

North Carolina Legislator Profile

Jon Hardister: House District 59

Guilford County

“This was the right thing to do when Democrats were in power, and it is still the right thing to do today.” – Rep. Jon Hardister on nonpartisan redistricting (Greensboro News & Record, 3/1/15)

In this installment of the Real Facts NC legislator profile series, we focus on Rep. Jon Hardister, a third-term Republican representing House District 59 in Guilford County. Hardister first ran for office in 2010, but lost to incumbent Rep. Pricey Harrison. He tried again in the newly created House District 59 in 2012 and was successful. Despite being elected thanks to 2011 districts later ruled unconstitutional gerrymanders, Hardister is a vocal proponent of independent redistricting. However, his voting record says otherwise with support of all Republican redistricting plans since his election.

Hardister rose quickly to power in the NC House and became Majority Whip in 2016. He is an Appropriations vice-chair and serves as chair of the Capital Appropriations committee, giving him significant influence over the state’s budget and the internal dealings that create it. Hardister’s priorities are clear. He helped write budgets that shortchange education and pushed for charter school expansion proven to take money away from NC school districts. Hardister favors deregulation for big business over protecting clean air and water for future North Carolinians.

Summary:

Hardister is a proponent of charter schools that drain resources from N.C. public schools.

- *Hardister has sponsored bills that help fund charter schools at the expense of N.C. public schools*
- *A Duke University Study shows that Charter Schools in NC are draining school district resources and reducing what services they can provide*

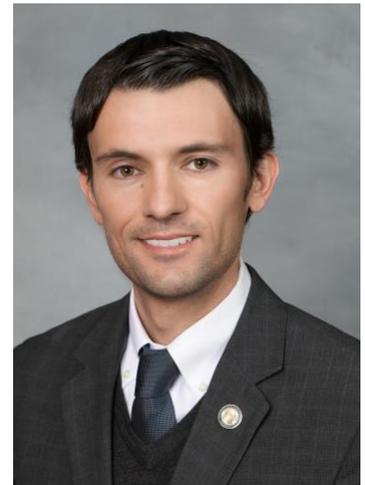
Hardister supports harmful deregulation in favor of big businesses instead of protecting clean air and water for North Carolinians.

- *Hardister voted for a bill that allows waste companies to spray “garbage juice” into the air without a permit that would disproportionately impact communities of color*
- *Hardister voted to limit the amount of compensation people can receive if agricultural operations are spraying animal waste on their homes, cars, and businesses*
- *Hardister voted for the 2016 “Duke Bailout Bill,” that was “damning proof” families could not rely on the state to protect drinking water and would raise rates to pay for coal ash cleanup*

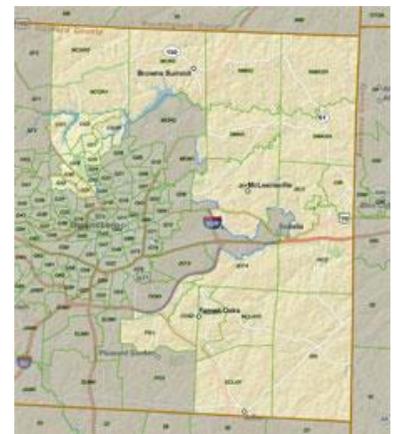
Hardister uses redistricting as a talking point and has sponsored unsuccessful bills to establish a nonpartisan process, but when voting, he sticks with Republican leadership.

- *Hardister has sponsored three independent redistricting bills during his time in the General Assembly, but all have stalled in committee, which Hardister says is no surprise.*
- *Hardister said the 2011 and 2017 legislative maps that were both partially struck down by the courts were “in compliance with the law.” He helped draw 2016 congressional maps that were also struck down by federal judges.*
- *Hardister “caved when it counted” on Greensboro City Council districts, supporting them at the last after vocalizing opposition for months. The districts were later thrown out by a federal judge.*

Rep. John Hardister



House District 59



Hardister is a proponent of charter schools that drain resources from N.C. public schools, even sponsoring a bill to force public schools to send tax dollars to local charters

Hardister has sponsored bills that help fund charter schools at the expense of N.C. public schools

Hardister sponsored H273 which gave charter schools more opportunities to borrow money and forced traditional public schools to send tax dollars to local charters. “Brandon and freshman state Rep. Jon Hardister, R-Guilford, teamed up on House Bill 273, which would give charter schools more latitude to borrow money on the promise of future state funding. The bill also pushes traditional public schools to send tax dollars to local charters based on enrollment counts, charging them a penalty if they don't. It passed the House on Thursday 73-39.” (Greensboro News & Record, 5/20/13; H273, Ref to Senate Education Cmte, [5/20/13](#))

H273 initially included provisions written with the help of lobbyists for a virtual charter school that would allow virtual schools to be funded the same way as brick-and-mortar schools. “From Sarah Ovaska at N.C. Policy Watch, who has been all over the ongoing battle over a proposed virtual private school, which would be backed by a company called K12: (State rep. Jon Hardister), with the help of K12, Inc. lobbyists, initially drafted language that would have automatically opened the K12, Inc.-run school this fall. The new version he 's working on will allow the state board a chance to review the proposal instead of automatically opening the school, he said. The initial version of the PCS was passed out in a House Education committee Tuesday, but Hardister displaced it and took it off the agenda for discussion after hearing concerns from public education and a charter school group about the automatic approval.” (Greensboro News & Record, 5/28/13; H273, Ref to Senate Education Cmte, [5/20/13](#))

- **K12 is a for-profit company behind several charter schools that wanted to open a virtual charter school based in Cabarrus County, the State Board of Education denied the application.** “You may remember this issue from last year. K12 is a for-profit company behind a number of charter schools, and it asked for permission to open a virtual charter school (online classes) based in Cabarrus County, but potentially pulling students and funding from all over North Carolina. The State Board of Education declined to take up the application, saying it didn't have the criteria in place to deal with virtual schools. Should they get the same funding, for example, as a charter school with an actual building? But Cabarrus County's school board approved the school, and it was set to open when a judge stepped in and put things on hold.” (Greensboro News & Record, 5/28/13)

Hardister sponsored H250 which allowed individual charter schools to change enrollment rules and lifted state restrictions. “Three Triad legislators are backing a series of tweaks for charter school admission rules. House Bill 250 would give stepsiblings and half siblings a better chance of getting into the same charter school by allowing schools to lump them together in enrollment lotteries. Current state law allows this for full-blood brothers and sisters, but not necessarily other siblings, according to state Rep. Jon Hardister , R-Guilford, one of the bill's main sponsors. The bill also would allow the schools to enroll the children of all school employees without going through a lottery, not just teachers and administrators, which is the current rule. It also would allow students who leave a charter school for less than two years to re-enroll without going through the lottery, Hardister said.” (Greensboro News & Record, 3/09/13, H250, signed [7/26/13](#))

Hardister shepherded a charter school bill through the House where it dropped protections for LGBTQ students. “General Assembly leaders have dropped anti-discrimination protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender students from a public charter school bill. Rep. Marcus Brandon (D-Guilford) passionately argued to add that into the bill last month. Then the House voted unanimously to bar charter schools from discriminating against any child in a federally protected class of people. But that provision was removed from the legislation during House and Senate negotiations on a compromise bill.

'We felt like we didn't need to subject that kind of policy in a charter school bill because it could have broad effect,' explained Rep. Jon Hardister (R-Guilford), who shepherded the bill through the House and sat on the committee that negotiated the compromise." (Greensboro News & Record, 7/25/13; S337, signed [7/25/13](#))

A Duke University Study shows that Charter Schools in NC are draining school district resources and reducing what services they can provide

A Duke study found charter schools had a “significant negative fiscal” impact on six NC school systems studied, between \$500 and \$700 per student in Durham County. “The paper, released in December, found that charter schools had “significant negative fiscal” effects on Durham Public Schools, the Orange County school system and four other North Carolina districts studied in the report. In the case of Durham, the study found that charter schools are creating a fiscal burden for the district between \$500 and \$700 per student.” (News & Observer, [1/14/18](#))

Charter schools are funded based on the number of students enrolled. “Charter schools get money based on the number of students they have but don’t receive funding to build facilities. Supporters have talked about [trying to increase funding](#) for charter schools. But critics of charters say they take needed money away from traditional public schools.” (News & Observer, [1/14/18](#))

Districts with a large number of charter schools are unable to provide services to students. “Charter schools in North Carolina are taking money away from traditional public schools and reducing what services those school districts can provide to their students, according to a new research paper co-authored by a Duke University professor.” (News & Observer, [1/14/18](#))

Hardister’s H250 allowed for significant increases in charter school enrollment without added state oversight. “Three Triad legislators are backing a series of tweaks for charter school admission rules. House Bill 250 would give stepsiblings and half siblings a better chance of getting into the same charter school by allowing schools to lump them together in enrollment lotteries. Current state law allows this for full-blood brothers and sisters, but not necessarily other siblings, according to state Rep. Jon Hardister , R-Guilford, one of the bill's main sponsors. The bill also would allow the schools to enroll the children of all school employees without going through a lottery, not just teachers and administrators, which is the current rule. It also would allow students who leave a charter school for less than two years to re-enroll without going through the lottery, Hardister said.” (Greensboro News & Record, 3/09/13, H250, signed [7/26/13](#))

Hardister supports harmful deregulation in favor of big businesses instead of protecting clean air and water for North Carolinians, even voting to allow Duke Energy to raise rates to pay for Coal Ash cleanup.

Hardister voted for a bill that allows waste companies to spray “garbage juice” into the air without a permit that would disproportionately impact communities of color

➤ **NOTE:** Hardister voted for H576 (H576, passed House 3rd reading, [4/25/17](#))

H576 would allow landfill operators to use aerosolization to dispose of leachate by “spraying it into the air over their property” without a permit. “House leaders are pushing ahead with a proposal to require state environmental regulators to allow the disposal of landfill wastewater and fluids that leak out by spraying it into the air over their property without a permit. The process, called aerosolization, is favored by the waste industry and by other industries that deal with large quantities of wastewater. As amended Thursday, however, it would not apply to dewatering coal ash.” (WRAL, [4/20/17](#); H576, vetoed by Gov., [6/30/17](#))



Leachate refers to the “garbage juices” that percolate and react beneath waste that typically contain dangerous materials such as lead, mercury, and other toxic materials. “Beneath the 5.5 million cubic yards of “airspace” — the amount of trash mounded above ground — garbage juices percolate inside the landfill liner. That liquid then drains into a giant holding tank, where it mixes and percolates and chemically reacts. Although the landfill is permitted to accept only “non-hazardous” waste, no one is opening every bag and checking for pesticide containers or cleaning solvents. The leachate — or landfill juice, to be inelegant for a moment — often contains lead from electronics, mercury from batteries, bacteria and viruses from dirty diapers; antibiotics, hormones and other toxics from routine prescription and specialized chemotherapy drugs; volatile organic compounds from plastics, toner cartridges, glues and cleansers.” (NC Policy Watch, [5/2/17](#))

Communities where over half the residents are people of color are 2.8 more likely to be near a solid waste facility, according to research published in Environmental Health Perspectives. “The adjusted prevalence odds of a solid waste facility was 2.8 times greater in block groups with ≥50% people of color compared with block groups with < 10% people of color, and 1.5 times greater in block groups with median house values < \$60,000 compared with block groups with median house values ≥\$100,000. Among block groups that did not have a previously permitted solid waste facility, the adjusted hazard of a new permitted facility was 2.7 times higher in block groups with ≥50% people of color compared with block groups with < 10% people of color.” (Environmental Health Perspectives, [07/09/2007](#))

Hardister voted to limit amount of compensation people can receive in lawsuits filed because agricultural operations are spraying animal waste on their homes, cars, and businesses

- **NOTE:** Hardister voted for H467 and voted to override the governor’s veto of the bill. (H467, House passed 3rd reading [4/10/2017](#); House veto override, [5/10/2017](#))

H467 would limit the damages that could be awarded to a property owner to no more than the actual market value of the property. “Under House Bill 467, the damages that a court could award to a property owner who claims nuisance damage by a nearby agricultural or forestry operation to no more than the actual market value of that property.” (WRAL, [5/5/2017](#); H467, Senate overrode the veto on [5/11/2017](#))

About 500 rural neighbors of massive hog farms say that clouds of flies and intense smells remain a problem, causing headaches and infusing households. “The 2014 lawsuits by about 500 rural neighbors of massive hog farms allege that clouds of flies and intense smells remain a problem nearly a quarter-century since industrial-scale hog farming took off. The smells can spark headaches and infuse households, they complain. Wind-driven spray has been known to coat a home’s exterior in liquefied excrement, some said. The smell clings to clothes.” (WRAL, [4/9/2017](#))

Duplin county resident: “Little kids haven’t had birthday parties outside forever.” “The suits allege that 89 farms spray hog waste as irrigation and fertilizer, and the odor wafts across property lines, forcing neighbors to flee indoors, turn up air conditioners or burn incense. “It’s pig poop and pee in the air blowing around,” said Allie Sheffield of Duplin County. “It corrodes paint on cars. It erodes screens in windows. It prevents going outside. Little kids haven’t had birthday parties outside forever.” (News & Observer, [3/29/2017](#))

Hardister voted for a business regulatory reform bill called a “16-page grab bag of deregulation provisions that loosens water quality rules and imposes limitations on local governments power over landfill permits.”

- **NOTE:** Hardister voted for S16 and in favor of overriding the Governor’s veto of the bill. (S16, House adopted conference report, [8/3/17](#); House veto override, [10/5/17](#))

Senate Bill 16 is a “16-page grab bag of deregulation provisions. It loosens water quality rules and imposes limitations on local governments power over landfill permits, changes that the Democratic governor called dangerous in his veto message.” “SB 16, titled "Business Regulatory Reform Act of 2017," is a 16-page grab bag of deregulation provisions. It loosens water quality rules and imposes limitations on local governments power over landfill permits, changes that the Democratic governor called dangerous in his veto message.” (News & Observer, [9/29/17](#))

Environmental groups were concerned about a provision in the bill “that would prevent cities from requiring better stormwater control when properties are redeveloped.” “Environmental groups expressed concern with a provision that would prevent cities from requiring better stormwater control when properties are redeveloped, even if the property was originally "grandfathered in" with little or no runoff control when current stormwater runoff laws were passed.” (WRAL, [6/14/17](#))

Hardister voted for the 2016 “Duke Bailout Bill,” that was “damning proof” families could not rely on the state to protect drinking water and would raise rates to pay for coal ash cleanup

➤ *Hardister voted for H630. (H630, House concurred, [6/30/16](#))*

SELC attorney said “Duke Bailout Bill” is “damning proof” that families cannot rely on state to protect drinking water from Duke Energy’s pollution. “Environmental groups quickly chastised the legislation. ‘This coal ash bill is damning proof that the families and communities of North Carolina can't rely on state politicians to protect their drinking water supplies from Duke Energy's coal ash pollution,’ said Frank Holleman, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, in a statement. Added Holleman: ‘This Duke Bailout Bill is a betrayal of the North Carolina people who participated in good faith in the process and followed the rules established by the legislature in 2014. Public participation led to the conclusion that the law and science require Duke Energy to excavate its coal ash from its leaking, unlined pits. Duke Energy didn't like the results and so today the North Carolina Senate turned its back on the people and clean water and threw into the trash can public process, facts, science, and the law.’” (WUNC, [6/29/16](#))

Passing along the cost of Coal Ash cleanup to consumers would raise power rates for average NC household by \$18 annually for 25 years. “Duke Energy in 2014 floated a potential cost to excavate coal ash from 14 of its coal-burning power plants at \$10 billion. The company has said it expected to ask state utilities regulators to allow it to pass along its coal-ash bill to electricity customers. The company last year estimated the likely costs at about \$4 billion, which could raise power rates for the average North Carolina household by about \$18 a year over 25 years.” (AP, [5/18/16](#))

Hardister voted down an amendment that would have protected ratepayers from paying for Coal Ash cleanup

➤ *Hardister voted to table S729, A16. (S729, A16, amendment tabled, [7/2/14](#))*

Hardister voted for a regulatory bill with Duke’s pet provision to avoid coal ash cleanup after they gave money to Republicans

➤ *Hardister voted for H74. (H74, conference report adopted, [7/26/13](#))*

Duke lobbyists successfully got pet provision in a 2013 regulatory bill allowing them to avoid coal ash cleanup, after giving \$95,000 to Republican legislators. “Still, regulators alone could not protect the company from its huge liability if the environmental groups persevered in court. So Duke officials lobbied — successfully — to change state law, itself... Data collected from Duke's own monitoring wells showed contamination beyond that 500-foot limit at several of its properties, with high levels of arsenic, selenium, lead and other poisonous contaminants found in coal ash...Duke Energy and its executives have donated millions in recent years to both Republicans and Democrats. Though 2013

was not an election year, records show the company continued to give generously as its lobbyists sought to protect its ash pits. A political action committee underwritten by Duke employees sent another \$95,000 to Republican legislators and groups that support their campaigns — nearly five times the amount provided to North Carolina's Democratic legislators over the same time period." (*Associated Press*, [3/17/14](#); H74, adopted [8/23/13](#))

Hardister uses redistricting as a talking point and has sponsored unsuccessful bills to establish a nonpartisan process, but when voting, he sticks with Republican leadership and supported unconstitutional districts in Congressional, Legislative, and Guilford County maps

Hardister has sponsored three independent redistricting bills during his time in the General Assembly, but all have stalled in committee, which Hardister says is no surprise.

Hardister on independent redistricting: "I've thought this was the right thing to do for a long time." "State Rep. Jon Hardister of Greensboro joined a bipartisan group of legislators Tuesday afternoon in touting their new redistricting bill that they acknowledged would not end all problems with the highly political process. But they said in a Raleigh press conference Tuesday afternoon that it would make things a lot better. "I think this is the right thing to do," Hardister said. "I've thought it was the right thing to do for a long time." The three-term Republican legislator from Greensboro, lead sponsor state Rep. Chuck McGrady (R-Hendersonville) and several colleagues introduced the proposal for a "Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission" to supervise legislative staff as they design new districts for the state's 13 congressional districts as well as those for both houses of the General Assembly." (Greensboro News & Record, 3/1/17)

- **Hardister: "It would be inconsistent for me to suddenly abandon my position on this issue now that my political party is in power. This was the right thing to do when Democrats were in power, and it is still the right thing to do today."** (Greensboro News & Record, Editorial, 3/1/15)

Hardister's 2015 nonpartisan redistricting bill did not make the crossover deadline, he said "I don't expect the bill to go anywhere." "This bill was rolled out with much fanfare in February, with Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives signing on their support. It has 63 sponsors -- a plurality of House members. But it didn't even get a hearing. 'I don't expect the bill to go anywhere,' said Hardister, a primary sponsor. 'There is obviously disagreement within the Republican Party related to redistricting reform. The reality is the effort remains where it has been for decades.'" (Greensboro News & Record, 5/3/15)

- **H92 created a nonpartisan redistricting commission that would hold public hearings.** "To that end, map designers couldn't use voter party-affiliation information or election turnout data to help draw the districts, according to the bill. The General Assembly would still have to approve the maps, but the legislation would limit members' ability to change them. The bill also would create a four-member redistricting advisory commission, to be appointed by the majority and minority leaders in both the House and the Senate. None of the panel's members could be an elected official or their employee or relative. The commission would hold public hearings on the proposed maps." (Greensboro News & Record, 9/21/15)

Hardister on redistricting: "it's about the Golden Rule – treating others the way you want to be treated." "Supporters of redistricting overhauls noted the change of heart among Republicans and noted the GOP may not be the majority party in the future. 'It's about the Golden Rule - treating others the way you want to be treated,' said Rep. Jon Hardister, R-Guilford, adding a commission 'was the right thing to do then, and it's still the right thing to do today.' Twenty-one states have redistricting commissions that draw maps or advise lawmakers on boundaries, or have commissions if lawmakers can't agree on how to draw maps, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures." (WNCN, 2/3/15)

Hardister was one of 61 cosponsors of an independent redistricting bill in 2013. “A better means has been crafted and introduced as a bill in the state House. It would assign the job of redistricting, beginning in 2021, to the professional staff of the Legislative Services Office, subject to House and Senate approval. The bill has 61 co-sponsors, a majority of House members. They include five Guilford County representatives: Republicans John Faircloth and Jon Hardister and Democrats Alma Adams, Marcus Brandon and Pricey Harrison. A primary sponsor in Skip Stam, the speaker pro tem. Yet it has been sitting in a committee without action since it was introduced more than three months ago. It's time to bring it up for a vote.” (Greensboro News & Record, 7/13/13)

Hardister said the 2011 and 2017 legislative maps that were both partially struck down by the courts were “in compliance with the law.” He helped draw 2016 congressional maps that were also struck down by federal judges.

Hardister said he thought the 2017 legislative maps were “in compliance with the law.” “While he would have preferred a different type of redistricting process, Hardister said he supports the one that took place and believes it will pass legal muster in the federal courts. “I'm proud of the work our redistricting committee has done,” he said. ‘The process we have gone through is legal and in compliance with the law.’ But nothing could be further from the truth, the way state Rep. Brockman of High Point sees it. He believes that judges Eagles, Schroeder and Wynn will take it as ‘a slap in the face’ when Republicans say they simply ignored race in drawing the new districts.” (Mooresville Tribune, 9/2/17)

Hardister defended the 2011 maps as “fair and reasonable.” “Some Republicans both defend the 2011 maps and acknowledge that there has to be a better way of divvying up the political landscape to avoid costly courthouse donnybrooks. “I believe the current maps are fair and reasonable. But having said that, I am a supporter of redistricting reform and have been for a long time,” said state Rep. Jon Hardister (R-Greensboro), an appointee to the new redistricting committee. “It's typical for redistricting to get caught up in court. It's happened many times.” Hardister said that some type of independent commission might “result in less litigation, which is good because it would save the taxpayer money.” Hardister has bipartisan support for that concept from a former state senator, Don Vaughan, the Greensboro Democrat who is a plaintiff in another lawsuit against the 2011 redistricting only now moving from state court into federal litigation.” (Greensboro News & Record, 2/14/16)

- **Hardister said he was “confident” the 2011 legislative districts are “in compliance with the law.”** “State Rep. Jon Hardister (R-Guilford) said he doubts the Supreme Court ordering a review of the 2011 redistricting will make much difference. But he said he would like to see the partisanship taken out of re-districting entirely. ‘The current legislative and congressional districts are in compliance with the law,’ he said last week. ‘I am confident that they will continue to be upheld within our court system. Having said that, I would contend that there is a better way to draw these districts, which is why I support redistricting reform.’ Hardister is a primary sponsor of House Bill 92, which would turn the process of redistricting over to nonpartisan legislative staff members starting in 2020.” (Greensboro News & Record, 4/26/15)

Hardister said the 2016 Congressional maps “are solid,” blamed Democrats for 12th District gerrymander “ridiculed” “across the country.” “State Rep. Jon Hardister (R-Guilford) disagreed. “I think the maps are solid,” Hardister said. “It was a fast and difficult process, but I think we did the best we could under the circumstances. (We) adopted criteria. We discussed it, we debated it, we voted on it. And I think the maps we have now look a lot better than what we had.” Hardister points to the 12th District, which under the old map snaked along the Interstate 85 corridor between Charlotte and Greensboro in a manner some called a brazen example of political gerrymandering by North Carolina Democrats. “That district has been ridiculed not just in North Carolina but across the country,” Hardister said.” (Greensboro News & Record, 2/19/16)

- **Hardister helped draw the 2016 NC Congressional maps.** “The new districts only split 13 counties, not 36 as the previous districts did, said state Rep. Jon Hardister (R-Greensboro). Republican members of the redistricting committee, which includes Hardister, presented a proposed map Wednesday that the committee approved along party lines. ‘The 12th Congressional District, which has been described as ‘serpentine,’ is gone,’ he said.” (Greensboro News & Record, 2/17/16)

Hardister “caved when it counted” on Greensboro City Council districts, supporting them at the last after vocalizing opposition for months. The districts were later thrown out a federal judge.

After strongly opposing Sen Trudy Wade’s Greensboro City Council redistricting bill unless it included a referendum, Hardister changed his vote at the last minute, providing cover for others to shift their vote. “State Rep. Jon Hardister (R-Greensboro) also could claim to have opposed Greensboro redistricting, because he voted both for and against versions of the bill at different times. But it was his vote for House Bill 263 - a bill for Trinity redistricting that was amended to include a plan for Greensboro redistricting - that turned the tide after it emerged from a joint House-Senate committee. Since Hardister had lobbied many of his fellow legislators to vote against the bill, his shift in support allowed them to shift as well. Hardister’s support gave legislators eager to curry favor with powerful supporters of the bill cover to switch sides and overcome the opposition. Once enough representatives had switched sides to support the bill, Hardister cast his final vote against the bill when it no longer made a difference. But he still can say he voted against the bill.” (Greensboro News & Record, 7/19/15)

Hardister reversed the position he held on the bill for months, only to change it when the bill failed. “The reconstructed HB 263 passed Thursday largely because state Rep. Jon Hardister (R-Greensboro) turned his back on his constituents. After saying flatly for months that he wouldn’t support the bill without a referendum, he reversed his position to support the bill, taking many other votes with him. When this bill failed, 53-50, the Republican leadership called a recess to strong-arm more votes, providing a large enough margin of supporters that allowed Hardister to vote against the bill when it was meaningless to do so. Let’s be clear about this: Hardister said he wouldn’t support the bill without a voter referendum, and he broke his word. He supported HB 263 when it mattered the most and only switched his vote when it wouldn’t change the outcome. Hardister said he switched his vote the final time because he felt the process was moving too fast. The time to do that would have been the first vote of the day, because the rest of the House had been given less than 24 hours to review the new eight-district map and other provisions of the bill.” (Greensboro News & Record, Editorial, 7/8/15)

- **Editorial: “Hardister caved when it counted.”** (Greensboro News & Record, Editorial, 7/8/15)

In 2017 a federal judge permanently blocked Greensboro City Council Districts drawn by the NCGA in 2015. “U.S. District Judge Catherine Eagles blocked permanently the enforcement of a 2015 law approved by the General Assembly that directed how council members in North Carolina’s third-largest city would be elected and laid out new district lines. Some local citizens sued, and the city later joined in the lawsuit to challenge another provision preventing changes to Greensboro city government through local referenda.” (AP, [4/3/17](#))

Hardister and others said a judge shouldn’t be allowed to see a list of documents on Greensboro Redistricting. “State legislators say a judge shouldn’t be allowed to see a list of documents they’re withholding from plaintiffs in the Greensboro City Council redistricting lawsuit. On Thursday, attorneys for seven Republican lawmakers and one legislative researcher asked the U.S. District Court in Greensboro to amend an order requiring such a “privilege log.” The legislators, all Republicans, include members of the Guilford County delegation: state Reps. John Faircloth and Jon Hardister and state Sen. Trudy Wade.” (Greensboro News & Record, 10/8/16)

- **The judge later ordered that the documents be shown.** “A judge has ordered legislators to give him a list of documents they’re withholding from plaintiffs in the Greensboro City Council

redistricting lawsuit. On Tuesday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Joe Webster told the legislators to show him the list by Nov. 15. The legislators, all Republicans, include members of the Guilford County delegation: state Reps. John Faircloth and Jon Hardister, and state Sen. Trudy Wade.”
(Greensboro News & Record, 11/2/16)

###