

# North Carolina Candidate Profile

## Jefferson Griffin NC Court of Appeals

Jefferson Griffin is currently a Wake County District Court Judge seeking election to the NC Court of Appeals for the seat being vacated by Ann Marie Calabria. **While he insists he is not campaigning as a Republican judge, his record speaks differently.** He was a Pat McCrory pick for a District Court judgeship in 2015 which he held onto in 2016 after running unopposed. He holds endorsements from prominent Republican leaders including NC House Speaker Tim Moore and far-right pro-gun organizations such as Grass Roots NC. Furthermore, his campaign has leaned into partisanship this cycle, running an inflammatory TV ad about “Washington liberals.”



Griffin is a JAG officer, or military lawyer, in the NC National Guard and a former ADA in Wake County where he worked from 2010-2015. He was defeated in the race for Wake County DA in 2014, although he was confident he would win. During the campaign he used “social media friendly” photos of him at farmers’ markets posing with dogs and being a “real” North Carolinian, according to INDYWeek.

In 2004 Griffin wrote a letter to the editor of the News & Observer arguing that “real” diversity was diversity of thought and lamented his experience as a conservative at UNC where he faced “attacks” from close-minded professors. **He wrote that conversely, “talk in the class that promoted homosexuality or its acceptance” would be a “diverse” opinion while claiming the opposite view would not be.**

Griffin loaned his current campaign \$55,000, forgave \$23,500 in loans to his campaign for DA, and contributed \$10,581.30 to himself.

## Summary

**Griffin insists he is not campaigning as a “Republican judge,” but his record speaks differently: he was a Pat McCrory pick for a judgeship in 2015, has been endorsed by prominent Republican leaders, and in his most recent race ran an inflammatory ad about “Washington liberals.”**

- Griffin was appointed by Pat McCrory in 2015 as a District Court Judge and later won after running unopposed in 2016.
- Griffin is the NC GOP endorsed candidate in the race for court of appeals and prominent Republican leaders including Tim Moore and Donnie Harrison have endorsed him.
- Griffin’s campaign Committee ran an ad about “Washington liberals making a mockery of our judicial process” and touted his conservative leadership.
- Griffin has given over \$20,000 to Republican candidates.

**Griffin is a JAG officer, or military lawyer, in the NC National Guard and a former ADA in Wake County from 2010-2015; he lost a race for Wake DA in 2014 though he was confident he would win.**

- Griffin earned only 22.75 percent of the vote in his 2014 campaign.
- He previously stated, “I’m going to win this election” and used “social media friendly” photos of himself at farmers’ markets posing with dogs and being a “real” North Carolinian.

**In 2004 Griffin wrote a letter to the editor of the News & Observer arguing that “real” diversity was diversity of thought based on his experience as a “conservative” student at UNC.**

- Griffin wrote that “talk in the class that promoted homosexuality or its acceptance” would be a “diverse” opinion, while claiming that the opposite view would not be.

**Griffin loaned his current campaign \$55,000, forgave \$23,500 in loans to his campaign for DA, and contributed \$10,581.30 to himself.**

**Griffin insists he is “campaigning to be a judge” not a “Republican judge” but was a Pat McCrory choice for a District Court judgeship in 2015, been endorsed by prominent Republicans, and has since run an inflammatory ad about “Washington liberals.”**

**Griffin was appointed by Pat McCrory in 2015 to the District Court Judgeship to fill a vacancy; he later won after running unopposed in 2016.**

**McCrory appointed Griffin as a district court judge to fill a vacancy.** “Governor Pat McCrory recently appointed a Red Oak native as a District Court Judge. The governor selected Jefferson Griffin of Raleigh to fill the vacancy in the 10th Judicial District in Wake County. The vacancy was created by the passing of District Court Judge Jennifer M. Green. Griffin, who grew up in Red Oak, comes to the bench after serving as an assistant district attorney in the Wake County District Attorney's Office. During his time at the District Attorney's Office, he prosecuted thousands of criminal cases ranging from traffic violations to first degree murder. In 2012, he was promoted to the general felony trial unit prosecuting felony cases from indictment to trial. Prior to coming to the District Attorney's Office in 2010, Griffin practiced in the firm of Wallace, Morris, Barwick, Landis and Stroud in Kinston. Griffin received his law degree from the North Carolina Central University School of Law in 2008. Prior to practicing law, Griffin was a charter boat captain and held management positions in the recreational fishing business.” (Nashville Graphic, 6/17/15)

**Griffin is the NC GOP endorsed candidate in the race for Court of Appeals.**

**Griffin is running for the NC Court of Appeals against Toby Hampson and Sandra Alice Ray, says he has not let politics change his approach and is “campaigning to be a judge” not a “Republican judge.”** “For seat 2, now held by Calabria, Raleigh lawyer Toby Hampson is the only Democrat in the race. Hampson touts his experience as a clerk for several appeals court judges and as a leader of the appellate division at the Raleigh firm Wyrick, Robbins, Yates & Ponton. "I'm running to support an independent and impartial judiciary," Hampson said, "but certainly, from talking to voters in different parts of the state, (politics) is definitely something that comes up." He faces a pair of GOP opponents: Jefferson Griffin and Sandra Ray. A Nash County native, Griffin is a Wake County District Court judge with experience as a prosecutor and with the N.C. Army National Guard's JAG Corps. He said other than a label on the ballot, he hasn't let politics change his approach. "I'm not out there campaigning to be a Republican judge or a Democratic judge," Griffin said. "I'm campaigning to be a judge. It's an office where you need somebody who's proven they have the temperament.” (News & Observer, 10/4/18)

**Griffin is the NC GOP endorsed candidate in the race for court of appeals.** “Jefferson Griffin earned the state GOP's nod for the seat June 13. In a news release announcing his candidacy, Griffin noted that he was born and raised in Red Oak and served as captain of the football team before graduating from Northern Nash High School. Griffin graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned his law degree from N.C. Central University in 2008. He practiced law in Kinston before becoming a Wake County prosecutor in 2010. Former Gov. Pat McCrory appointed Griffin to the bench in 2015, and he was elected to his current post in 2016.” (Spring Hope Enterprise, 6/27/18)

**Major Republican leaders including Tim Moore have endorsed Griffin as well as the far-right pro-gun Grass Roots NC.**

**David Blackwelder, a Republican candidate for Wake County Commissioner, endorsed Griffin along with House Speaker Tim Moore.** (Blackwelder, retrieved [10/19/18](#))

**Griffin campaigned with Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison when he ran for Wake County District Court Judge in 2016.** (Twitter, [12/23/15](#))

Griffin was endorsed by the “gun rights” group Grass Roots NC for DA in 2014. (Twitter, [5/1/14](#))

**The Jefferson Griffin Committee ran an ad about “Washington liberals making a mockery of our judicial process” and touted Griffin’s conservative leadership.**

**The Jefferson Griffin Committee ran an ad about “Washington liberals making a mockery of our judicial process” and touted Griffin’s conservative leadership. (TV Eyes, aired [10/16/18](#))**

**Griffin contributed over \$20,000 to Republican committees.**

(NC State Board of Elections, retrieved [10/10/18](#))

**Griffin was an assistant DA in Wake County from 2010-2015. He lost a race for Wake DA in 2014 he was confident he would win.**

**Griffin earned only 22.75 percent of the vote in his 2014 campaign; he previously stated “I’m going to win this election.”**

**Griffin lost the race for Wake DA in 2014 earning only 22.75 percent of the vote.** “Other GOP challengers trailed: Jefferson Griffin with 22.74 percent and Terry Swaim with 10.93 percent. This election marks the first time in nearly three decades that Colon Willoughby was not on the ballot for Wake district attorney. He held the position for the past 28 years.” (News & Observer, 5/6/14)

**Griffin closed an interview about his 2014 candidacy saying, “I’m going to win this election.”** “Jefferson G. Griffin, an assistant Wake County district attorney since 2010, is only 33 but he doesn't lack for confidence. He's looking to run the DA's office after only four years in it, and he closed his interview by declaring, "I'm going to win this election." Griffin emphasizes that he was a criminal defense attorney before becoming a prosecutor and that he's the only candidate who has served in both roles. "You need to have done both to know the power of the government," he says. Griffin describes himself as a conservative, but he wants to do more than crack down on law breakers. He supports creating a special court for veterans, doing more to keep the mentally ill out of jail and coming up with more alternative sentencing. "We're not social workers, and I know that," he says, "but we're going to have to be part of the solution."” (News & Observer, 4/26/14)

**Griffin’s campaign used “social media friendly” photos of him at farmer’s markets posing with dogs and being a “real” North Carolinian, according to INDYWeek.**

**IndyWeek on Griffin: “social media friendly photos of him at farmer's markets posing with chocolate labs and being a "real" North Carolinian-The Garden & Gun-ization of state politics.”**

“The only serious contender is Jefferson Griffin, a young assistant district attorney in [Colon Willoughby]'s office since 2010. Griffin is running a savvy, 21st century campaign, with lots of glossy, social media friendly photos of him at farmer's markets posing with chocolate labs and being a "real" North Carolinian-The Garden & Gwn-ization of state politics.” (IndyWeek, 4/23/14)

**In 2004 Griffin wrote a letter to the editor of the News & Observer arguing that “real” diversity was diversity of thought based on his experience as a “conservative” student at UNC.**

**Griffin wrote in a letter that “talk in the class that promoted homosexuality or its acceptance” would be a “diverse” opinion, while claiming that the opposite view would not be.**

**In the letter Griffin claimed that “talk in class that promoted homosexuality or its acceptance” would be a “diverse” opinion, while claiming that perhaps the opposite view would not be.**

“Regarding your Feb. 20 article about UNC-Chapel Hill instructor Elyse Crystall singling out a student and telling him he was wrong: From personal experience I would say it's a safe bet to assume that any talk in class that promoted homosexuality or its acceptance would be welcomed as "diverse" opinion. I wish professors would realize that diversity is to express ideas and debate, even if it doesn't fit their close-minded definition of diversity.” (News & Observer, Letters, 3/15/04)

**Griffin noted he experienced an “attack” from “close-minded” professors with a narrow definition of diversity.** “As a conservative history and political science major at the university (class of 2003) I experienced this same sort of attack on numerous occasions. I support debate, so I don't appreciate it when a teacher tells students that they can't speak to defend a side of the issue. I love UNC-Chapel Hill and value my education from there. I have enjoyed classes with some of the greatest professors the world has to offer, some of whom may be liberal. I just warn those with open minds to be careful, because the university is not as diverse as they might have heard. Too often, professors promoting their own biased agendas cheapen the educational experience. I think professors would be surprised at the level of debate and discussion if they would put aside their personal interests and not endorse their biased opinions by butchering the meaning of "diversity." Jefferson Griffin Chapel Hill” (News & Observer, Letters, 3/15/04)

**Griffin loaned himself \$55,000 in December 2017, forgave \$23,500 in loans to his campaign for DA, and contributed \$10,581.30 to his current campaign**

Name	Address	Transaction Type	Committee	Date	Amount
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	06/08/2018	772.92
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	06/04/2018	25.48
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	06/04/2018	38.94
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	06/04/2018	133.63
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	06/04/2018	618.08
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	06/04/2018	784.81
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	05/30/2018	4.79

JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	05/30/2018	350
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	05/04/2018	50
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	05/01/2018	49.56
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	05/01/2018	49.56
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	05/01/2018	56.79
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	04/09/2018	25
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	03/28/2018	217
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	03/17/2018	100
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	03/15/2018	1008.8
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	03/04/2018	162.4
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	01/10/2018	168.37
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Outstanding Loan	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	12/29/2017	55000
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	11/17/2017	441.94

JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	11/09/2017	300
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/31/2017	1195.1
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/20/2017	226.3
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	2725 ANDERSON DR RALEIGH NC 27608-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	08/12/2017	82.03
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/01/2016	500
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	11/17/2015	137.3
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/26/2015	400
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/17/2015	500
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/10/2015	5.23
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/10/2015	95.66
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	10/10/2015	1181.7

JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	09/07/2015	300
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1506 YARBOROUGH PARK DRIVE RALEIGH NC 27604	Forgiven Loan	JEFFERSON GRIFFIN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY	08/10/2015	5000
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1506 YARBOROUGH PARK DRIVE RALEIGH NC 27604	Forgiven Loan	JEFFERSON GRIFFIN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY	08/10/2015	5000
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1506 YARBOROUGH PARK DRIVE RALEIGH NC 27604	Forgiven Loan	JEFFERSON GRIFFIN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY	08/10/2015	6000
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1506 YARBOROUGH PARK DRIVE RALEIGH NC 27604	Forgiven Loan	JEFFERSON GRIFFIN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY	08/10/2015	7500
JEFFERSON GLENN GRIFFIN	1505 YARBOROUGH PARK DR RALEIGH NC 27604-1834	Individual	THE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN COMMITTEE	07/13/2015	600
<b>Total: \$89,431</b>					

(NC State Board of Elections, retrieved [10/10/18](#))

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