

BIOS



David Price

Congressman David Price represents North Carolina's Fourth District, a rapidly growing, research-and-education-focused district that includes all of Orange County, the majority of Wake County, and the southern part of Durham County. He received his undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and went on to Yale University to earn a Bachelor of Divinity as well as a Ph.D. in Political Science. Before he began serving in Congress in 1987, David was a professor of political science and public policy at Duke University. David is North Carolina's only member of the House Appropriations Committee and serves as the Chairman of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee. He also serves on the Subcommittee on Homeland Security and the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. He also serves on the House Budget Committee. David's constituents know him as a strong supporter of education, accessible health care, affordable housing, clean air and water, scientific research, and improved transportation alternatives. David and his wife Lisa were married in 1968 and settled in Chapel Hill in 1972. The Prices have two children Karen, and Michael. David and Lisa are also proud grandparents of Charles Albert Price and Margaret Elizabeth Price.



Kym Hunter

Kym is a Senior Attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center where she focuses on transportation, climate change, and good government. Kym has been involved in litigation over a number of major highways in North Carolina, and recently reached a ground-breaking settlement with NCDOT over the Complete 540 toll highway which resulted in unprecedented environmental protections, and a number of new climate change policies. As a lobbyist in the North Carolina General Assembly, Kym pushes for policies that favor higher spending on transit, bike and pedestrian modes, and dense urban development. Kym leads a coalition of groups in North Carolina that advocate for greater spending on non-highway transportation modes. Kym lives in Chapel Hill with her three children.



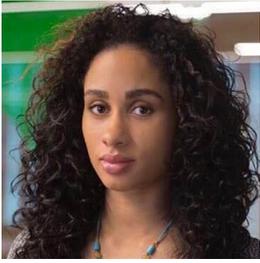
Kyle Clark-Sutton

Kyle Clark-Sutton is a research economist in RTI International's Center for Applied Economics and Strategy (CAES). He has worked with diverse state, federal, and international clients to analyze the environmental costs and benefits of technology, particularly in the fields of transportation, energy efficiency, and non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions. Kyle is especially interested in the environmental implications of the electrification and automation of transportation.



Nina Szlosberg-Landis

Nina Szlosberg-Landis is a civic leader with multiple involvements at all levels of government and a communications professional with more than 25 years of experience in broadcasting, media production, community relations and social advocacy. She was recently re-appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to a fourth term on the NC Board of Transportation, where she is Vice Chair of the 19 member governing body. She serves at-Large representing transit issues. Governor Cooper also appointed her to the Board of the North Carolina Railroad Corporation. She also serves on the Go-Triangle board and on the Transportation Advisory Committees of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organizations and founded the non-profit organization "The Hillsborough Street Partnership" responsible for the revitalization of a historic Hillsborough Street corridor in Raleigh, NC. She also serves as a director for the NC League of Conservation Voters, and is the board chair of LEAD NC, a civic organization dedicated to building political leadership in the state. She is married to Kel Landis, III. They live in Raleigh, NC.



La'Meshia Whittington

As a descendant of 'The Kingdom of The Happy Land', a post-slavery settlement rooted in agriculture and forestry established in the Appalachian Mountains, La'Meshia has made it a personal mission to advocate for agriculture, climate justice, just transition, rural communities, and communities-of-color. She served as NC 4-H State President advocating for agriculture, implemented a political debate series 'Teen NC Spin' featured on WRAL, worked as a political analyst for various campaigns ranging from state house to court of appeals to the NC Supreme Court; she served as an NC redistricting expert for various progressive organizations and as a college lecturer on the same subject. Now, La'Meshia leads work nationally in policy/advocacy, community engagement, and research on the intersections of human rights, social rights, and environmental justice, specifically environmental racism present in communities-of-color. La'Meshia is the Democracy Campaigner for Friends of the Earth, national board member of the national Mobilizing Committee for Democracy Initiative, Chairwoman of the JFR Fund Administration, and serves as the North Carolina ambassador for 2020 One Woman, One Vote Festival. Finally, after coordinating over 250 water and land rescues during the climate disaster: Hurricane Florence and coordinating immediate supply drops to hundreds of residents post-Hurricane Michael, La'Meshia is a founding member of Democracy Green-Green Responders, a community-based disaster relief organization.



Adam Terando

Dr. Adam Terando is a Research Ecologist with the US Geological Survey at the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center located at North Carolina State University. His research focuses on the risks posed by climate and land use change to ecosystems and the complex human-environment relationships that drive these processes. This includes developing model simulations of urban growth and land use pattern changes in the Southeast. Dr. Terando also recently served as the federal coordinating lead author and co-author for the U.S. National Climate Assessment's Southeast and Caribbean Chapters, which provide a comprehensive synthesis of climate change impacts, risks, and adaptation choices facing the nation.



Lauren Thie

Lauren Thie is an environmental program consultant for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and serves as Principal Investigator for the Climate and Health Program cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lauren earned her Masters of Science in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health.



Thomas Taft

Thomas Taft Jr. joined the N.C. Board of Transportation in June 2018. Taft serves as a principal at the investment company Taft Family Ventures. He oversees the day-to-day operations of Taft Management Group, all aspects of the operations, management, maintenance and renovations of the group's commercial property portfolio. An active member of his community, Taft serves on the Greenville Board of Adjustments as well as the Board of Directors of the East Carolina University Medical and Health Sciences Foundation. He also serves on several industry councils. He previously served as the governor's appointee to Eastern Region Economic Development Council (now NCEast), the Pitt-Greenville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Uptown Greenville Board of Directors and the Greenville Museum of Art Board of Trustees. A native and resident of Greenville, Taft attended the College of Charleston.



James H. Trogdon, III

James H. Trogdon III was appointed secretary of the N.C. Department of Transportation in January 2017. A registered professional engineer with more than 30 years of experience in transportation, Trogdon began his career with the department in 1985 as a highway engineer. In 2000, he was named NCDOT's Division 4 engineer, overseeing highway maintenance, construction and operations within Edgecombe, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, Wayne and Wilson counties. Trogdon later worked with the N.C. General Assembly as director of Strategic Transportation Planning. In this role, he made recommendations and provided analysis on transportation issues, as well as drafting transportation legislation for General Assembly members and reviewing transportation programs and projects for effectiveness. In 2009, Trogdon was named NCDOT's chief operating officer, a position he held until his retirement in 2013. As COO, he was a key leader in the department's effort to professionalize its decision-making process and become a performance-based organization with an emphasis on accountability and transparency. Trogdon currently serves as chairman of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Council on Rail Transportation. In addition, Trogdon has more than three decades of military service.



Anthony Lathrop

Tony Lathrop is an at-large member of the NC Board of Transportation, focusing on Finance/Local government. He chairs the board's FAST (Finance) committee and also serves on the board's Multi-Modal, Advanced Technologies and Audit Committees. He is also an advisory member of the NC First Commission, which was established this year by NCDOT Secretary Jim Trogdon to review North Carolina's transportation revenue model. Tony served on the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Planning Commission from 2011-2017 and chaired that Commission for three years (2014-17). He continues to Chair the Advisory Committee for Charlotte's creation of a new Unified Development Ordinance. His focus is on transportation infrastructure (T/I) finance, T/I's impact on economic opportunity, and regional collaboration on T/I, planning and finance. Tony is a partner with the law firm of Moore & Van Allen, and has practiced corporate law for over 30 years.



Janet Cowell

Janet Cowell is a Corporate Director and CEO of Girls Who Invest. She was North Carolina State Treasurer from 2009-2016. Cowell serves as the independent chair for IFM's Global Infrastructure Fund Investor Advisory Committee and as a director on the boards of James River Group Insurance, a specialty insurer operating in all fifty United States, and Channel Advisor, a global e-commerce software company based in North Carolina. Girls Who Invest (GWI) is a non-profit founded in 2015 with the mission of bringing more women into portfolio management and financial industry leadership. GWI provides educational programs, internships with top asset management firms, mentoring and a robust community to undergraduates at U.S. colleges and universities. Cowell held publicly elected office in North Carolina for fifteen years, including eight as State Treasurer, being the first woman elected to the position. Cowell is also a member of the NC First Commission, which was established this year by NCDOT Secretary Jim Trogdon to review North Carolina's transportation revenue model. Cowell is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and earned her MBA and MA in International Studies from the Wharton School of Business and the Lauder Institute. She chairs the Executive Education Board of the Wharton School of Business.



Patrick McHugh

Patrick McHugh joined the Budget & Tax Center of the North Carolina Justice Center in December 2014 as the Center's dedicated economic analyst. Immediately prior to joining the Budget and Tax Center, Patrick served as a Fiscal Analyst for the North Carolina General Assembly where his duties included economic impact modeling, tax and appropriation analysis, and monitoring economic development policy. Patrick has also worked for the International Economic Development Council in Washington, DC and the Center for Competitive Economies at UNC Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School. Patrick holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the UNC Chapel Hill and has worked on a range of economic issues including wages and poverty, equity and public finance, and sustainable development.



Jillian Johnson

Jillian Johnson is the Mayor Pro Tempore of the city of Durham, a long-time community organizer and activist, and a mother of two. She was elected in 2015 on a platform of racial, economic, and environmental justice, police accountability, equitable development, broadening democracy, and centering the voices of those who are most impacted by the issues facing our city. In 2017, she was unanimously elected Mayor Pro Tempore by her council colleagues. Originally from Virginia, she moved to Durham in 1999 to attend Duke University and graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in public policy and a minor in women's studies. She has been working in the non-profit sector since 2004 with experience in administration, community organizing, mobilization, communications, social media, and information technology. She is a co-founder of Durham for All, an organization working to build a multi-racial, cross-class, political vehicle in Durham. Jillian serves on numerous city Boards and Commissions including, the Joint City/County Planning Committee, Museum of Life and Science, Audit Services, Council Procedures, Durham Housing Authority, Durham Leadership Committee, Durham Youth Commission, Mayor's Council for Women, Joint City/County, Cultural Affairs Board, Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee, and Race Equity Task Force. She lives in Durham's West End neighborhood with her partner and two sons.



Natalie Murdock

Natalie Murdock has over a decade of experience in communications, local government affairs, grants management, project management, and economic development in various roles in local, regional and state levels of government. Natalie began her career working at the Institute for Southern Studies in Durham, NC.. Later, she joined the Land-of-Sky Regional Council working on urban and rural transportation projects. As a transportation planner, she developed a passion for government affairs and public engagement. She worked to ensure that members of the public, particularly marginalized communities, were informed and included as transportation projects developed. Natalie went on to work for GoTriangle as a Public Involvement Manager and Communications and Marketing Director. While at GoTriangle, Natalie worked on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Project (D-O LRT) and Wake County Transit Plan. Natalie served as the Deputy Director of Communications and Community Outreach and Partnerships Manager for Attorney General Josh Stein, Traveling Press Secretary for the Deborah Ross for Senate Campaign and Director of Marketing and Communications for GoTriangle regional transit agency. Natalie is from Greensboro, NC and has a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Communication Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill. She completed graduate work at Western Carolina University in Public Administration and in Leadership and Organizational Change at Pfeiffer University. In 2017, Natalie launched Murdock Anderson Consulting LLC where she serves as the Principal and Chief Strategist.



Graig Meyer

Representative Graig Meyer has been a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives since 2013. He represents House District 50, currently serving constituents in portions of Orange and Caswell Counties. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the House Democrats Campaign Committee. As a trained social worker, Rep. Meyer approaches legislation with an eye towards protecting those who are marginalized, vulnerable and oppressed. Prior to becoming a legislator, Rep. Meyer spent sixteen years working in North Carolina's public schools. He continues to work with schools and youth-serving non-profits as the co-founder of The Equity Collaborative, LLC.



Ashley Daniels

Ashley Daniels is a Southeastern North Carolina native, raised in Brunswick County with familial roots in Bladen and Columbus Counties. Ashley worked with the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network as a field organizer connecting with and advocating for impacted communities in Southeastern North Carolina before coming to work as the Southeastern NC Regional Organizer for the Carolina Federation in October 2019. Ashley serves on the Board of Directors and Advocacy Committee for the Cape Fear River Watch, is member and outings leader with the Cape Fear Sierra Club, and a member of the Duplin County non-profit REACH.



Debra Franklin

Debra L Franklin is a CATS bus operator. Using her motto #TransitandBikes4Life, she is Board Member of BikeWalk NC and certified League Cycling Instructor for the League of American Bicyclists. She built a coalition of Transportation Employees, featuring Professionals of Color, moving people, Goods, Materials, or Services. The Coalition seeks a road to change habits by way of education versus punitive measures. We are promoting “clean energy” but wondering about our current health and the air around us.



Suzanne Burnes

Suzanne Burnes is a long-time change agent in metro Atlanta, who brings more than 27 years of experience in sustainability, community development and environmental justice to her leadership of the Just Growth Portfolio for PSE. Suzanne’s passions are focused on the pursuit of an equitable, green and resilient world, and her strengths are in building relationships among diverse voices for community and ecosystem benefit. Her career has included EPA consulting around toxic site clean-up; founding an Atlanta community development corporation; leading Georgia state government’s efforts to create public-private sustainability partnerships; serving as executive director of local NGO Sustainable Atlanta; and founding Collective Wisdom Group, an Atlanta-based firm serving NGO, local government, higher education and philanthropic clients in their creation of cross-sector sustainability partnerships. Her current work outside of PSE finds her advising local governments across the Southeastern US on their sustainability efforts, particularly around partnership development and integration of equity into their climate resilience and green infrastructure projects.



Driving Is Exhausting Team

The Driving Is Exhausting campaign was sparked by an after school club at Phillips Middle School in Chapel Hill called the Green Team. The club was formed to help students learn about and address issues related to climate change. Students learned about county-purchased signs discouraging idling that were planned for permanent placement in all CHCCS car circles this year. Worried that parents wouldn’t have enough information to take the “no idling” signs seriously, they decided to launch a community education campaign, sparking awareness about the links between transportation, health and climate change. With help from student leaders across the district, temporary yard signs were posted on all school campuses listing the www.DrivingIsExhausting.com website where drivers can learn while they wait. The website offers facts and resources from NCDEQ, Clean Air Carolina and the EPA, along with an Idle-Free Schools Toolkit to help other students spark more awareness and action at the school level. The Driving Is Exhausting campaign encourages the community to walk, bike and take the bus as often as possible, and asks drivers to pledge to turn off cars and trucks when parked for more than 10 seconds. They’re also using Facebook and Instagram to help educate followers and reach a wider audience.