

January 29, 2025

Chairman Jason Simmons  
North Carolina Republican Party  
1506 Hillsborough Street  
Raleigh, NC 27605

Re: **Resolution regarding Party Disloyalty of Senator Phil Berger**

Dear Chairman Simmons,

It has come to our attention that our fellow Republican and elected representative Senator Phil Berger has committed a clear act of party disloyalty, undermining our own party's efforts, regarding an important judicial position. It was such an appalling move that former state chairman Michael Whatley even put forth personal effort to support the Republican candidate Senator Berger vehemently opposed. We are hereby writing this letter to request that the North Carolina Republican Party review the facts and the attached Resolution approved by the Duplin County Republican party's Executive Committee and create the appropriate consequences for Senator Berger. Such clear acts of backing Democrats over Republicans cannot be left unaddressed and ought be clearly discouraged.

As you are well aware, charges of party disloyalty can be brought to our state Republican party from any county in our state in accordance with our current state Plan of Organization. Appropriately, there will be an automatic resignation invoked when any registered Republican is confirmed to have been disloyal. We ask that the state Republican party ensure this occurs immediately for Senator Phil Berger as party disloyalty undermines both the success and the strength of our party. Lastly, we request that Senator Berger be deemed ineligible to serve in any office under the Plan of Organization for a full 5 years since he is seen as a leader and his decisions and mistakes carry great weight potentially encouraging others in the same manner to overlook such loyalty requirements to our party's detriment.

ARTICLE IX - GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE, E. FORFEITURE OF OFFICIAL PRIVILEGES & F. REFRAIN FROM UTILIZING POWERS OF OFFICE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY states in part:

"2. Party Disloyalty

Any registered Republican attempting to influence or influencing the outcome of any election against a Republican candidate or Republican endorsed by the appropriate Republican Executive Committee or Legislative Caucus, other than by supporting an opposing Republican candidate in a Republican primary, may be declared ineligible to hold office under the State Plan of Organization at the State, District, County and Precinct level for Party Disloyalty by 2/3 vote of the State Executive Committee. Charges of Party Disloyalty may be brought by petition of 50 members of the State Executive Committee, or by resolution of a County or District Republican Executive Committee. The State Executive Committee may declare a Republican found to have engaged in Party Disloyalty as ineligible to serve in any office under the Plan of Organization for a period of time between 6 months and 5 years.

3. Automatic Resignation.

Any Committee member or officer of a County, District or State Republican Executive Committee campaigning in person, on social media, or in any other manner for a candidate, in any race, who is not a member of the Republican Party and is running in opposition to a member of the Republican Party, shall have been deemed to have automatically resigned from the Committee and any position. In addition, no Committee member or officer shall serve as a treasurer or member of a campaign committee for any candidate, in any race, if that candidate is not a member of the Republican Party and is running in opposition to a member of the Republican Party."

**"F. REFRAIN FROM UTILIZING POWERS OF OFFICE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY**

Each officer and each member of any Committee created pursuant to this Plan of Organization shall refrain from utilizing the powers and dignity of his office or position in any Republican primary for public office at any level. Nor shall any Committee created pursuant to this Plan of Organization make or issue, in any way, manner or form, any endorsement in any Republican primary for public office. Nor shall any Committee issue any contrary endorsement or withhold support from any non-partisan judicial candidates properly endorsed pursuant to this Plan of Organization."

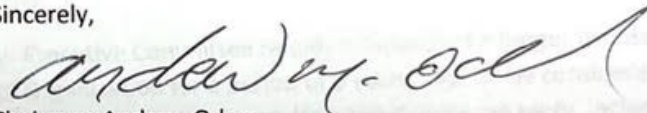
September 12, 2022, Phil Berger did publicly endorse Democrat Judge Ed Wilson for reelection against his Republican opponent John Morris. Judge Ed Wilson, Jr. is a lifelong (and registered) Democrat. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, where he boasts he was a fellow on his LinkedIn profile, even bestowed upon his father Ed Wilson, Sr. the naming of an entire wing. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is a well-known champion of leftist, liberal causes, which they readily expose all over their website, even placing abortion advocacy within a "social justice framework."

In juxtaposition to leftist Judge Wilson, Republican Judge John Morris is a known, respected proven conservative, well-qualified for the Judgeship he fortunately won, despite Senator Berger's opposition.

Judge Morris came from a family of pastors and when sworn in on January 6, 2023, proclaimed: "By God's grace, I will uphold our Constitution. I will uphold the rule of law and will be a judge for the people. I will be a judge who the people of this district are proud of." Morris then cited a passage from the Book of James in the King James Bible in guiding his approach to the position: *Be quick to listen and slow to speak. That, he says, is part of what makes a good judge.*<sup>1</sup>

Thank you in advance for your attending to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Chairman Andrew Odom,

On behalf of the Duplin County Republican Party Executive Committee

Enclosures: Senator Phil Berger endorsement of Judge Ed Wilson  
Resolution Charging Phil Berger with Party Disloyalty

<sup>1</sup> An Elon Law milestone: Alumnus elected to N.C. Superior Court, Townsend  
<https://www.elon.edu/u/news/2023/01/09/an-elon-law-milestone-alumnus-elected-to-n-c-superior-court/>

**Resolution Charging Phil Berger with Party Disloyalty**

**Whereas**, the North Carolina Republican Plan of Organization defines party disloyalty as:

"For the purposes of this Plan of Organization, "Party Disloyalty" shall be defined as actively supporting a candidate of another Party or independent candidate running in opposition to a candidate of the Republican Party or a Republican endorsed by the appropriate Executive Committee in a non-partisan election."

**Whereas**, the North Carolina Republican Plan of Organization states charges of Party Disloyalty can be brought by a resolution of a County Executive Committee.

**Whereas**, on September 12, 2022, NC Senator Phil Berger did publicly endorse Democrat Superior Court Judge Ed Wilson for reelection against his Republican opponent John Morris.

**Whereas**, Judge Ed Wilson was a Fellow at the leftist Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. The Civitas Institute is quoted as stating the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is the dominant funder of North Carolina's liberal and radical causes and describes the Foundation as "the roots of radicalism." (Myrick, 2015)

**Whereas**, Judge Ed Wilson has an established history as a lifelong Democrat, including as a former aide to liberal Democrat U.S. Senator Terry Sanford.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Duplin County Republican Executive Committee does hereby

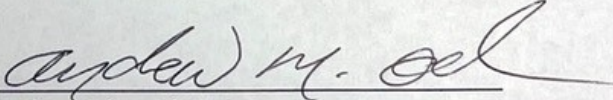
1. find Senator Phil Berger to have committed party disloyalty by supporting Democrat Judge Ed Wilson in a race against Republican John Morris; and
2. does hereby thus condemn the aforementioned party disloyalty committed by Senator Phil Berger and does censure him for failing to support our party's candidate when he instead supported the liberal Democrat candidate Judge Ed Wilson;

**Be it further resolved** that the Duplin County Republican Executive Committee does hereby request the State Executive Committee also find Senator Phil Berger as engaging in Party Disloyalty;

**Be it further resolved** that the Duplin County Republican Executive Committee requests Senator Phil Berger be deemed ineligible to serve in any office under the NC Republican State Plan of Organization for a period of 5 years, that he be considered automatically resigned from such posts immediately, and that he be denied any and all support from the Republican party, including being barred from all official Republican party and auxiliary club functions.

Dated: January 29, 2025

Signature:



Andrew Odom, Chairman  
Duplin County Republican Party Executive Committee

Works Cited

Myrick, S. (2015, January 27). *Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation: Roots of Radicalism*. Retrieved from Civitas Institute:  
<https://www.nccivitas.org/2015/z-smith-reynolds-foundation-roots-radicalism/>

Townsend, E. (2023, January 9). *An Elon Law milestone: Alumnus elected to N.C. Superior Court*. Retrieved from Elon University:  
<https://www.elon.edu/u/news/2023/01/09/an-elon-law-milestone-alumnus-elected-to-n-c-superior-court/>