

Representative Zack Hawkins believes in A Better North Carolina — a state where every person has the opportunity to live up to their God-given talents and abilities, from Murphy to Manteo, without discrimination and unnecessary barriers. Zack believes deeply that everyone deserves a chance to contribute to our state, receive a well-funded and affordable education, have access to affordable healthcare, the opportunity to raise a family with a job that pays a living wage, and have a state government they can trust and that serves their best interest.

Over the past 18 years, Zack has broken barriers within the NC Democratic Party (NCDP) and is consistently recognized as a successful political operative; leading statewide efforts for voter registration, ensuring elected officials are accountable and protecting the most vulnerable constituents. His most recent honor came in November of 2018 as he became the youngest democrat elected to represent Durham in NC House District 31. Zack has been recognized a 5 progressive freshman to watch and serves on the following committees in the N.C. House, Full Appropriations, Appropriations, Capital, Redistricting and Energy and Public Utilities and co-chairs the House Broadband working group. He was also chosen by House Transportation Chair to become a member of the House Select Committee on Transportation. He has been one of the most productive freshmen in the House with legislative accomplishment such as:

- DRIVE Summit and Executive Order. An intentional effort to recruit and retain teachers of color
- State and College ID Expansion. While the ID law was in limbo, bipartisan bill was passed to allow college and work ID to be used as acceptable voting instrument
- Updates to absentee voting law, early voting and return of last Saturday of Early Vote
- Updates to street maintenance law
- Parental leave for State Employees
- Passed a study bill to mandate work breaks
- Introduced stand by your ad legislation for social media
- Passed amendment to solve innovation waiver crisis for families with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Pushed for far reaching environmental bills to place NC on path to clean energy by 2050
- Leading the fight to diversify the teaching fellow program by HBCU inclusion
- Primary sponsor on repeal of Death penalty and ban on collective bargaining

As a freshman, Zack was chosen to co-chair candidate recruitment for House Democratic Caucus, leading to 117 of 120 house seats being contested.

Zack is driven by a commitment and desire to provide other North Carolinians the same life-changing opportunities he was given and to continue to uplift NC's slogan, "where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great."

As a native North Carolinian, Zack's commitment and passion for our state runs deep. Zack grew up in a dirt road in Eastern North Carolina, Beaufort County, in the small town of Chocowinity. This town of less than 1000 people taught Zack a ton about life that he still carries

with him today. His two decades in the Durham community have prepared him to serve his city, county and state.

Zack received a B.S. in Biology from Elizabeth City State University and later a M.S. of Biology from North Carolina Central University. During this time, Zack served the North Carolina Democratic Party and helped elect Democratic candidates both statewide and locally, dating back to Bush v Gore in 2000. In addition to serving as the former 1st Vice Chair of the NC Democratic Party (2015-17), Zack also proudly served as 2nd Vice Chair from 2012-15 and President of the Young Democrats of North Carolina from 2007-09.

He served as a teacher in Durham Public Schools and has always had a sincere passion for education. Zack also has more than 10 years of experience in higher education, nonprofit, and political fundraising; and alumni relations and 18 years of direct community and political engagement. Zack currently serves as the chief development officer for the Division of Student Affairs at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This role allows him the opportunity to use all of his talents to remove barriers to access for students in need and marginalized communities.

He's lived in Durham for the past two decades and he and his wife, Tracey; are raising 3 sons, Zachari, James Preston and Adam; and a golden retriever, Sophie.