	2021 LBR
Jim Burgin	12	Harnett	90.5
Warren Daniel	46	Burke	90.0
Carl Ford	33	Rowan	90.0
Ben Clark	21	Hoke	77.9
Kirk deViere	19	Cumberland	76.7
Paul A. Lowe, Jr.	32	Forsyth	71.5
Daniel (Dan) Blue	14	Wake	70.1
Mike Woodard	22	Durham	68.4
Don Davis	5	Pitt	66.6
Sarah Crawford	18	Wake	64.1
Sydney Batch (Appointed 1.11.21)	17	Wake	62.8
Michael Garrett	27	Guilford	60.7
Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr.	4	Wilson	57.7
Valerie P. Foushee	23	Orange	57.5
Joyce Waddell	40	Mecklenburg	54.4
Jay J. Chaudhuri	15	Wake	52.6
Julie Mayfield	49	Buncombe	48.8
Jeff Jackson	37	Mecklenburg	44.8
DeAndrea Salvador	39	Mecklenburg	44.6
Mujtaba Mohammed	38	Mecklenburg	43.6
Wiley Nickel	16	Wake	42.6
Ernestine Bazemore	3	Bertie	40.0
Natasha R. Marcus	41	Mecklenburg	40.0
Gladys A. Robinson	28	Guilford	38.0
Natalie S. Murdock	20	Durham	33.0

2021 LBR RATING

House

Member	District	Home County	2021 LBR
Timothy D. Moffitt	117	Henderson	100.5
John R. Bell, IV	10	Wayne	99.9
Tim Moore	111	Cleveland	99.6
Destin Hall	87	Caldwell	99.6
Jason Saine	97	Lincoln	98.9
John R. Bradford, III	98	Mecklenburg	98.9
Donny Lambeth	75	Forsyth	98.9
Jon Hardister	59	Guilford	98.8
Dean Arp	69	Union	98.5
Dennis Riddell	64	Alamance	98.2
William D. Brisson	22	Bladen	97.8
Donna McDowell White	26	Johnston	97.3
James L. Boles, Jr.	52	Moore	97.2
John Szoka	45	Cumberland	97.2
Jimmy Dixon	4	Duplin	97.0
Patricia (Pat) McElraft	13	Carteret	97.0
Chris Humphrey	12	Lenoir	96.7
Brenden H. Jones	46	Columbus	96.7
Kyle Hall	91	Stokes	96.4
Larry W. Potts	81	Davidson	96.3
Harry Warren	76	Rowan	96.0
Matthew Winslow	7	Franklin	95.8
John Faircloth	62	Guilford	95.4
Grey Mills	95	Iredell	95.3
Dana Bumgardner (Deceased 10.2.21)	109	Gaston	95.3
Jeffrey Elmore	94	Wilkes	95.3
Jake Johnson	113	Polk	95.2
Kristin Baker, MD	82	Cabarrus	95.2
Charles W. Miller	19	Brunswick	95.0
Frank Iler	17	Brunswick	95.0
Jeffrey C. McNeely	84	Iredell	95.0
Carson Smith	16	Pender	95.0
Larry C. Strickland	28	Johnston	94.8
Wayne Sasser	67	Stanly	94.6

Member	District	Home County	2021 LBR
Sam Watford	80	Davidson	94.6
Karl E. Gillespie	120	Macon	94.4
Ted Davis, Jr.	19	New Hanover	94.4
Hugh Blackwell	86	Burke	94.2
Kelly E. Hastings	110	Gaston	94.2
Mike Clampitt	119	Swain	94.1
Diane Wheatley	43	Cumberland	93.9
Phillip (Phil) Shepard	15	Onslow	93.7
David Willis	68	Union	93.6
Bobby Hanig	6	Currituck	93.5
Dudley Greene	85	Burke	93.3
A. Reece Pyrtle, Jr (Appointed 8/11/21)	65	Rockingham	93.3
David Rogers	112	Rutherford	93.3
Sarah Stevens	90	Surry	93.3
Mark Brody	55	Union	93.0
Erin Paré	37	Wake	92.2
Larry Yarborough	2	Person	92.1
Edward C. Goodwin	1	Chowan	91.5
Steve Tyson	3	Craven	91.0
Ray Pickett	93	Watauga	90.8
Ben T. Moss, Jr.	66	Richmond	90.7
Walter (Lee) Zachary	23	Yadkin	90.3
Jay Adams	96	Catawba	90.0
John A. Torbett	108	Gaston	89.6
John Sauls	51	Lee	87.8
Michael H. Wray	27	Northhampton	87.6
George G. Cleveland	14	Onslow	87.5
Allen McNeill	78	Randolph	87.4
Mark Pless	118	Haywood	87.3
Keith Kidwell	79	Beaufort	87.1
Pat B. Hurley	60	Randolph	85.9
Jerry Carter (Deceased 8.3.21)	65	Rockingham	85.5
Mitchell S. Setzer	89	Catawba	85.3
Jeff Zenger	74	Forsyth	85.1

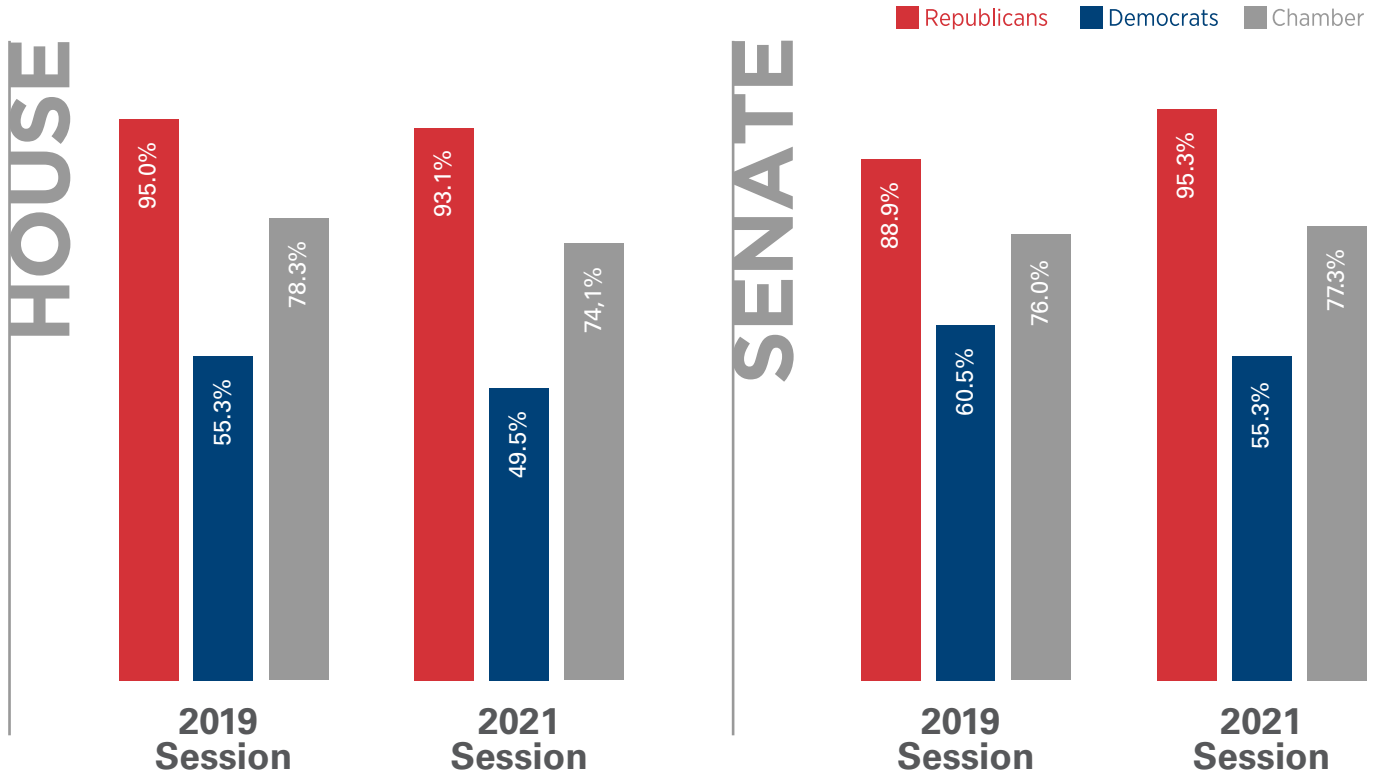
2021 LBR RATING

House

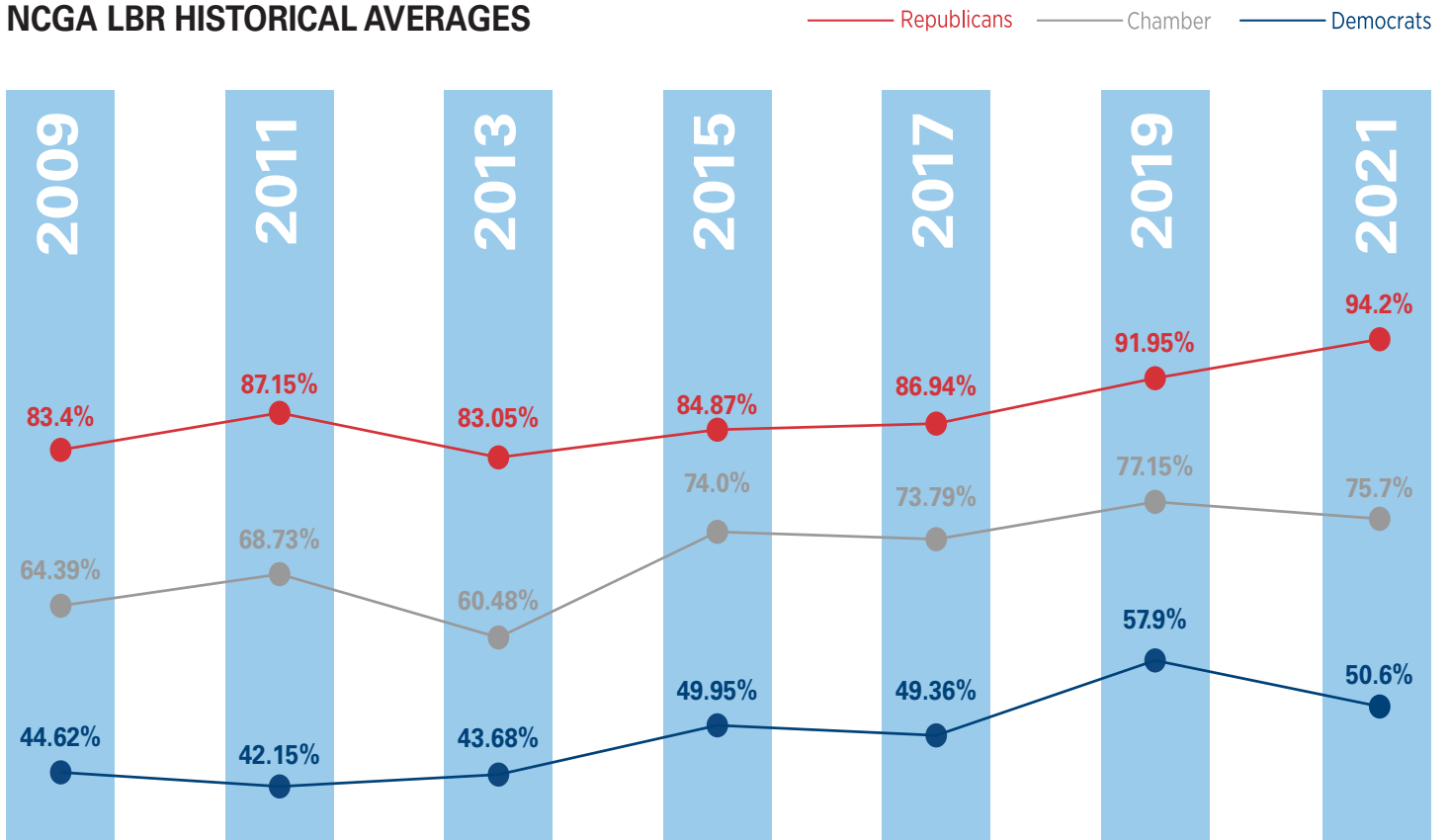
Member	District	Home County	2021 LBR
Larry G. Pittman	83	Cabarrus	85.1
Howard Penny, Jr.	53	Harnett	83.7
Howard J. Hunter, III	5	Hertford	80.1
Shelly Willingham	23	Edgecombe	79.6
Julia C. Howard	77	Davie	79.2
William O. Richardson	44	Cumberland	76.2
Brian Turner	116	Buncombe	75.4
Carla D. Cunningham	106	Mecklenburg	73.5
Joe John	40	Wake	69.1
Ashton Wheeler Clemmons	57	Guilford	66.7
Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.	107	Mecklenburg	65.6
Charles Graham	47	Robeson	65.3
Terry E. Garrison	32	Vance	64.8
Brian Farkas	9	Pitt	63.5
Garland E. Pierce	48	Scotland	63.4
Marvin W. Lucas	42	Cumberland	61.4
Gale Adcock	41	Wake	61.4
Abe Jones	38	Wake	60.7
Ricky Hurtado	63	Alamance	58.8
Nasif Majeed	99	Mecklenburg	57.7
Robert T. Reives, II	54	Chatham	57.0
John Ager	115	Buncombe	55.9
Cecil Brockman	60	Guilford	55.5
Graig R. Meyer	50	Orange	54.6
James D. Gailliard	25	Nash	53.4
Terence Everitt	35	Wake	53.1
Becky Carney	102	Mecklenburg	52.3
Rosa U. Gill	33	Wake	52.1
Raymond E. Smith, Jr.	21	Wayne	51.1
Terry M. Brown, Jr.	92	Mecklenburg	49.9
Grier Martin	34	Wake	49.1
James Roberson (Appointed 1.11.21)	37	Wake	48.0
Brandon Lofton	104	Mecklenburg	46.9
Kandie D. Smith	8	Pitt	46.4

Member	District	Home County	2021 LBR
Evelyn Terry	71	Forsyth	46.1
Allison A. Dahle	11	Wake	43.7
Wesley Harris, PhD	105	Mecklenburg	43.4
Rachel Hunt	103	Mecklenburg	42.5
Zack Hawkins	31	Durham	42.3
Linda Cooper-Suggs	24	Wilson	41.3
Verla Insko	56	Orange	40.4
John Autry	100	Mecklenburg	40.0
Amos L. Quick, III	58	Guilford	39.4
Deb Butler	18	New Hanover	38.8
Amber M. Baker	72	Forsyth	37.3
Carolyn G. Logan	101	Mecklenburg	36.6
Julie von Haefen	36	Wake	36.6
Mary Belk	88	Mecklenburg	35.2
Cynthia Ball	49	Wake	35.0
Vernetta Alston	29	Durham	34.3
Marcia Morey	30	Durham	31.4
Susan C. Fisher	114	Buncombe	27.9
Pricey Harrison	61	Guilford	27.2

AVERAGE LBR BY CHAMBER



NCGA LBR HISTORICAL AVERAGES





The Methodology

The NCFREE Research Committee reviewed all Objective evaluation recommendations made by those surveyed and selected the votes reflecting an appropriately diverse array, which represent:

- Meaningful issues to the business community;
- Matters in which free enterprise principles were distinctly involved; and
- A clear distinction of legislative perspectives on business issues.

Voting histories were secured from the NC General Assembly website and matched against the preferred position on the selected vote to produce the **Objective** score. The objective score represents that percentage of time a legislator voted the preferred position.

Any excused vote was not included in the calculations, but a recorded “not voting” was considered and calculated as having not taken the preferred free enterprise position.

In terms of the votes selected for this analysis, finding absolute unanimity within the business community for any piece of legislation, let alone a single vote, is a challenge regardless of subject matter or constituency impacted.

Because the NCFREE LBR utilizes input from a large number of individuals within the business community familiar with what transpired during the legislative session, it is a broad-based approach that avoids being simply a characterization of lobbying successes or failures. This assures the NCFREE LBR is an impartial and unbiased evaluation of disposition and not simply a scorecard measuring a singular legislative agenda.

For calculation of **Objective** and **Subjective** scores to form an overall Legislative Business Rating for each legislator, the NCFREE Research Committee considered the overall tone and tenor of the current legislative environment, the partisan balance in both chambers, and the volume of significant and important issues that came to an actual vote during the session.

Consequently, the NCFREE Research Committee decided to utilize a 2:1 weighted calculation of **Objective** to **Subjective** ratings to form the overall rating. In 2019, the NCFREE Research committee added another dimension to the overall rating of legislators: if a legislator was a primary sponsor of bills among those selected for the **Objective** rating, they received a “**bonus**” credit of .25 added to their overall rating.

In effect, weighting the **Objective** twice as much as the **Subjective** and adding a “**bonus**” credit for 2019 primary sponsorship prioritizes a legislator’s voting record while highlighting those who champion legislation that positively impacts the business community.

Senate

Bill	Short Title	Reading	Preferred Vote
SB116	Putting North Carolina Back to Work	Motion to Adopt	Aye
HB128	An Act to Reemploy NC's Workforce	2nd	Aye
HB951	Energy Solutions for North Carolina	2nd	Aye
SB228	EPO	Concur	Aye
SJR718	Confirm Adrian Phillips/IC	2nd	Aye
HJR469	Confirm Wanda Taylor/IC	2nd	Aye
SB636	Donor Privacy	Motion 9 to concur	Aye
HB218	Streamline Permits/Redevelopment of Property	3rd	Aye
HB489	2021 Building Code Regulatory Reform	2nd	Aye
SB605	North Carolina Farm Act of 2021	3rd	Aye
SB470	North Carolina Regulatory Sandbox Act	2nd	Aye
HB890	ABC Law	2nd	Aye
HB352	Hotel Safety Issues	2nd	Aye
SB605	North Carolina Farm Act of 2021	2nd	Aye
HB334	JOBS Grants and Tax Relief	2nd	Aye
SB36	2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications	2nd	Aye
SB172	Additional COVID-19 Response and Relief	2nd	Aye
SB379	Insurance of an Unregisterable Certificate of Title	2nd	Aye

For additional information on legislation and votes referred to in this report, visit the NC General Assembly website at www.ncleg.gov.

House

Bill	Short Title	Reading	Preferred Vote
SB116	Putting North Carolina Back to Work	Motion to Adopt	Aye
HB220	Assuring Choice of Energy Service	2nd	Aye
HB951	Energy Solutions for North Carolina	Concured in S Com Sub	Aye
SB228	EPO	2nd	Aye
SB636	Donor Privacy	2nd	Aye
HB196	2021 COVID-19 Response & Relief	2nd	Aye
HB496	Property Owner's Rights/Tree Ordinances	2nd	Aye
HB218	Streamline Permits/Redevelopment of Property	Concurrence	Aye
HB366	Regulatory Reform Act of 2021	2nd	Nay
HB489	2021 Building Code Regulatory Reform	2nd	Aye
HB211	Reopen Bars and Restaurants	2nd	Aye
HB890	ABC Law	2nd	Aye
HB352	Hotel Safety Issues	2nd	Aye
HB96	Allow Pharmacists to Admin. Injectable Drugs	Motion to Concur	Aye
HB781	Bring Business Back to Downtown	2nd	Aye
HB334	JOBS Grants and Tax Relief	3rd	Aye
HB320	Modernize Remote Business Access	2nd	Aye
SB379	Insurance of an Unregisterable Certificate of Title	2nd	Aye
HB776	RON	2nd	Aye

For additional information on legislation and votes referred to in this report, visit the NC General Assembly website at www.ncleg.gov.

About the North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation



NC FreeEnterprise Foundation (NCFREE) is the premier research organization in the state seeking to provide non-partisan analysis of the political landscape and its impact on North Carolina's business environment.



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