

Press Release

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Fayetteville Attorney and Businessman Billy Richardson Announces Campaign for NC Senate

Fayetteville NC: Attorney and businessman Billy Richardson today announced his plans to run for election to the NC Senate, challenging incumbent Wesley Meredith in District 19, Cumberland County. Billy is a former two-term Democratic member of the NC House. While in office, Billy served on several important committees and commissions, successfully sponsoring legislation to make NC safer from criminals, ensure the well-being of our children, make our roadways safer from drunk drivers, create the Lake Rim Park, and build the State Veterans Nursing Home.

"From 1991-1996, the good people of this county entrusted me to represent them in the NC House of Representatives. My service as your representative was the greatest honor bestowed on me and remains so to this day. When I left the General Assembly, it was to shoulder joyfully the responsibility of being a good husband to my amazing wife Barbara, and father to my three children, Matt, Caroline, and Zack. My family has now grown to include Matt's wonderful wife Kim and their two sons Henry (age two) and James (two months), as well as Caroline's husband Brendon (a West Point graduate stationed at Fort Bragg), and their two month old daughter Madeline. Matt practices law with me, Caroline is an occupational therapist. Zack is a senior at UNC and will attend Campbell law school in the fall."

"With my family grown and successfully leading their lives, I feel it's time to return to public service, the passion for which I never lost. I strongly believe that we are not being fully and adequately represented in the NC Senate in Raleigh. Our community has always demanded that our servants place loyalty to people over loyalty to party, and even more so over small groups with extreme interests. Our diversity demands inclusion and openness for all citizens. Our citizens expect willingness to work with both parties and not to exclude the ideas and needs of its citizens because they are not of similar mind."

"I served in the first Republican dominated House of Representatives since reconstruction. Even so, I was able to work with my Republican companions to move the State forward. The legislature has changed, in my opinion, for the worse. Partisanship and division has crippled our legislature's ability to address the needs of our citizens. I believe I can be an effective bridge-builder between the two parties and put our State back a track of success. I will fight the well-funded interests that put profits ahead of our families and ensure that the people of Cumberland County have a legitimate voice in Raleigh."

"Our citizens expect and deserve that their elected servants respect this state's highly trained public school teachers and their assistants, as well as the other hard working state employees who perform essential services every day. When our fellow citizens simply ask to be heard by our leaders, the people demand that they are not dismissed with closed minds and doors, or disrespectfully given cookies, rather than the full faith and attention of their elected officials."

"Our citizens expect their servants in Raleigh to protect the precious resource of public water, especially municipal sources like Jordan Lake and the Cape Fear River. We cannot allow our water's quality, safety, and availability to be eroded by no-bid contracts for untested machinery. We expect our officials to consider peer-reviewed scientific studies when making long-range decisions regarding coastal resources, rather than barring science and common sense from consideration."

"Our citizens demand that the sacrifices made by our forefathers which have built the finest system of public colleges and universities in the world be honored and sustained, not frittered away for the sake of a few dollars. We expect our servants in Raleigh to maintain and grow our universities and to encourage cutting edge research which grows quality jobs in our communities."

"The past legislative term saw NC take many steps backward. It slowed, and in many instances killed our potential growth and development as a high quality of life state. It unfortunately saw our teachers jailed for protesting, instead of teaching our students. It saw our citizens by the thousands protesting for rights we had taken for granted, it saw public servants blatantly ignoring their true bosses, the people. Simply put, our past generations of servants sacrificed to give us this special gift we call North Carolina. We the people want it back."

"Fortunately, we are a resilient people in this great state. We will not tolerate our servants ignoring our voices and squandering our resources. These times demand that we offer ourselves as alternatives to broken governance. This is why I am running for NC Senate. I pledge to my potential constituents that I will listen to them. I will respect each citizen as my boss. I will work with both parties and with independents to find common ground and common sense solutions. Simply put, I will put people before party or special interests. These times demand, *you demand*, that we bring openness to our state government—that we remember whose ideas and concerns matter, and not draw lines in the sand. I am ready, willing, and able to lead."