

GEORGE BELL-NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

Key findings include:

- **Judicial Experience:** George C. Bell has served as a North Carolina Superior Court judge since 2019, presiding over felony criminal matters and civil cases in Mecklenburg County.
- **Electoral Background:** Bell was elected to the Superior Court in 2018 in a three-candidate race, after previously running unsuccessfully for District Court in 2016.
- **Partisan Political Activity:** Campaign finance records indicate Bell made multiple contributions to Republican candidates and organizations, including repeated contributions to the North Mecklenburg Republican Women group.
- **Political Activity While on the Bench:** Records show Bell continued making political contributions while serving as a Superior Court judge, including contributions to local Republican candidates and organizations through at least 2025.
- **Campaign Financing:** Bell has self-funded portions of his judicial campaigns, including multiple contributions to his own campaign committees across election cycles.
- **Professional Background:** Prior to his judicial service, Bell practiced law in Mecklenburg County and was affiliated with Bell & Bell Law Firm.
- **Family and Professional Ties:** Bell’s spouse, Hannah R. Bell, is a Charlotte-based family law attorney and managing partner at Bell & Bell Law Firm, reflecting shared professional ties.
- **Financial Background:** Property records indicate Bell and his spouse have engaged in multiple residential real estate transactions, including two property purchases in 2020 and the use of a family trust structure.

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. Control of the appellate courts can affect election outcomes, making judges’ races closely watched by both parties. In this environment, Judge Hampson’s seat is considered competitive: he is the Democratic incumbent, and Republican George Bell is challenging him in November 2026.

North Carolina’s population (~10.5 million) is racially diverse and geographically split between urban centers (Charlotte, Raleigh, etc.) and rural areas. Politically it is a perennial “swing” state: Democrats have won some statewide races while Republicans control the legislature and (as of 2025) most statewide judicial positions. North Carolina’s demographic trends (growing urban/suburban populations, a substantial Black minority, growing Latino/Asian communities, etc.) contribute to the competitive context.

BACKGROUND

1978: Bell Was Born In Manassas, Virginia.

Bell lives in Cornelius, North Carolina with his wife and three children. “George Bell. Age: 37 Family: Wife and law partner Hannah Bell; children, Cooper, 9, Cate, 6, Madeline, 4.” [Charlotte Observer, 3/4/16]

- **Bell is a volunteer wrestling and soccer coach.** “Bell is a volunteer wrestling coach at Mooresville High School and a volunteer soccer coach at Strikers Soccer Center in Huntersville, N.C. He is a member of F3 Nation and attends Grace Covenant Church.” [Clay County Progress, 2/12/26]

2000: Bell Earned A B.S In Business Management From Cornell University. [[Linkedin](#), George Bell, accessed, 3/13/2026]

2003: Bell Earned His J.D From Regent University School Of Law. [[Linkedin](#), George Bell, accessed, 3/13/2026]

2004: Bell Passed The Virginia Bar Exam. [Virginia Lawyers Weekly, 5/10/04]

2004-2005: Bell Worked As A Clerk For Judge David F. Pugh. “He worked as a law clerk to the Honorable David F. Pugh from 2004-2005 and became a managing partner at Bell and Bell Law Firm, P.C.” [[Ballotpedia](#), accessed, 3/13/2026]

2006: Bell Entered Private Practice In 2006 And Was The Managing Partner At Bell & Bell Law Firm. [[Linkedin](#), George Bell, accessed, 3/13/2026]

Bell Is Married To Family Attorney Hannah Bell. “George Bell. Age: 37 Family: Wife and law partner Hannah Bell; children, Cooper, 9, Cate, 6, Madeline, 4.” [Charlotte Observer, 3/4/16]

- **George Bell And Hannah Bell Has Three Children.** “George Bell. Age: 37 Family: Wife and law partner Hannah Bell; children, Cooper, 9, Cate, 6, Madeline, 4.” [Charlotte Observer, 3/4/16]

Hannah Bell Was A Managing Partner At Bell & Bell Law Firm. [[Bell Lawyers](#), accessed, 3/13/2026]

2016: Bell Ran Unsuccessfully In 2016 For Christy Mann’s District Court Seat.
DISTRICT COURT (Mann Seat)

✓ Christy Mann 52.25%

✓ George Bell 35.86%

James Cyrus IV 11.89%

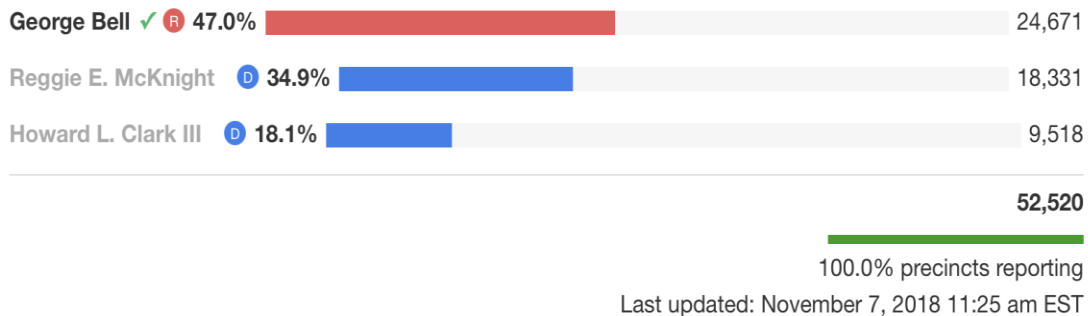
[[Tuesday Forum Charlotte](#), 3/15/2016]

Bell Has Served As A Superior Court Judge In Mecklenburg County Since 2019. “Judge George Bell has dedicated over two decades to the law in North Carolina. Serving as a Superior Court Judge

since 2019, he has presided over more than 100 felony jury trials, including high-stakes cases involving first-degree murder and violent crimes.” [[Judge George Bell](#), accessed, 3/13/2026]

- **Bell Won The Seat In 2018 Against Two Democrats Reggie Mcknight And Howard Clark With 47% Of The Vote.**

N.C. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 26C SEAT 1



[[WCCB Charlotte](#), 11/7/2018]

Bell Is A Republican And The NCADA Defense Attorney Association Lists Him As “George Bell (R).” [[NCADA](#), accessed, 3/13/2026]

Bell Describes Himself As A “Conservative Judge” Opposed To “Liberal” Interpretation Of The Law. Although he does not yet have a campaign website or social media for his Appeals Court campaign, Bell has consistently framed himself in previous elections as a conservative jurist who will “bring conservative values back to the bench,” casting existing judges as “interpreting the law to fit their beliefs.” In his 2016 district-court campaign, he argued that “inconsistent” judges who “liberally interpret the law” undermine public faith in the courts and pledged instead to “follow the law” and “uphold the law and the Constitution” without “pandering to special interest groups.” Bell gained his seat on the superior court bench in 2018 under new election rules pushed through by the Republicans in the legislature that broke the countywide district court system into smaller districts and eliminated primaries, allowing Bell to win his seat even though the combined Democratic vote exceeded his total by roughly 3,200 votes.

2018: After the Republican-Led Legislature Changed Election Rules For Judges, Bell Was Elected Judge In Judicial District 26C Of The 5th Superior Court Division. “Until Tuesday night, Mecklenburg’s district judges were elected countywide. Under the plan put in place by the Republican-led legislature for this election, District Court candidates had to run in districts. The General Assembly also eliminated primaries, meaning multiple candidates from the same party could end up in the same race. The latter provision proved decisive in north Mecklenburg in the campaign for the Superior Court seat in from District 26C. There, Huntersville attorney George Bell, who lost a countywide District Court race two years ago, bested two Democratic challengers who split their party’s vote. Bell’s received 24,671 ballots, or 46.97 percent of the total. His opponents, Reggie Knight and Howard Clark, got 34.90 percent and 18.12 percent, respectively. Combined, the Democrats topped Bell by some 3,200-votes.” [Charlotte Observer, 11/6/18]

2016: Bell Ran For Judicial District 26 On A Platform Of Returning “Conservative Values Back To The Bench.” “The incumbent: Mecklenburg District Judge Christy Mann. She is the county’s only sitting judge with opposition this election year. The candidates: The top two vote-getters in the March

15 primary will appear again on the November ballot for the District 26 seat. George Bell, senior partner of a Huntersville firm and a registered Republican, says he wants to return consistency and ‘conservative values’ to the court to restore the public’s trust. [...] Why he is running: ‘I will bring conservative values back to the bench, while treating people equally regardless of race, gender or background.’ Most important trait for a judge: Consistency. ‘For most crime victims or those facing a custody battle, a District Court judge is the very last hope. We need judges committed to following the law who will not pander to special interest groups. An inconsistent judge robs the public of any faith they had in the judicial system.’ [...] His biggest frustration with the Mecklenburg courts, and what a judge can do to help: ‘It is very frustrating when judges do not follow the law but rather liberally interpret the law to fit their own beliefs. I would be a conservative judge and uphold the law and the Constitution.’” [Charlotte Observer, 3/4/16]

- **Bell Was Defeated 62% To 38% In The General Election.** [North Carolina State Board of Elections, [11/8/16](#)]

2006-2018: Bell Was The Owner Of Bell & Bell Law Firm. “Help defend people that have been charged with traffic offenses, DWI, misdemeanors, felonies and also assist families with issues like custody, child support, division of marital property, spousal support, and divorce. We also represent people that have been injured in car accidents, medical malpractice, and all other negligence actions.” [George Bell LinkedIn, [accessed 2/21/26](#)]

- **Bell Said His Most Important Case In Private Practice As A Divorce Settlement He Helped Get Overturned By The Court Of Appeals.** “His most important case: A divorce settlement that Bell recently helped get overturned by the N.C. Court of Appeals. ‘The wife, who has very little money, may now petition the court for much needed spousal support and an equitable distribution of her husband’s assets,” Bell says. ‘In this case, justice and truth prevailed over money, greed and power. What has prepared him for the bench: With a practice built around District Court, ‘I have handled thousands of traffic, DWI, and criminal cases,’ says Bell, who describes his experience as the most well-rounded in the field.” [Charlotte Observer, 3/4/16]

Judicial Campaigns

2016: Bell Ran For District Court Judge As a “Conservative Judge Who Upheld The Law And Constitution.” “Attorney George Bell vs. incumbent Christy Mann. In a tribute to the limited interest court races normally draw, Bell introduced himself to the cameras before every answer. Before the March primary, he accused Mann and other judges of ‘interpreting the law to fit their beliefs,’ and promised to be a “conservative judge who upheld the law and Constitution.’ Somewhat surprisingly, the registered Republican was the only candidate of the group to allude to the protests following the September police shooting in Charlotte. He said those residents were demonstrating ‘for a reason,’ and anyone ‘looking for a change’ should vote for him.” [Charlotte Observer, 10/12/16]

June 2025: Bell Announced His Candidacy For North Carolina Court Of Appeals. “Dear Friends and Family, It is with great pleasure and honor that I announce my candidacy for the North Carolina Court of Appeals! I have served as a North Carolina Superior Court Judge statewide for almost 7 years and have always felt a calling to the appellate courts. I will continue to (1) listen to others and hear their arguments, (2) treat litigants with respect and kindness, and (3) uphold the rule of law and follow the Constitution.” [[Facebook](#), George Bell, 6/3/2025]

Notable cases and professional discipline

2025: Bell Rejected A Plea Deal For A Man Accused Of Dumping A Man's Body In A Dumpster After He Died. “A second judge rejected a plea deal that would have sent a man to prison for up to 2 1/2 years for allegedly dumping a Belmont man's body in a dumpster after he died. Superior Court Judge George C. Bell said that he wasn't comfortable accepting 27-year-old D'Shaun Robinson's guilty plea connected to the death of 31-year-old Andy Tench. Tench went out in the early morning hours of March 25, 2024, to celebrate his birthday at The Bar at 316, an LGBTQ-friendly bar, according to his family. He never came home. Instead, he was seen in surveillance footage leaving the bar with Robinson, Assistant District Attorney Kyle Huggins said in Mecklenburg County Superior Court on Tuesday. Robinson later told police that while he was with Tench, Tench died, and he put Tench's body in a dumpster, then went shopping using Tench's financial cards, driving Tench's car around the Charlotte area.” [Gaston Gazette, 4/10/25]

2023: Bell Sentenced A Man Convicted Of Sex Crimes Against Children To More Than 50 Years In Prison. “A Transylvania County man has been found guilty of multiple child sex crimes including statutory rape of a child and has been sentenced to at least 50 years in prison. [...] Prior to the sentencing Stewart, the defense attorney, asked Judge George Bell for ‘compassion,’ noting that because of the criminal charges McKinney had not been able to attend the funeral of his oldest child who was born with severe disabilities. ‘There's been a lot of suffering in this case,’ Stewart said, adding that making his client serve consecutive sentences - rather than simultaneous sentences - was ‘overreach.’ Dierauf, the prosecutor, said back-to-back sentences were warranted because of the ‘not only egregious but long-standing’ nature of the crimes. Bell gave McKinney two consecutive sentences, each ranging from 25 to 35 years.” [Asheville Citizen Times, 7/27/23]

2019: Bell Approved A Plea Agreement Allowing A Woman To Serve Only 120 Days In Prison For The Killing Of A 17 Year Old. “A Conover woman pleaded guilty Tuesday to involuntary manslaughter for shooting and killing a 17-year-old Hickory girl in July 2018. Cheyenne Kenniston, 21, was charged with second-degree murder in September 2018 in the death of Katlyn Wittcop. Mecklenburg County Superior Court Judge George Bell approved the plea and imposed the sentence. Kenniston was sentenced to 120 days in prison, and given credit for 72 days she's already served. She was also sentenced to five years of supervised probation and was ordered to undergo mental health, anger management and substance abuse treatment. Kenniston will be required to pay court costs, costs of supervision and a \$250 fine.” [Hickory Daily Record, 4/16/19]

2019: Bell Was Reprimanded By The North Carolina State Bar For Making A False Statement Before A Tribunal. “Attorney: George Cooper Bell. Location: Huntersville. Bar membership: Member since 2006. Disciplinary action: Reprimanded on Aug. 7. Background: Bell failed to consult with his client's probation officer prior to seeking modification of the client's probation. As a result, Bell made a false statement of fact before a tribunal that the client had completed all his jail time and was in good standing, when in fact neither of those things was true.” [North Carolina Lawyers Weekly, [10/9/19](#); North Carolina State Bar [Case 18G1035](#)]

- **Bell Received A Reciprocal Reprimand From The Board Of Professional Responsibility Of The Supreme Court Of Tennessee.** “Effective February 14, 2020, George Cooper Bell, of Huntersville, North Carolina was censured by Order of Reciprocal Discipline entered by the Supreme Court of Tennessee on February 14, 2020. Mr. Bell received a public reprimand issued by the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar on August 7, 2019 for making a false statement to the Court. On October 28, 2019, the Tennessee Supreme Court entered a Notice of Reciprocal Discipline directing Mr. Bell to inform the Court, within thirty (30) days of

receipt of the Notice, why the discipline imposed by the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar should not be imposed by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Mr. Bell provided no response to the Court.” [Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, [2/14/20](#)]

Political views

2025: Bell Supported Cornelius Mayor Woody Washam’s Reelection Campaign. “Cornelius voters will see a rematch at the top of the ballot, with Mayor Woody Washam Jr. and former commissioner Denis Bilodeau facing off again after one of Mecklenburg County’s closest races in 2023. The mayoral race has drawn uneven fundraising totals, with Washam reporting a wide lead in contributions and cash on hand. For the entire fundraising period this election, Washam holds a significant financial edge, reporting \$59,857 raised, \$25,254 spent and \$42,762 left to spend. His supporters include North Meck Republicans, the Mecklenburg County Republican Party and Mecklenburg County Superior Court Judge George Bell.” [Charlotte Observer, 11/1/25]

Property Transactions

January 2011: George Bell And Hannah Bell Purchased A Residential Property In Mecklenburg County For \$375,000, And Financed The Property Through WR Starkey Mortgage. [Mecklenburg County, NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]

April 2012: George Bell And Hannah Bell Purchased A Residential Property For \$352,000 And Financed The Property Through Myers Park Mortgage. [Mecklenburg County, NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]

September 2015: George Bell And Hannah Bell Purchased A Property For \$341,000 And Financed The Property Through IMortgage. [Mecklenburg County, NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]

May 2020: George Bell Purchased A Home For \$472,500 From Amelia And Clement Violet. [NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]

- **2023: The Property Was Later Sold For \$725,000.** [NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]

June 2020: George Bell And Hannah Bell Purchased A Residential Property For \$880,000. [Mecklenburg County, NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]

- **The Transaction Included Multiple Associate Financing Filings, Including Loans Recorded Through “Summit Funding For \$704,000.** [Mecklenburg County, NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]
- **Records Showed The Property Was Transferred To The Sweetbriar Family Trust July 2020 Before Being Sold Again March 2021.**[Mecklenburg County, NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]
- **November 2021: George And Hannah Bell Are Again Listed As The Purchasers Of The Property.** [Mecklenburg County, NC Property and Transaction Records, accessed, 3/13/2026]

Contributions

Campaign Finance Data Showed That Bell's 2026 Court Of Appeals Campaign Has Raised \$90,000.


COVER					
Committee Name	Committee Type	SBoE ID	Report Type	Period Covered	
ELECT GEORGE BELL 14421 SOUTH OLD STATESVILLE ROAD HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078	Candidate Committee	STA-M3S97W-C-002	2026 First Quarter	From: 01/01/2026 To: 02/14/2026 Filed: 02/23/2026	

OFFICERS		
Type	Name	Address
Treasurer	JINGER KELLEY	236 SUMMERHOUSE PT, NORWOOD, NC, 28128
Custodian of Books	JINGER KELLEY	236 SUMMERHOUSE PT, NORWOOD, NC, 28128
Candidate	GEORGE BELL	14421 SOUTH OLD STATEVILLE RD, HUNTERSVILLE, NC, 28078

ACCOUNTS					
Name	Type	Address	Purpose	Begin Balance	End Balance
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK	Checking	9906 KNOCKANDO LN, HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078	MAINTAIN ACCOUNTING FOR COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS & EXPENSES	\$90,684.32	\$0.00

[North Carolina State Board of Elections, accessed, 3/17/2026]

Top Contributors Included Bell Himself \$18,132, Maria C. And Robert L. Luddy \$13,600, Nick Connolly \$6,800, Sandra L. Henson \$6,800, Gregory E. Provenzano \$5,000, And The Historic Ai-Pam Republican Club \$3,000.

Top Contributors 		
Total Contributions	Name	Type
\$18,132.90	George Bell	INDIVIDUAL
\$13,600.00	Maria C and Robert L Luddy	INDIVIDUAL
\$6,800.00	Nick Connolly	INDIVIDUAL
\$6,800.00	Sandra L Henson	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	Gregory E Provenzano	INDIVIDUAL
\$4,500.00	David Reule	INDIVIDUAL
\$3,000.00	Anthony Malko	INDIVIDUAL
\$3,000.00	The Historic Ai-Pam Rep Club	ENTITY
\$2,500.00	Corey Parton	INDIVIDUAL
\$2,500.00	Corey Rosensteel	INDIVIDUAL

[[Transparency USA](#), accessed, 3/17/2026]

Bell's Campaign Has Received Contributions From Robert L. Luddy A North Carolina Businessman And Conservative Donor. "Robert L. Luddy is a business and educational entrepreneur. A graduate of LaSalle University and a U.S. Army veteran, Luddy purchased a sheet metal shop in 1981 and transformed it into CaptiveAire Systems, leading manufacturer of commercial kitchen ventilation

systems in North America. Today, CaptiveAire employs over 2000 employees, with 120 sales offices nationwide and sales over \$1 Billion in 2024. However, Bob Luddy is more than just a businessman, he is a champion for children’s education and a school choice advocate.” [[The Public Discourse](#), accessed, 3/16/2026] [[Transparency USA](#), accessed, 3/17/2026]

Campaign Finance Records Show Luddy Has Made Substantial Political Donations To Republican Candidates. [[Follow The Money](#), accessed, 3/17/2026]

George C. Bell — Political Contributions and Organizational Payments

Date	Recipient / Committee	Amount	Occupation / Employer Listed
01/13/2016	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$40	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law
02/09/2016	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$40	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law
09/13/2016	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$5	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law
09/13/2016	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$40	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law
10/11/2016	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$60	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law
02/07/2017	Committee to Elect Khalif Rhodes	\$48.25	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law
04/17/2017	Committee to Elect Parker Cains	\$100	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law
08/15/2018	Committee to Elect Tyler Brooks	\$100	Attorney – Self
09/05/2018	Re-Elect Judge Havelka	\$250	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law Firm
09/07/2018	Mecklenburg Republicans	\$250	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law Firm
09/11/2018	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$20	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law
10/09/2018	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$60	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law

11/02/2018	Gunn for NC Senate / Joyce Krawiec for NC Senate	\$500	Marketing – Bell First Group
11/13/2018	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$20	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law
01/14/2020	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$55	Lawyer – Bell Law Firm
01/22/2021	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$70	Lawyer – Bell Law Firm
04/09/2024	North Mecklenburg Republican Women	\$70	Lawyer / NC Superior Court Judge
08/12/2025	North Mecklenburg Republicans	\$70	Superior Court Judge – State of NC
09/09/2025	North Mecklenburg Republicans	\$70	Superior Court Judge – State of NC
10/15/2025	Campaign to Elect Woody Washam	\$250	Superior Court Judge – State of NC

Self-Funding of Bell Campaign Committees

Year	Committee	Amount	Occupation Listed
2016	Committee to Elect George Bell	\$3,400	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2016	Committee to Elect George Bell	\$500	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2016	Committee to Elect George Bell	\$1,000	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2016	Committee to Elect George Bell	\$400	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2016	Committee to Elect George Bell	\$1,500	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2016	Committee to Elect George Bell	\$200	Attorney – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2018	Elect George Bell	\$2,500	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law Firm

2018	Elect George Bell	\$2,500	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2018	Elect George Bell	\$4,000	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2018	Elect George Bell	\$500	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2018	Elect George Bell	\$2,000	Lawyer – Bell & Bell Law Firm
2025	Elect George Bell	\$14,699.04	Judge – State of NC
2025	Elect George Bell	\$3,423.86	Judge – State of NC
2025	Elect George Bell	\$5,000	Judge – State of NC

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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