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# NOW NEWS

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NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

FALL 2016

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## NOW PAC endorses Deborah Ross for U. S. Senate

The NOW PAC proudly endorses Deborah Ross for U. S. Senate. Throughout her entire career, Ross has been a champion for women and their families and has worked tirelessly for fairness, equality, and opportunity.

Deborah Ross has been an attorney for over 25 years. She served in the N. C. General Assembly from 2003 to 2013. She has also been the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina.

Ross introduced the Equal Pay Act in the N. C. House and will continue to fight for equal pay when elected to the U. S. Senate. As a legislator her record included defending women's reproductive rights, defending public education, working for policies to support working families and to make quality childcare more accessible, and to combat bullying. She has sponsored legislation to protect families against domestic violence.

Ross was an outspoken opponent to the 2011 Republican budget that slashed funding for education, eliminated funding for Planned Parenthood, made

major cuts in a wide range of programs impacting women and children. She called the proposed budget "an assault on women and an assault on families." She was repeat-



Deborah Ross

edly recognized as one of the most effective legislators in the General Assembly.

The U.S. Senate race in North Carolina is very close. According to the most recent PPP poll, Ross trails by only 3 points. The most recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll has her ahead by 2 points.

Her fundraising is also competitive. Ross outraised her opponent the first two quarters of this year; however, as an incumbent Burr began the race with a large war chest. Yet Burr

is vulnerable because he has a very low approval rating and also very low name recognition.

Senator Burr has endorsed Donald Trump, supports the Republican agenda, and supports blocking the confirmation of Merrick Garland, President Obama's nomination to the Supreme Court.

By contrast, Deborah Ross has made campaign appearances with Hillary Clinton and works for an agenda that will support women and children.

North Carolina is a swing state that has been targeted by both presidential campaigns. The state went for Obama in 2008 and for Romney in 2012—by very close margins in both races. Both presidential candidates are expected to campaign heavily here. Polling indicates that the presidential race is also very close in North Carolina.

There is reason to hope that the Clinton campaign's efforts to get out the vote will benefit Deborah Ross and other down-ballot candidates. Many Republicans are beginning to worry that Donald Trump will drag down their U. S. Senate and House candidates. The North Carolina Senate race is vitally important because it is one that could help shift the power balance in the Senate.

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# NC NOW Leading New Fight for ERA

The Equal Rights Amendment is back nationally and here in North Carolina. This year NC4ERA, a project of North Carolina NOW, joined forces with Ratify ERA-NC to forge an alliance between two of the most recognized women's rights organizations in the state. The resulting ERA-NC Alliance with nine lead organizations has become the model for the states in direct collaboration with the national ERA Coalition.

The resurgence of activity around the ERA comes when women are increasingly dissatisfied with the status of women's rights. The demand for constitutionally protected equal rights is rising in response to recent legislation and continuing practices hostile to women, particularly in the areas of pay inequity, workplace discrimination, reproductive justice, violence against women, and political parity. The resurgence of a national ERA movement to secure a constitutional guarantee of equal rights for women and men coincides with the unprecedented opportunity to elect the first woman president. NOW has designated the ERA as one of its top three issues in its strategic action planning.

In 2015, supporters of the ERA led by Ratify ERA-NC (Co-Chairs Roberta Madden and Nancy Glowacki) and NC4ERA (Chair, Marena Groll) joined forces to have the ERA introduced in the North Carolina legislature by Senator Floyd McKissick and Representative Carla Cunningham.

The Equal Rights Amendment will be introduced into the upcoming 2017 long session of the NC General Assembly in both chambers. NC NOW extends our sincere thanks to legislative

legislative champions—Senator McKissick and Representative Cunningham. We look forward to their continued support.

At our annual conference on October 1 NC NOW will issue a call to action on the Equal Rights Amendment. Important information about the new 2017 ERA Campaign will be featured at the conference.

Donating your time and financial support to North Carolina NOW will empower the organization to support ERA efforts. For more information about NC NOW's activities focused on the ERA visit: [www.nc4era.org](http://www.nc4era.org). To support the ERA and the work of NC NOW, click on the "donate" button leading to the NC NOW Paypal link. Your support is deeply appreciated.

## NC Voter ID LAW Overturned—A Victory for Women

On July 29, a panel of federal judges on the 4th Circuit overturned North Carolina's voter ID law finding that its provisions "targeted African Americans with almost surgical precision."

But the law also had a negative impact on women trying to vote here. It required that the name on the photo ID presented at the polls exactly match the name on the voter rolls—a requirement that would impact women who change their name on account of marriage, re-marriage, or divorce, very widespread practices. Failure to update voter registration records with a name change could cost a woman her constitutional right to vote.

Unless this decision is reversed by an appeal, voters in North Carolina will not be required to present photo ID when they go to the polls. Overturning the law also means that early voting days that had been cut by the law must be restored. Early voting is a good idea this year because turnout is expected to be high. To find out when and where you may early vote, check with your local board of elections.

**NC NOW 2016 State Conference and Elections**  
**Women Making History NOW**  
**Saturday, October 1, 2016**  
**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**NC Advocates for Justice, 1312 Annapolis Dr.**  
**Raleigh, NC 27608**

**Registration—8:30-9:00 a.m.**

Refreshments will be provided at registration. The conference registration fee includes lunch.

Registration for non-NOW members is \$40.  
(You can join/rejoin NOW at the conference!)

Student registration is \$10 (student ID required).

Registration for NOW members is a sliding scale from \$10-\$40 (\$10 covers the meal).

Please preregister using the form below or on-line at [northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/conferences](http://northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/conferences) Hotel, silent auction & ad forms are on the website.

You may also register on-site the day of the conference, but lunch is guaranteed only for those who preregister or call requesting a lunch.

If you miss the mailing deadline, call Roberta Waddle at 910-624-6516 to preregister.

**Join Us**

2016 is a banner year to celebrate "Women Making History NOW!" We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Organization for Women, as well as the nomination of the first woman for president by a major political party, as well as women holding political office. We look at how far we've come, and what we still need to do for all people to be treated truly as equals.

**Meal**

A lunch (including a vegetarian option) will be served. If you have special dietary needs, contact Gailya Paliga at 919-539-7702

**Special Needs/Directions/Carpool**

If you need directions or have any special needs, concerns, or questions about the conference, we will be happy to work with you. Call Lori Bunton at 919-302-8148.

**Hotel**

Comfort Inn & Suites Crabtree Valley, 6209 Glenwood Ave. Raleigh. Call 919-782-1112 and ask to be put into the NC NOW group block. \$69+tax.

**2016 NC NOW Conference Preregistration Form**

Make checks payable to NC NOW and mail to:  
NC NOW State Conference, c/o Roberta Waddle, 3941 Gainey Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28306  
**Mail by September 25, 2016**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here if you are a member of North Carolina NOW
- North Carolina NOW Conference Registration fee \$40 (sliding scale from \$10 to \$40 for NC NOW members only).
- Special student registration \$10
- Conference registration for non-NOW members \$40
- I can't attend, but here's my contribution to help with costs.
  
- Check Enclosed. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Or Charge your *Visa or Master Card* (Please circle one)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# NC NOW

North Carolina National Organization for Women  
P.O. Box 24995  
Raleigh, NC 27611

Non-Profit Org.  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Raleigh  
North Carolina  
**Permit No. 2425**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Call to Conference—  
Oct 1, 2016  
“Women Making History NOW”**



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

***Count me in! I want to join NOW and commit myself to take action: to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities in a truly equal partnership with men.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Former/Returning member, different name? \_\_\_\_\_)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

\* (Important!) E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to affiliate\* with my local NOW chapter. (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Affiliation with a chapter assures that you will receive local newsletters and special notices.)

Annual Dues: \$35 (\$15-\$34 -- student / limited income.

*NOW does not wish to exclude members because of income.)*

(Annual dues include membership in NOW, at the National, State and local Chapter levels)

I want to make a donation to local NOW \_\_\_\_\_ or NC NOW \_\_\_\_\_ (check which)

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and dues to: NC NOW, PO Box 24995, Raleigh, NC 27611