

NEW HANOVER COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATE ROBERT “BOB” DRACH (LIBERTARIAN)

Bob Drach is running as a Libertarian candidate to be a New Hanover County Commissioner in 2026. In 2024, Drach ran an unsuccessful campaign for State Auditor, receiving only 3% of the vote in the general election despite being the only accountant in the race. Drach had an extensive private sector career, including serving as the President at HMF Express, Chief Information Officer at Senneca Holdings, and Vice President of Commercial Business Unity at Therma-Tru Doors. He holds an MBA from Stanford University and a bachelor’s degree in physics from William & Mary. New Hanover County, which is home to the city of Wilmington, has recently gained national attention as a [political bellwether](#), having flipped blue in 2020 after voting for Republican presidents for 44 years. New Hanover County’s largest voting block is Unaffiliated (42%), followed by Republicans (29%), and Democrats (27%).

Key Findings:

During Drach’s campaign for State Auditor, the Charlotte Observer Editorial Board said Drach “displayed an incomplete knowledge about the auditor’s office.” In 2024, Drach ran for North Carolina State Auditor. He was the only certified accountant in the race. While he did not hold a CPA, he had private sector experience as a certified management accountant (CMA) and treasurer. However, while endorsing another candidate, the Charlotte Observer Editorial Board said Drach “displayed an incomplete knowledge about the auditor’s office in an editorial board interview.” Ultimately, placed third behind the Republican and Democratic candidates, receiving only 3% of the vote.

Drach argued that property taxes should be “strictly limited.” On his website, Drach said “my bias is also to hold property taxes where they are while trying to improve efficiencies across the county budget.” Elsewhere on his website, he said “property taxes drive up expenses for young adults. Hence, these taxes should be strictly limited.” Drach believes that “Republicans and Democrats work together to impoverish” citizens, and has argued that both parties are responsible for the federal debt that “displaces spending...pressures the middle class...and increases future taxes.”

<u>Potential Attacks Against Drach</u>
Inexperience
“Incomplete Knowledge”

BACKGROUND & BIO

Education

1991: Drach became a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). “Education: 1991 Certified Management Accountant (CMA); 1987-1989 Stanford Graduate School of Business, MBA; 1979-1982 The College of William and Mary, BS” [News & Observer, [9/24/24](#)]

1983: Drach received an MBA from Stanford University. [LinkedIn, accessed [7/17/26](#)]

1983: Drach received a BS in Physics from William & Mary. [LinkedIn, accessed [7/17/26](#)]

Career

Career Timeline

1983: Science Teacher at Baltimore City Public Schools

1983 – 1985: Associate at Westinghouse Defense and Electronic Systems Center

1985 – 1987: Physics Instructor at Peace Corps

1989 – 1994: Senior Consultant at Deloitte

1994 – 2000: Plant Manager / Engineering Manager / SBU Leader at Rain Bird Corporation

2000 – 2001: Vice President of Operations at Targus

2001 – 2003: President at Robert Manufacturing Company

2003 – 2006: Vice President of Commercial Business Unit at Therma-Tru Doors

2006 – 2020: President at HMF Express

2020 – 2022: Chief Information Officer at Senneca Holdings

[LinkedIn, accessed [7/17/26](#)]

Public Service

2024: Drach ran for North Carolina State Auditor. “Here's who's running for auditor: Holmes, a Democrat who has been appointed to serve the remainder of Wood's term. Republican Jack Clark, a certified public accountant. Republican David Boliek, board member and former chair of the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. Republican Charles Dingee, former chair of the Wake County Young Republicans. Republican Jim Kee, a former Greensboro City Council member. Republican Jeff Tarte, a former state senator and mayor of Cornelius. Republican Anthony Wayne Street, who ran for auditor in 2020, and was previously put on probation in connection to a stalking charge. Libertarian Bob Drach of Wilmington.” [News & Observer, 11/10/23]

- **Drach was unopposed in the Libertarian primary.** “Beth Wood capably served North Carolina as state auditor from 2009 to 2023 until an off-hours accident in a state vehicle led to her resignation last year. Gov. Roy Cooper appointed former Wake County commissioner Jessica Holmes to replace her, and now six Republicans are running for a chance at the permanent role. Holmes is unopposed in the Democratic primary, as is Libertarian candidate Bob Drach.” [News & Observer, 2/21/24]
- **Drach was not a CPA, but claimed to have private sector experience as a certified management accountant and treasurer.** “Libertarian Bob Drach isn’t a CPA either, but has experience in the private sector as a certified management accountant and treasurer, according to his campaign website.” [News & Observer, 8/27/24]
- **Drach was the only certified accountant in the race.** “Bob Drach, a Libertarian, was the only certified accountant in the race. By trade, auditors are generally certified accountants, but such certification is not a requirement for state auditors in North Carolina.” [News & Observer, 11/5/24]
- **The Charlotte Observer Editorial Board said Drach “displayed an incomplete knowledge about the auditor’s office in an editorial board interview.”** “Libertarian Bob Drach, a certified management accountant, also is running. He displayed an incomplete knowledge about the auditor’s office in an editorial board interview.” [Charlotte Observer, 10/27/24]
- **Drach came in third in the state auditor race, receiving only 3% of the vote.** “* Republican candidate Dave Boliek defeated Democratic challenger Jessica Holmes and Libertarian challenger Bob Drach, winning 49.37 percent of the vote. * Holmes won 47.62 percent of the vote. * Drach won 3.01 percent of the vote.” [Daily Tar Heel, 11/6/24]

Drach served on the New Hanover County NC Board of Equalization and Review from 2011 to 2014. “2011-2014 New Hanover County NC Board of Equalization and Review” [News & Observer, [9/24/24](#)]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Total Contributions (First Quarter 2026)	Total Expenses (First Quarter 2026)	Fund Balance (End of Reporting Period)
N/A	N/A	N/A

[North Carolina State Board of Elections, accessed 7/17/26]

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

2026: Drach donated \$769 to Libertarian National Committee. [FEC, accessed [7/20/26](#)]

2025: Drach donated \$500 to GET MAAD. [FEC, accessed [7/20/26](#)]

AFFORDABILITY

No findings identified.

BUDGETS & TAXES

Drach: “My calling card is good financial management and I would like to see New Hanover County reduce debt service costs, which are about 12% of the budget today.” “My calling card is good financial management and I would like to see New Hanover County reduce debt service costs, which are about 12% of the budget today. My bias is also to hold property taxes where they are while trying to improve efficiencies across the county budget. I am not a developer or real estate broker. And while the ‘forever chemical’ problem in the Cape Fear River is mostly outside our purview, I like the things Commissioner Rob Zapple has done to focus on this issue.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

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Drach said the County Endowment should be used to “pay off debt, fund the schools, and give taxpayers some relief.” “Meanwhile -- the County Endowment is sitting on over \$1 billion. What is happening to that money? It would be better for the County if this money were used to pay off debt, fund the schools, and give taxpayers some relief. The scheme to lock this money up does not look good in hindsight, and the current board members who voted for this scheme should not be re-elected.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

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Drach wrote a blog post titled “Republicans and Democrats Work Together to Impoverish You,” arguing that Democrats and Republican members of congress were responsible for the federal debt that “displaces spending for the poor, pressures the middle class, is fiscally irresponsible, and increases future taxes.” “The example of these two representatives shows that both Democrats and Republicans are responsible for causing unprecedented federal debt. One party has historically been about helping the poor and building the middle class. The other has a brand built on fiscal responsibility and low taxes. Yet the climbing federal debt displaces spending for the poor, pressures the middle class, is fiscally irresponsible, and increases future taxes.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

CONTROVERSIES

No findings identified.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Drach: “developers should not get a free ride.” “On some of the other hot button issues in the county: - developers should not get a free ride - conservation areas should not be developed - schools need ongoing investment, but recognize that over the past 5 years enrollment is flat” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

- **Drach on developments: “Traffic impacts need to be considered and costs shifted to new users so legacy tax payers do not bear the costs of developers' profit.”** “Their concerns are tied to the fact that NHC is increasingly space constrained. Development is encroaching onto CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) conservation areas, and this needs to stop. Where development is still possible, higher densities must be balanced with greenspace to enhance the environment. Traffic impacts need to be considered and costs shifted to new users so legacy tax payers do not bear the costs of developers' profit.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/15/26](#)]

ELECTIONS & BALLOT ACCESS

On Facebook, Drach said “North Carolina’s legislature is moving to restrict voter choice” with a link to an article on House Bill 958, which would allegedly prevent ranked voice voting. [Facebook, [6/19/26](#)]

EDUCATION

Drach: “schools need ongoing investment, but recognize that over the past 5 years enrollment is flat.” “On some of the other hot button issues in the county: - developers should not get a free ride - conservation areas should not be developed - schools need ongoing investment, but recognize that over the past 5 years enrollment is flat” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

Drach said “if anything” he would increase the proportion the county spends on education, in terms of spending priorities which he claimed are roughly equally divided among education, public safety and health and social services “In terms of spending priorities, the county spends about 1/3 on each of Education, Public Safety, and Health and Social Services. If anything, I would increase the proportion spent on education. If anyone feels differently, I would love to hear why and what should change.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

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ENVIRONMENT

Drach: “And while the ‘forever chemical’ problem in the Cape Fear River is mostly outside our purview, I like the things Commissioner Rob Zapple has done to focus on this issue.” “My calling card is good financial management and I would like to see New Hanover County reduce debt service costs, which are about 12% of the budget today. My bias is also to hold property taxes where they are while trying to improve efficiencies across the county budget. I am not a developer or real estate broker. And while the ‘forever chemical’ problem in the Cape Fear River is mostly outside our purview, I like the things Commissioner Rob Zapple has done to focus on this issue.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

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need ongoing investment, but recognize that over the past 5 years enrollment is flat” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

Drach: “When there are not good alternatives to government services, it is best to increase user fees to offset higher costs such as with solid waste tipping fees and create a market incentive for conservation and best practices.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/15/26](#)]

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ETHICS & GOOD GOVERNMENT

Drach Supported Civil Liberties And "Bodily Autonomy.” “Bob believes in natural laws like bodily autonomy, civil liberties like freedom of association, and in the non-aggression principle.” [Bob Drach, accessed, 4/3/2026]

HOUSING

No findings identified.

INFRASTRUCTURE

No findings identified.

PHILOSOPHY & IDEOLOGY

While running for state auditor, Drach claimed that he could better protect taxpayer money because he was not a Democrat or Republican. “Drach believes that because he is not a Democrat or a Republican, he can better protect all North Carolinians' tax money.” [Asheville Citizen-Times, 9/17/24]

2024: Drach convinced Sean Haugh (L) to run for North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner. “Haugh has formerly run for U.S. Senate as a Libertarian in 2014 losing to Thom Tillis (R-NC) and then again in 2016 losing to Richard Burr(R-NC). He has also unsuccessfully run for N.C. House District 31 in 2020 and 2022. He said Bob Drach who is the Libertarian candidate running for N.C. state auditor inspired him to run for Agriculture Commissioner. ‘Bob was somewhat influential on me, saying that I would have more impact running for a statewide office than for my state house seat,’ Haugh said.” [News & Record, 10/16/24]

2024: Drach said “Good accounting practices provide for transparency that discourages waste, fraud and abuse. The possibility of an audit creates financial discipline and strong internal controls throughout state government.” “Good accounting practices provide for transparency that discourages waste, fraud and abuse. The possibility of an audit creates financial discipline and strong

internal controls throughout state government. Such financial transparency discourages behavior which is ethically suspect and which could violate Chapter 14 of the state code.” [News & Observer, [9/24/24](#)]

Drach: “By voting for something different locally I hope we can create political change more globally.” “Another reason I am running for office is to give voice to voters who want alternatives to the two major parties. You may know that the biggest voting bloc in NC is the unaffiliated voters. These voters are asking for alternatives. There is a saying that ‘All politics is local.’ By voting for something different locally I hope we can create political change more globally.” [BobDrach.com, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

PUBLIC SAFETY

No findings identified.

LINKS

[Campaign Website](#)
[Campaign Facebook](#)
[Campaign Instagram](#)
[Campaign X](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

PUBLIC RECORDS

2024: Drach faced two criminal filings for unspecified infractions, both of which appear to be driving related. According to a public records aggregator, Drach has faced two undisclosed criminal filings: an unspecified infraction in Mecklenburg, North Carolina in November 2024 and an unspecified infraction in New Hanover, North Carolina in October 2004. It appears from North Carolina court databases that both filings were driving-related. [Database Public Records, accessed 7/17/26; North Carolina Court Databases, Accessed 7/22/26]