

Sen Tillis Featured on Do Politics Better



NCTIA lobbyists Brian Lewis and Skye David visited Washington, DC on December 13 to interview U.S. Senator Thom Tillis for the Do Politics Better podcast, which NCTIA is proud to sponsor.

The podcast episode dropped on Thursday, December 21, and is hosted this week by Lewis and Sen. Jim Perry (R-Lenoir/Craven/Beaufort) as Skye is traveling.

"We wanted to end 2023 in a big way on the podcast and we thought a conversation with Sen. Tillis would do just that," said David. "But the Senator isn't in Raleigh until next year so he invited us to record the podcast on Capitol Hill."

The podcast conversation centered on Sen. Tillis' life story, including growing up in mobile homes, never attending the same school twice until high school, and his unlikely ascension to one of the powerful positions in American politics.

Sen. Perry and Lewis also break down campaign news after candidate filing, including Sen. Perry's blockbuster news that he is not seeking re-election.

2024 Election Season is Officially Here

The candidates have declared, filed for office, and now it's a race to November as the 2024 election season is officially underway.

North Carolina TVs, computers, and phones are already lit up with ads and donation solicitations from candidates for governor, Council of State positions, Congress, the General Assembly, and many local races.

"While the media is giving most of its attention to presidential politics and the governor's race, NCTIA is focused more on the state legislative races," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "Preserving the summer calendar law, protecting occupancy tax, TV/film grants, investing in Visit NC, and our workforce development program are decided by the Legislature."

NCTIA lobbyist Brian Lewis is a 29-year veteran in North Carolina politics and predicts not much should change as far as party power in the General Assembly. "Republicans will win a majority of the Senate and House seats in 2024, and they will continue to control the agenda through 2026," he said. "However, there will be lots of turnover in the new General Assembly in 2025 when they gavel in the new biennium."

That is because twenty-one legislators opted not to run for re-election in 2024, including NCTIA's close friend and ally Sen. Jim Perry (R-Lenoir/Craven/Beaufort). Sen. Perry guest-hosted the Do Politics Better podcast this week with Lewis and talked about his decision.

There's also a slate of current legislators who are running for higher office in 2024, including NCTIA friends Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) and Rep. John Bradford (R-Mecklenburg). Both are running for Congress.

Chelena encourages NCTIA members to reach out to local legislative candidates to talk about the importance of tourism and NCTIA's legislative priorities. "Offering non-partisan, policy-based information to candidates is allowed," said Chelena. "You can bet these candidates are getting full briefings from other interest groups that have differing views than NCTIA on the school calendar, occupancy tax policy, and more."

Any NCTIA members who want guidance on do's and don'ts in interacting with political candidates, email Vince at vince@themanagementoffice.com.



In observance of the holidays, NCTIA will not publish a newsletter until Friday, January 12. Follow us on X/Twitter for daily updates during the holidays.