

North Carolina Candidate Profile

Bobby Hanig: House District 6 Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Washington

“Everybody that lives in the Outer Banks has a job.” -Bobby Hanig (Elizabeth City Daily Advance, [3/8/18](#))

Hanig ran unopposed for the Currituck County Board of Commissioners in 2016 and was elected Chairman of the Board shortly after. During his time on the County Commission, Hanig proved he will follow in other Republicans’ footsteps and be yet another rubber stamp for the Republican agenda.

While on the Currituck County Board of Commissioners, Hanig supported a \$50,000 deal with Rep. Bob Steinburg’s company that took tourism business to Western North Carolina instead of the Outer Banks. Hanig’s friendships with Republicans in the NCGA have clearly impacted his decisions while on the Currituck County Board of Commissioners and these friendships could continue to play a large role in his votes in the General Assembly. **He prioritized his own relationship with Rep. Steinburg over his constituents, resulting in a huge tourism loss for Currituck County.**

Hanig aligned himself with the Republican legislative agenda that benefits the wealthy and fails to raise teacher pay to the national average or promote environmental sustainability. The Republican supermajority passed several budgets that fail to improve teachers’ salaries in North Carolina. Hanig will follow this pattern, having said Republicans have done enough for teachers.

Despite running on a platform claiming he will “create jobs,” Hanig proved he doesn’t believe job creation in Currituck County is necessary, claiming “Everybody that lives on the Outer Banks has a job.” Meanwhile, Republicans in the General Assembly voted to impose taxes on middle- and working-class families while prioritizing tax breaks for big corporations. **Hanig’s conflicting statements on job creation are a sign that he will fall into place with other Republicans when it comes time to vote, putting the needs of the wealthy and corporations ahead of North Carolina families.**

Hanig opposes making health care more affordable and accessible in North Carolina, despite the state having the 3rd most expensive health care in the country, according to a 2017 study. Hanig’s comments on health care prove he will just follow the Republican Party’s lead and only contribute to rising health care costs.

Read on to learn more about Bobby Hanig.



Summary

While on the Currituck County Board of Commissioners, Hanig prioritized his relationship with Rep. Steinburg over the people of Currituck County by supporting a \$50,000 deal with Steinburg's company that took business to Western North Carolina.

- Currituck County paid Rep. Steinburg's company \$50,000 to promote a basketball tournament in Western North Carolina.
- The majority of Currituck County commissioners didn't know about the deal.
- Hanig was one of a handful of commissioners who were aware of the deal and said it "sounded like a good idea."
- While seeking chairmanship of the Currituck County Commission, Hanig said he would "make some great decisions for the county."

Hanig claimed Republicans in the NCGA support teacher pay raises, despite teacher pay in NC ranking 41st in the country, and believes community colleges are "just as important, if not more important than our public schools."

- Hanig claimed on Facebook that Republicans have increased teacher pay.
- Over half of all teachers in NC have second jobs and NC ranks 41st in the country for teacher pay.
- The 2017 Republican budget failed to meaningfully raise teacher salaries, only providing a 0.6 percent raise to experienced teachers.

Hanig said "everybody that lives on the Outer Banks has a job" despite running on a conservative platform that he says will create jobs.

- In response to the argument that oil drilling could help create more jobs he said, "Everybody that lives on the Outer Banks has a job," despite fluctuations between 3 and 7 percent in unemployment in Currituck for the past two years.
- Hanig said one of the biggest challenges for workforce development in Currituck County is that the entire county lacks the "soft skills" of helping customers.
- Hanig is running on a conservative agenda that he said will "cut taxes, create jobs, and be a voice for the community."
- Republican tax reform overwhelmingly benefitted the wealthy while imposing taxes on middle- and working-class North Carolinians.

Hanig opposes making health care more affordable and accessible in North Carolina, despite the state having the 3rd most expensive health care in the country.

- Hanig opposes making health care more affordable and accessible in North Carolina.
- North Carolina has the third most expensive health care in the country, according to a 2017 study.
- Republicans voted against Medicaid expansion in 2013 that covered 500,000 North Carolinians and was fully funded by federal money for three years, costing the state \$15 billion in new economic activity.
- Refusal to expand Medicaid cost the state anywhere from 455 to 1,000 lives annually.

As a County Commissioner, Hanig helped Rep. Steinburg get a \$50,000 business deal at the expense of Outer Banks tourism dollars.

Currituck County paid a company owned by Rep. Steinburg for \$50,000 to promote a basketball tournament in Western North Carolina.

Currituck County paid a company owned by Rep. Steinburg \$50,000 to promote an NCAA basketball tournament in western North Carolina. “Currituck County has paid a private company owned by state Rep. Bob Steinburg \$50,000 to promote and market an NCAA basketball tournament the county is sponsoring in Asheville this fall called the ‘Battle in the Blue Ridge.’” (Daily Advance, [7/18/18](#))

Currituck County sponsored a tournament despite the tournament not being in Currituck County. “In approaching Currituck about sponsoring a tournament, Steinburg said he believed it would be a great benefit to the county. Myrtle Beach, for instance, sponsors similar events, even in other states. Though the event will be held in Asheville, Steinburg said it would be broadly promoted on social media, including by the participating teams. He wasn’t sure Wednesday how broadly the tournament would be televised.” (Daily Advance, [7/18/18](#))

The tournament would only advertise Currituck before and during the tournament, not bring any tourism to Currituck County. “The tournament will also advertise Currituck before and during the tournament, and WolfeStein will, in the months before the tournament, promote it on social media, promote it to local networks and national networks including ESPN, and, according to the contract, will pursue ‘aggressive ticket sales and marketing campaign to help ensure large crowds.’” (Daily Advance, [7/18/18](#))

The majority of Currituck County commissioners didn’t know about the deal.

The majority of Currituck County commissioners were not aware of the deal with Steinburg’s firm. “A majority of Currituck County commissioners say they weren’t aware the county paid a firm owned by Rep. Bob Steinburg to sponsor a basketball tournament – and several also opposed the expense.” (Daily Advance, [7/22/18](#))

Hanig was one of the few commissioners who did know about the deal and was vocal about his support, claiming it wasn’t politically motivated and it “sounded like a good idea.”

Hanig supported the sponsorship, saying it “sounded like a good idea.” “Currituck Board of Commissioners Chairman Bobby Hanig and board Vice Chairman Mike Payment said Wednesday they were aware of, and supported, the county’s sponsorship deal with Steinburg. Hanig said Steinburg spoke to him about the sponsorship proposal. Hanig said it sounded like a good idea, but he asked Steinburg to propose it directly to tourism officials.” (Daily Advance, [7/18/18](#))

Hanig denied that Currituck was favoring a state lawmaker. “Asked about perceptions Currituck might be attempting to cultivate favor with a state lawmaker, Hanig responded ‘I totally disagree with that.’ ‘There’s nothing to perceive,’ he said.” (Daily Advance, [7/18/18](#))

Hanig claimed criticism of the contract was “absolutely” politically motivated. “In a Sentinel interview, Hanig also made it clear that he thought the criticism of the Steinburg contract was ‘absolutely’ politically motivated. ‘Had Steinburg lost the primary, there wouldn’t have even been a conversation,’ said Hanig, who defeated Beverly Boswell in the GOP primary for the N.C. District 6 House seat and now faces Democrat Tess Judge in November.” (Outer Banks Sentinel, [8/28/18](#))

Hanig said “if Steinburg didn’t win the primary, it wouldn’t have been newsworthy.” “Someone chose to use that as a political tool,’ to smear Steinburg, Hanig said in a telephone interview Tuesday. ‘If Steinburg didn’t win the primary, it wouldn’t have been newsworthy.’” (Outer Banks Sentinel, [8/28/18](#))

In Hanig’s speech seeking chairmanship, he said, “I feel like I’m the man that can bring this crew together and make some great decisions for the county,” and “when I commit to doing something...I do it 120%.”

In his speech seeking chairmanship, Hanig said, “The county has spoken. The county wants change. I feel like I’m the man that can bring this crew together and make some great decisions for the county.” “Hanig noted he did not prepare a statement about his candidacy for board chairman. However, he touted his own leadership skills, noting he’s a past chairman of the Northeastern Workforce Development Board. He then said voters, both in Currituck and around the country, had expressed a need for change in the Nov. 8 election, and that he could help bring that change. ‘The county has spoken. The county wants change. The county wants change,’ he said. ‘I feel like I’m the man that can bring this crew together and make some great decisions for the county.’ Hanig’s comment drew a burst of applause and cheers from some in the audience.” (Daily Advance, [12/7/18](#))

Hanig said “I’m the type of person that when I commit to doing something...I do it 120%”” It’s more than what I expected, especially since I’m the chairman and I didn’t really get the luxury of a learning curve prior to becoming chairman. But the county staff has been very complimentary about how the board is operating and that we’re doing the things we say we’re going to do. All in all, it’s been a really good experience and very satisfying. It’s been a lot of hard work and effort, but I’m the type of person that when I commit to doing something... I do it 120%.” (Think Currituck, retrieved [6/19/18](#))

Despite evidence to the contrary, Hanig claims Republicans in the NCGA support teacher pay raises and believes community colleges are “just as important, if not more important than our public schools.”

Hanig claimed on Facebook that Republicans in the NCGA have increased teacher pay.



(Facebook, retrieved [5/21/18](#))

Over half of all North Carolina teachers have a second job; the state ranks 41st, nearly \$10,000 behind the national average, in the country for average teacher pay.

According to data from the National Center for Education Statistics, over half of all North Carolina teachers have a second job. “Phillips’ story is not unusual. More than half of all North Carolina public school educators have a second job in the school year, either within the school system or outside employment.” (EdNC, [11/20/17](#))

North Carolina ranks 41st in the country for average teacher pay according to the National Education Association, nearly \$10,000 behind the national average. [North Carolina ranks 41st in the country for average teacher pay, according to the latest numbers from the National Education Association](#). North Carolina’s average annual pay of \$47,941 lags nearly \$10,000 behind the national average. During the national recession in 2009, average teacher pay in the state fell faster than the national average. Increasing teacher pay has been a [legislative priority for several decades](#).” (EdNC, [11/20/17](#))

The 2017 Republican budget failed to meaningfully raise teacher salaries.

Many educators, including veterans of 25 years, will only see 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](#))

2017 Republican budget gives beginning teachers no raise, and only a 0.6 percent raise to experienced teachers; enrollment in state university teacher preparation programs was down 30 percent over the past 5 years.

Starting teacher pay remains at \$35,000 under the Republican budget. “Under the teacher pay plan, teachers with 17 to 24 years of experience would see some of the biggest raises. Starting teacher pay would remain at \$35,000, but teachers at most experience levels would get a raise.” (News & Observer, [7/1/17](#), S257, Vetoes [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

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, Vetoes [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

Hanig said “everybody that lives on the Outer Banks has a job” despite running on a platform that claims he wants to create jobs.

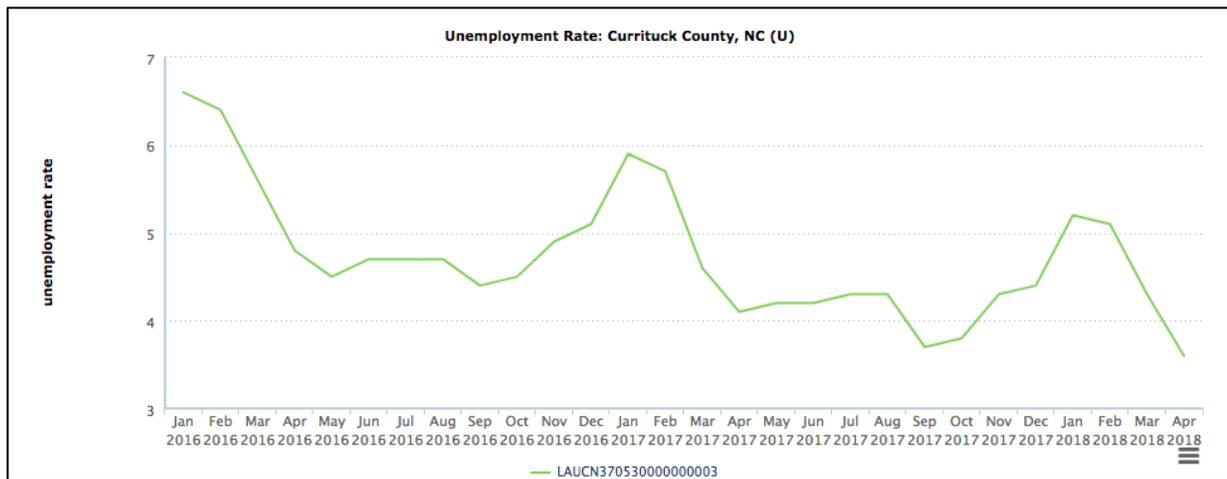
In response to the argument that oil drilling could help create more jobs he said, “Everybody that lives on the Outer Banks has a job” despite fluctuations in unemployment in Currituck for the past two years.

Hanig said his decision to oppose offshore drilling is based on the future of Currituck’s tourism industry; in response to the argument that oil drilling could help create more jobs he said, “Everybody that lives on the Outer Banks has a job.” “Hanig acknowledged that some of the opposition to offshore drilling is based on emotion. However, he said his own decision to oppose it is based on the future of Currituck’s massive tourism industry. ‘I myself am not willing to take a chance on someone losing their job for financial gain because of some oil being drilled offshore,’ he said. As far as the argument that oil drilling could help create more jobs, he said, ‘We already have jobs.’ ‘Everybody here has a job. Everybody that lives on the Outer Banks has a job,’ supported primarily by tourism, he said.” (Daily Advance, [3/8/18](#))

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Currituck County unemployment rate has fluctuated between 3 and 7 percent with a spike in unemployment in the off season.



(Bureau of Labor Statistics, retrieved [6/20/18](#))



(Bureau of Labor Statistics, retrieved [6/20/18](#))

Hanig said one of the biggest challenges in workforce development for the county is educating workers, noting that the entire county has lacked the “soft skills” of helping customers.

Hanig said one of the biggest challenges in workforce development for Currituck County is educating the workers, “there’s no question” and that the entire county has lacked in the “soft skills” of helping people learn the “basic of professional behavior.” “Educating the workers. There’s no question. We have a lot of jobs that can be filled if people have the most basic education and skills. For the longest time I’ve been an advocate of soft skills and helping people learn the basics of professional behavior and how to treat a customer. The entire county has lacked in that. When I left the NWDB we were pushing soft skills to the forefront and really trying to get that going and now they offer it at the College of the Albemarle and they have it at the high school, which is fantastic. I say that I’m in the pool business, but I’m really in the customer service business. No matter what your business is, you’re in the customer service business. And if you don’t know how to talk to and treat a customer, you’re not going to stay in business... period.” (Think Currituck, retrieved [6/19/18](#))

Hanig ran on a conservative agenda to reduce “wasteful government spending” and “cut the red tape that hurts local businesses.”

As Chairman, Hanig has “held the line” on government spending, ordered a financial review of Currituck’s school district’s finances, and said that his focus in the NCGA would be working with other conservatives to reduce “wasteful government spending” and “cut the red tape that hurts local businesses.” ‘As chairman of the Currituck County Board of Commissioners, Hanig has held the line on government spending and has spent his time focused on strengthening the local economy. After finding discrepancies in financial reports, Hanig ordered a financial review of the Currituck school district’s finances to determine if taxpayer money was being spent wisely. Hanig said he would apply the same proactive approach to state finances in the General Assembly. Hanig says that his focus in the House of Representatives would be on working with other conservatives to reduce wasteful government spending, cut the red tape that hurts local businesses, lower taxes, and create jobs in the area. ‘The thing I enjoy most about being a county commissioner is meeting voters and listening to the issues they find important,’ Hanig said. ‘I’m excited about traveling across this district, listening to the voters from Hyde, Pamlico, Dare and Currituck Counties, and letting them know that Bobby Hanig is the responsive representative they deserve.’ ‘Just as I’ve been a conservative voice on the county commission, I’ll be their conservative voice in the General Assembly,’ Hanig said.” (Outer Banks Voice, [2/19/18](#))

Hanig said in his campaign announcement, “I’m excited about the opportunity to... cut taxes, create jobs, and be a voice for communities.” “‘I’m excited about the opportunity to help the people of Currituck, Dare, Hyde and Pamlico Counties by going to Raleigh to cut taxes, create jobs, and be a voice for our communities,’ Hanig said. ‘Many people reached out to me to encourage me to run, and I look forward to continuing my public service in the General Assembly,’ Hanig said.” (Outer Banks Voice, [2/19/18](#))

Hanig said “we need business to come here and generate tax revenue.” “Once the new [H2OBX water park](#) opens in the lower part of the county, businesses will sprout up around it. We need businesses. We can’t sustain ourselves on residential income alone. We need businesses to come in here and generate tax revenue. That development around the water park is going to be a huge boost for the [lower end of Currituck](#), which has needed a boost since the beginning of time.” (Think Currituck, retrieved [6/19/18](#))

Republican tax reform overwhelmingly benefitted the wealthy while imposing taxes on middle and working class North Carolinians.

The 2013 Republican tax reform package eliminated several exemptions and deductions that benefitted working class taxpayers. “It’s true that the state’s income tax rate is going down for every taxpayer in 2014. But that does not mean all taxpayers will actually pay less to the state government over the coming year... The tax reform package also eliminates several exemptions and deductions that benefitted working class taxpayers, including a popular program that allowed families a deduction on pre-tax income into a college savings account. According to a recent analysis by the legislature’s own Fiscal Research Division, a married couple with two children making \$20,000 a year will go from receiving a \$222 tax rebate in 2013 to owing \$40 next year, a net swing of \$262. At the other end of the income scale, a married couple with two children making \$250,000 will get a \$2,318 tax cut in 2014, according to the analysis.” (AP, [12/30/13](#); H998, adopted, [7/23/13](#))

2013 Republican tax reform preserved tax breaks for yachts, jets, alcohol, and country clubs while eliminating tax breaks “that benefitted working class taxpayers.” While the *News & Observer* reported, “But still on the books is a \$1,500 cap on the sales tax for a yacht or a jet, a provision that costs the state \$10 million a year in lost revenue. Beer, liquor and tobacco distributors would keep their rebates worth a combined \$12 million annually for collecting taxes from their customers on behalf of the state. Country clubs and other recreational nonprofits keep their exemption from the corporate income tax, a tax break worth a combined \$600,000 a year.” The *Associated Press* reported the Republican Tax Reform plan, “eliminates several exemptions and deductions that benefitted working class taxpayers.” (*News & Observer*, [7/18/13](#); AP, [12/30/13](#); H998, adopted, [7/23/13](#))

The 2016 Republican budget contained “top heavy tax cuts” for the wealthy while imposing taxes on the middle class with expanded sales tax and more fees.

The 2016 Republican budget contained “top heavy tax cuts” for the wealthy and corporations while imposing taxes on the middle class with expanded sales tax and increased fees. “And then consider the budget’s putting \$475 million into the state’s rainy day fund. Republicans apparently are proud of bringing the fund to a near-record level. It is the reserve that helps the state deal with natural disaster and the like. That’s all well and good, but without the top heavy tax cuts, the legislature could have added to the reserve and met today’s needs. There would be money to give state employees a decent raise for a change, or to restore the Teaching Fellows program, or to bolster something like the state’s funding for film companies that do business in the state, funding that has been reduced.” (*News & Observer*, Editorial, [6/28/16](#))

Republicans voted to eliminate EITC, raising taxes on working families. “The state House gave key approval Tuesday to legislation that would eliminate a state tax credit for low-income workers at the end of this year. The demise of the earned-income tax credit was included in [House Bill 82](#), which updates sections of the federal tax code for North Carolina taxpayers.” (*WRAL*, [2/19/13](#); H82, adopted [3/13/13](#))

The 2017 Republican budget refused to restore Child Care Tax Credits that could help more than 200,000 families.

Governor Cooper’s budget calls for the reinstatement of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, which could help more than 200,000 families pay for child care. (Governor’s Office Press Release, [6/1/17](#))

Cooper: “Good child care is expensive, and this credit will help bring down the costs that working families face.” “Governor Roy Cooper has proposed creating a child and dependent care tax credit he said in a news release will help working families afford the cost of child care. ‘Good child care is expensive, and this credit will help bring down the costs that working families face,’ said Cooper. ‘This tax break will help ensure that children all across the state will show up at kindergarten ready to learn. As the General Assembly begins their budget process, I urge them to include this child and dependent care tax credit that would benefit over 200,000 North Carolina families.’” (*WNCT*, [5/3/17](#))

The Republican House & Senate budgets do not provide a child care tax credit. (Governor’s Office Press Release, [6/1/17](#))

The 2017 Republican budget lowered the corporate tax rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent.

Budget favors tax cuts for the wealthy, lowering the corporate income tax rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent. “The budget will make a series of tax cuts in 2019, a delay from earlier House and Senate tax cut proposals that would have taken effect in 2018. It will reduce the personal income tax rate from 5.499 percent to 5.25 percent and raise the standard deduction – the amount on which people pay no income taxes unless they itemize – to \$20,000 for married couples filing jointly from \$17,500. It will also lower the corporate income tax rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent. ‘We are providing tax relief for middle class working families and businesses, and we’re doing it in a prudent way,’ Dollar said.” (*News & Observer*, [6/28/17](#))

As of January 2017, NC’s corporate income tax is the lowest in the nation according to the Tax Foundation. “North Carolina’s corporate income tax rate, which dropped to 3 percent in January, is the lowest in the nation, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation. The foundation is an independent tax policy research organization that analyzes state tax codes and advocates for competitive policies. In North Carolina, the business tax has been reduced each year since 2013, when the state legislature approved a number of significant changes to the tax code. The state’s corporate income tax has dropped from 6.9 percent to 3 percent over the past four years, giving North Carolina the lowest corporate income tax rate of any state that levies the tax, according to the foundation.” (Economic Development Partnership of NC, [1/4/17](#))

Hanig opposes making health care more affordable and accessible in North Carolina despite the state having the 3rd most expensive health care in the US, according to a 2017 study.

Hanig opposes making health care more affordable and accessible in North Carolina.

Hanig thinks insurance companies should not be required to provide coverage for preexisting conditions because “there should be free market options which would include preexisting conditions.” (RFNC Candidate Survey)

Hanig thinks the Affordable Care Act should be repealed because “we need competition in the marketplace to keep premiums and costs lower.” (RFNC Candidate Survey)

Hanig shared a photo on Facebook saying the ACA “only works if you don’t.”



(Facebook, [3/6/16](#))

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](#))

Republicans voted against Medicaid expansion that covered 500,000 low-income North Carolinians and was fully funded by federal money for three years, costing the state \$15 billion in new economic activity.

Republicans blocked Medicaid expansion that covered 500,000 low-income North Carolinians and was fully funded by federal tax money for three years, and 90 percent of costs thereafter. “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](#))

Legislature’s refusal to expand Medicaid will cost NC \$21 billion in federal funds between 2016 and 2020. “North Carolina's Republican-dominated legislature has so far refused to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. It's already been noted by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine that not expanding Medicaid is costing around 500,000 state residents coverage. Now a new report from the Center for Health Policy Research at George Washington University commissioned by the Cone Health Foundation finds the refusal to expand Medicaid would cost North Carolina \$21 billion in federal matching funds between 2016 and 2020 and tens of thousands of jobs. The analysis looks at the costs to the state on a county-by-county basis.” (WCQS, [10/19/15](#))

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](#))

Refusal to expand Medicaid cost the state anywhere from 455 to over 1,000 lives annually.

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](#))

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