

NC District 11 US House of Representatives election to replace Representative Chuck Edwards (R)

Candidate	✓ Jamie Ager	Jennifer Balkcom	Travis Groo
General information	Democrat. Fourth-generation farmer and owner of Hickory Nut Gap Farms in Fairview, NC. Grandson of Jamie Clarke, who represented WNC in the U.S. Congress and the state legislature, son of John Ager who formerly represented the 115 th district in the State House, and brother of Eric Ager who represents the 115 th district now. Website: agerforcongress.com	Republican appointed to run when Chuck Edwards decided not to run for reelection. Member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, representing District 117 from 2023 to 2027. Mortgage loan officer by profession. Endorsed by Donald Trump. Website (very sparse): jenniferbalkcom.com	Libertarian. Operations Supervisor at Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. Website: facebook.com/grooforncc
An economy for all?	Ager pledges to “push both parties to reform the tax code so the folks at the top pay their fair share” (candidate website). He supports expanding grants and the child tax credit for young families, expanding rural broadband and cell coverage to help small farms and shops reach customers worldwide, and investing in programs to boost economic development, manufacturing, and modern jobs (NCVoter). Ager has not taken PAC money (<i>Raleigh News and Observer</i>).	Supports cutting or eliminating the state's income tax (Henderson-blueridgenow, NCVoter). Government should get out of the way and encourage opportunity and upward mobility by reforming the tax code and reducing regulations on business (NC VoterGuide).	Goo wants to get rid of the NC income tax (Ballotpedia). Groo is passionate about Property Rights; (Libertarian Party NC): “I will put the taxpayer at the heart of all...it’s the foundation of doing the right thing both financially and ethically” (Ballotpedia). Housing affordability is a top priority (electionhub).
Healthcare for all?	Ager is proud that his grandfather Jamie Clarke helped shape early Medicare/Medicaid. “Every person should have access to quality healthcare when they need it” and “Let’s have robust Medicare services that allow folks to age with dignity — including services such as home and community-based care, and dental and visionI’ll defend Medicare’s power to negotiate drug prices and keep capping insulin and other essentials.” Ager also wants expanded VA care for veterans (candidate website).	Balkcom opposed expanding Medicaid in NC (Henderson-blueridgenow). She objected to vaccine mandates (Facebook). Balkcom praised legislation projected to kick Nearly 39,000 off health insurance (NC-11 Research Report) She opposes abortion access (NC Voter); in Balkcom’s view, abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, should not receive funds from federal, state, or local governments (NC VoterGuide).	Groo calls himself "mental health candidate 2026", stressing services for teens (<i>Smoky Mountain News</i> ; <i>Facebook</i>). Groo wants to abolish Certificate of Need (CON) laws, which prohibit health care providers from acquiring certain medical equipment or developing new health services, health service facilities, and health service facility beds without the prior approval of the Department of Health and Human Services.
Childcare and Quality K-12 education?	Ager wants to lower childcare costs: “If childcare costs more than your job pays, how can you justify working? I’ll push to expand grants and the child tax credit for young families. He supports teaching personal finance in schools (NCVoter).	Balkcom supports "parental rights," school voucher programs, and homeschooling. School voucher programs allow qualifying families to use public money for private schooling. She opposes education on structural inequalities in the US by race (NCVoter).	Groo favors school choice (electionhub).

Fair and accessible Elections?	Ager supports reducing corporate influence in politics and banning congressional stock trading (NCVoter). He advocates for voter protections: “We live in a great country where freedom is granted to everybody in the Constitution,” he said. “So let’s do everything we can to make sure that’s how we roll” (<i>Smoky Mountain News</i>).	Balkcom pushed for additional early voting locations after storm damage created extraordinary logistical problems for Henderson County voters. (<i>Milwaukee Sentinel</i>). She wants to strengthen voter ID requirements in North Carolina. Supports paper ballots and making all ballots available for inspection (NCVoter).	Groo is president of Better Ballot North Carolina; he is an advocate of ranked-choice voting (Better Ballot).
A healthy planet?	Ager has degrees in environmental studies and history from Warren Wilson College (NCVoter). Ager’s Hickory Nut Farm purports to be a regenerative agriculture and sustainable meat company (Ballotpedia). He opposes cuts to national park funding, advocates regenerative farming and farmland preservation, supports protecting public lands and environmental stewardship (NCVoter): “We live in the most beautiful place in the world and our natural environment is special” (candidate website).	Balkcom received \$5000 from Duke Energy PAC (<i>Raleigh News and Observer</i>). She voted for Senate Bill 266 in 2025, which sought to slow Duke Energy’s deployment of renewable energy; for Senate Bill 266 in 2025, which eliminated a 2030 climate pollution reduction goal for Duke Energy; for Senate Bill 730 in 2026, which prohibits utility companies from retiring old coal- or gas-burning power plants before obtaining regulatory approval to build a new nuclear power plant. She asupported Senate Bill 730 in 2026 to put regulations on data centers (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy).	Groo favors zoning to enable builders to be creative with their property to best balance supply and demand; promotes home farms and gardens (Libertarian Party NC); identifies environment as a “top priority” (electionhub). He Calls for volunteer efforts to establish native xeriscape habitat islands. Supports removing barriers to "home farms" (NCVoter).