

NC State Senate Seat District 47 currently held by Ralph Hise

Candidate	Ralph Hise	✓ Frank Hughes
General information	<p>Republican.</p> <p>Incumbent since 2011, currently serving his sixth term.</p> <p>Statistician and an Expert-in-Residence in the Health Policy Initiative at UNC-Asheville.</p> <p>Age 50.</p> <p>Website (very sparse): ralphhise.com</p>	<p>Democrat.</p> <p>High school teacher of world history at McDowell High School in Winston-Salem.</p> <p>Chair of the Avery County Democratic Party.</p> <p>Age 40.</p> <p>Website (very full): electhughes.com/</p>
An economy for all?	<p>Hise co-chairs the Appropriations/Base Budget Committee (candidate website) and serves on the Pensions and Retirement and Aging Committee (Ballotpedia). Hise was forced to forfeit money received from the Pfizer Inc. PAC, along with several other government officials, in the largest campaign donation forfeitures in NC history due to donations dated during the legislative session in 2017 (Wikipedia).</p>	<p>Hughes pledges to break special interest ties that lead to “permanent politicians,” hold corporations accountable for “health care deserts,” and prevent data centers from driving up utilities costs; “Everyday households should not have to subsidize the infrastructure needed for Big Tech. North Carolina tax payers should NOT pay Big Tech's bills! Data centers bring virtually zero permanent jobs, but they strain our grid, drain our water, and cost the state millions in lost tax revenue.” (candidate website).</p>
Healthcare for all?	<p>Hise was a primary sponsor of NC’s Medicaid expansion, which he paired with work requirements for able-bodied recipients (<i>The Avery Journal Times</i>). He is sponsored by health insurers, pharmaceutical and other healthcare organizations (Ballotpedia) and funded by the NC Assn of Nurse Anesthetists PAC, Emergeortho PA PAC, NC Nurses PAC, NC Health Care Facilities Assn PAC, NC Hospital Assn PAC, Cigna PAC, etc. Hise convinced the Senate to reject the portion of House Bill 998 which would have explored expanding Medicaid in NC under the Affordable Care Act. (Wikipedia).</p>	<p>Healthcare is the second of Hughes’ three platform pillars. He pledges to advocate for sustainable Medicaid and commercial reimbursement rates of low-volume rural facilities to prevent further health care deserts; to gain full-service capacity including labor/delivery and emergency care; direct dedicated state budget funds and opioid settlement money into local treatment, harm reduction and recovery centers; and fund regional EMS networks and medical transportation for essential first response and transportation (candidate website).</p>
Childcare and quality K-12 education?	<p>Hise supports higher pay for teachers. He “defends his record of expanding North Carolina’s charter school system — lifting a statewide cap that once limited the state to 100 charter schools.” He defends NC’s restrictions on classroom material widely described as critical race theory (<i>The Avery Journal Times</i>). He sponsored legislation to eliminate DEI in public higher education (Ballotpedia).</p>	<p>Public education is the first of Hughes’ three platform pillars. “I will fight to increase per pupil spending, teacher and faculty pay increases, and an end to the wasteful voucher system” (candidate website).</p>
Fair and accessible elections?	<p>Hise co-chairs the Redistricting and Elections Committee (candidate website). Hise has been investigated for campaign finance violations (Wikipedia).</p>	<p>Hughes wants legislative term limits: “This makes elections more competitive and ensures every district has representation focused on solving today's problems rather than protecting yesterday's power structures.” He pledges to limit his own tenure to 3 terms (candidate website).</p>
A healthy planet?	<p>Hise is sponsored by Duke Energy Corp PAC and the NC Association of Electric Cooperative PAC (Ballotpedia).</p>	<p>Environmental stewardship is the third of Hughes’ three platform pillars. He opposes the “unregulated expansion of data centers” and supports building environmental resilience as well as the region’s strong ecotourism economy (candidate website).</p>