

CHAD HOGSTON - NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT 6 SEAT 4 (R)

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- **Incumbency & Profile:** Hogston has served as a district court judge since 2010 and has longstanding ties to the local legal community. He ran unopposed in the general elections in 2014, 2018, and 2022.
- **Political Alignment:** Hogsten has ties to local Republican networks, including past political contributions and support from county GOP.
- **Electoral Environment:** The district is politically mixed. New Hanover County is competitive, while Pender County is more reliably Republican.
- **Campaign Infrastructure:** Hogston’s campaign appears relatively limited, with modest fundraising, low spending, and little visible public or media activity.
- **Potential Vulnerability:** The most notable issue identified in public reporting is Hogston’s co-ownership of a Pender County property involved in a zoning dispute. The property was cited for commercial use, and the activity later continued under a short-term rental model.

JURISDICTION SUMMARY

The North Carolina Judicial Branch’s district map, effective January 1, 2024, places New Hanover and Pender Counties within District Court District 6.

New Hanover County is relatively competitive. In the 2024 presidential election, Kamala D. Harris (D) received 49.60% of the vote and Donald J. Trump (R) received 48.98%. In the same election, Democrat Josh Stein carried the county in the gubernatorial race with 59.65% to Mark Robinson’s 34.34%.

Pender County is more reliably Republican. In 2024, Trump received 66.93% of the vote compared to Harris at 32.48%. Taken together, the district leans Republican but remains competitive because of New Hanover.

In 2026, Chad E. Hogston (R) is running for reelection against Katherine Corpening (D).

BACKGROUND

PERSONAL LIFE

Hogston Said He Grew Up “In The Mountains Of Virginia.” “Chad Hogston grew up in the mountains of Virginia, where hard work, discipline, and self-sufficiency were part of everyday life. He was the first in his family to attend college and went on to build a legal career spanning three decades.” [[Judge Hogston](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

Hogston Was “The First In His Family To Attend College.” “Chad Hogston grew up in the mountains of Virginia, where hard work, discipline, and self-sufficiency were part of everyday life. He was the first in his family to attend college and went on to build a legal career spanning three decades.” [[Judge Hogston](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

1993: Hogston Received His Bachelors Degree From James Madison University.

Law School

Campbell University
Class of 1996
J.D.

Other Education

James Madison University
Class of 1993
B.S.

[[Lawyers](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

1996: Hogston Received His J.D From Campbell University.

Law School

Campbell University
Class of 1996
J.D.

Other Education

James Madison University
Class of 1993
B.S.

[[Lawyers](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

1996: Hogston Was Admitted To The North Carolina Bar.

Bar Admission & Memberships

Admissions

1996, North Carolina

[[Lawyers](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

March 2009: Chad Hogsten Is Married To Erin Hogsten. “Erin Randalle DeLeo and Chad Eugene Hogston were united in marriage on March 20, 2009, at Saint Therese Catholic Church in Wrightsville Beach, N.C. Rev. Patrick Daugherty, C.P., of North Palm Beach, Fla., conducted the ceremony along with the groom's Pastor, Mike Ashcraft of Port City Church, Wilmington, N.C.” [[Star News Online](#), 4/19/2009][[Facebook](#) , accessed, 4/19/2026]

- **Erin Hogston Is A Realtor In Wilmington, North Carolina.** “Hey there, I'm Erin! I have over 20+ years of sales experience, and over 7 years of Real Estate experience and specialize in New Home Construction as well as resales and AirB&B investing. I take great joy in starting each day with the opportunity to engage in work that I am passionate about. It's of utmost significance to me that you have a clear understanding of the kind of support you can anticipate from me in my role as your Realtor. You deserve to work with someone who cares about helping you achieving your real estate goals and doing it the right way! WHEN I'M NOT HELPING PEOPLE BUY

OR SELL THEIR HOME YOU'LL FIND ME...” [[Summers Real Estate Team](#), accessed, 4/21,2026]

PROPERTY HOLDINGS

As Of 2025, Chad E. Hogston And Erin R. Hogston Appear To Own A Primary Residence In Wilmington, North Carolina Valued At \$688,000. New Hanover County assessment records list Chad E. and Erin R. Hogston as owners of a single-family residence in Wilmington, with a 2025 assessed value of \$688,100. [Property Records, New Hanover County Assessment Record, accessed 4/21/2026]

- **2015: Hogston And Erin Hogston Purchased The Property In Wilmington For \$430,000.** Deed records show Chad E. Hogston and Erin purchased the property on June 30, 2015, with the deed recorded July 1, 2015. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 5901/600]

2020 And 2022: Hogston And Erin Hogston Refinanced Or Borrowed Against The Tilbury Drive Property Multiple Times. Mortgage records show a \$321,000 non-purchase money loan recorded in 2020 and a \$200,000 revolving credit line recorded in 2022, in addition to earlier financing activity tied to the property. [Property Records, New Hanover County Mortgage Records, 2020 and 2022]

2023: Chad E. Hogston And Erin R. Hogston Purchased A Condominium In Beech Mountain, North Carolina, For \$340,000. Watauga County deed records show the purchase was recorded on September 1, 2023. [Property Records, Watauga County Deed Record, Book/Page 2349/741]

- **The Beech Mountain Property Appears To Be A Second Home.** Mortgage records for the Beech Mountain condominium include a “**Second Home Rider: Y**” designation. [Property Records, Watauga County Mortgage Record, Book/Page 2349/747]

As Of 2025, The Beech Mountain Condominium Had An Assessed Value Of \$223,500. Watauga County assessment records list the condo as a three-bedroom unit with a 2025 assessed value of \$223,500. [Property Records, Watauga County Assessment Record, accessed 4/21/2026]

2025: Chad Hogston And SCJRJ LLC Purchased A 6.10-Acre Parcel On Long Creek Loop Road In Rocky Point, Pender County, For \$75,000. Pender County deed records show buyer information listing Chad Hogston and SCJRJ LLC, with the deed recorded on August 18, 2025. [Property Records, Pender County Deed Record, Book/Page 4870/2408]

- **The Rocky Point Property Is Listed As Vacant Land.** Pender County assessment records describe the Long Creek Loop Road parcel as “Vacant (General)” totaling 6.100 acres. [Property Records, Pender County Assessment Record, accessed 4/21/2026]

PRIOR PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

2005: Hogston Purchased 2201 Fox Hunt Lane In Wilmington For \$199,000. Deed records show Chad E. Hogston, listed as a single person, purchased the property on April 26, 2005. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 4776/631]

2005: Hogston Sold 2201 Fox Hunt Lane For \$240,000. Records show the property was sold on **August 2, 2005**, several months after purchase. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 4883/2817]

2005: Hogston Purchased 6328 Wrightsville Avenue In Wilmington For \$185,000. Deed records show Chad E. Hogston purchased the property on July 19, 2005. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 4878/2556]

- **2018: Chad E. And Erin R. Hogston Sold 6328 Wrightsville Avenue For \$175,000.** Deed records show the property was sold on June 14, 2018. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 6149/915]

2011: Chad Hogston And Erin Hogston Were Associated With 816 Winged Foot Lane In Wilmington. Records show Chad Hogston as owner beginning in 2005, with later transfer/refinance records listing Chad and Erin Hogston jointly at the property. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed and Mortgage Records, 2005–2011]

2015: Chad E. And Erin R. Hogston Sold 816 Winged Foot Lane To Donald E. And Deborah L. Hogston For \$350,000. Deed records show the transaction was recorded on June 29, 2015. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 5900/441]

2012–2015: Chad Hogston Was Also Associated With 213 Princess Street In Wilmington. Mortgage and deed records list Chad Hogston at 213 Princess Street, including a 2015 sale of the property by Chad E. and Erin R. Hogston to Lawyer NC Properties LLC for \$387,500. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 5922/2051]

2007: Hogston Sold 1908 Summer Sands Place In Wilmington For \$255,000. Deed records show Chad Hogston, listed as a single person, sold the property on August 20, 2007. [Property Records, New Hanover County Deed Record, Book/Page 5222/178]

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND

2010–Present: Hogston Has Served As A North Carolina District Court Judge In New Hanover And Pender Counties. “Thank you so much for having your faith in me for the last 16 years serving as your District Court Judge. I was first elected in 2010, and have run unopposed until this election cycle. I humbly ask for your continued support as I run for re-election this year. I look forward to continuing to serve both New Hanover and Pender Counties! Over 30 years of experience in the courts in Southeastern North Carolina.” [[Facebook](#), 2/1/2026] [[New Hanover County](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

2025: Hogston Publicly Described Himself As Overseeing The District Covering New Hanover And Pender Counties During The E-Courts Rollout. “District Judge Chad Hogston, who oversees the district that includes New Hanover and Pender counties, shared how the transition is going so far. He explained that the typical caseload of around 1,000 cases was reduced to just 100 as everyone adjusts to the new system. ‘It’s just starting; people need to learn the process, so there are going to be hiccups here and there,’ Hogston said. ‘We’ve reduced our docket substantially, but we plan on slowly trickling up the numbers in court, and as soon as possible, we will be back to running normal.’ Currently, e-Courts is live across 62 counties in North Carolina, with the remaining counties expected to transition by the end of the year.” [[WVAY](#), 2/3/2025]

Before Taking The Bench, Hogston Worked As A Wilmington Attorney In Private Practice.

After graduating from law school, Hogston entered into private practice in Wilmington. He worked as an attorney at Rountree & Seagle and Lineberry & White. He also spent time as a partner at Anderson & Hogston, eventually opening his own private practice, Hogston Law.

[[Trellis Law](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2018 And 2022: Hogston Sought Reelection To The District Court Bench.

The Hon. Chad E. Hogston is a judge for the 5th Judicial District Court of North Carolina. He was elected to the bench in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, 2018, and 2022.

[[Trellis Law](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2014: Hogsten Ran For North Carolina District Court Judge District 5 Seat 4 Unopposed.

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 05 (HOGSTON) (VOTE FOR 1) Precincts Reported: 63 of 63				View Contest Details
NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT	
Chad E. Hogston		45,402	100.00%	

[North Carolina Board of Elections, accessed, 4/20/2026]

2018: Hogsten Ran For North Carolina District Court Judge District 5 Seat 4 Unopposed.

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 05 SEAT 4 (VOTE FOR 1) Precincts Reported: 63 of 63				View Contest Details
NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT	
Chad E. Hogston	REP	66,559	100.00%	

[North Carolina Board of Elections, accessed, 4/20/2026]

2022: Hogsten Ran For North Carolina District Court Judge District 5 Seat 4 Unopposed.

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 05 SEAT 04 (VOTE FOR 1) Precincts Reported: 62 of 62				View Contest Details
NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT	
Chad E. Hogston	REP	74,120	100.00%	

[North Carolina Board of Elections, accessed, 4/20/2026]

August 2023: A North Carolina State Board Of Elections Letter Granted The Committee To Elect Chad Hogston For District Court Judge A Good-Cause Waiver For A \$500 Penalty Tied To Failure To Submit The 2022 Third-Quarter Finance Report By Its Due Date.

Joel Merritt Wagoner, Treasurer
Committee to Elect Chad Hogston for District Court Judge
401 Chestnut Street, Suite K
Wilmington, NC 28401

Dear Mr. Wagoner,

At the August 13, 2023 meeting of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, the State Board granted the request of the Committee to Elect Chad Hogston for District Court Judge for a good cause waiver of the following penalties:

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	PENALTY
02/23/2023	FAILURE TO SUBMIT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT [NON-STATEWIDE]	2022 Third Quarter Report (invoice 1976) Due Date: 11/01/2022	\$500
		BALANCE WAIVED	\$500

You do not need to take any further action regarding this penalty. A copy of your waiver request and this notice shall be posted to the State Board's website or sent to the applicable county board of elections. This waiver does NOT modify or amend the obligation to pay any other penalties that may have been assessed against the committee. This waiver does not prevent the State Board from issuing penalties against the committee for any future noncompliance with North Carolina's Campaign Finance Laws.

[[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), 8/17/2023]

ENDORSEMENTS

Hogston Has Received Support From Pender County GOP And Was Listed On A Pender County GOP-Endorsed Candidate Slate.

For Pender County voters:

Quick list of candidates on Pender County ballots who are endorsed by GOP

US House of Representatives District 7: David Rouzer

NC State Senate District 8: Bill Rabon

NC House of Representatives District 16: Carson Smith

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 1: Barbara Jackson

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 1: Andrew T. Heath

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 2: Jefferson G. Griffin

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 3: Chuck Kitchen

NC District Court Judge District 5 Seat 1: Lindsey L. McKee

NC District Court Judge District 5 Seat 4: Chad E. Hogston

Pender County Board of Commissioners District 1: David Williams

Pender County Board of Commissioners District 2: David Piepmeyer

Pender County Board of Commissioners District 3: George Brown

Pender County Clerk of Superior Court: Elizabeth H. Craver

Pender County Sheriff: Alan Cutler

Pender County Board of Education District 1: Cindy Faulk Fontana

Pender County Board of Education District 2: Beth Burns

Pender County Board of Education District 4: Ken Smith

[[Pender GOP](#), accessed, 4/21/2026]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

February 2026: Hogston Raised \$17,926.20 This Election Cycle To Date. [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

All Reported Contributions Came From Individual Donors. [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

February 2026: Hogston Reported \$15,214.98 Cash On Hand This Election Cycle. [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/20/2026]

Contributor	Employer	Date	Amount	Type
James Blanton	CFO Carolina Software Inc	1/2/2026	\$1000	Monetary
Grayson Cheek	Attorney Cheek Law	1/7/2026	\$1500	Monetary
Robby Collins	Attorney Collins & Collins	1/2/2026	\$500	Monetary
Benjamin Deaver	Attorney Deaver Law	2/10/2026	\$500	Monetary
Joshua Gattis	Attorney McGee Law Firm	1/26/2026	\$100	Monetary
John Green	Attorney Hall & Green Law	1/20/2026	\$2000	Monetary
Michael Kingoff	Owner of Kingoff's Jewelers	1/9/2026	\$1000	Monetary
Bert Lea	Retired	2/3/2026	\$500	Monetary
Adam Lisk	Owner Coastal Construction	1/30/2026	\$500	Monetary
Bruce Mason	Attorney Mason Mason & Smith	1/23/2026	\$2500	Monetary
Richard George Miller	Retired	2/5/2026	\$200	Monetary
Darryl Mills	Attorney Darryl Mills Attorney	1/10/2026	\$250	Monetary
Ray Keziah	Sr. VP Epic Finance	2/14/2026	\$250	Monetary
John Philips	Attorney Woody White Law Firm	2/10/2026	\$1000	Monetary
Lance Popkin	President Furniture Fair	2/3/2026	\$500	Monetary
George Richardson	Attorney Law Offices of G. Grady Richardson Jr.	2/10/2026	\$1000	Monetary

James Rutherford	James Rutherford Attorney At Law	1/31/2026	\$1000	Monetary
Blake Spale	Attorney Shotwell Law Group	1/7/2026	\$1000	Monetary
Woody White	Attorney Woody White Law Firm	2/11/2026	\$1000	Monetary

PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributor	Committee Name	Date	Amount	Type
Chad Hogston	Committee to Elect John J. Carroll	4/9/1997	\$465.00	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Committee To Elect John J. Carroll	4/10/1997	\$97.78	Monetary
Chad Hogston	New Handover REC	4/30/1998	\$121.87	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Committee To Keep Judge Ola Lewis	7/26/2002	\$75.00	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Woody White for NC Senate	10/15/200 3	\$250	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Committee To Reelect John J. Carroll III	7/8/2004	\$500	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Committee To Reelect John J. Carroll III	7/8/2004	\$500	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Sandra Ray for District Court Judge	7/1/2008	\$1000	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Sandra Ray for District	7/1/2008	\$500	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Pat McCrory Committee	10/27/200 8	\$1000	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Committee To Reelect John J. Carroll III	1/3/2007	\$2300	Monetary
Chad Hogston	Lower Cape Fear Republican Women	10/9/2021	`\$400	In-Kind
Chad Hogston	Pender REC	7/2/2022	\$300	In-Kind

OTHER VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

PROPERTY USE AND ZONING DISPUTE (PENDER COUNTY)

2023: Hogston Was A Co-Owner Of Carl Meeks LLC, Which Owned A Pender County Property Cited For Zoning Violations Related To A Commercial Motocross Operation. “Carl Meeks LLC was leasing the property to a company called Driven MX, which was advertising it as ‘Copperhead Ranch.’ Driven MX ran a variety of racing and training programs using the track (earlier financial disclosures listed the property at 532 Carl Meeks Road as an “Event Space”). A violation was issued to Carl Meeks LLC for allowing Driven MX to operate a commercial enterprise on the property. An attorney for Carl Meeks said the LLC was “mortified” that Driven had violated the ordinance, and wasn't aware of their intention to charge additional fees when they agreed to lease the property. Still, Carl Meeks LLC appealed to the county's Board of Adjustment (BoA), where in May a panel of five board members held a quasi-judicial hearing and found that the property was definitively in violation of local zoning ordinances. They determined it was a commercial property — characterized by charging a fee for its use — which was strictly prohibited under the current zoning ordinance. As a consequence, the property owners were forbidden from operating their land as a commercial enterprise without a special use permit in the future, unless they wanted to pay fines. Samuel Potter, the lawyer representing Carl Meeks LLC, said they were unaware wrongdoing had been committed but were eager to comply. Potter said one of the owners of the company, District Judge Chad Hogston, was anxious of any appearance of impropriety as an elected official, and was eager to make amends. Pender advised them on how they could proceed, Potter said. ‘[The county] made it clear at the time that if there were a motocross track that was on the property that was part of a short term residential program like Airbnb, or VRBO, or homestay, any of those types of things that they do not regulate short term rentals,’ said Potter. ‘They would view the motocross track as being ancillary, not primary, to the short term rentals. Beginning around that time, they transitioned to short term rentals where people could use the tracks,’ he said. Thus, Carl Meeks LLC found itself an unexpected loophole for the motocross track — operating as a short term rental (STR).” [[WHQR](#), 4/15/2023]

After The Violation, The Property Transitioned To A Short-Term Rental (STR) Model, Allowing Continued Use Of The Motocross Track As An “Amenity.” “Here’s what happened: the county doesn’t count operating an AirBNB as a commercial property, so Carl Meeks LLC continued to run as an STR. Since Carl Meeks LLC was prohibited from charging fees outside of the rent tenants pay to stay at the AirBnB, the motocross track was treated as an “amenity,” with no additional fee for use — just like a swimming pool or hot tub might be for the AirBnb. Even though the county ruled that Carl Meeks LLC would be fined if it continued allowing commercial businesses to run out of the property — the LLC’s initial rule-breaking had no real consequence.” [[WHQR](#), 4/15/2023]

This Shift Allowed The Activity To Continue Under A Regulatory Gap, As STRs Are Not Treated As Commercial Use Under County Policy. “At the time, facing pressure from some community groups, most notably Residents of Old Wilmington, the city adopted a new ordinance implementing a swath of regulations for STRs. These included caps on the density of rental properties throughout the city and special zoning conditions for proposed STRs. Because in some places there were already more STRs than the caps would allow, the city implemented a lottery system to choose who could register and who would have to stop operating their rental.” [[WHQR](#), 4/15/2023]

An Attorney For The Owners Said Hogston Was Concerned About The Appearance Of Impropriety Due To His Position As A Judge. “As a consequence, the property owners were forbidden from operating their land as a commercial enterprise without a special use permit in the future, unless they wanted to pay fines. Samuel Potter, the lawyer representing Carl Meeks LLC, said they were

unaware wrongdoing had been committed but were eager to comply. Potter said one of the owners of the company, District Judge Chad Hogston, was anxious of any appearance of impropriety as an elected official, and was eager to make amends. Pender advised them on how they could proceed, Potter said. ‘[The county] made it clear at the time that if there were a motocross track that was on the property that was part of a short term residential program like Airbnb, or VRBO, or homestay, any of those types of things that they do not regulate short term rentals,’ said Potter. ‘They would view the motocross track as being ancillary, not primary, to the short term rentals. Beginning around that time, they transitioned to short term rentals where people could use the tracks,’ he said. Thus, Carl Meeks LLC found itself an unexpected loophole for the motocross track — operating as a short term rental (STR). [[WHQR](#), 4/15/2023]

Neighbors Alleged The Property’s Ongoing Use Caused Noise, Safety Concerns, And Declines In Property Value, Though No Misconduct By Hogston Was Established. “That’s been the everyday experience of neighbors living along Carl Meeks Road in Rocky Point, Pender County. The name of their street is now synonymous with the constant noise of the speeding machinery uprooting their life. Residents like Scott Walker aren’t happy. ‘I like motocross. I like dirt bikes. I think they’re great. Do I want them riding next to my horses? Do you want them next to your house? Probably not,’ Walker said. [...]Even if the neighbors wanted to leave, residents allege they’re losing property value because of the track — and they are doubtful they would be able to sell their homes under these conditions. ‘That over there has devalued this property here. I would say at least \$200,000. Oh, absolutely,” said Harris. ‘I wouldn’t buy this,’ Ms. McCabe concluded.” [[WHQR](#), 4/15/2023]

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