

ROB STETSON - BUNCOMBE COUNTY COMMISSION 1ST DISTRICT (R)

Robert Marvin Statson Jr. filed for Buncombe County Commission 1st district as a Republican on December 16th, 2025 [[Buncombe County](#)]

Key findings:

- **Lack of campaign materials and inactive social media presence.** Stetson has no official campaign website or social media.
- **Stetson’s spouse regularly posts about not choosing political sides on her personal social media.** Stetson’s spouse posts regularly and recently about not allowing political and religious differences to separate people.

Since 2008, the county has swung strongly toward the Democratic party. In 2024, Kamala Harris achieved the strongest performance as a democrat in the county. Buncombe County Board of Commission has seven elected officials who serve four-year terms, including the chair, vice chair and five members. Each member of the commission has the same voting power. The terms are staggered so that three commission seats open up every two years. The chair is elected through a separate race every four years. The vice mayor is appointed by members of the commission. The county is divided into three districts and each district has two commissioners. District 1 - Southern and Eastern Buncombe, including South Asheville, Black Mountain, Montreat, Fairview and parts of Swannanoa. The incumbent Commissioners are Jennifer Horton (term from 2024 to 2028) and Alfred Whitesides (term from 2022 to 2026). Whitesides is the incumbent being replaced. The Democrat also running for the seat is Anna V. Stearns. There is no Republican running against Stetson for the primaries.

BACKGROUND

County Commissioners in Buncombe County are the primary legislative body for the county. Buncombe County has a “strong manager, weak council” system, meaning the county manager serves as Buncombe’s chief executive officer. The commission decides who to hire as county manager and whether to extend or terminate their contract. The manager wields more power over the county’s day-to-day municipal operations and county staff, hiring and firing. The commissioners control the county’s financial decisions, including final say over the annual budget, and exclusively hold the local power to do things like COVID stay at home orders and disaster emergency funding applications.

Stetson currently lives in Arden, NC and he received his Bachelors in Business Administration from the University of North Texas and MAE in University of Oklahoma [[North Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Group](#)]. He is married to Sheilah Rodriguez Stetson [[Facebook](#)] and has one older teenage son with her. Stetson has been a NC Farm Bureau Insurance Agent in Buncombe

County since 2007 according to his LinkedIn. Stetson's campaign footprint currently is minimal with no official launch page.

ON THE ISSUES

Stetson believes the government should provide support for the arts within a limited scope.

[\[Arts Avl\]](#)

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

LACK OF GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

There is no evidence of Stetson having any government experience.

SMALL DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Stetson does not have a campaign website or campaign social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Email: stetson.rob@gmail.com

Email: rob.stetson@ncfbins.com

Phone: 828-280-1432

Residential address: 25 Tree Top Drive, Arden NC, 28704

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#) (Work)

[Facebook](#) (Personal)