



THE ADVOCATE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4
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President's Message

Robert Bortins

It has been difficult to keep up with all the great things that President Trump has accomplished in such a short time. Unfortunately, what can be done by Executive Order can be undone by a future President. It is vital that Congress codifies these changes into law. That means we need to continue to encourage our representatives in Congress (Hudson, Tillis, Budd) to get the work done for the people.

I was very encouraged by Representative Hudson and his speech at the County Convention. It was great to hear how our former Representative Dan Bishop is making a huge impact and how closely Congress is working and strategizing for Trump. Perhaps this is the year conservatives don't have the rug yanked from under us after working hard to elect politicians who speak our language, only to watch them get to D.C. and suddenly forget about us.

The fraud, waste, and abuse found by DOGE is just the tip of the iceberg. Those cuts alone won't get us to a balanced budget, but we need to get to one quickly. As Ronald Reagan wisely said, "The problem is not that people are taxed too little, the problem is that



government spends too much." An economy propped up by government overspending will collapse and cause a lot of harm. We need to be willing to go through an intentional short-term resetting of the economy rather than face an unintentional collapse from government bloat. That might mean our 401Ks look a little soft for a few years, but that is better than our savings being worth nothing because we have collapsed under the weight of government.

We need to "Win Moore" in 2026, and to do that we need funding. Democrats think they can flip North Carolina, and we are the ones to stop them. Our summer golf fundraiser is June 9th. We need you to register a team for the golf fundraiser, sponsor a 1st responder, or sponsor a hole. Please tell your friends. It will be a great time.

I look forward to our two final spring lunches, one with Amy Graham from First Health. I see they are expanding, and it will be great to hear about everything they are doing. In May, we will have a speaker from Turning Point USA. They did a great job turning out the youth vote in 2024 and should deliver a great presentation. Be sure to register for our upcoming lunches!

God bless,

Robert Bortins



Think Tank Meeting

Pinehurst, 211 Central Park Ave, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Come out every Thursday at 11am except the Third Thursday due to the Republican Men's Club Meeting.



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Amy Graham of First Health serves as the chief strategy & innovation officer for First Health and will talk about First Health's role in Moore County. First Health is the "go-to" source of healthcare for 16 counties. She oversees the strategy and innovation department, which consists of business development and planning, executing all transactions for professional services, and providing financial, analytics and performance data for the organization. She is also responsible for working with outside legal counsel and state agencies on licensure, certificate of need, and other regulatory issues impacting the organization.

Graham earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Healthcare Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to her role as chief strategy and innovation officer, she served as director of business development. She joined First Health in 1993. Graham is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and actively participates in committees of the North Carolina Hospital Association and the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation.

The meeting starts at Noon, doors open at 11:30, at 600 SW Broad Street in downtown Southern Pines. Always lots of free parking. The cost is only \$27 and that includes a full lunch and the program. Register now for the meeting at <https://www.mcrmc.club/>

April Luncheon Speaker – Amy Graham



Pay your dues

Reminder – 2025 Dues are now due and payable. Dues are \$30 payable by cash (at a meeting) or a PERSONAL check (no business checks can be accepted due to NC political donation laws). Contact



Tim Helms at (910) 690-7005 for any questions.

Dues can be mailed to:
P.O. Box 1812
Southern Pines, NC 28388

April 2025 Luncheon

DATE: Thursday, April 17

LOCATION: **BanQ Building** - 600 SW Broad St, Southern Pines

TIME: Check in starts at 11:30PM

The charge per reservation is \$27 - cash or check - Check preferred if possible Exact change appreciated: - no credit cards

Sign-up & Cancel Deadline: 6PM, Friday, April 11, 2025

(You will be asked to pay \$27 per reservation if you are a no-show or if you cancel after the deadline.)

Register at <https://www.mcrmc.club/>

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "BANQ" for \$27

**"Please contact Pat Haggerty
(pat@patrickhaggerty.com) with your
suggestions for future speakers."**



Robert Levy

War Technology: Necessary But Never Sufficient

I hear it all the time. The Pentagon needs the latest technology from drones to missiles, from submarines to surface ships, all powered by the latest AI technology. The reason they say is that the next war will not be fought on a conventional battlefield, but from offices with wall-to-wall laptops. Piloted aircraft will be replaced by drones controlled from afar. Ships and subs might even be remote controlled, too. The industrial complex argues, we must spend billions and perhaps trillions on “remote control war.”

Clearly, America needs the best technology for our military. But maybe now Pete Hegseth gets it. If we want to win the next war, we need to invest just as heavily in the old-fashioned infantry “grunt.”

Remote control war is a staple of science fiction. So the story goes, one nation fires missiles at the other, either on purpose or by mistake. Each nation then launches more remote-control weaponry wiping out all civilization except for the Elon Musk character and one woman who serves as his “love interest.” They then escape the holocaust in a spaceship in search of a new planet called Zyra.

Well, that is fiction. This is fact. Remote control war is nothing new. It has not won wars and never will. Drones and smart bombs are valuable but not determinative elements of war fighting. After the bombs hit their targets, after the drones crash into the enemy headquarters and after the pagers explode in the hands of the terrorist commanders, only “boots on the ground” can actually win the war.

Eliminating the enemy remotely is the dream of generals and foot soldiers alike. If the enemy can be eliminated from afar, there is less danger for war fighters. The goal of any army during war is to maximize enemy casualties while minimizing damage to one’s own forces. So remote war seems to be worth the investment. It’s “cool” to control a deadly drone from a video game panel in a bunker 1,000 miles from the battlefield. But a war cannot be won that way.

Remote war technology is as old as a cannon with an exploding shell. The first was credited to the Venetians in 1376. It became common by the 19th Century. But cannon fire cannot take and hold territory. At best, it can only make it easier for the infantry to follow up and do so.

The object of war is “victory.” As proved at Iwo Jima, victory only comes when a flag is planted on a battlefield, and no one shoots at the flag or the soldier who planted it. Only the foot soldier can plant that flag.

During World War II remote war fighting progressed. The airplane was the premier technology of that day. Some argued it could replace the foot soldier by terrorizing an adversary into surrender.

When Germany overran Western Europe in 1940, Hitler’s leadership was confronted with only a crippled Great Britain standing in the way of a lasting European victory. Without England as a base for operations, not even General Eisenhower could mount an offensive to take back Europe. Therefore, the need for Hitler to subjugate Great Britain, either militarily or by surrender, and prevent an allied counter-offensive was crucial to sustaining a German victory.

So, Hitler had a choice. Invade the British Isles with landing craft that the Germany had not yet fully developed or “bring England to its knees” with saturation aircraft bombing and a “blitz” of unmanned, unguided “suicide drones” called “buzz bombs.”

Instead of pursuing victory the hard way, calling Churchill’s bluff and “fighting upon the beaches,” Hitler elected to listen to his Luftwaffe commander-in-chief Herman Goering. He, like many generals on both sides, obsessed over “air power,” He suggested that the British could be forced to surrender with air bombardment alone.

Germany thereby abandoned the idea of a British land invasion. Such blind faith in this remote war technology proved fatal.

The Battle of Britain became an air war alone. When it concluded, England survived to eventually become the launching pad for meaningful attacks against German interests in North Africa, Sicily and finally Italy and France.

It was a war where both sides learned the limits of technology. Indeed, B-17’s and Lancaster Bombers pounded every inch of the German homeland. But the war could not be



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finally won until Russian infantry went into Berlin, house to house, and eliminated the last vestige of the Wehrmacht.

History teaches that technology can disrupt an enemy, but wars are won by taking and holding adverse territory. Only the foot soldier can do that.

When America fought the Vietnam War, that lesson was lost on Lyndon Johnson and later, Richard Nixon. They tried to win the war by “bombing North Vietnam into the Stone Age.” The North Vietnamese, demonstrating similar resolve to the British during the air assault on London, simply hunkered down in tunnels and other shelters. Aided by traitors like actress Jane Fonda, the North Vietnamese found the will to live in the harshest of conditions while fighting their enemies. This low technology resistance to high technology investment eventually defeated the American and allied armies.

Today, over-reliance on technology is also a serious flaw in America's and Israel's Middle East strategy. Israel spent over a year bombing Gaza, a strip of land covering only about 141 square miles. By comparison, Berlin, about double the square milage of The Gaza Strip, was subdued by the Russians in less than a month.

Today, Hamas is simply copying the British in the “blitz” and the North Vietnamese during the B-52 bombings of Hanoi, Haiphong and communist held Indochina generally. “Hunker down underground in tunnels or in subways to survive the bombs. Then force an adversary to fight on the beaches or in the streets between the mines and the booby traps. If they cannot or will not, eventually low technology can prevail.

Especially in an a-symmetrical conflict, to win a war, foot soldiers must take and hold enemy territory. They must physically disarm their enemy, imprison collaborators and set up a sufficient government to permanently pacify the population. “Occupation” is a dirty word in international diplomacy. But, without it, victory cannot be sustained.

Grunts get dirty. Their job can be deadly. But only a soldier on the ground can go house to house and into underground hiding places to root out an enemy. Unless a nation or an army is willing to do so, final victory cannot be obtained. Technology cannot plant a flag deep enough to make victory permanent. Any country, Congress or Defense Secretary unwilling to commit to an effective infantry should not enter any war.

Robert M. Levy - PsychodadRobert@gmail.com



April 4th – Join us for Pint & Politics
Southern Pines Brewery 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Newsletter – David Norris

Like you I see the news reports and the social media posts of the uber left “protesting” Tesla. There are several things I am amazed at concerning the protests. First, there is the lack of awareness of the vandals of Tesla Cars and the fact that Tesla's have cameras which can record them. How many reports must we watch before Tesla vandals get the message that they are being watched? Either this is hubris or pure ignorance on the part of the leftists.



Vandalizing private vehicles is bad enough but the rage from the left has also turned to arson in some cases. Pam Bondi, the Attorney General for the US is promising prosecution of the vandals and stiff jail time.



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Even here in Moore County the utter hatred for Elon Musk by the Democrat party is palatable. As of the writing of this article a protest is planned for Saturday April 5th at 1pm around the Courthouse Square in Carthage, where protestors from neighboring Scotland County are being encouraged to participate. I have no doubt protesters will even travel from out of state to participate in the airing of their fake outrage.



Democratic Women of Scotland County ...
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1d ·

Hands Off Rally April 5th! Can't make it to Raleigh?
Join Carthage!



mobilize.us

Hands Off! Moore County, NC Fights Back · Hands Off

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There are rumors of a counter protest during the same time by local patriots. My hope is that everyone keeps a calm level head and there is no violence.

So, the big question is, what is “the beef”? This is from the hands off 2025.com website:

This is a nationwide mobilization to stop the most brazen power grab in modern history. Trump, Musk, and their billionaire cronies are orchestrating an all-out

assault on our government, our economy, and our basic rights—enabled by Congress every step of the way.

They want to strip America for parts—shuttering Social Security offices, firing essential workers, eliminating consumer protections, and gutting Medicaid—all to bankroll their billionaire tax scam. They’re handing over our tax dollars, our public services, and our democracy to the ultra-rich.

So, let's take a look at this statement point by point.

brazen power grab in modern history - yep, I agree and would be upset myself if this were not any other way. I voted for this!

Trump, Musk, and their billionaire cronies are orchestrating an all-out assault on our government – nope – this is an assault on the power, money and greed that has been wielded by the Democrat party for longer than I care to mention. The public purse was the Democrat piggy bank and its high time this stopped and I for one am forever thankful Trump is taking tackling this head on. The graft by Democrats is coming to an abrupt halt and this has the leftists worried.

Basic rights being stripped away – All I can say is that this is an outright lie by the left, but centers around the removal of self-importance of the alphabet gang.

shutting Social Security offices – Everyone that is entitled to social security is getting it. Except for the 200-year old's stealing from the public coffers.

eliminating consumer protections, and gutting Medicaid—all to bankroll their billionaire tax scam. They’re handing over our tax dollars, our public services, and our democracy to the ultra-rich. – what can I say but this is just outright lies from the left.

The real problem Democrats have, is that with DOGE and Elon Musk a light is shining on their graft and public money scams. **Keep up the good work Elon and President Trump.**



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The Grand Old Party

The Republican Party, often called the GOP (short for “Grand Old Party”) is one of two major political parties in the United States. Founded in 1854 as a coalition opposing the extension of slavery into Western territories, the Republican Party fought to protect the rights of African Americans after the Civil War. Today’s GOP is generally socially conservative, and favors smaller government, less regulation, lower taxes and less federal intervention in the economy.



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NC GOP Update

By Jason Simmons - North Carolina Republican Party chairman

Reprinted by Permission – from *Op Ed – North State Journal*

On Election Day in 2016, Democrats held an advantage of 645,000 registered voters over Republicans in North Carolina.



That gap had closed to under 35,000 by the time of President Donald Trump's second inauguration and continues to shrink. The political party that ran this state for over a century will soon be dethroned in a historic rejection of their leaders and policies.

Whether it's the economy, public safety or education, Democrats have failed to lead and failed to implement policies to help North Carolina families. By contrast, Republicans have focused on delivering a family-first agenda to make our state a better place to live, work and retire.

The most impactful tax reform in North Carolina history began in 2013. Under Republican leadership, our state became a pioneer in tax reform, reducing the burden on families and small businesses. Individual tax rates were as high as 7.75% and are now under 5% and on track to go under 4%. Republicans showed political courage and belief in conservative values in order to make life better for families in our state. Corporate tax rates also went from the highest in the Southeast to the lowest.

Not only have Republicans made life better for families, but we have also invested billions of dollars in our rainy-day fund. Democrats in 2010 left a mess for Republicans to clean up: high taxes, sputtering economic growth and billions of dollars in debt to the federal government.

Once Republicans paid back this debt, leaders in the General Assembly courageously set aside funds to ensure we would never find ourselves in the same situation. Today, funds from these accounts are able to be deployed to help western North Carolina recover from Hurricane Helene.

Given these positive moves to improve North Carolina's economy, it's no surprise that others have taken notice. North Carolina's tax reform is a gold standard among other states that have followed our lead. North Carolina has consistently been rated a top state for business by CNBC. Make no mistake: Without Republicans crafting state policy, we would not be as prosperous as we are today. The

GOP continues to dominate legislative elections because the people of our state trust Republican policies.

Protecting communities and the public from threats is one of the first duties of government. As we have seen in our current political climate, one party stands for the rule of law and the other stands for sanctuary cities and criminals. Cities such as Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville and Raleigh have all set records in recent years for murders and violent crime while proudly proclaiming their sanctuary city status. These policies are opposed by a majority of North Carolinians. That's why the passage of legislation to require sheriffs to work with ICE and stiffening penalties for riots is critical to upholding the rule of law. The families of our state deserve to live and thrive in safe cities and towns.

Finally, North Carolinians are rejecting Democrats' empty rhetoric in education. Democratic leaders for generations have talked about improving education, but their actions only made our public schools worse.

When Republicans took over the General Assembly in 2011, improving education outcomes was the guiding principle. Meaningful changes have been implemented such as performance increases, Science of Reading skills and over \$1 billion in additional funding. The last time Democrats controlled the state legislature, teachers were furloughed, and education funds were cut in order to pay for Democrats' wasteful spending. Most importantly, however, there was a recognition that public schools were not the only way we can educate our children.

North Carolina's embrace of school choice has given thousands of families the freedom to choose an education plan that works best for them. In the most recent legislative session, the popular Opportunity Scholarship program was expanded to include all of North Carolina's families. When we give students and families more options, we open our education system to innovation and create a dynamic market for talent and workforce development.

The policy differences between Republicans and Democrats are clear. At the ballot box, North Carolina families are choosing Republicans and rejecting Democrats. Today, there are more elected Republicans in every level of government than ever before. As the Golden Age under President Trump's common-sense leadership makes our country great again, North Carolina's success is evidence that good policy does indeed make good politics.

