

Scott Stone: House District 105

Mecklenburg County

“There are currently no examples of people being discriminated against, so there is no need for such an ordinance.” – [Scott Stone](#)

In this Real Facts Legislator Profile, we focus on Rep. Scott Stone, the Republican representative from District 105. Stone was appointed to the seat by former Gov. Pat McCrory in 2016 and is currently serving his first full term after winning the election in November. Before serving in the NC House, Stone had tried and failed at least three times to enter the world of politics: he ran for the Arlington County Board in 1996 and ran for Charlotte mayor in 2011 and 2015. Rep. Scott Stone did not think the NCGA should change HB2 until Charlotte changed its own ordinance, even though HB2 cost Charlotte at least \$100 million and he opposed all parts of Charlotte’s non-discrimination ordinance, including protection for LGBT community. Stone claims he is concerned about education, but supported a Republican budget that shortchanges NC teachers and students.

Rep. Scott Stone



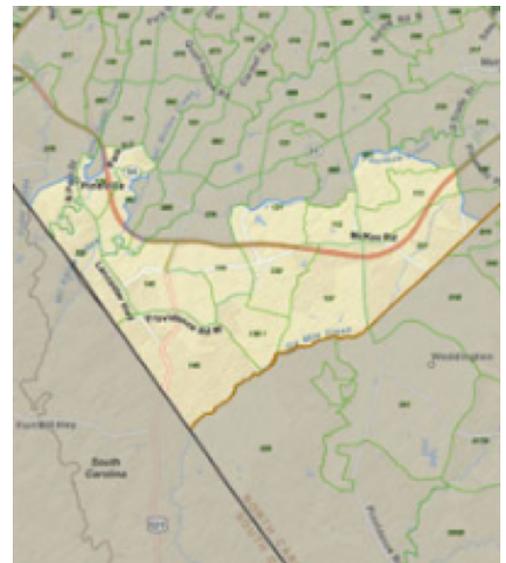
Summary

- *Stone insisted that Charlotte change its nondiscrimination ordinance before the General Assembly repealed HB2, even though HB2 cost North Carolina upwards of \$630 million*
 - *Stone did not think Charlotte’s nondiscrimination ordinance was necessary, nor adding protections for the LGBT community, because discrimination “does not occur, nor is it tolerated” in Charlotte*
 - *HB2 cost North Carolina between \$450 million and \$630 million and cost Charlotte upwards of \$100 million*

Despite claiming to be concerned about education, Stone supported the 2017 Republican budget, which shortchanged NC’s teachers and students. Stone also opposes busing to increase diversity in schools, instead favoring charter schools.

- *Stone claimed starting teacher pay was an issue, but the budget he voted for gave almost no raise to starting teachers*
- *Stone supports charter schools and his website refers to diversity in schools as a “politically driven issue”*

House District 105



Rep. Scott Stone did not think the NCGA should change HB2 until Charlotte changed its own ordinance, even though HB2 cost Charlotte at least \$100 million

Stone opposed all parts of Charlotte's non-discrimination ordinance, even protections for the LGBTQ community

Stone said that he would vote against all parts of Charlotte's non-discrimination ordinance for gay, lesbian, and transgender people. "Stone has criticized Democratic mayoral candidate Jennifer Roberts over her support of Planned Parenthood during the controversy over the group's sale of fetal tissue. He has also said he would vote against all parts of the city's proposed non-discrimination ordinance for gay, lesbian and transgender people." (Charlotte Observer, [8/15/15](#))

Stone opposed all parts of the nondiscrimination ordinance, saying it wasn't necessary. "Scott Stone: Opposed all parts of proposed expansion of nondiscrimination ordinance, saying it wasn't necessary." (Charlotte Observer, 9/12/15)

- **Stone said that discrimination "does not occur, nor is it tolerated" in Charlotte.** "After the defeat, MeckPAC, a political action group for the LGBT people, said it would work to elect candidates who support the full ordinance. The most controversial provision would have allowed transgender people to use the bathroom of their choice in public places. Howard supported the ordinance but without the bathroom provision. Before the vote, Barnes said he opposed the bathroom flexibility but hadn't declared his opposition to the overall ordinance. Before the vote was taken, the bathroom provision was removed, but Barnes voted against the ordinance. Clodfelter said he supports the full ordinance, as does Roberts. Stone said because discrimination "does not occur, nor is it tolerated" in Charlotte, the "highly divisive" ordinance was unnecessary." (Charlotte Observer, 4/18/15)

Rep. Scott Stone criticized Mayor Jennifer Roberts and Gov. Roy Cooper for the handling of HB2. "Charlotte-area Representative Scott Stone, cited Mayor Jennifer Roberts' and Attorney General Roy Cooper's activities as a major reason for the NBA's actions. 'Mayor Roberts started the entire bathroom debate by pushing a divisive ordinance over the strong objections of Charlotte citizens,' said Rep. Stone. 'Despite the subsequent negative publicity which adversely impacted our city, she was completely unwilling to take any action to mitigate the mess she caused. Mayor Roberts put ultra-liberal special interest groups, such as MeckPAC and the Human Rights Campaign, ahead of her constituents. Mayor Roberts put politics ahead of the people.' While HB2 was passed in response to Charlotte's Bathroom Ordinance, members of the North Carolina General Assembly were considering a variety of potential modifications to the law during the recent Short Session. 'It is not uncommon for legislators to make revisions or improvements to existing legislation,' Rep. Stone said. 'It is unfortunate that Attorney General Roy Cooper's reported sabotage of changes to the law appears to have had a significant impact on any potential bi-partisan compromise. Attorney General Cooper did not want to see any of the controversies put behind us. He wanted to try to use this issue in his campaign for governor. Roy Cooper put politics ahead of the people of North Carolina.'" (WSOCTV, [7/22/16](#))

Stone blamed AG Cooper and Mayor Roberts for the NBA moving the 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte. "On Thursday, Roberts said, 'I am deeply disappointed that the discriminatory actions reflected in HB2 have caused the NBA to move the 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte. All-Star weekend would have provided an excellent opportunity to further showcase our great and welcoming city. Charlotte has shown its commitment to equal rights and inclusion and will continue to promote those values. I am encouraged that Charlotte has the opportunity to host the game in 2019 if changes to HB2 are made and I encourage the state to take action as soon as possible. I appreciate the NBA and our Charlotte Hornets being such strong champions of equality.' Scott Stone, a Mecklenburg Republican state lawmaker who twice ran for mayor and lost both times, pointed to Roberts and state Attorney General Roy Cooper, McCrory's Democratic opponent in the governor's race, as the culprits. 'Mayor

Roberts started the entire bathroom debate by pushing a divisive ordinance over the strong objections of Charlotte citizens,' Stone said. 'Despite the subsequent negative publicity which adversely impacted our city, she was completely unwilling to take any action to mitigate the mess she caused. Mayor Roberts put ultra-liberal special interest groups, such as MeckPAC and the Human Rights Campaign, ahead of her constituents. Mayor Roberts put politics ahead of the people.'" (Charlotte Business Journal, 7/21/16)

Scott Stone believed that HB2 should only be changed if Charlotte changed its bathroom ordinance. "Would you support efforts to repeal HB2? Any potential modifications should coincide with actions by Charlotte City Council to change its bathroom ordinance." (Charlotte Observer, 10/18/16)

HB2 cost NC between \$450 million and \$630 million

It is estimated that HB2 will cost North Carolina more than \$3.76 billion in lost business over a dozen years. "The Associated Press used dozens of interviews and multiple public records requests to determine that North Carolina's "bathroom bill" will cost the state more than \$3.76 billion in lost business over a dozen years." (Associated Press, [3/27/17](#))

According to estimates, HB2 cost North Carolina between \$450 million and \$630 million. "We ruled that claim Mostly False. Our research, plus interviews with economists and analysis of other studies, has shown HB2 probably cost the state between \$450 million and \$630 million. Others have cited a \$500 million loss. The law has also cost North Carolina a minimum of 1,400 jobs." (PolitiFact, [3/7/17](#))

Due to HB2, the NBA pulled the 2017 All-Star game from Charlotte, costing the city upward of \$100 million. "But that wasn't even the biggest financial hit North Carolina took from a sports organization. In July, the NBA's concerns with the law spurred the league to move its 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte to New Orleans. The loss of the marquee weekend means Charlotte will miss out on upward of \$100 million, according to the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, using estimates from previous All-Star games in similarly sized markets." (Business Insider, [9/21/16](#))

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Despite claiming to be concerned about education, Stone supported the 2017 Republican budget, which shortchanged NC's teachers and students. Stone also opposes busing to increase diversity in schools, instead favoring charter schools.

Despite saying he will "fight for budgets which will recruit and retain North Carolina's best teachers", Stone voted for a budget that let education in North Carolina fall further behind

- *Note: Rep. Stone voted for the budget on [6/2/17](#), voted for the conference report on [6/22/17](#), and voted to override the Governor's veto on [6/28/17](#).*

Stone said he would not support raising taxes for education but would support further tax cuts. "Would you consider raising taxes for education? No. We have continued to invest in education to historic levels. NC has recently increased teacher pay faster than any other state in the country - setting average teacher pay at \$50k for the first time in history, on way to \$55k (even higher in Mecklenburg). Significant increases in spending as come from tax cuts, not increases. Would you support further tax cuts? Yes. Making North Carolina more competitive with lower tax rates has allowed the economic to rebound faster than any state in the U.S. The lower tax rates have incentivized businesses and individuals to move and invest in North Carolina, which drives up revenues. Our recent budgets have

produced \$400M+ budget surpluses and allowed the state to build a \$1.6B rainy-day fund.” (Charlotte Observer, 10/18/16)

Stone’s current website says he “will continue to fight for budgets which will recruit and retain North Carolina’s best teachers by paying them the compensation they deserve.” “The new state budget, which Scott is proud to have voted for, will provide much needed raises to our teachers. While we are on the right track, we still have much work to do. Scott will continue to fight for budgets which will recruit and retain North Carolina’s best teachers by paying them the compensation they deserve. We must continue to drive graduation rates higher. Scott believes strongly in providing a pathway to career opportunities through Apprenticeships / Internships which can help keep kids in school.” (Elect Scott Stone, retrieved [10/10/17](#))

- **In 2015, one of Stone’s priorities was recruiting and retaining good teachers, which included raising teacher pay.** “The first priority listed on Stone's website is "Support our Teachers- As a community we must come together to ensure CMS recruits and retains the nation's best teachers. This will include providing higher pay and the in-class tools they need to be successful. We must prioritize spending to keep more money in the classroom." Federal, state and county tax money pay for local schools, but city government has no role in school budgets or teacher pay.” (Charlotte Business Journal, 6/3/15)

Stone said that the state could increase starting teacher pay. “Stone said he doesn't want toll lanes on Interstate 485. ‘On 485, how much of a done deal is that? Is that decision reversible?’ Stone said. As a legislator, Stone said he would continue ‘with what the legislature has done with tax reform.’ ‘Everyone said we would see revenues drop,’ Stone said, yet North Carolina is now running a surplus. ‘That was all by lowering taxes, and there is room to lower tax rates some more.’ Stone also said he supports charter schools and said the state could increase starting teacher pay. He said he would be an effective legislator, and noted that Schaffer, who currently holds the seat, supports him. ‘I have a lot of strong allies with the House caucus,’ he said.” (Charlotte Observer, 2/21/16)

Under the Republican budget, starting teachers will receive little to no raise. “Most public school teachers will receive a pay hike of 9.6 percent over the next two years, which is a significant jump. However, starting teachers and our most experienced teachers receive little or no raises. Total education spending came in about 30% less than Gov. Cooper’s proposed spending. (\$755m to \$520m) and per pupil spending is still 6.7% below pre-Recession level. In the spring of 2016, Senator Phil Berger unveiled a plan to bring average teacher pay to \$54,224 in the 17-18 school year. This budget fails to meet Senator Berger’s promise.” (Stronger NC, [6/26/17](#))

Gov. Cooper’s proposed budget would have increased education spending by \$755 million. “Cooper increased education spending in the coming year by \$755 million; the House and Senate weakly approved half that much.” (News & Observer, Editorial, [6/3/17](#))

The Republican budget spent 30 percent less on education than the Governor’s proposed budget. “Most public school teachers will receive a pay hike of 9.6 percent over the next two years, which is a significant jump. However, starting teachers and our most experienced teachers receive little or no raises. Total education spending came in about 30% less than Gov. Cooper’s proposed spending. (\$755m to \$520m) and per pupil spending is still 6.7% below pre-Recession level. In the spring of 2016, Senator Phil Berger unveiled a plan to bring average teacher pay to \$54,224 in the 17-18 school year. This budget fails to meet Senator Berger’s promise.” (Stronger NC, [6/26/17](#))

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Teacher pay still almost \$10K less than the national average

North Carolina's average teacher salary for 2017 is \$9,543 less than the national average. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

Headline: "Average teacher pay in NC falls short of \$50,000 mark." "Average teacher pay in North Carolina this school year falls short of the \$50,000 mark touted by state lawmakers and former Gov. Pat McCrory last fall, according to data released this week by the Department of Public Instruction. The actual figure is \$49,837, which is hardly a huge miss at less than \$200 off the mark, but critics say that gap points to deeper problems with how state and local governments pay educators." (WRAL, [2/3/17](#))

2015 Average Salary of Teachers	2015 Rank	2016 Average Salary of Teachers	2016 Rank	2017 Estimated Average Salary of Teachers	2017 Estimated Rank
\$47497	40	\$47,941	41	\$49,407	36

(NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina ranked 47th in teacher job opportunity and competition, 44th state overall for teachers. Job opportunity and competition ranking was based on average starting salary, media annual salary, average teacher pensions, average teacher demand, public school enrollment growth and 10-year change in teacher salaries. (WalletHub, [9/26/2016](#))

North Carolina projected to spend less per student in 2017 than 2016

Dropped ranking from 42 to 43 from 2016 to 2017

North Carolina was ranked 42nd in per pupil spending in 2016. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina was projected to rank 43rd in per pupil spending in 2017. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina decreased per pupil spending from 2016 to 2017

- **NOTE:** NEA rankings include federal funding in per pupil spending totals, chart below breaks down per pupil expenditure by government entity.

North Carolina's per pupil spending in fall enrollment in 2016 was \$8,887.56. (NC Public Schools, accessed, [5/17/2017](#))

North Carolina's per pupil spending in fall enrollment projected for 2017 was \$8,940. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina only ahead of Mississippi in the Southeast in per pupil spending

North Carolina only beats Mississippi for per pupil spending in the Southeast. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina spent \$3,044 less than national average per student

North Carolina's per pupil spending in fall enrollment projected for 2017 was \$8,940. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

The US Average per pupil spending in fall enrollment projected for 2017 was \$11,984. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

N.C. Per Pupil Expenditures				
School Year	Local	State	Federal	Total
2015-2016	2,157	5,724.21	1,005.83	8,887.56
2014-2015	2,134.82	5,638.39	1,011.13	8,784.34
2013-2014	2,095.47	5,390.12	991.41	8,477
2012-2013	2,084.55	5,399.64	1,030.02	8,514.21

(NC Public Schools, accessed, [5/17/2017](#))

Rep. Stone supports charter schools and refers to diversity in schools as a “politically driven issue”

Stone said that he supports charter schools. “Stone said he doesn't want toll lanes on Interstate 485. ‘On 485, how much of a done deal is that? Is that decision reversible?’ Stone said. As a legislator, Stone said he would continue ‘with what the legislature has done with tax reform.’ ‘Everyone said we would see revenues drop,’ Stone said, yet North Carolina is now running a surplus. ‘That was all by lowering taxes, and there is room to lower tax rates some more.’ Stone also said he supports charter schools and said the state could increase starting teacher pay. He said he would be an effective legislator, and noted that Schaffer, who currently holds the seat, supports him. ‘I have a lot of strong allies with the House caucus,’ he said.” (Charlotte Observer, 2/21/16)

Stone’s website refers to diversity in schools as a “politically driven issue.” “Top ranked high schools Ardrey Kell and Charlotte Latin School sit within the boundary of NC District 105. In addition, many of the neighborhoods along the east side of the district are assigned to Providence High School. Scott will fight for state education policy which helps ensure that our local school boards focus student assignment plans on geography over politically driven issues, such as diversity.” (Elect Scott Stone, retrieved [10/5/17](#))

- **Stone said he was opposed to busing to increase diversity.** “Republican Scott Stone said he is opposed to busing to increase diversity. ‘Putting kids on buses isn't the answer,’ he said.” (Charlotte Observer, 8/28/15)

Stone urged Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to delay voting on proposed boundary changes. “Scott Stone is the parent of an Ardrey Kell High student, but he’s also a Republican state representative who serves on the House Education Committee. When he issued a public statement Monday urging Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to delay voting on proposed boundary changes, he made it clear he’s speaking in both roles – and that riling lawmakers in Raleigh can bring consequences. If CMS persists in a plan Stone describes as social engineering, ‘that could be something that comes up in the future that gets addressed by the legislature,’ Stone said in a phone interview. ‘At the end of the day, the legislature is responsible for the education of students across the state.’” (Charlotte Observer, [5/15/17](#))

- **The proposed boundary changes were meant “to break up the concentrations of poverty that often create low-performing schools.”** (Charlotte Observer, [5/15/17](#))
- **Stone referred to the process as “social engineering.”** “‘Superintendent Ann Clark appears to be engaged in legacy building, with a particular focus on social engineering within our schools,’ Stone said in the statement. ‘She is pushing a controversial political agenda that has been met with considerable resistance from parents. Given the magnitude and potential impact of these new policies, it is unacceptable for these plans to be finalized under the leadership of someone who will not be held accountable for the results.’” (Charlotte Observer, [5/15/17](#))