

# How we see Mecklenburg's five NC Senate races

**BY THE OBSERVER EDITORIAL BOARD**

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A key question in this year's election is whether Democrats can break the Republicans' grip on the NC legislature. If Democrats flip four House seats or six Senate seats, they break the GOP's veto-proof supermajority.

Five Senate seats appear on the Mecklenburg ballot, including at least one with a solid chance of flipping to Democrats. Here's how we see those races ([we endorsed in the House races last week](#)).

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## **Senate 40**

Democrat Joyce Waddell seeks a third term in a district that covers much of east Charlotte. She is challenged by former Mecklenburg County Manager Bobbie Shields, a Republican.

Voters in this district must decide what they want most in a senator: Someone who votes the way they like but is otherwise largely ineffective; or someone who holds different policy views but would bring experience, knowledge and bipartisanship to Raleigh. Waddell is the former; Shields is the latter.

Waddell has accomplished little in her four years in Raleigh, but she votes in a way that probably pleases this heavily Democratic district. Shields holds conservative views about taxes, government regulation and other issues that are out of step with a majority in this district. But we are impressed by the breadth of his background, his understanding of how government works, and his commitment to work with both Republicans and Democrats (of which he was one for 23 years).

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