

Jason Saine

North Carolina House District 97



Summary

Campaign Biography

Representative Jason Saine represents the 97th North Carolina House District which encompasses Lincoln County.

Representative Saine is serving his third full term in the North Carolina House after being appointed in 2011 to fill out the remaining term of Rep. Johnathan Rhyne. During his first full term Rep. Saine was recognized as the most effective freshman in the North Carolina House. Rep. Saine won reelection in 2012, 2014, and 2016.

Saine was appointed by Speaker of the House Tim Moore to serve as Senior Chairman for the House Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is responsible for tax policy in North Carolina, and in that role Chairman Saine has helped to shepherd through over half a billion dollars in tax decreases for North Carolina working families.

In 2013 Saine was appointed by Speaker Thom Tillis to serve as the first ever House Appropriations Chairman of Information Technology. In that role, he oversees roughly \$1.6 billion in technology spending for the state of North Carolina. He was reappointed to continue in that role in by Speaker Moore in 2015.

Governor Pat McCrory made efficiency in technology one of his top priorities and Saine has worked closely with the State Chief Information Officer to implement and achieve success in IT innovation.

Saine was recognized for his work in IT recently by winning the North Carolina Technology Association's Public Leadership Award. He has also led on a number of important issues during the 2015 Legislative session, including: creating a cabinet level Department of Information Technology, protecting student and employee social media privacy, changing State tax law to incentivize IT job creation, and encouraging IT innovation at colleges and universities and in State government.

Saine was also recently appointed to the Federal Communications Commission's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee where he will use his expertise as a state legislator and technology business owner to help create better IT and telecommunication policy in the coming years at the federal level.

He also serves as Vice Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, as Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on IT Oversight, Co-Chair of the Revenue Laws Study Committee, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the North Carolina State Lottery, and is a member of the following committees: Alcoholic Beverage Control, Commerce and Job Development, Education - K-12, Elections, Health, Judiciary II, and Rules Calendar and Operations of the House.

(Campaign Biography, [Accessed 3/5/18](#))

ALEC membership/ties

[ALEC National Chair](#)

[2014 ALEC Legislator of the Year](#)

[Attended the 2015 ALEC Annual Meeting](#)

[Signed 2013 ALEC Letter to Dick Durbin](#)

Signed ALEC letter to FCC Chairman Wheeler (On File)

[Signed ALEC 10/16 letter to Congress to Reduce Tax Rates for All Taxpayers](#)

Attended ALEC's 45th annual conference in New Orleans, 2018

ALEC North Carolina State Co-chair, 2018

[Signed Confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh ALEC Letter 2018](#)

ALEC Legislator of the Week 2/26/2018

FOIA Records on file from North Carolina House of Representatives

Reimbursed \$375 for ALEC Washington DC Conference in 2012

Reimbursed \$475 for ALEC Chicago conference fees in 2013

Reimbursed \$312 for ALEC Chicago conference travel in 2013

Reimbursed \$520 for 2013 Washington DC ALEC conference

Reimbursed \$400 for ALEC Washington DC conference fees in 2014

Reimbursed \$520 for ALEC Washington DC travel in 2014

Other Hits

The North Carolina State Board of Elections audited Representative Jason Saine's campaign finance reports and found a number of issues. According to the Daily Haymaker, Representative Jason Saine "...is having quite the challenge following the rules and managing his own campaign finances. The state board of elections released its findings from an audit of NC Rep. Jason Saine's campaign finances from 2013-2015 and.... it's NOT pretty." Some highlights include the following:

8. The following expenditure does not appear to be permissible under 163-278-16(b). *Rep. Saine reimbursed his committee on 10/31/2016 for the expenditure.*
RiteAid 11/19/2012 \$13.87 Medicine
9. Many of the expenditures were reported with a vague purpose such as "gifts," "food," or "tickets" etc. *Rep. Saine provided more details on all of the requested expenditures on the attached spreadsheet.*

"Those "requested details" took up EIGHTEEN PAGES. The details include campaign expenditures on UNC-Charlotte and NC State athletic event tickets. Meals at McDonalds, Jimmy Johns and BoJangles. Clothing purchases at Jos. A Bank, The Tom James Company, Belk, and The Tie Bar of Chicago, Illinois. Car washes. Lots of expensive dinners with "colleagues" and "staff" in DC, Raleigh and in California. Hotel rooms in California, Texas, Charlotte, DC, and Raleigh"

Another example:

Last Name	PAC	First Name	Date	Amount
	NC Chamber PAC		4/24/2014	\$1,000.00
	NC Farm Bureau		4/24/2014	\$1,000.00
Kolosowsky		Michael	4/29/2014	\$1,000.00
Howard		Richard	4/29/2014	\$1,000.00
Tucker		Ken	4/29/2014	\$2,600.00
	NC Automobile Dealers Assoc		5/6/2014	\$1,000.00
Hage		Jonathan	5/6/2014	\$2,500.00
	CAPA PAC		10/20/2014	\$1,000.00
	NC REC		10/21/2014	\$5,949.59

“State election law requires you to report contributions of \$1000 or more within 48 hours of receiving them.” [The North Carolina State Board of Elections, [7/25/2017](#)] [The Daily Haymaker, [8/4/2017](#)]

Representative Jason Saine spent \$19,000 campaign finance dollars on clothes. According to The Charlotte Observer, Representative Jason Saine “...defended spending more than \$19,000 in campaign money on clothes, including some from a custom tailor in Charlotte. Saine spent \$17,908 on clothes from Tom James Co., which bills itself as “the world’s largest manufacturer of custom clothing.” Saine reported spending another \$826 for shirts at Joseph A. Bank and \$381 on clothes at Belk. “I get the sticker shock,” said the three-term lawmaker. “But it’s part of the cost of doing the business that I’m in. At the end of the day it’s a campaign expense ... I wouldn’t have these but for serving in the legislature.” Saine, who co-chairs the House Finance Committee, said he bought “eight or nine” suits, 20 shirts, two belts and two pairs of shoes from Tom James. He said the arrangement allows for the frequent alterations he said he needs. “When you’re short and fat like me, you can’t buy off-the-rack without paying many, many dollars in alterations,” he said. [The Charlotte Observer, [8/20/2015](#)]

Representative Jason Saine voted to cut unemployment benefits that he once received. According to NC Policy Watch, Jason Saine, a Lincolnton Republican, said he spent more than a year collecting unemployment checks, up until his August 2011 appointment to finish out the term of his predecessor. His credits the insurance with allowing himself, his wife Kathryn and their young son weather the months he was without work, a time when the family lived off the salary from his wife’s health care job and began to sell off possessions while Saine unsuccessfully tried to find work. “I don’t approve of the stigma associated with it (unemployment),” said Saine, who describes himself as Ronald Reagan conservative on his campaign website. “Real people who want to work can’t find jobs.” He sits in an unusual position – the program he benefited from for more than a year was drastically changed this month by the votes he and other lawmakers cast to overhaul the state’s unemployment insurance system. Saine acknowledges the awkward fit, and said he understands the plight of the unemployed workers who will be able to collect unemployment for a fraction of the time Saine did. “[The NC Policy Watch, [2/21/2013](#)]