

State Rep. Stephen Ross
North Carolina – House District 63



Summary

Legislative Biography

Stephen Ross is serving the people of Alamance County in his second term in the North Carolina General Assembly. A Burlington native and graduate of Walter M. Williams High School, he also graduated from Elon University and attended graduate school at North Carolina State University. He now serves on the Elon Board of Visitors. Steve is a proud Eagle Scout and serves as a member of the Old North State Council's Executive Committee.

Serving twice on the Burlington City Council, including a stint as the Mayor, Steve enjoys serving others and fixing problems. He's received recognition as one of the Triad's Most Influential People by the Triangle Business Journal, and he received an appointment to serve on the North Carolina League of Municipalities' Tax and Finance Committee, a nonpartisan association of over 500 towns, cities, and villages in North Carolina. Steve served as Chairman of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council of governments and was a member of the Alamance County Mayors' Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

Equally notable is his volunteer service as President of the Alamance Division of the American Heart Association, the National League of Cities Public Safety & Crime Prevention Committee, the Piedmont Triad Regional Transportation Board, the Piedmont Triad Economic Development Partnership, and the Economic Development Board of Alamance County Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his government and community service, Steve also has an extensive background in the private sector as a Financial Advisor.

Steve Ross currently serves as Chairman of the Commerce and Jobs Development Committee, as Chairman of the Pension and Retirement Committee, as Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee, and as a member of the Banking, Judiciary II, Local Government, and Transportation Committees.

He and his wife have four daughters and are active members of St. Mark's Reformed Church. They enjoy many outdoor activities including camping, hiking, and scuba.

[Legislative Biography, [Accessed 10/13/17](#)]

ALEC membership/ties

- Reimbursed \$475 for ALEC Chicago conference fees in 2013 [FOIA Records, On File]
- Reimbursed \$312 for ALEC Chicago conference travel in 2013 [FOIA Records, On File]
- Signed Confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh ALEC [Letter](#) 2018

ALEC model legislation authored/sponsored

Bill Title/Number	ALEC Model Bill	Sponsored/Authorred
HB 255 (2013)	The 140 Credit Hour Act	Voted Yea
HB 711 (2013)	Parental Rights Amendment	Voted Yea
SB 4 (2014)	Resolution Opposing PPACA Medicaid Expansion	Voted Yea
HB 250 (2014)	Next Generation Charter Schools Act	Voted Yea
SB 524 (2015)	Founding Philosophy and Principles Act	Voted Yea
HB 318 (2015)	No Sanctuary for Illegal Immigrants Act	Voted Yea
SJR 36 (2017)	Article V Convention of the States	Voted Yea

- **In 2013, Representative Stephen Ross supported a bill that imposes a 25% tuition "surcharge" (increase) on students who take more than 140 credit hours to complete a bachelor's degree in a four-year program at a public college or university.** According to the Center for Media and Democracy, HB 255 is similar to the ALEC "140 Credit Hour Act" model bill. This ALEC "model" legislation asks students to pay a higher tuition price when they take more than 140 credit hours to complete a bachelor's degree in a four-year program at a public college or university. This is a substantial cost increase that could adversely affect highly motivated students willing to take on larger course loads to learn more or who already pay additional tuition for coursework to complete their degree. It also appears to punish students who change their majors, which is not uncommon as students determine their aptitude and interest, and who therefore require more credits to graduate; the provisions thus seem unduly punitive [Center for Media and Democracy, [The 140 Credit Hour Act Exposed](#); HB [255](#), Bill passed in the House, 114-1, [3/20/2013](#) and in the Senate, 49-0, [6/11/2013](#)]
- **In 2013, Representative Stephen Ross supported a bill that creates a constitutional amendment that attempts to dress up the effort to privatize the American tradition of public education as a parental right.** According to the Center for Media and Democracy, HB 711 is similar to the ALEC "Parental Rights Amendment" model act. This ALEC "model" act was included in the 1995 ALEC Sourcebook of American State Legislation. It attempts to dress up the effort to privatize the American tradition of public education as a parental right, creating a political wedge issue while also elevating these privatization efforts to "constitutional" status, which can then be used as a weapon to strike down any statute that is purported to infringe on the rights granted by this vague amendment. [Center for Media and Democracy, [Parental Rights Amendment Exposed](#); HB [711](#), Bill passed in the House, 109-2, [5/15/2013](#)]
- **In 2014, Representative Stephen Ross supported a bill that denies the expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina.** According to the NC Justice Center, SB 4 has blocked the Affordable Care Act that specifically allocated funds to provide affordable insurance coverage to approximately 500,000 people in our state. Unfortunately, the Governor and the legislature have blocked those funds from coming to North Carolina. Many of the individuals and families who could use this money to get insurance coverage work in low-wage professions like construction, daycare, and food service. Voting for this bill follows the ALEC website resolution: "[Opposing PPACA Medicaid Expansion](#)" Since 2014, North Carolina has missed out on \$7,059,283,283.56 in government aid and counting. [NC Justice Center, [Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act](#); SB [4](#), Bill passed in the House, 74-40, [2/26/2013](#) and in the Senate, 31-16, [2/26/2013](#)]
- **In 2014, Representative Stephen Ross supported a bill that attempts to have state taxpayers subsidize charter schools, which may be non-profit or for-profit schools, to compete with public schools.** According to WUNC, the expansion of charter schools and implementation of HB 250 "...will have a profound negative impact on rural schools across North Carolina. As charter schools expand and enroll more students, it will mean less per-pupil state funding for the traditional schools, leading to teacher layoffs, fewer advanced classes and co-curricular activities, and segregated schools." [WUNC, [6/16/2013](#); HB [250](#), Bill passed in the House, 68-47, [7/16/2013](#) and in the Senate, 40-9, [7/16/2013](#)]

- In 2015, Representative Stephen Ross supported a bill that requires every student to take a semester-length course on the founding philosophy of the United States, with particular focus on "the limitations on government power to tax and spend and prompt payment of public debt.** According to the Center for Media and Democracy, SB 524 is similar to the ALEC "Founding Philosophy and Principles Act" model bill. This ALEC "model" legislation would require during the high school years the teaching of a semester-long course on the philosophical understandings and the founders' principles. It is unclear who would create the curriculum proposed by ALEC and whether that curriculum would fairly present the "philosophical" understandings of the framers of the Constitution. For example, it is unclear whether many of the people in the current day and age who use rhetoric about "federalism," one of the words reference by ALEC, as a proxy for "state's rights" have any understandings that the U.S. Constitution was written in reaction to the failures of a weak central government that was created in the Articles of Confederation, the first form of government adopted nationally by the newly freed colonies [Center for Media and Democracy, [Founding Philosophy and Principles Act Exposed](#); SB 524, Bill passed in the House, 104-6, [9/28/2015](#) and in the Senate, 44-0, [9/29/2015](#)]
- In 2015, Representative Stephen Ross supported a bill that expands requirements to verify employees' immigration status and invalidates consular IDs and other alternative forms of identification except in certain situations with law enforcement.** According to TruthOut, HB 318 comes from the ALEC model bill, titled "No Sanctuary Cities for Illegal Immigrants," and includes a variety of strict immigration enforcement measures but begins with a ban on community trust policies. Both the model bill and North Carolina's law also specify that the ban include any limits on law enforcement officials' ability to gather information on immigration status or share that information with federal officials. [TruthOut: [ALEC's Fingerprints on Harsh New North Carolina Immigration Law](#); HB 318, Bill passed in the House, 70-43, [9/29/2015](#) and in the Senate, 28-17, [9/28/2015](#)]
- In 2017, Representative Stephen Ross supported a bill that calls for a national constitutional convention to add a "balanced budget" amendment to the U.S. Constitution.** Representative Stephen Ross voted for SJR 36, a bill that call for a Constitutional Convention to add a balanced budget amendment to the US Constitution. According to the Center of Media and Democracy, the bill is based on The Resolution for a Limited Constitutional Convention on Unfunded Mandates, an ALEC model resolution, which is listed under ALEC's Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force and was included in the 1995 Sourcebook of American State Legislation. SJR 36, reflects the ALEC model legislation, represents a mostly conservative movement to hold a national convention that aims to limit the federal government's ability to operate on a deficit. If successful, one result could be a fundamental shift of power to the states and permanent loss of many federal programs. In an article by The News & Observer, Senator Floyd McKissick, a Durham Democrat, cautioned against applying for a convention that could put people's rights in jeopardy. "I'm concerned where we start holding a constitutional convention when everything is up for grabs," he said. "This has fundamental and far-reaching implications that we should not take lightly. [Center for Media and Democracy: [Resolution for a Limited Constitutional Convention on Unfunded Mandates Exposed](#); The News & Observer: [Change the U.S.](#)

[Constitution? NC senators want another constitutional convention](#); SJR [36](#), Bill passed in the House, 66-45, [6/29/2017](#) and in the Senate, 29-20, [4/26/2017](#)]

Other Hits

Representative Stephen Ross received a lifetime rating of four from the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters. “ According to their North Carolina Progress Report from 2017, Rep. Stephen Ross has a career rating of 4 from the League of Conservation Voters. Since 1999, the NC League of Conservation Voters issues an annual Legislative Scorecard showing how state legislators voted on critical environmental bills during the session” [NCLCV, [2017](#)].