

ETHAN CLEWIS - NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT COURT JUDGE (REPUBLICAN)

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- **Early Career Profile:** Ethan Clewis is a Lumberton native with a relatively recent entry into the legal profession, having earned his J.D. in 2023 and immediately joining the Robeson County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney.
- **Traditional Prosecutor Background:** His professional experience is centered on prosecution, including handling a high volume of cases and emphasizing violent crime and repeat offenders.
- **Clear Tough-on-Crime Messaging:** Clewis' campaign has focused on public safety themes, including: "Tougher bonds," accountability for repeat offenders, and punishments aligned with severity of crimes.
- **Republican Alignment:** Clewis filed as a Republican and is running against a Democratic incumbent.
- **Faith-Based Framing:** Campaign materials include direct biblical references and religious framing.
- **Political Affiliation & Party Context:** Clewis has been publicly associated with the Robeson County Republican Party, which has promoted him and referenced him in connection with local election administration. The party's public communications include support for stricter immigration enforcement, criticism of media coverage of immigration-related issues, and posts promoting election denier rhetoric regarding the 2020 election. These positions reflect the party's messaging; Clewis has not publicly stated his own views on these issues in available materials.
- **Early-Stage Campaign Infrastructure:** Campaign finance filings show modest fundraising (\$5,325 raised; ~\$1.7K cash on hand as of April 2026).

JURISDICTION SUMMARY

Robeson County is in southeastern NC; Lumberton is the county seat. Historically a Democratic stronghold, Robeson voted GOP in 2016–2024, giving Trump 59% in 2020 and 63% in 2024. As of 2025, registered voters are 41% Dem, 21% Rep, 37% unaffiliated. The County Board of Commissioners flipped GOP-majority (6–2) by 2025. District Court judges are elected in partisan races. District 20 covers all of Robeson. In 2026 the Seat 1 race is Democrat Krystle Melvin (incumbent) vs. Republican Ethan Clewis. Melvin, a Robeson native and former prosecutor, is seeking re-election (first elected 2020). No other local judicial contests of note have happened recently.

BACKGROUND

PERSONAL LIFE

Clewis Is A Lumberton Native. [Facebook, Ethan Clewis, accessed, 4/14/2026]

2019: Clewis Received A Bachelors In History From University of North Carolina Pembroke. “Ethan Clewis, of Lumberton, received a History degree and graduated summa cum laude, the highest academic honor. He plans to attend law school, practice criminal law and, ultimately, become a judge.” [Robesonian, 12/7/2019] [LinkedIn, accessed, 4/13/2026]

2023: Clewis Received His J.D From Campbell University School Of Law. [LinkedIn, accessed, 4/13/2026]

August 2023: Clewis Passed His The North Carolina Bar. “It’s such a relief to finally say that I have passed the NC Bar Exam! I’m so overwhelmed with joy and thanksgiving right now, to my family and friends for their unwavering love and support. Most of all, I could not have made it through the bar, or even law school, without the love, grace, and mercy of God. I often say if the Lord never did anything else for me, He’d still be worthy of all of my praise; but I’m so thankful that I can give Him praise over yet another blessing!” [Facebook, Ethan Clewis, 8/29/2023]

2023: Clewis Was Hired As An Assistant District Attorney In Robeson County.



Robeson County District Attorney's Office is at Robeson County Courthouse. ...

October 1, 2023 · 🌐

Congratulations to our newest Assistant District Attorney Ethan Clewis. We are proud to have you as a part of our team.



[Facebook, Robeson County District Attorney Office, accessed, 10/1/2023]

2023: Clewis Became The Secretary Of The 20th Judicial District Bar Association. [North Carolina Bar, accessed, 4/13/2026]

December 2025: Clewis Filed As A Republican For The North Carolina District Court Seat.

Clewis Supported “Tougher Bonds And Holding Repeat Offenders Accountable.” “We enjoyed our evening meeting wonderful people in the town of Rennert. We were happy to share the vision of our campaign for judge - tougher bonds, holding repeat offenders accountable, punishments that fit the crime, and ensuring impartial justice in all cases - all in all, making Robeson County a safer and better place for all who live here.” [[Facebook](#), Ethan Clewis, 2/19/2026]

January 2026: Clewis Celebrated “Law Enforcement Appreciation Day!”



[Facebook, Ethan Clewis, 1/9/2026]

Clewis Said “It’s A Privilege To With Law Enforcement Across Robeson County To Fight For Those Who Are Victims Of Crime.” “Today we celebrate Law Enforcement Appreciation Day! As a prosecutor, it is an honor and privilege to work with law enforcement across Robeson County to fight for those who are victims of crime. Thank you to the men and women in blue for your sacrifice and dedication to keeping our community safe!” [Facebook, Ethan Clewis, 1/9/2026]

POLITICAL AFFILIATION & ACTIVITY:

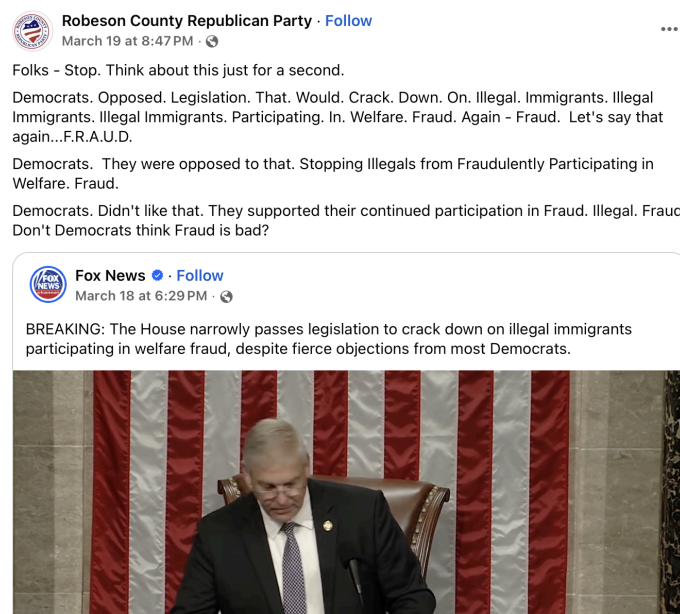
Affiliation with political figures/organizations:

July 2025: Robeson County Republican Party Listed Clewis As “New Robeson County Board Of Elections.”



[Facebook, Robeson County Republican Party, 7/24/2025]

March 2026: The Robeson County Republican Party Supported A Federal Legislation That Would “Crack Down On Illegal Immigrants Participating In Welfare Fraud.”



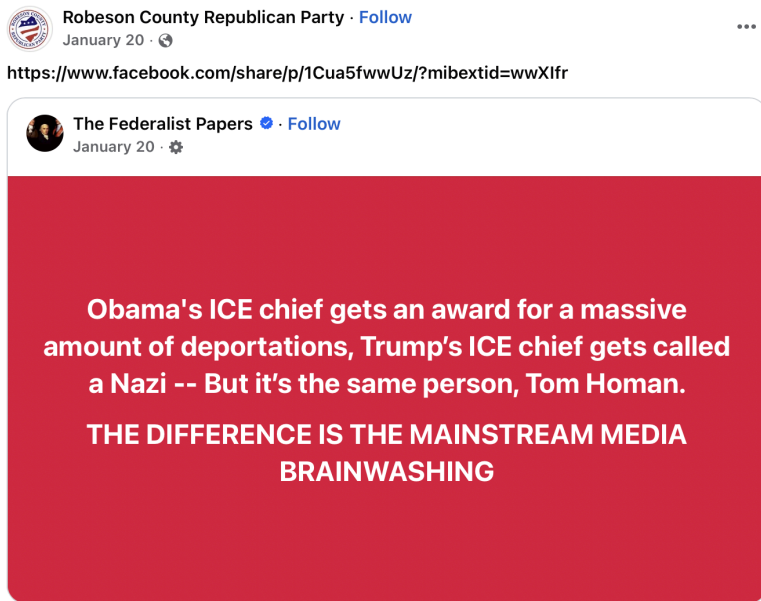
[Facebook, Robeson County Republican Party, 3/19/2026]

August 2025: Robeson County Republican Party Shared On Facebook “Ice Has Deported Nearly 200,000 Illegal Aliens In 7 Months.”



[Facebook, Robeson County Republican Party, 8/31/2025]

The Robeson County Republican Party Shared A Post From “The Federalist Papers” Asserting That Public Criticism Of Trump-Era Immigration Enforcement Officials, Compared To Praise Under The Obama Administration Was The Result Of “Mainstream Media Brainwashing.”



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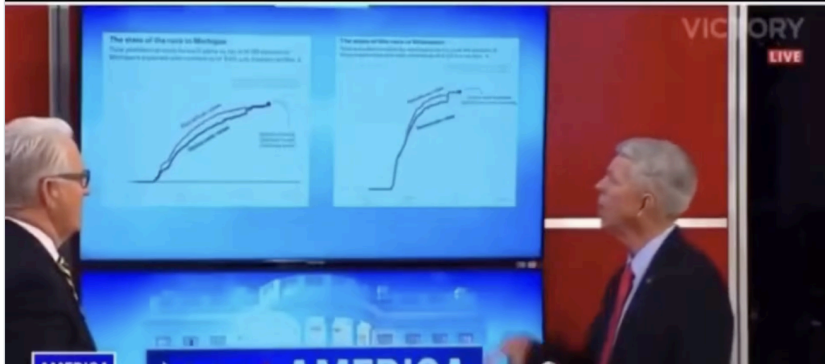
[Facebook, Robeson County Republican Party, 1/20/2026]

February 2026: The Robeson County Republican Party Shared A Post That Implied That The 2020 Election Was Stolen “They Stole The Election In Plain Sight, Then Censored, Arrested, Indicted Anyone Who Dared Speak Up. Pure Tyranny.”

 Robeson County Republican Party · Follow
February 15 · 🌐

 Emmanuel Rentas  is in New York, NY.
· Follow
February 9 · 🌐

We knew it was stolen. We all knew.
This post just nailed the biggest crime in American history - 138,000 votes in 2020 and ZERO for Trump. Statistically impossible!
They stole the election in plain sight, then censored, arrested, indicted anyone who dared speak up. Pure tyranny!
Now in 2026 the truth is exploding out - Trump vindicated, deep state exposed. The people were right all along. Rage and justice incoming! #doj



[Facebook, Robeson County Republican Party, 2/15/2026]

Campaign Background & Infrastructure

Clewis Is Running Against Incumbent Democrat Krystle Melvin.

N.C. District Court (District 20, Seat 1)

- Krystle Melvin (Democrat)*
- Ethan Clewis (Republican)

[[Borderbelt Independent](#), 12/10/2025]

December 2025: Clewis Announced His Candidacy For District Court Judge Of Robeson County.



Ethan Clewis

December 18, 2025 · 🌐

After many days and nights of prayerful consideration I am excited to announce my candidacy for District Court Judge of Robeson County. It has been my sincere pleasure to serve Robeson County as an Assistant District Attorney handling thousands of cases while prosecuting violent criminals and sexual predators. My desire is to continue service to the citizens of Robeson County as a District Court Judge to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. I have all too often witnessed repeat offenders cycling through our court rooms adding to existing charges; this has to stop!

I am asking for your prayers, support, and vote as we seek to do justice and make Robeson County a safer place to call home.

“Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment.”

— 2 Chronicles 19:6–7



[Facebook, Ethan Clewis, 12/18/2025]

Clewis Wanted “To Ensure The Safety And Well-Being Of Our Communities And Said He Has “Witness Repeat Offenders Cycling Through Our Court Rooms Adding To Existing Charges This Has To Stop.” “After many days and nights of prayerful consideration I am excited to announce my candidacy for District Court Judge of Robeson County. It has been my sincere pleasure to serve Robeson County as an Assistant District Attorney handling thousands of cases while prosecuting violent criminals and sexual predators. My desire is to continue service to the citizens of Robeson County as a District Court Judge to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. I have all too often witnessed repeat offenders cycling through our court rooms adding to existing charges; this has to stop! I am asking for your prayers, support, and vote as we seek to do justice and make Robeson County a safer place to call home. ‘Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. — 2 Chronicles 19:6–7” [Facebook, Ethan Clewis, 12/18/2025]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

2026: According To North Carolina State Board Of Elections Filings Clewis Has Raised \$5,325. [[North Carolina Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/13/2026]

April 2026: Clewis Had \$1, 766.00 Cash On Hand. [[North Carolina Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/13/2026]

Campaign Contributions

Contributor	Employer	Date	Amount	Type
Gail Allen	Not Employed	1/14/2026	\$100	Monetary
Gail Allen	Not Employed	1/30/2026	\$100	Monetary
Lisa Haywood	Used Automobiles Sales	2/10/2026	\$250.00	Monetary
Richard Johnson	Optometrist	2/5/2026	\$100	Monetary
Brian Naig	Optometrist	1/22/2026	\$75.00	Monetary
William Peregoy	Attorney	1/9/2026	\$500	Monetary
Michael Walters	Forester	2/4/2026	\$500	Monetary
Henry Stephens	Business Owner- Stephens Painting	1/21/2026	\$1000	Monetary
Ethan Clewis	Attorney-Self	12/12/2025	\$1,500	Monetary
Mary Alice Tyler Smith	Not Employed	12/16/2015	\$1000.00	Monetary

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[LinkedIn](#)

[Personal Facebook](#)

[Personal X Account](#)