

## **DANIEL ENTZMINGER-NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT JUDGE DISTRICT 3 SEAT 1 (R)**

### **KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:**

- **Low-profile/ incumbent:** Entzminger spent 15 years as a Greenville-based private attorney and has served as a Pitt County District Court judge since 2018, with no widely reported high-profile cases or controversies.
- **Republican-aligned:** His political activity and donations indicate baseline Republican affiliation, but there is no evidence of alignment with extremist movements, national ideological networks, or highly polarizing figures.
- **Unproven in contested incumbency:** While elected in 2018 and unopposed in 2022, 2026 is his first competitive re-election as an incumbent.
- **Operating in a competitive jurisdiction:** Pitt County is politically mixed with a slight Democratic lean in recent federal races.

### **JURISDICTION SUMMARY**

In Pitt County, Entzminger serves as one of six district court judges. The bench is currently evenly divided by party, with three Republicans (including Entzminger) and three Democrats.

The broader political environment in Pitt County is competitive but slightly Democratic-leaning in recent federal races. Democrats currently hold a 5–4 majority on the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, and recent election results show:

- 2022 U.S. Senate: Democrat Cheri Beasley (50.35%) over Republican Ted Budd (47.54%)
- 2024 Presidential: Kamala Harris (52.33%) in Pitt County

The 2026 district court race is a contested general election, with Entzminger (R) facing Democrat Watsi Sutton, while another Republican incumbent (Lee Teague) is unopposed.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **PERSONAL LIFE**

**Entzminger Grew Up In Greenville, North Carolina And Graduated From Greenville Christian Academy.** “Since being elected in 2018, Judge Daniel Hines Entzminger has served as a District Court Judge for judicial district 3 in Pitt County, North Carolina. His role as a District Court Judge has enabled him to preside over a diverse array of cases, including criminal matters such as misdemeanors, DWIs, and felony offenses; family law proceedings including divorce, child custody, and child support; domestic violence cases involving criminal charges and protective.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**2000: Entzinger Received His Bachelors Degree From Campbell University.** “Since being elected in 2018, Judge Daniel Hines Entzinger has served as a District Court Judge for judicial district 3 in Pitt County, North Carolina. His role as a District Court Judge has enabled him to preside over a diverse array of cases, including criminal matters such as misdemeanors, DWIs, and felony offenses; family law proceedings including divorce, child custody, and child support; domestic violence cases involving criminal charges and protective.” [[Entzinger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**2003: Entzinger Received His J.D From Campbell University.** “Since being elected in 2018, Judge Daniel Hines Entzinger has served as a District Court Judge for judicial district 3 in Pitt County, North Carolina. His role as a District Court Judge has enabled him to preside over a diverse array of cases, including criminal matters such as misdemeanors, DWIs, and felony offenses; family law proceedings including divorce, child custody, and child support; domestic violence cases involving criminal charges and protective.” [[Entzinger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**2003: Entzinger Was Admitted To The North Carolina Bar.** “Since being elected in 2018, Judge Daniel Hines Entzinger has served as a District Court Judge for judicial district 3 in Pitt County, North Carolina. His role as a District Court Judge has enabled him to preside over a diverse array of cases, including criminal matters such as misdemeanors, DWIs, and felony offenses; family law proceedings including divorce, child custody, and child support; domestic violence cases involving criminal charges and protective.” [[Entzinger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Before Taking The Bench, Entzinger Spent 15 Years In Private Practice As A Small-Business Owner In Greenville Handling Criminal And Civil Cases.** “Before being elected as a judge, Judge Entzinger practiced as a private attorney and owned a small business in Greenville, North Carolina for 15 years. During his time as a private practice attorney, he handled a wide variety of criminal and civil cases, often traveling to various counties and courtrooms to represent his clients.” [[Entzinger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Entzinger Taught Business Law At Pitt Community College For 16 Years.** “In addition to his judicial experience, he has served on the Pitt County Board of Elections, was a member of the school board at Christ Covenant School, and has served as Board Chairman for First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville, NC. He is also a former educator, having taught business law at Pitt Community College for 16 years. [[Entzinger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Entzinger’s Campaign Site Said While In College He Regularly Helped At His Family’s Dixie Queen Seafood Restaurant In Winterville, North Carolina.** “While studying at Campbell University, Judge Entzinger frequently returned home on weekends to help at his family’s restaurant, the Dixie Queen Seafood Restaurant in Winterville, NC, and to attend church with his family at First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville.” [[Entzinger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Entzinger Attended First Free Will Baptist Church.** “While studying at Campbell University, Judge Entzinger frequently returned home on weekends to help at his family’s

restaurant, the Dixie Queen Seafood Restaurant in Winterville, NC, and to attend church with his family at First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Entzminger Served As Board Chairman For First Free Will Baptist Church.** “While studying at Campbell University, Judge Entzminger frequently returned home on weekends to help at his family’s restaurant, the Dixie Queen Seafood Restaurant in Winterville, NC, and to attend church with his family at First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

#### **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

**Entzminger Is Married To Holly Entzminger And Together They Have Four Children.** “Judge Entzminger is married to his wife Holly, and they have four children: Olivia, Eliza, Christian, and Emerson. His wife works as a teacher with Pitt County Schools.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Holly Entzminger Is A Teacher At Pitt County Schools.** “Judge Entzminger is married to his wife Holly, and they have four children: Olivia, Eliza, Christian, and Emerson. His wife works as a teacher with Pitt County Schools.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

#### **PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, LITIGATION, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND**

**Before Taking The Bench, Entzminger Spent 15 Years In Private Practice As A Small-Business Owner In Greenville Handling Criminal And Civil Cases.** “Before being elected as a judge, Judge Entzminger practiced as a private attorney and owned a small business in Greenville, North Carolina for 15 years. During his time as a private practice attorney, he handled a wide variety of criminal and civil cases, often traveling to various counties and courtrooms to represent his clients.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**2018: Entzminger Was Elected To District Court Judge District 3A Pitt County.** “Since being elected in 2018, Judge Daniel Hines Entzminger has served as a District Court Judge for judicial district 3 in Pitt County, North Carolina.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Entzminger Was A Pitt County Board Of Elections Member.** “In addition to his judicial experience, he has served on the Pitt County Board of Elections, was a member of the school board at Christ Covenant School, and has served as Board Chairman for First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville, NC. He is also a former educator, having taught business law at Pitt Community College for 16 years.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

**Entzminger Was An Assistant Basketball Coach At Christ Covenant Boys.** “Outside of the courtroom, you can often find Judge Entzminger on a different type of court—the basketball court. His passion for coaching basketball allows him to help young people achieve success, not only on the basketball court, but also in life.” [[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026] [[Max Preps](#), accessed, 4/27/2026]

## INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

## POLITICAL AFFILIATION & ACTIVITY:

**Entzminger Said The Court System Is The Most Effective When Judges Take A “Common Sense” Approach To Deciding Cases.** “When making decisions from the bench, I always try to use reason and common sense in determining the outcome of a case. When hearing a case, I often try to consider what a jury in our Eastern North Carolina community would do if they were hearing the same set of facts. I believe this is important because juries usually act with reason and common sense in their decisions, and reach the correct result. I believe our court system is most effective when our judges take this common-sense approach to deciding cases.”

[[Entzminger for Judge](#), accessed, 4/26/2026]

## *Ideology & Politics*

**Entzminger Is A Republican.** “As filing entered its final days, Watsi M. Sutton of Greenville, a Democrat, attorney and executive director of Koinonia Community Solutions in Winterville, filed to take on Judge Daniel Hines Entzminger, a Winterville Republican, for his seat in Pitt County District Court.” [[Reflector](#), 12/22/2025]

## *Affiliation with political figures/organizations:*

**October 2008: Entzminger Contributed \$300 To Pat McCrory.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**2013-2017: Pat McCrory Was A Republican Governor Of North Carolina.**



[National Governor Association, accessed, 4/28/2026]

**March 2016: Governor McCrory Signed (HB2) “Bathroom Bill.”** “In late March, North Carolina governor Pat McCrory signed into law a controversial bill requiring transgender individuals to use the bathroom corresponding with the gender on their birth certificate rather

than their gender identity . The bill overrides an anti-discrimination ordinance issued in the city of Charlotte in February. Here's what House Bill 2 means for the transgender community and for the state of North Carolina." [[PBS](#), 5/26/2016]

**HB2 Required Individuals In Government Buildings And Schools To Use Bathrooms Corresponding To The Sex On Their Birth Certificate.** "In late March, North Carolina governor Pat McCrory signed into law a controversial bill requiring transgender individuals to use the bathroom corresponding with the gender on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity . The bill overrides an anti-discrimination ordinance issued in the city of Charlotte in February. Here's what House Bill 2 means for the transgender community and for the state of North Carolina." [[PBS](#), 5/26/2016]

#### *Campaign Background & Infrastructure*

**2025: Entzminger Is Running Contested Against Democrat Watsi Sutton.** "As filing entered its final days, Watsi M. Sutton of Greenville, a Democrat, attorney and executive director of Koinonia Community Solutions in Winterville, filed to take on Judge Daniel Hines Entzminger, a Winterville Republican, for his seat in Pitt County District Court." [[Reflector](#), 12/22/2025]

#### *Legal & Ethics*

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

#### *Endorsements*

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

**2026: Entzminger Raised \$3,235 To Date.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**2026: Entzminger Has \$897 Cash On Hand To Date.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

#### PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**September 2006: Entzminger Contributed \$40 Pitt Republican Executive Committee.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**March 2008: Entzminger Contributed \$100 To Pitt Republican Executive Committee.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**June 2008: Entzminger Contributed \$1,317 To Ginny Cooper.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**October 2008: Entzminger Contributed \$300 To Pat McCrory.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**2012: Entzminger Contributed \$750 To Faris Dixon.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**2026: Entzminger Raised \$3,235 To Date.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

**2026: Entzminger Has \$897 Cash On Hand To Date.** [[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/23/2026]

#### POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

| Contributor           | Employer                        | Date       | Amount | Type     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--------|----------|
| Alexander J. Paschall | Pac                             | 1/15/2026  | \$300  | In-Kind  |
| Willam V. Stocks      | Car Dealer                      | 1/18/2026  | \$300  | Monetary |
| Doug Askew            | Greenville Utilities Commission | 12/21/2026 | \$250  | Monetary |

#### ISSUES

DEMOCRACY & ELECTION STANCES:

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

IDEOLOGY, RHETORIC & EXTREMISM SIGNALS

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

POLITICAL POWER

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY & ABUSE OF POWER

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

## CORRUPTION & LEGAL

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

## GOVERNANCE & COMPETENCE

*Nothing relevant found for memo.*

## **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS**

[Campaign Site](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Personal Facebook](#)

[Campaign Facebook](#)

[Personal Instagram](#)

[Campaign Instagram](#)

[Personal X Account](#)