

CRAIG COLLINS-NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

Key findings include:

- **Republican Alignment:** Collins is closely aligned with North Carolina’s Republican Party, with endorsements from senior party leaders, legislative leadership, and local GOP infrastructure.
- **Ideological Positioning as a “Conservative Judge”:** Collins has explicitly framed his candidacy in ideological terms, emphasizing the importance of electing “conservative judges.”
- **Alignment With Religious Conservative Movement:** Collins’ endorsement from Ralph Reed links his campaign to a national religious-right network that has actively worked to influence judicial outcomes and advance socially conservative policies, including opposition to abortion and transgender rights.
- **Association With Controversial Political Figures:** Collins has aligned himself with figures such as Pete Hegseth, whose record includes scrutiny over personal conduct and federal spending practices, as well as endorsers like Dan Forest and Pat McCrory, who have been associated with controversial policy positions and political disputes.
- **Consistent Republican Political Activity:** Collins has a longstanding history of financial contributions to Republican candidates, party committees, and judicial campaigns, reflecting sustained engagement with GOP political infrastructure over time.
- **Law-and-Order and Constitutional Absolutism Messaging:** Collins’ public statements emphasize strict adherence to the Constitution, opposition to pandemic-related restrictions, and prioritization of law-and-order themes..

The North Carolina Court of Appeals is the state’s intermediate appellate court, hearing civil and criminal appeals from all 100 counties. It reviews trial-court records for errors of law and issues written opinions binding statewide. Judges are elected statewide to *eight-year terms*, and, uniquely in North Carolina, these elections are partisan (candidates appear with an “R” or “D” by their name). As of 2025, Republicans hold a lopsided majority on the appellate bench (12 of 15 seats) and on the state Supreme Court (6 of 9 seats). North Carolina itself is politically competitive; recent years have seen intense litigation over voting rules, redistricting, and election administration. High-profile cases (for example the 2024 U.S. Supreme Court ballot litigation and the 2024 state Supreme Court race) have landed in the state’s courts, often dividing judges along party lines.

BACKGROUND

2016: Pat McCrory Appointed Collins As A District Court Judge In Judicial District 27A (Gaston County). “Governor Pat McCrory has appointed Craig Collins as district court judge in Judicial District 27A (Gaston County). Collins will fill the vacancy created by the passing of Chief District Court Judge Ralph Gingles Jr. Collins previously served in the district attorney's office for nine years.” [[North Carolina Judicial Branch](#), 2/16/2016]

Collins Filled The Vacancy Created By The Death Of The Chief District Court Judge Ralph Gingles Jr. “Governor Pat McCrory has appointed Craig Collins as district court judge in Judicial District 27A (Gaston County). Collins will fill the vacancy created by the passing of Chief District Court Judge Ralph Gingles Jr. Collins previously served in the district attorney's office for nine years.” [[North Carolina Judicial Branch](#), 2/16/2016]

The North Carolina Judicial Branch Announcement Noted Collins Had Previously Served In The District Attorney's Office For Nine Years. "Governor Pat McCrory has appointed Craig Collins as district court judge in Judicial District 27A (Gaston County). Collins will fill the vacancy created by the passing of Chief District Court Judge Ralph Gingles Jr. Collins previously served in the district attorney's office for nine years." [[North Carolina Judicial Branch](#), 2/16/2016]

Collins Served As Gaston County District Attorney. "Collins has been a district judge since 2016. He is a former assistant district attorney in Gaston County. He says, "It's important that we elect constitutional conservatives who understand that the constitution is written with words, those words have meaning, those meanings don't change." He calls himself a Christian and has been involved in local GOP politics as the chairman of the 10th district." [[WFAE 90.7](#), 10/18/2024]

Collins Worked In Private Practice Since 2007. "An attorney who lost his bid last year to head the North Carolina Republican Party despite Support from GOP leaders has been appointed to a judgeship in Gaston County. Gov. Pat McCrory said Tuesday that Craig Collins of Gastonia has been appointed to the District Court bench. He's filling a vacancy created by the October death of Chief District Court Judge Ralph Gingles Jr. Collins ran for state Republican Party chairman but lost to Hasan Harnett at last June's state GOP convention. Collins had endorsements from McCrory, House Speaker Tim Moore, Senate leader Phil Berger and U.S. Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis. Collins has been in private practice since 2007. He was previously a Gaston County assistant district attorney, serving as the lead drug case prosecutor."

2025: Collins Was Elected To The Superior Court. "Cameron 'Chip' Harrison to the District Court for Judicial District 38, serving Gaston County. Harrison is filling the vacancy created after Judge Craig Collins was elected to the Superior Court." [[NC Governor](#), 3/15/2025]

Education

1994: Collins Earned His Bachelors Degree From The University Of Pittsburgh. [[Judge Craig Collins](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

1997: Collins Earned His J.D From Villanova University`School Of Law. [[Judge Craig Collins](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

2007-2016: Collins Worked In The Private Practice "The Law Of Office Of Craig Collins." [[Judge Craig Collins](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

Personal Financial Background: Property Holdings

Collins Owns A Residential Property In Gastonia, Which He Refinances In June 2020 With A \$269,822 Conventional Loan. [Gaston County Deed Records, Book 5132/Page 2373, recorded 6/24/2020]

October 2009: Collins Purchases A Residential Property For \$55,000 [Gaston County Deed Records, Book 4487/Page 1746, recorded 10/14/2009]

- **2025: This Property Was Assessed At \$162,110.** [Gaston County Property Assessment Records, accessed, 3/18/2026]

Public Property Records Indicated That Collins Is Married To Shanda Collins-Pogorzelski Who Joint Owner Of The Gaston County Property. [Gaston County Deed Records, Book 5132/Page 2373, recorded 6/24/2020]

Board and civic involvement

2015: Collins Served Four Year Term As Trustee Of Gaston College. “He served as a trustee for Gaston College, the local community college, from 2015-2019.” [[Phi Delta Theta](#), 12/18/2020]

Longstanding involvement in Republican Party leadership

2015: A 2015 Post On The Gaston County Republican Party Website Described Him As The “NCGOP 10th Congressional District Chairman.” “NCGOP 10th Congressional District Chairman Craig Collins of Gastonia, a longtime conservative activist and campaign leader, announced that he is a candidate for State Chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party.” [[Gaston GOP](#), 3/15/2025]

- **2015: Collins Announce His Candidacy For State Chairman of The North Carolina Republican Party.** “NCGOP 10th Congressional District Chairman Craig Collins of Gastonia, a longtime conservative activist and campaign leader, announced that he is a candidate for State Chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party.” [[Gaston GOP](#), 3/15/2025]
- **The Post Listed Endorsements From Republicans, Including U. S Senators Richard Burrand, Thom Tillis, Gov. Pat McCrory, LT. Gov. Dan Forest, U.S. Rep Patrick McHenry, NC Senate Leader Phil Berger, NC House Speaker Tim Moore, And State Party Chair Claude Pope.** “Collins and Justice have received the endorsements of U.S. Senator Richard Burr, U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, Governor Pat McCrory, Lt. Governor Dan Forest and U.S. Congressman Patrick McHenry, the Chief Deputy Majority Whip of the U.S. House. Additionally, State Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, State House Speaker Tim Moore and NCGOP State Chairman Claude Pope endorsed Collins and Justice.” [[Gaston GOP](#), 3/15/2025]

Gaston Gazette: “Hasan Harnett Of Cabarrus County Defeated Gastonia’s Craig Collins.” “The North Carolina GOP has a new chairman. And it's not the Gaston County hopeful who party bigwigs had endorsed. Hasan Harnett of Cabarrus County defeated Gastonia’s Craig Collins, the GOP chairman for the 10th Congressional District for the past two years, for the post. The vote was Saturday at the North Carolina Republican Party convention in Raleigh. Collins, 43, was defeated by a slim margin, after being favored to win the seat.” [[Gaston Gazette](#), 6/6/2025]

- **The Gaston Gazette Reported That Craig Collins — Despite Being The Candidate Backed By Party Leadership “Bigwigs” Lost The North Carolina GOP Chair Race.** “The North Carolina GOP has a new chairman. And it's not the Gaston County hopeful who party bigwigs had endorsed. Hasan Harnett of Cabarrus County defeated Gastonia’s Craig Collins, the GOP chairman for the 10th Congressional District for the past two years, for the post. The vote was Saturday at the North Carolina Republican Party convention in Raleigh. Collins, 43, was defeated by a slim margin, after being favored to win the seat.” [[Gaston Gazette](#), 6/6/2025]

Gaston County Chair GOP Site Identified Collins As County Chair From 2011-2013.

The Gaston County Republican Party has been chaired by many distinguished leaders throughout the years. Several have gone on to serve in public office including two county commissioners, a District Attorney, three members of the North Carolina House and even a Federal Judge!

Steven Denton, 2025 -
Robert King, 2023 – 2025
Jonathan L. Fletcher, 2017 – 2023
Mary Anne Huggins, 2015 – 2017
Chris Howell, 2015
Don Grant, 2013 – 2015
Craig Collins, 2011 – 2013

[[Gaston GOP](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

Partisanship and judicial philosophy cues

Collins Said “It’s Important That We Elect Constitutional Conservatives Who Understand That The Constitution Is Written With Words, Those Words Have Meaning.” “Collins has been a district judge since 2016. He is a former assistant district attorney in Gaston County. He says, "It's important that we elect constitutional conservatives who understand that the constitution is written with words, those words have meaning, those meanings don't change.” [[WFAE 90.7](#), 10/18/2024]

Collins Joined A Slate Of Conservatives For State Judgeships. “Collins noted that he is part of a slate “of four conservative judges running for election to state judgeships. The others, who were not present at the Hendersonville meeting, include N.C. Rep. Sarah Stevens, who is seeking a seat on the N.C. Supreme Court; and Matt Smith and George Bell, each of whom is running — as is Collins — for judgeships on the N.C. Court of Appeals.” [[WFAE 90.7](#), 10/18/2024]

Collins Said “Today Conservative Judges Are More Important In Our Nation Than Ever.” “Earlier, HCRMC Chairman Bruce Hatfield introduced the meeting’s keynote speaker, after which Collins said, “Today, conservative judges are more important in our nation than ever. Across our nation, these issues are going to be in our courts.” [[Asheville Daily Planet](#), 8/25/2025]


Collins Said “The Far-Left Dominated Democrats Could Take Back The Courts Just In Time For The Census.” “Collins then warned, ‘In two election cycles, they (the far-left dominated Democrats) could take back the courts, just in time for the census. And their activist judges might say, ‘You know what, we’re just going to *rewrite* the law for you.’ ‘We’ve committed to an 18-month campaign. I think this is 22 counties I’ve visited so far.... You (the voters) must make sure our judges are conservatives..’” [[Asheville Daily Planet](#), 8/25/2025]

Collins Said Democratic Judges “Might Say We’re Just Going To Re-write The Law For You.” “Collins then warned, ‘In two election cycles, they (the far-left dominated Democrats) could take back the courts, just in time for the census. And their activist judges might say, ‘You know what, we’re just going to *rewrite* the law for you.’ ‘We’ve committed to an 18-month campaign. I think this is 22 counties I’ve visited so far.... You (the voters) must make sure our judges are conservatives..’” [[Asheville Daily Planet](#), 8/25/2025]

Collins Supported Judges “Who Will Uphold The Principles Of Law And Order.” “Earlier, HCRMC Chairman Bruce Hatfield introduced the meeting’s keynote speaker, after which Collins said, “Today, conservative judges are more important in our nation than ever. Across our nation, these issues are going to be in our courts. ‘We need to be sure we elect judges who will uphold the principles of law and order and respect victims’ rights...’” [[Asheville Daily Planet](#), 8/25/2025]

Judgment & Alignment: Support for Controversial Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth

January 2025: Collins Publicly Congratulates Pete Hegseth Following His Swearing In As U.S Secretary Of Defense.

 **Craig Collins** · Follow
January 25, 2025 · 🌐

Congratulations to our new Secretary of Defense **Pete Hegseth**! We had a great time with Pete at the 2022 **NC Faith and Freedom Coalition** Salt and Light Conference. Check out VP **JD Vance** casting the deciding vote in the comments below.



[Facebook, Craig Collins, 1/25/2025]

2017: Hegseth Faced Sexual Assault Allegations, No Charges Were Filed He Later Paid A Financial Settlement Related To The Incident.

January 2025: Sen. Elizabeth Warren Said Hegseth Admitted To Paying \$50,000 To “Silence A Jane Doe Who Accused Him Of Rape.”



Elizabeth Warren  
@SenWarren



Pete Hegseth admitted to the Senate that he paid \$50,000 (!!!) to silence a "Jane Doe" who accused him of rape.

But at his hearing last week, he said he was "falsely accused."

More questions than answers. We can't rush his vote and trust him with our national security.

174. Mr. Hegseth, how much did you pay "Jane Doe" as part of any non-disclosure agreement or other agreement related to this incident?

\$50,000.

[[X](#), 1/23/2025]

Reports From Colleagues Alleged That Hegseth Engaged In Heavy Drinking While Working.

"The New Yorker reported Hegseth was forced to step down as president of Concerned Veterans for America in 2016 after numerous allegations from staff of his partying habits while on official work trips—though he has denied he was forced out. In one instance, Hegseth allegedly brought staff to a Louisiana strip club and had to be restrained from joining the dancers on stage, according to a seven-page whistleblower report obtained by the publication. On another trip in May 2015, Hegseth drunkenly yelled "Kill All Muslims" while he was out partying late at a hotel bar, The New Yorker reported, citing a letter from a fellow staffer to a superior at the organization. NBC News also reported Hegseth's alleged drinking habits raised concerns among Fox News employees on more than a dozen occasions between 2017 and November, when he resigned after Trump nominated him. Two unnamed employees said they smelled alcohol on him on more than a dozen occasions before he went on air while hosting "Fox & Friends Weekend." Fox did not formally respond to the allegations, but some of its anchors defended Hegseth, including "Fox & Friends" co-host Brian Kilmeade, who argued in December, "he knows his stuff, he's got the vision, he fought in the wars." [Forbes, 1/25/2025]

- **May 2015: While On A Work Trip, "Hegseth Drunkenly Yelled Kill All Muslims."** "The New Yorker reported Hegseth was forced to step down as president of Concerned Veterans for America in 2016 after numerous allegations from staff of his partying habits while on official

work trips—though he has denied he was forced out. In one instance, Hegseth allegedly brought staff to a Louisiana strip club and had to be restrained from joining the dancers on stage, according to a seven-page whistleblower report obtained by the publication. On another trip in May 2015, Hegseth drunkenly yelled “Kill All Muslims” while he was out partying late at a hotel bar, The New Yorker reported, citing a letter from a fellow staffer to a superior at the organization. NBC News also reported Hegseth’s alleged drinking habits raised concerns among Fox News employees on more than a dozen occasions between 2017 and November, when he resigned after Trump nominated him. Two unnamed employees said they smelled alcohol on him on more than a dozen occasions before he went on air while hosting “Fox & Friends Weekend.” Fox did not formally respond to the allegations, but some of its anchors defended Hegseth, including ‘Fox & Friends’ co-host Brian Kilmeade, who argued in December, “he knows his stuff, he’s got the vision, he fought in the wars.” [[Forbes](#), 1/25/2025]

During Hegseth’s Leadership At Veterans For Freedom And Concerned Veterans For America He Treated Organizational Fund Like A “Personal Expense Account.” “Hegseth’s leadership of two veterans’ organisations — Veterans for Freedom and Concerned Veterans for America — has also drawn scrutiny. Whistleblowers and former colleagues have accused him of financial mismanagement, claiming he treated organisational funds as if they were his personal expense account.” [[First Post](#), 1/25/2025]

2025: Open The Books Found That Department Of Defense Spent \$93 Billion In September Alone, Marking One Of The Largest End Of Year Spending Surges In Recent History. “The Pentagon spent more money in September—the end of the 2025 fiscal year—than it had in any other year since 2008. But a good chunk of the budget wasn’t used for anything that could be considered a pertinent military expense. The Defense Department burned through \$93 billion that month alone, signing checks left and right in order to dry up its congressionally allocated budget, according to a recent analysis by the government watchdog Open the Books.” [[New Republic](#), 3/9/2026]

- **New Republic: “A Good Chunk Of The Budget Wasn’t Used For Anything That Could Be Pertinent To Military Expense.”** “The Pentagon spent more money in September—the end of the 2025 fiscal year—than it had in any other year since 2008. But a good chunk of the budget wasn’t used for anything that could be considered a pertinent military expense. The Defense Department burned through \$93 billion that month alone, signing checks left and right in order to dry up its congressionally allocated budget, according to a recent analysis by the government watchdog Open the Books.” [[New Republic](#), 3/9/2026]

The Reported Expenditures Included Millions Of Dollars On Items With Limited Connection To Military Operations, Including \$2 Million On Alaskan King Crab, \$6.9 Million On Lobster Tail, And \$15.1 On Ribeye Steak. “One of the largest bulk expenditures was just for furniture, for which the Pentagon decided to shell out \$225 million. That included \$12,000 for fruit basket stands, and checks totaling more than \$60,000 for Herman Miller recliners. All in all, the agency spent more on furniture in 2025 than it had in over a decade. In the last five days of September alone, the department blew through \$50.1 billion on just grants and contracts. For context, only nine other countries spend that much on the entirety of their defense budget per year. It’s also more than the total military budgets of Canada and Mexico combined. The federal government had a \$1.8 trillion deficit in 2025. Ultimately, the military’s massive expenditures offered up more evidence that the Trump administration has not put any meaningful effort into cracking down on needless government spending, a pledge that Donald Trump has wielded on the campaign trail since 2015. “Under Secretary Hegseth, the Pentagon has consistently said its mission is to refocus on warfighting and lethality,” Open the Books CEO John Hart said. ‘Last year, we highlighted the problem of wasteful use-it-or-lose-it year-end spending. We noted that this

reform is fully within the secretary's control and is a historic opportunity to make good on that promise.” [\[New Republic, 3/9/2026\]](#)

Additional Purchases Included More Than \$225 Million On Furniture, Including \$12,000 For Fruit Basket Stands And A \$98,000 Steinway Grand Piano. “One of the largest bulk expenditures was just for furniture, for which the Pentagon decided to shell out \$225 million. That included \$12,000 for fruit basket stands, and checks totaling more than \$60,000 for Herman Miller recliners. All in all, the agency spent more on furniture in 2025 than it had in over a decade. In the last five days of September alone, the department blew through \$50.1 billion on just grants and contracts. For context, only nine other countries spend that much on the entirety of their defense budget per year. It's also more than the total military budgets of Canada and Mexico combined. The federal government had a \$1.8 trillion deficit in 2025. Ultimately, the military's massive expenditures offered up more evidence that the Trump administration has not put any meaningful effort into cracking down on needless government spending, a pledge that Donald Trump has wielded on the campaign trail since 2015. “Under Secretary Hegseth, the Pentagon has consistently said its mission is to refocus on warfighting and lethality,” Open the Books CEO John Hart said. ‘Last year, we highlighted the problem of wasteful use-it-or-lose-it year-end spending. We noted that this reform is fully within the secretary's control and is a historic opportunity to make good on that promise.’” [\[New Republic, 3/9/2026\]](#)

Alignment With Religious Conservative: Ralph Reed

June 2025: Collins Was Endorsed By Ralph Reed. “As Christian voters from around the nation travel to the Faith and Freedom Road to Majority Conference in Washington DC this week, I am honored to announce the endorsement of Ralph Reed. ‘I have known Craig for over 30 years. I am grateful for his consistent work in the fight for faith and family in the civic arena. He is a good friend and trusted ally, and will make a fantastic appellate judge for North Carolina. I am proud to fully support Craig Collins for NC Court of Appeals.’ -Ralph Reed” [\[Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 6/25/2025\]](#)

Collins Said He Is “Honored To Announce The Endorsement Of Ralph Reed. “As Christian voters from around the nation travel to the Faith and Freedom Road to Majority Conference in Washington DC this week, I am honored to announce the endorsement of Ralph Reed. ‘I have known Craig for over 30 years. I am grateful for his consistent work in the fight for faith and family in the civic arena. He is a good friend and trusted ally, and will make a fantastic appellate judge for North Carolina. I am proud to fully support Craig Collins for NC Court of Appeals.’ -Ralph Reed” [\[Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 6/25/2025\]](#)

Reed Is The Founder And Chairman Of The Faith And Freedom Coalition.



LEADERSHIP



Founder & Chairman
Ralph Reed

[[Ffcoalition](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

Faith And Freedom Coalition Is A National Conservative Advocacy Organization That Mobilizes Evangelical Voters.

OUR PRINCIPLES —

- Respect for the sanctity and dignity of life, family, and marriage as the foundations of a free society
- Limited government, lower taxes and fiscal responsibility to unleash the creative energy of entrepreneurs
- Education reform that puts children first and parents in the driver's seat
- Help the poor, the needy, and those who have been left behind
- Free markets and free minds to create opportunity for all
- Victory in the struggle with terrorism and tyranny while supporting our democratic allies, including Israel

OUR FIVE-FOLD MISSION —

- Mobilize and train people of faith to vote and flex their political muscles
- Speak out in the public arena and in the media on behalf of Christian values
- Influence legislation and enact sound public policy at every level of government
- Train citizens for effective civic action
- Protest bigotry and discrimination against people of faith

[[Ffcoalition](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

The Faith And Freedom Coalition Advocates For Socially Conservative Policies, Including Support For “Traditional Marriage.” “Marriage is more than a social institution. It is a sacrament of faith, a reflection of God’s perfect plan for humanity and the living embodiment of Jesus’ love for the church and the church’s devotion to Him. Faith & Freedom Coalition supports public policies that strengthen traditional marriage and families as the building block to a moral, healthy, and thriving society.” [Ffcoalition, accessed, 3/18/2026]

The Faith And Freedom Coalition Supported Anti-Abortion Policies. “Abortion stops a beating heart and ends an innocent human life. A life that is a gift from God and one that we ordain our government to protect. On June 24th, 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and sent the issue of abortion back to elected representatives, where it belongs. This incredible victory came after 50 years of work from pro-life groups like the Faith & Freedom coalition, who fought not only to keep the conservative movement engaged on the fight for life, but to elect conservative Presidents and Senators specifically so they could appoint and confirm judges to Supreme Court who would right the wrongs of Roe v. Wade. But the Dobbs decision didn’t close the book on the pro-life movement; it just turned the page. Now that the power to regulate abortion has been returned to elected officials, Faith & Freedom is working diligently to protect life by working with elected leaders in Washington, DC and in State Capitols throughout the country to enact pro-life laws and executive action that protects women and their unborn children including: The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion Millions of people of faith expect the U.S. Senate to bring both of these pieces of legislation to the floor for a recorded vote where Senators must decide whether or not to protect the most innocent among us. The Pennsylvania Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and Dismemberment Ban, which would end late-term abortions after five months of pregnancy throughout the Commonwealth. Banned abortions after prenatal tests reveal Down syndrome in any child.” [Ffcoalition, accessed, 3/18/2026]

Faith And Freedom Coalition Supported Conservative Presidents And Senators With The Goal Of Appointing Judges Who Would Overturn Roe v. Wade. “On June 24th, 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and sent the issue of abortion back to elected representatives, where it belongs. This incredible victory came after 50 years of work from pro-life groups like the Faith & Freedom coalition, who fought not only to keep the conservative movement engaged on the fight for life, but to elect conservative Presidents and Senators specifically so they could appoint and confirm judges to Supreme Court who would right the wrongs of Roe v. Wade. But the Dobbs decision didn’t close the book on the pro-life movement; it just turned the page. Now that the power to regulate abortion has been returned to elected officials, Faith & Freedom is working diligently to protect life by working with elected leaders in Washington, DC and in State Capitols throughout the country to enact pro-life laws and executive action that protects women and their unborn children.” [Ffcoalition, accessed, 3/18/2026]

Faith And Freedom Coalition Opposed Transgender Rights And Said “God Does Not Make Mistakes.” “God does not make mistakes, and he did not make a mistake when he made every person ever born a man or a woman. The left is working rapidly to redefine families and traditional gender roles, and to force every aspect of society to follow suit, from corporate America promoting transgender indoctrination for children to radical school administrators trying to force young girls to share bathrooms and locker rooms with biological men. Women’s sports are under attack, medical schools are throwing

out science and biology for gender ideology, and social media is training children to question their sex and sexuality. There has never been a more important time to stand for Christian values and to support candidates who will protect Americans from the dangerous and pervasive transgender ideology of the left.” [[Ffcoalition](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

Faith And Freedom Coalition Criticized Efforts To Expand Protections For Transgender Individuals In Educations, Sports, And Public Bathrooms. “God does not make mistakes, and he did not make a mistake when he made every person ever born a man or a woman. The left is working rapidly to redefine families and traditional gender roles, and to force every aspect of society to follow suit, from corporate America promoting transgender indoctrination for children to radical school administrators trying to force young girls to share bathrooms and locker rooms with biological men. Women’s sports are under attack, medical schools are throwing out science and biology for gender ideology, and social media is training children to question their sex and sexuality. There has never been a more important time to stand for Christian values and to support candidates who will protect Americans from the dangerous and pervasive transgender ideology of the left.” [[Ffcoalition](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

Faith And Freedom Coalition Supported “Candidates Who Will Protect Americans From The Dangerous And Pervasive Transgender Ideology Of The Left. “God does not make mistakes, and he did not make a mistake when he made every person ever born a man or a woman. The left is working rapidly to redefine families and traditional gender roles, and to force every aspect of society to follow suit, from corporate America promoting transgender indoctrination for children to radical school administrators trying to force young girls to share bathrooms and locker rooms with biological men. Women’s sports are under attack, medical schools are throwing out science and biology for gender ideology, and social media is training children to question their sex and sexuality. There has never been a more important time to stand for Christian values and to support candidates who will protect Americans from the dangerous and pervasive transgender ideology of the left.” [[Ffcoalition](#), accessed, 3/18/2026]

COVID / Civil Liberties Framing

Collins Referenced Prior Criticism Of His, Stating “I Used To Be Called A Conspiracy Theorist.” “We need to be sure we elect judges who will uphold the principles of law and order and respect victims’ rights... ‘We also need appellate judges who will empower the lower level judges and the legislature to follow the law...’ The judge added, In 2025, people identify with whoever they want to be. And it’s not just the left that does that... The good thing about our team (slate) of candidates is you don’t have to worry about that...’ Then, Collins quoted from Deuteronomy 16:19, which states the following: ‘You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.’ Also, he quoted from Deuteronomy 16:20, which states the following: ‘Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God gives you.’ To that end, Collins asserted, “We need judges who understand that our form of government requires that we follow the Constitution and protect our rights...’I used to be called a ‘conspiracy theorist’... It wasn’t too long ago that we had a virus (COVID-19) and we all took precautions, but the Constitution doesn’t say there’s an exception for a pandemic,” such as banning freedoms, including church attendance. ‘We can also look at our opponents...’ who stipulated that “you have to stay 16 feet apart and wear a mask at all times, unless you’re a protester... and you can go to a bar or a liquor store,” but not attend church... ‘So it’s vital, in my opinion, to follow the Constitution... The Constitution says what it says... The last I looked,’ the Constitution is comprised of ‘pieces of paper... with words on them... But the words, themselves, don’t

change on their own — and they should not change on the whims of a handful of activist judges.”
[[Asheville Daily Planet](#), 8/25/2025]

Collins Suggested The Pandemic Restrictions Were Unconstitutional, Stating “The Constitution Doesn’t Say There’s An Exception For A Pandemic.” “We need to be sure we elect judges who will uphold the principles of law and order and respect victims’ rights... ‘We also need appellate judges who will empower the lower level judges and the legislature to follow the law....’ The judge added, In 2025, people identify with whoever they want to be. And it’s not just the left that does that... The good thing about our team (slate) of candidates is you don’t have to worry about that...’ Then, Collins quoted from Deuteronomy 16:19, which states the following: ‘You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.’ Also, he quoted from Deuteronomy 16:20, which states the following: ‘Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God gives you.’ To that end, Collins asserted, “We need judges who understand that our form of government requires that we follow the Constitution and protect our rights...’ I used to be called a ‘conspiracy theorist’... It wasn’t too long ago that we had a virus (COVID-19) and we all took precautions, but the Constitution doesn’t say there’s an exception for a pandemic,” such as banning freedoms, including church attendance. ‘We can also look at our opponents...’ who stipulated that “you have to stay 16 feet apart and wear a mask at all times, unless you’re a protester... and you can go to a bar or a liquor store,” but not attend church... ‘So it’s vital, in my opinion, to follow the Constitution... The Constitution says what it says... The last I looked,’ the Constitution is comprised of ‘pieces of paper... with words on them... But the words, themselves, don’t change on their own — and they should not change on the whims of a handful of activist judges.” [[Asheville Daily Planet](#), 8/25/2025]

Collins Criticized Policies That Allowed People To “Go To A Bar Or Liquor Store,” But Not Attend Church. “We need to be sure we elect judges who will uphold the principles of law and order and respect victims’ rights... ‘We also need appellate judges who will empower the lower level judges and the legislature to follow the law....’ The judge added, In 2025, people identify with whoever they want to be. And it’s not just the left that does that... The good thing about our team (slate) of candidates is you don’t have to worry about that...’ Then, Collins quoted from Deuteronomy 16:19, which states the following: ‘You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.’ Also, he quoted from Deuteronomy 16:20, which states the following: ‘Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God gives you.’ To that end, Collins asserted, “We need judges who understand that our form of government requires that we follow the Constitution and protect our rights...’ I used to be called a ‘conspiracy theorist’... It wasn’t too long ago that we had a virus (COVID-19) and we all took precautions, but the Constitution doesn’t say there’s an exception for a pandemic,” such as banning freedoms, including church attendance. ‘We can also look at our opponents...’ who stipulated that “you have to stay 16 feet apart and wear a mask at all times, unless you’re a protester... and you can go to a bar or a liquor store,” but not attend church... ‘So it’s vital, in my opinion, to follow the Constitution... The Constitution says what it says... The last I looked,’ the Constitution is comprised of ‘pieces of paper... with words on them... But the words, themselves, don’t change on their own — and they should not change on the whims of a handful of activist judges.”
[[Asheville Daily Planet](#), 8/25/2025]

Endorsements

North Carolina Court of Appeals Endorsements

October 2025: Collins Was Endorsed By North Carolina State Rep. Jake Johnson. “Thank you Rep. Jake Johnson for introducing me around last night and for the strong endorsement!— with Judge Craig Collins and Jake Johnson.” [[Facebook](#), Judge Craig Collins, 10/19/2025]

August 2025: Collins Was Endorsed By Gaston County Republican Party. “We had a great turnout this morning for the Gaston County Republican Party municipal endorsement vote this morning at the Gaston County GOP HQ. Gaston County is ready to elect Republicans at every level!” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 8/2/2025]

June 2025: Collins Was Endorsed By Ralph Reed. “As Christian voters from around the nation travel to the Faith and Freedom Road to Majority Conference in Washington DC this week, I am honored to announce the endorsement of Ralph Reed. ‘I have known Craig for over 30 years. I am grateful for his consistent work in the fight for faith and family in the civic arena. He is a good friend and trusted ally, and will make a fantastic appellate judge for North Carolina. I am proud to fully support Craig Collins for NC Court of Appeals.’ -Ralph Reed” [[Facebook](#), Judge Craig Collins, 6/25/2025]

Gaston GOP Listed Endorsements From Republicans, Including U. S Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, Gov. Pat McCrory, LT. Gov. Dan Forest, U.S. Rep Patrick McHenry, NC Senate Leader Phil Berger, NC House Speaker Tim Moore, And State Party Chair Claude Pope. “Collins and Justice have received the endorsements of U.S. Senator Richard Burr, U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, Governor Pat McCrory, Lt. Governor Dan Forest and U.S. Congressman Patrick McHenry, the Chief Deputy Majority Whip of the U.S. House. Additionally, State Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, State House Speaker Tim Moore and NCGOP State Chairman Claude Pope endorsed Collins and Justice.” [[Gaston GOP](#), 3/15/2025]

February 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By Republican State Senator Kathy Harrington. “Judge Craig Collins is pleased to announce the endorsement of North Carolina State Senate Majority Leader Kathy Harrington (NC-43) for District Court Judge. ‘I’m proud to endorse my friend Craig Collins. Craig has the lifelong proven conservative track record that we need to keep in our courtroom. Please help me keep Craig on the bench.’ As District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven to stand for law & order, uphold the rule of law, and protect the citizens of Gaston County.” [[Facebook](#), Judge Craig Collins, 2/26/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By North Carolina Court Of Appeals Judge Hunter Murphy. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge Hunter Murphy for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [[Facebook](#), Judge Craig Collins, 4/24/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By Gaston County Commissioner Bob Hovis. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of Gaston County Commissioner Bob Hovis for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/9/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By Gaston County Commissioner Kim Johnson. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of Gaston County Commissioner Kim Johnson for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/5/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By North Carolina Police Benevolent Association. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of North Carolina Police Benevolent Association for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/26/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By Gaston County District Attorney Travis Page. “Judge Craig Collins is pleased to announce the endorsement of District Court Attorney Travis Page for his re-election as District Court Judge. ‘I ask you to join me in re-electing Judge Craig Collins. As your District Attorney, I can assure you that Judge Collins and I share a commitment to public safety and courthouse efficiency. We need to keep Judge Craig Collins on the bench!’ As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By North Carolina State Rep. John Torbett. “Judge Craig Collins is thrilled to announce the endorsement of State Representative John Torbett (NC-108) for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/1/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By Mount Holly Mayor Bryan Hough. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of Mount Holly Mayor Bryan Hough for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/13/2025]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By State Court Of Appeals Judge Jefferson Griffin. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge Jefferson Griffin for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/22/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed by Gaston County Commissioner Tom Keigher. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of Gaston County Commissioner Tom Keigher for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/7/2022]

April 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By Ranlo Mayor Lynn Black. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of Mayor of Ranlo Lynn Black for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County. Judge Craig Collins is excited to announce the endorsement of State Representative Kelly Hastings (NC-110) for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/23/2022]

April: Collins Was Endorsed By Stanley Mayor Steven Denton. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of Stanley Mayor Steven Denton for his re-election as District Court Judge.

As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 4/15/2022]

May 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By The Entire Gaston County Legislative Delegation. “Judge Craig Collins is honored to announce the endorsement of all members of the Gaston County Legislative Delegation for his re-election as District Court Judge.As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 5/2/2025]

March 2022: Collins Was Endorsed By Lowell Mayor Sandy Railey. “Judge Craig Collins is pleased to announce the endorsement of Lowell Mayor Sandy Railey for his re-election as District Court Judge. As your District Court Judge, Craig Collins has proven he stands for law & order, upholds the rule of law, and protects the citizens of Gaston County.” [Facebook, Judge Craig Collins, 3/13/2022]

Contributions

Date	Amount	Recipient	Committee Type	Notes
03/08/2008	\$100	Gaston REC	Party Committee	Early GOP giving
06/16/2008	\$100	Citizens to Elect Kathy Harrington	Candidate Committee	GOP state legislative candidate
07/28/2008	\$50	Pat McCrory Committee	Candidate Committee	Former GOP Governor
09/24/2010	\$100	Committee to Elect Lands	Candidate Committee	Local GOP candidate
05/04/2012	\$10	Robinson for Judge	Judicial Candidate	Judicial network giving
05/31/2014	\$50	10th Congressional District REC	Party Committee	GOP federal district org
03/25/2015	\$100	Forsyth REC	Party Committee	County GOP org
04/24/2015	\$75	Wake REC	Party Committee	County GOP org

06/03/2015	\$100	7th Congressional District REC	Party Committee	GOP district org
10/25/2015	\$100	Hunter Murphy (Court of Appeals)	Judicial Candidate	Appellate-level alignment
12/11/2015	\$20	North Mecklenburg RW	Republican Women	GOP auxiliary group
03/05/2016	\$2	Gaston RW	Republican Women	Local GOP group
09/03/2016	\$50	Gaston RW	Republican Women	Continued engagement
2017 (multiple)	~\$172+	Gaston REC	Party Committee	Repeated contributions
2017	\$38.18	Gaston RW	Republican Women	Local GOP support
2018 (multiple)	~\$388+	Gaston REC / Gaston RW	Party Committees	Continued local GOP giving
01/18/2020	\$20	Gaston RW	Republican Women	Ongoing activity
2022 (multiple)	\$1,300+	Committee to Elect Craig Collins	Self / In-Kind	Self-funding activity
2022–2025 (multiple)	~\$400+	Gaston REC	Party Committee	Consistent small-dollar giving
2025	\$100	Gaston REC	Party Committee	Most recent reported

Campaign Finance Data

Collins Court Of Appeals Campaign Reported \$183,022 In Contributions And \$28,173 In Total Expenditures, Leaving \$157,600 Cash On Hand. [[NC Campaign Finance Report](#), accessed, 3/20/2026]

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[X](#)

[Campaign Site](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Personal Facebook](#)