

North Carolina Legislator Profile

Larry Pittman: House District 82
Cabarrus County

“...public schools are doing a lousy job teaching my kids.”- Pittman said, before voting to drastically defund public education. (NC Policy Watch, [6/25/13](#))

Rep. Larry Pittman is more concerned with living in his deluded version of the past than the issues facing North Carolina today.

Pittman failed to prioritize educating North Carolinians, instead prioritizing tax cuts for big corporations. He voted for Republican budgets that prioritized tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations over raising teacher pay to the national average. Meanwhile, classroom funding has not been restored to pre-recession levels and remains 39th in the nation. Teachers are forced to spend up to \$1,000 out-of-pocket each year for necessary supplies not covered by Republican budgets.

Pittman has steadfastly refused to expand health care access to thousands of North Carolinians. On multiple occasions, he has sponsored and voted for legislation that blocked Medicaid expansion. As a result, the cost of health care has increased, and several North Carolinians have even lost their lives. North Carolina has the third most expensive health care in the country, according to a 2017 study.

Pittman blocked a request to process thousands of untested rape kits in NC. Because of Pittman’s vote, justice will be delayed even longer for victims across the state. North Carolinians deserve a leader who will prioritize their well-being.

Pittman’s disturbing and off-putting statements on social media do not make him fit to serve in an elected position. His radical positions detract from his ability to properly advocate for his constituents. In 2017, Pittman sponsored a bill that sought to legalize the ability of North Carolina to secede from the federal government. Larry Pittman and his outlandish ideas are exactly what is holding North Carolina back. Pittman’s constituents deserve a representative who is rooted in reality and genuinely cares about improving North Carolina for everyone.

Read on for more about Pittman’s record.



Summary

Pittman supported Republican budgets that failed to prioritize public education.

- *The 2017 Republican budget prioritized tax cuts for corporations over teacher pay and per pupil spending.*
- *The 2015 budget failed to provide salary increases for teachers and decreased per pupil spending, keeping NC ranked at 46th in the country in per pupil spending.*

Pittman is strongly against expanding access to health care in North Carolina.

- *Democrats attempted to amend H998 to expand Medicaid, but Pittman and his fellow Republicans used a procedural vote to block Medicaid expansion.*
- *Pittman's choice not to initially expand Medicaid in 2013 proved to have steep costs for our state; blocking Medicaid increased the cost of health care and even cost some North Carolinians their lives.*
- *North Carolina has the third most expensive health care in the US, according to a 2017 study.*

Pittman voted against providing funding to process over 15,000 rape kits, delaying justice even longer for victims.

- *AG Josh Stein requested funds to clear the rape kit backlog.*
- *Republicans denied the request for funding, delaying justice for victims.*

Pittman's controversial comments on social media reflect the radical nature of several bills he's attempted to make North Carolina law.

- *Pittman sponsored a bill that would have removed the section of the North Carolina Constitution banning secession and another that would have removed the part that says North Carolinians owe allegiance to the federal government.*
- *Pittman once compared Abraham Lincoln to Adolf Hitler.*
- *Pittman, a gun rights enthusiast, speculated that the Parkland shooter might have been part of a conspiracy to "push for gun control" and that "many of these shooters turn out to be communist Democrats."*
- *In 2012, Pittman sent an email calling for "bringing back public hangings" for doctors who perform abortions.*
- *Pittman called Obama a dictator and made a racist "birther" joke, insinuating Obama was born in Kenya.*
- *Pittman does not want to remove Confederate statues and has said he is the "proud" great-great-grandson of a Confederate soldier who, according to Pittman, did not own slaves.*

Pittman supported Republican budgets that failed to prioritize public education.

- **NOTE:** Pittman voted for S257, the conference report, and the veto override. (S257, veto overridden [6/28/17](#))
- **NOTE:** Pittman voted for the H97 conference report. (H97, signed by Gov. [9/18/15](#))

The 2017 Republican budget prioritized tax cuts for corporations over teacher pay and per pupil spending.

The 2017 Republican budget continues the trend of cutting taxes for corporations rather than raising per pupil spending. “This budget will cut individual income tax rates to 5.25 percent from 5.499 percent and the corporate rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent in the second year, costing the state \$900 million annually when fully implemented. This means that the legislature will eventually have cut \$3.5 billion annually in all its tax cuts – money that could have gone for services. North Carolina, for example, ranks 41st nationally in per pupil spending for public education. Here is a question for lawmakers: Which is most likely hindering industrial recruitment and economic development in small-town North Carolina – high taxes or poor schools?” (News & Observer Editorial, [6/24/17](#), S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

Under the 2017 Republican budget, starting teachers received little to no raise. “Most public school teachers will receive a pay hike of 9.6 percent over the next two years, which is a significant jump. However, starting teachers and our most experienced teachers receive little or no raises. Total education spending came in about 30% less than Gov. Cooper’s proposed spending. (\$755m to \$520m) and per pupil spending is still 6.7% below pre-Recession level. In the spring of 2016, Senator Phil Berger unveiled a plan to bring average teacher pay to \$54,224 in the 17-18 school year. This budget fails to meet Senator Berger’s promise.” (Stronger NC, [6/26/17](#))

Many educators, including veterans of 25 years, only saw an increase of \$30 a month, merely a tank of gas, under the North Carolina budget. “The newly unveiled North Carolina state budget does include increases in teacher pay, but they are neither big nor dramatic. Many educators – including veterans who have devoted 25 years or more to our state’s children – will see an increase of \$30 a month. That amounts to little more than a tank of gas, which will hardly be enough to allow teachers to quit their second or third jobs.” (Charlotte Observer, Op-Ed, [6/21/17](#), S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

Teachers across the country spent \$500 to \$1000 out-of-pocket for classroom supplies and job-related expenses. “According to a recent report from “Time,” the Education Market Association says most teachers across the country spent \$500 to \$1,000 annually out of their own pockets for classroom supplies and job-related expenses last year. The report said that \$1.6 billion in school supply costs are shifted from parents or cash-strapped school districts onto teachers themselves.” (Gaston Gazette, [5/6/17](#))

Enrollment in teaching programs down 30 percent over the past 5 years, with other states luring away teachers with higher salaries. “This new budget comes at a time when education in North Carolina is mired in a unique crisis, with enrollment in our state university teacher preparation programs down 30 percent over the past five years and other states luring

our teachers away with higher pay.” (Charlotte Observer, Op-Ed, [6/21/17](#), S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

The 2015 budget failed to provide salary increases for teachers and decreased per pupil spending, keeping NC ranked at 46th in the country in per pupil spending.

The budget failed to provide salary increases for teachers and offered a one-time \$750 bonus instead. “All state employees, including teachers, will get a one-time \$750 bonus to be paid ‘somewhere around the end of the year,’ according to Senate Budget Chairman Harry Brown, R-Onslow, and a summary document released by negotiators. Speaking on WRAL News, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger likened it to a ‘Christmas bonus.’” (WRAL, [8/27/15](#))

NC teacher pay ranked in the bottom 10, only beating Mississippi and West Virginia in the Southeast. According to *WRAL*, “Despite an effort to raise starting salaries, North Carolina is expected to remain in the bottom 10 states nationally in average teacher pay, according to a report released Wednesday. The National Education Association estimates the average salary for a North Carolina public school teacher in the 2014-15 school year at \$47,783, which ranks 42nd nationally.” (WRAL, [3/18/15](#))

Per pupil spending decreased from 2014 to 2015 and NC ranked 46th in the country. *WRAL reported*, “In terms of per-pupil spending, the NEA report ranks North Carolina 46th in the United States in 2014-15, up from 47th in 2013-14. But spending actually drops from \$8,632 to \$8,620 per student from last year to this year, according to the report.” *The News & Observer*, reported, “The report put the estimate for per pupil expenditures at \$8,620 this year, lower than Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, and other states in the region.” (WRAL, [3/18/15](#); *News & Observer*, [3/18/15](#))

Pittman refused to expand access to health care in North Carolina, meanwhile the state has some of the most expensive health care in the country.

Pittman and his fellow Republicans used a procedural vote to block Medicaid expansion in 2018.

- **NOTE:** Pittman voted against an amendment to H998 that would expand Medicaid. (H998 A4, motion to appeal ruling of the chair, [6/11/18](#))

Republicans voted to block Medicaid expansion using a procedural vote. “Rep. Bobbie Richardson, a Franklin County Democrat, argued that expanding Medicaid would improve health care in rural communities. But Moore ruled the amendment out of order because it would be “appropriating funds out of compliance with our rules,” and after Richardson appealed the ruling, the House sided with Moore in a 70-42 vote. The vote was largely along party lines with Rep. Ken Goodman, a Richmond County Democrat, joining all Republicans to block further action on the amendment.” (News & Observer, [6/12/18](#); H998 A4, motion to appeal ruling of the chair, [6/11/18](#))

Rep. Bobbie Richardson proposed an amendment that would expand Medicaid under the ACA to H998, a bill meant to improve health care for rural North Carolinians. “Rep. Bobbie Richardson, a Franklin County Democrat, argued that expanding Medicaid would improve health care in rural communities. But Moore ruled the amendment out of order because it would be “appropriating funds out of compliance with our rules,” and after Richardson appealed the ruling, the House sided with Moore in a 70-42 vote. The vote was largely along party lines with Rep. Ken Goodman, a Richmond County Democrat, joining all Republicans to block further action on the amendment.” (News & Observer, [6/12/18](#); H998 A4, motion to appeal ruling of the chair, [6/11/18](#))

House Speaker Tim Moore ruled the amendment out of order, Democrats attempted to appeal his ruling, but Republicans helped him sustain it, blocking Medicaid expansion. “Rep. Bobbie Richardson, a Franklin County Democrat, argued that expanding Medicaid would improve health care in rural communities. But Moore ruled the amendment out of order because it would be “appropriating funds out of compliance with our rules,” and after Richardson appealed the ruling, the House sided with Moore in a 70-42 vote. The vote was largely along party lines with Rep. Ken Goodman, a Richmond County Democrat, joining all Republicans to block further action on the amendment.” (News & Observer, [6/12/18](#); H998 A4, motion to appeal ruling of the chair, [6/11/18](#))

Pittman’s choice not to expand Medicaid in 2013 proved to have steep costs for our state, including loss of life and livelihood for many North Carolinians.

- **NOTE:** Pittman voted for S4 and the conference report. (S4, signed by Gov. [3/6/13](#))

Republicans blocked Medicaid expansion that covered 500,000 low-income North Carolinians and was fully funded by federal tax money for 3 years. “The Medicaid expansion would cover about 500,000 low-income adults in North Carolina, providing them the insurance coverage required when the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented next year. The federal government would pick up the full cost of the expansion for the first three years and the bulk of the costs for several years after that.” (WRAL, [2/14/13](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))

Medicaid expansion would mean \$15 billion in new economic activity and 25,000 jobs for North Carolina by 2016. “The cost would be fully funded by the federal government for the first three years. For five years following that, the federal government would pay 90 percent of the cost, and the state would pay 10 percent. That’s a much more favorable cost share than regular Medicaid, for which the state pays one-third of the cost. If lawmakers approve the expansion, it would bring a projected \$15 billion into the state’s economy, creating an estimated 25,000 jobs in health care and related sectors by 2016.” (WRAL, [2/11/13](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))

Blocking Medicaid expansion cost 455 to 1,145 lives per year and resulted in higher costs for employers. “Two studies out this month say turning down the federal Medicaid expansion could cost North Carolina the lives of hundreds of low-income uninsured people per year and leave businesses on the hook for tens of millions of dollars annually in tax penalties, beginning in 2015. [An analysis released by tax preparation firm Jackson Hewitt](#) urges policymakers debating Medicaid expansion to include “the very real costs of the shared responsibility tax penalties to employers” in calculating the net costs of expansion to the state... [Another new analysis by health policy experts from Harvard University and City University of New York](#) finds that opting out of Medicaid expansion will cost between 455 and 1,145 lives a year in North Carolina.” (WRAL, [1/31/14](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))

- **Jackson Hewitt study found failure to expand Medicaid resulted in higher penalties for employers.** “In the 25 states that have opted out of Medicaid expansion, low-income workers between 100 and 138 percent of the poverty level who would have been eligible for free coverage will now have to buy their own insurance. Each of those workers can also claim the tax credit to offset his or her premium, triggering an additional \$2,000 penalty for his or her employer. Those employers would not have owed a tax penalty if the workers had enrolled in Medicaid.” (WRAL, [1/31/14](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))
- **Harvard and CUNY study found NC failure to expand Medicaid meant between 455 and 1,145 lives would be lost per year due to preventable causes.** “[Another new analysis by health policy experts from Harvard University and City University of New York](#) finds that opting out of Medicaid expansion will cost between 455 and 1,145 lives a year in North Carolina. The study’s authors looked primarily at preventive screenings and chronic disease management in states across the country. Medicaid expansion would extend those services to currently uninsured low-income workers making between 100 and 138 percent of the poverty level a year. The difference in North Carolina, the authors say, is somewhere between 455 and 1,145 preventable deaths per year that might have been avoided by expanding coverage.” (WRAL, [1/31/14](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))

North Carolina has the third most expensive health care in the US, according to a 2017 study.

North Carolina ranked 47th across metrics of cost, accessibility, and outcomes in a Wallethub study. (Wallethub, [8/6/18](#))

Blue Cross Blue Shield referenced the study and blamed state government decisions as one reason for the high cost. “In the last few years, North Carolina’s lawmakers made two crucial decisions that caused healthcare costs to rise. First, the state decided not to expand Medicaid coverage. So there are a lot of people in North Carolina’s individual insurance market who might have been covered under Medicaid, but instead, have to purchase insurance through the ACA’s federal marketplace. These folks tend to have more expensive chronic health

problems, and the cost of their medical care has caused insurance premiums for ACA customers in our state to rise.” (Blue Cross Blue Shield, [8/1/17](#))

Pittman voted against providing funding to process over 15,000 rape kits, delaying justice even longer for victims.

- **NOTE:** *The legislature later passed a measure to create a tracking system to determine which rape kits would need to be tested. (WRAL, [6/12/18](#); H945/S727, signed by Gov. [6/25/18](#))*

There are over 15,000 untested rape kits in North Carolina according to the 2017 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Law Enforcement Inventory Report. (NC Department of Justice, Published [3/1/18](#))

AG Josh Stein requested funds to clear the rape kit backlog.

In February 2018, Attorney General Josh Stein sought \$2 million from the NC General Assembly to begin testing rape kits. “In February, Stein announced that a [statewide inventory revealed 15,160 untested rape kits](#). That backlog prompted him to seek \$2 million from lawmakers this year to begin the outsourcing of testing of 2,800 of those kits containing DNA samples and other evidence collected during medical procedures conducted after attacks.” (News & Observer, [5/30/18](#))

Gov. Cooper’s budget allocated over \$2 million to the Department of Justice for testing sexual assault kits. “A spokesman for Cooper responded that the Democratic governor's spending proposal included money for reducing the backlog, unlike lawmakers' budget. "In contrast to the legislature which allocated no funding for this important effort, the Governor directed more than \$2 million to the Department of Justice for testing sexual assault kits, including a way to track progress and determine criteria order for testing kits. Republican legislators are making misleading attacks to distract from the fact that their budget contained no funding for testing sexual assault kits," the spokesman, Ford Porter, said.” (News & Observer, [5/30/18](#))

Republicans denied the request for funding, delaying justice for victims.

HEADLINE: Legislature turns back on thousands of sexual assault victims. (Charlotte Observer Editorial, [5/31/18](#))

The legislature did not include funding to begin testing the kits so “the backlog will grow, and justice for sexual assault victims will be delayed.” “In response, Attorney General Josh Stein asked the Legislature for \$2 million to start testing the kits. It would cost \$10.6 million to test all 15,000, but Stein’s request was a start. He also asked the Legislature to create and fund a system to track the untested kits, and to create a committee that would recommend which kits to test first and how to test all kits going forward. In the budget being passed this week, the Legislature included zero. It also didn't fund the tracking system and legislation to create the committee is pending. So the backlog will grow, and justice for sexual assault victims will be delayed. “Every one of us should be focused on trying to bring justice to more people who suffered a heinous crime,” Stein told the Observer editorial board.” (Charlotte Observer Editorial, [5/31/18](#))

Pittman's controversial comments on social media reflect the radical nature of several bills he's attempted to make North Carolina law.

Pittman once compared Abraham Lincoln to Adolf Hitler.

"Pittman once compared Abraham Lincoln to Adolf Hitler." "Will GOP voters keep backing Trump-esque lawmakers? Three N.C. House Republicans -- Michael Speciale, Larry Pittman and George Cleveland --often make headlines with controversial statements. Speciale strongly backed Alabama's Roy Moore and questioned the sexual abuse allegations against him. Pittman once compared Abraham Lincoln to Adolf Hitler and is the leading proponent of arming teachers. Cleveland joined the other two last year in proposing a constitutional amendment to remove the section that bans secession. They're often at odds with the House's more mainstream GOP leadership. For the first time in several election cycles, all three have GOP primary challengers. We'll find out if voters in their deep red districts back their brash, shoot-from-the-hip brand of conservatism." (The Herald-Sun, 5/4/18)

On Facebook, Pittman compared Lincoln to Hitler: "Lincoln was the same sort if (sic) tyrant, and personally responsible for the deaths of over 800,000 Americans in a war that was unnecessary and unconstitutional." "North Carolina Rep. Larry Pittman, under fire for comparing Abraham Lincoln with Adolf Hitler, on Friday said Hitler actually 'was worse' and accused the media of taking his words out of context. But he also said both were 'obviously bad guys.' The Cabarrus County Republican referred to Hitler in a Facebook post this week, saying, 'Lincoln was the same sort if (sic) tyrant, and personally responsible for the deaths of over 800,000 Americans in a war that was unnecessary and unconstitutional.'" (Charlotte Observer, 4/14/17)

Pittman, a gun rights enthusiast, speculated that the Parkland shooter might have been part of a conspiracy to "push for gun control" and that "many of these shooters turn out to be communist Democrats."

Pittman speculated that the Parkland shooter might have been part of a conspiracy to "push for gun control so they can more easily take over the country." "Rabin isn't the first North Carolina lawmaker to weigh in on the Parkland shooting. Republican state Rep. Larry Pittman of Cabarrus County near Charlotte apologized to fellow legislators in a letter on Feb. 17 for a Facebook post in which he speculated that the Florida shooter might have been part of a conspiracy to 'push for gun control so they can more easily take over the country.'" (News & Observer, 2/19/18)

Pittman posted on Facebook that "many of these shooters turn out to be communist Democrats." "Pittman says a substitute teacher in Henderson County told him a 'sizeable (sic) group of educators' in that Western North Carolina county are ready to be armed. Pittman has a history of making controversial statements. In February, he posted on Facebook that 'many of these shooters turn out to be communist Democrats.' The post was later deleted and Pittman apologized." (News & Observer, 4/17/18)

Pittman has sponsored a gun rights bill every year he's been in the legislature, including removing the requirement of a concealed carry permit, allowing guns in public areas, and arming teachers.

Pittman has introduced a "gun rights amendment" bill every year since being elected to the General Assembly. "Pittman has clarified that he's introduced a "gun rights amendment" bill every year since being elected to the state legislature. His bill was also introduced before a shooting in Orlando, where a man killed 49 people at a club." (Salisbury Post, 6/19/16)

Pittman: "If someone can legally carry openly...there is no legitimate reason for that person to not be able to carry concealed." "If someone can legally carry openly ... there is no legitimate reason for that person to not be able to carry concealed," said another bill sponsor, Republican Rep. Larry Pittman of Cabarrus County." (Associated Press, 6/6/17)

Pittman filed H69, which would have removed the requirement of permits to carry concealed weapons. "House Bill 201, which has passed a first reading and has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, would remove state requirements that people obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon. His bill is similar to House Bill 69, filed a month earlier by Rep. Larry Pittman, R-Cabarrus, which also calls for removing the requirement of permits to carry-concealed weapons. Millis has said he supports Pittman's bill and that his bill is not competing with Pittman's bill." (Star-News, 3/29/17)

Concealed guns could be carried in state owned rest areas, parks, and hunting and fishing reservations. "Any person who can legally carry a handgun under G.S. 14-415.35 may carry any firearm openly or concealed at any State-owned rest area, at any State-owned rest stop along the highways, and at any State-owned hunting and fishing reservation. Any person who can legally carry a handgun under G.S. 14-415.35 may carry a handgun, openly or concealed, on the grounds or waters of a park within the State Parks System as defined in G.S. 143B-135.44." (H746, referred to Senate Rules Committee on [6/12/17](#))

Pittman is the leading proponent of arming teachers. "Will GOP voters keep backing Trumpesque lawmakers? Three N.C. House Republicans -- Michael Speciale, Larry Pittman and George Cleveland --often make headlines with controversial statements. Speciale strongly backed Alabama's Roy Moore and questioned the sexual abuse allegations against him. Pittman once compared Abraham Lincoln to Adolf Hitler and is the leading proponent of arming teachers. Cleveland joined the other two last year in proposing a constitutional amendment to remove the section that bans secession. They're often at odds with the House's more mainstream GOP leadership. For the first time in several election cycles, all three have GOP primary challengers. We'll find out if voters in their deep red districts back their brash, shoot-from-the-hip brand of conservatism." (The Herald-Sun, 5/4/18)

In 2012, Pittman sent an email calling for "bringing back public hangings" for doctors who perform abortions.

In 2012, Pittman sent an email calling for "bringing back public hangings, including for doctors who perform abortions." "Some folks need to use their ears more and their mouth less, and he's one of them," Pittman challenger Michael Anderson said of his opponent. 'I don't think he represents us well at all. He seems to only care about guns and the Civil War and public hangings and Abraham Lincoln.' Anderson, a professional photographer who's new to politics, was referring to a Facebook post in which Pittman called President Abraham Lincoln a

'tyrant' similar to Germany's Adolf Hitler -- as well as a 2012 email in which Pittman called for bringing back public hangings, including for doctors who perform abortions." (News & Observer, 5/3/18)

Pittman: "If murderers (and I would include abortionists, rapists, and kidnapers, as well) are actually executed, it will at least have the deterrent effect upon them, for my money, we should go back to public hangings, which would be more of a deterrent to others, as well." "A new North Carolina state lawmaker has suggested that public hangings should resume in response to a death-row prisoner's description of living the high life while incarcerated. Rep. Larry Pittman, R-Cabarrus, was responding to a letter recently sent to a newspaper by Central Prison inmate Danny Hembree, who wrote of watching TV and taking naps while awaiting execution for the murder of Heather Catterton, 17. 'Kill me if you can, suckers,' Hembree wrote in the letter. Pittman, who was appointed to the House in October, told WRAL-TV he got a little carried away while expressing frustration and anger about Hembree. He said the email was only supposed to go to one House member, but he pressed "reply all" by mistake and it went out to all state lawmakers. 'If murderers (and I would include abortionists, rapists, and kidnapers, as well) are actually executed, it will at least have the deterrent effect upon them,' Pittman wrote Wednesday, adding, 'for my money, we should go back to public hangings, which would be more of a deterrent to others, as well.'" (Charlotte Observer, 1/27/12)

Pittman sponsored a bill that would have allowed North Carolina to secede from the union and another that would have removed North Carolina's allegiance to the federal government.

- **NOTE:** Pittman was a primary sponsor of H147. (H147, referred to House Rules Committee [2/22/17](#))
- **NOTE:** Pittman was a primary sponsor of H146. (H146, referred to House Rules Committee [2/22/17](#))

Larry Pittman "co-sponsored a constitutional amendment that would remove the bar preventing North Carolina from seceding from the union." "Republican primary voters also rewarded three GOP incumbents with a penchant for making outrageous statements that make even their fellow conservatives cringe. They are Reps. Larry Pittman of Cabarrus County, Michael Speciale of Craven County, and George Cleveland of Onslow County. Among other things, the three co-sponsored a constitutional amendment that would remove the bar preventing North Carolina from seceding from the union." (News & Observer, 5/10/18)

Pittman, along with Speciale and Cleveland, "suggested amending the state constitution to remove the section that bans secession." "Several failed suggestions for state constitutional amendments this year came with shades of 1861. Republican Reps. Michael Speciale, Larry Pittman and George Cleveland suggested amending the state constitution to remove the section that bans secession. They proposed another change to the state constitution, which also failed, to remove the part that says North Carolinians owe allegiance to the federal government. Then, after another unsuccessful constitutional-amendment suggestion from Speciale, Pittman and fellow Republican Rep. Carl Ford - to ban gay marriage, despite the Supreme Court having ruled that that's unconstitutional - Pittman criticized the federal government and compared Abraham Lincoln to Adolf Hitler." (News & Observer, 7/1/17)

Pittman, along with Speciale and Cleveland, proposed a change to the state constitution "to remove the part that says North Carolinians owe allegiance to the federal

government.” “Several failed suggestions for state constitutional amendments this year came with shades of 1861. Republican Reps. Michael Speciale, Larry Pittman and George Cleveland suggested amending the state constitution to remove the section that bans secession. They proposed another change to the state constitution, which also failed, to remove the part that says North Carolinians owe allegiance to the federal government. Then, after another unsuccessful constitutional-amendment suggestion from Speciale, Pittman and fellow Republican Rep. Carl Ford - to ban gay marriage, despite the Supreme Court having ruled that that's unconstitutional - Pittman criticized the federal government and compared Abraham Lincoln to Adolf Hitler.” (News & Observer, 7/1/17)

Pittman called Planned Parenthood a “murderous” organization.

Pittman “charged Planned Parenthood with giving out defective contraceptives to be able to perform more abortions.” “Much of the waning days of the session appeared to involve governing with information gathered solely from ‘Fox and Friends.’ A measure passed making the selling of remains of aborted fetuses in the state illegal, even though Planned Parenthood in this state says it's never even donated - and certainly never sold - fetal tissue, which would also violate existing federal law. The N.C. bill also bars Planned Parenthood from receiving some state funds targeted for pregnancy prevention and family planning, which would seem to likely cause more unwanted pregnancies and more abortions. The high level of debate on that measure was exhibited by Rep. Larry Pittman of Cabarrus County, who charged Planned Parenthood with giving out defective contraceptives to be able to perform more abortions.” (Asheville Citizen-Times, 10/4/15)

Pittman said Planned Parenthood is “a murderous organization getting wealthy on murder for hire.” “State Representative Larry Pittman blasted Planned Parenthood as “a murderous organization getting wealthy on murder for hire” in an email reply to a Planned Parenthood letter urging N.C. legislators not to cut funding to the organization. The email to Pittman, who represents House District 82, originated with Planned Parenthood and was sent on May 24 to each member of the N.C. House of Representatives Health and Human Services Appropriations committee. ‘Planned Parenthood is an essential community provider in North Carolina,’ the email from Planned Parenthood said. ‘Each year, at nine health centers across the state, they provide over 18,000 tests for sexually transmitted infections, over 11,000 life-saving breast and cervical cancer screenings, and contraceptive services to more than 61,000 women.’ Pittman’s emailed reply charges that Planned Parenthood ‘deals out nothing but deception, death, personal devastation, and moral degradation. Never will I agree to give that bloody, indecent, immoral organization one penny. I will not be satisfied until it is outlawed.’” (News & Observer, 8/6/12)

Pittman called Obama a dictator and made a racist “birther” joke, insinuating Obama was born in Kenya.

“Mr. Kaine, if you can’t recognize Obama as a would be and very nearly actual dictator, you’re the one who doesn’t know that difference.” (Facebook, [10/4/16](#))



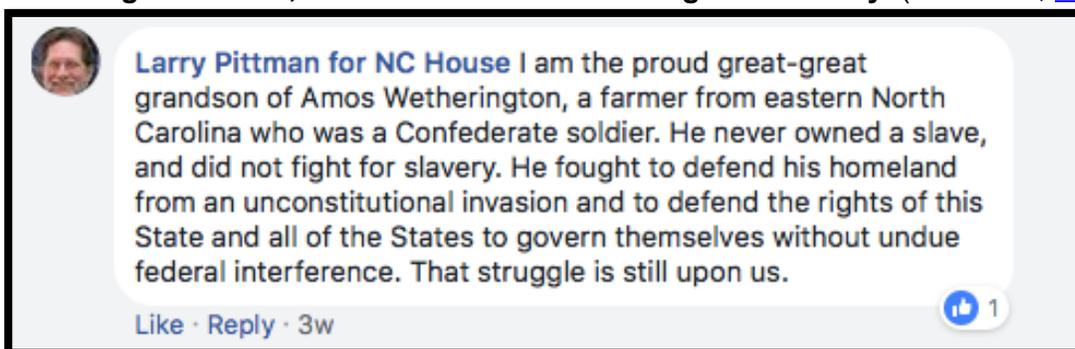
Pittman made a birther joke: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mfs2FTQnb74>

- Pittman: “First thing I want to tell you before I get to anything else. I noticed on Facebook, somebody had posted something with a picture of Barack Obama and across it said traitor. And ya’know I don’t always agree with the guy, certainly didn’t vote for him, but I got to defend him on this one. I just don’t think it’s right at all to call Barack Obama a traitor, there’s a lot of things he’s done wrong, but he is not a traitor, at least not as far as I can tell, because I have not come across any evidence yet that he done one thing to harm Kenya.”

Pittman does not want to remove Confederate statues and has said he is the “proud” great-great-grandson of a Confederate soldier who, according to Pittman, did not own slaves.

Pittman on Confederate statues: “History needs to be retained – you don’t know who you are without history. I don’t think the government has the right to change what history is.” “Lawmakers passed a law protecting ‘objects of remembrance’ on public property, such as historical monuments, plaques and statues, from permanent removal with some exceptions. ‘History needs to be retained - you don't know who you are without history,’ Rep. Larry Pittman, a Concord Republican, said during committee debate of the measure. ‘I don't think the government has the right to change what history is.’” (Charlotte Observer, 8/14/17)

Pittman has said he is the “proud” great-great grandson of a Confederate soldier who, according to Pittman, did not own a slave nor fought for slavery. (Facebook, [4/3/18](#))



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