

JOE SAM QUEEN REPORT



Paid For By The Republican State Leadership Committee.

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BIOGRAPHY

Name: Joe Sam Queen

Birth: June 18, 1950

Residence: 209 Hillview Cir.
Waynesville, NC 28786

Family: Wife, Kate Queen
Two children

Education: B.A., environmental design, N.C. State University,
1972
MA, architecture, N.C. State University, 1974

Religion: United Methodist

Military: None

Professional Experience: Architect, farmer and businessman

Political Experience: North Carolina House Of Representative, 2018-
Present
North Carolina House Of Representative, 2012-2016
North Carolina Senate, 2006-2010
North Carolina Senate, 2002-2004

TIMELINE

June 18, 1950	Born in Waynesville, NC
1968	Graduated from Tuscola High School
1972	Earned bachelor's in environmental design from N.C. State University
1974	Earned master's in architecture from N.C. State University
June 17, 1978	Married Kathleen Taylor
2002	Elected to North Carolina State Senate
2004	Lost re-election race to North Carolina State Senate
2006	Elected to North Carolina State Senate
2010	Lost re-election race to North Carolina State Senate
2012	Elected to North Carolina House
2016	Lost re-election race to North Carolina House
2018	Elected to North Carolina House

MEADOWLAND APARTMENTS

- **Joe Sam Queen owns and manages around 150 rental properties, and says “My tenants don’t have jobs. If you are trying to house people without income, that’s a real problem”**

- In a Nov. 30, 2016, article, the *Smoky Mountain News* reported, “Joe Sam Queen counts his campaign wins and losses like innings in a baseball game.

“He’s run a staggering eight times for the state Senate and state House, nearly all of them hard-fought and high-dollar.

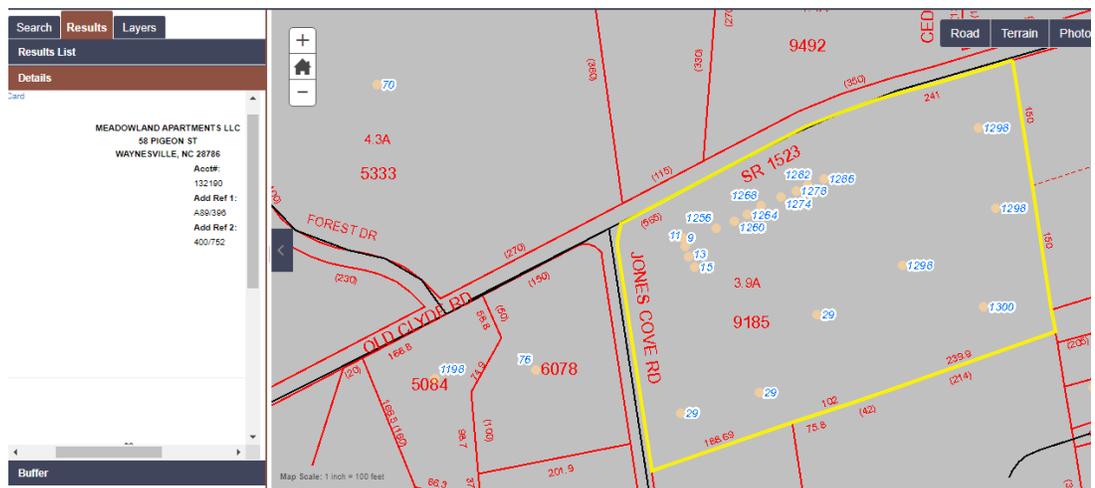
“He wins some, and he loses some, but he’s never fancied the bench. He’s always back up at the plate, bat in hand, ready to take another swing.”¹

- According to the same article, “Aside from his architectural firm, Queen owns and manages around 150 rental properties. It gives him a front-row seat to the struggles everyday people face.

“‘My tenants don’t have jobs. If you are trying to house people without income, that’s a real problem,’ Queen said.”²

- **Joe Sam Queen lists himself as the owner of Meadowland Apartments, LLC**

- According to his Dec. 30, 2019, statement of economic interest, as filed with the North Carolina State Ethics Commission, Joe Sam Queen lists himself as the owner of Meadowland Apartments, LLC.^{3 4}



¹ Becky Johnson, “Locked in the longest-running ping-pong match in mountain politics, Joe Sam Queen reflects on his latest loss,” *Smoky Mountain News*, Nov. 30, 2016

² Becky Johnson, “Locked in the longest-running ping-pong match in mountain politics, Joe Sam Queen reflects on his latest loss,” *Smoky Mountain News*, Nov. 30, 2016

³ 2019 Statement of Economic Interest: Joe Sam Queen, North Carolina State Ethics Commission, Dec. 30, 2019

⁴ Haywood County GIS Search: Meadowland Apartments LLC, Haywood County Appraiser, Accessed March 10, 2020

- **In 2019, the Haywood County sheriff's office had received complaints about drug activity in unit C-4 of the Meadowland Apartments at the corner of Jones Cove Road and Old Clyde Road**
 - In an Aug. 14, 2019, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “Jury trials on drug trafficking cases provide a unique glimpse into the local drug crisis. The recently concluded trial of Casey May and Lauren Young was no different.

“May and Young were in court for a November 2018 arrest where they were caught with almost two ounces of methamphetamine. Testimony pegged the street value of the drugs at \$5,000. In last week’s trial, both were found guilty of multiple felonies severe enough to send them to prison for years.

“The case picked up when the Haywood County Sheriff’s Office received complaints about drug activity in unit C-4 of the Meadowland Apartments at the corner of Jones Cove Road and Old Clyde Road.”⁵
- **A sergeant with the Haywood County sheriff's office said that officers had been observing those apartments for months, adding that “there is other drug activity in the area”**
 - In an Aug. 14, 2019, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “During his testimony, Sgt. Mark Mease, who heads up the criminal suppression unit (CSU), which handles cases involving more serious criminals, said officers had been observing those apartments for months, adding that ‘there is other drug activity in the area.’”⁶
- **In a 2019 raid at the Meadowland apartments, deputies found a bag containing a small amount of a mixture of meth and heroin, along with fentanyl test strips, two loaded handgun magazines and other paraphernalia; in another room during the raid, deputies found an assortment of paraphernalia, including syringes, a rubber tourniquet, spoons, Narcan (which reverses an opioid overdose) and scales**
 - In an Aug. 14, 2019, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “Things really took off on Nov. 6, 2018, when Deputy Micah Phillips stopped by the apartment looking to arrest a man for violating probation.

“When he went inside apartment C-4, he found not only who he was looking for, but also May and Young — known players in the local drug trade — who appeared to be keeping a residence there.”⁷
 - According to the same article, “On Nov. 8, as Wednesday night turned into Thursday morning and a cool fog settled around the Meadowland apartments, several deputies converged in a nearby parking lot to brief the raid. Not long after, they headed out.

⁵ Kyle Perrotti, “Trafficking trial ends in prison for both defendants,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 14, 2019

⁶ Kyle Perrotti, “Trafficking trial ends in prison for both defendants,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 14, 2019

⁷ Kyle Perrotti, “Trafficking trial ends in prison for both defendants,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 14, 2019

“When they arrived at the apartments, one group of deputies formed a perimeter around building C and one group formed an entry team. When no one let the deputies in after they announced their presence, the entry team knocked down the door with a small battering ram.

“Once entry was made, everyone inside — which included May, Young, the woman who rented the apartment and two other men — were apprehended. After Rinehardt went through and photographed the scene, deputies searched the two-bedroom apartment. While only some marijuana was found in the living room and nothing was gathered from the kitchen or bathroom, the bedrooms were more interesting.

“In the room belonging to the woman leasing the apartment, deputies found a bag containing a small amount of a mixture of meth and heroin, along with fentanyl test strips, two loaded handgun magazines and other paraphernalia.

“In the other bedroom were May and Young, who cooperated and were taken into custody without issue. In that room, deputies found an assortment of paraphernalia, including syringes, a rubber tourniquet, spoons, Narcan (which reverses an opioid overdose) and scales.”⁸

- **In 2018, a Haywood County Sheriff’s office traffic stop yielded a substance that appeared to be meth; the traffic stop led deputies to obtain a search warrant for an apartment at 29 Jones Cove Road, where they found more meth throughout the apartment. After the traffic stop and apartment search, which yielded more than 80 grams, a total of seven people were arrested**

- In a Nov. 8, 2018, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “Seven people are behind bars in the Haywood County Jail after a large meth bust on Wednesday.

“The chain of events that led to the arrests was kicked off when Haywood County Sheriff’s deputies conducted a traffic stop on Nov. 7. According to a press release sent out by the sheriff’s office, a K9 alerted deputies to a substance in the vehicle ‘that appeared to be meth.’

“Following the traffic stop, Rosalie Yvette Trujeque and Jennifer Ann Trujeque were charged with trafficking in methamphetamine and have been held on \$75,000 bond.

“‘Later that night, deputies obtained a search warrant for an apartment at 29 Jones Cove Road and found more meth throughout the apartment, which, after the traffic stop and apartment search, yielded more than 80 grams,’ the release reads.

“Following the seizure of meth from that location, five more people were arrested.”⁹

⁸ Kyle Perrotti, “Trafficking trial ends in prison for both defendants,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 14, 2019

⁹ Kyle Perrotti, “Meth traffic bust ends in several arrests,” *The Mountaineer*, Nov. 8, 2018

- **A registered sex offender lives at 29 Jones Cove Road, which is part of the Meadowland Apartments**
 - According to the FamilyWatchdog.us sex offender registry website, a sex offender resides at 29 Jones Cove Road, Clyde, NC 28721. According to the website, the man was charged in 2017 with sexual battery against a 12-year-old.¹⁰



¹⁰ Address Search: 29 Jones Cove Road, Clyde, NC, Family Watchdog.us, Accessed March 10, 2020

STATE LAW COMPLIANCE

- **In February 2020, Joe Sam Queen’s Meadowland Apartments, LLC was administratively dissolved by the North Carolina Secretary of State for failure to file an annual report; As of March 10, 2020, the business was still listed as administratively dissolved**
 - According to a Feb. 4, 2020, certificate of administrative dissolution from the North Carolina Secretary of State to Meadowland Apartments, with a registered agent of Joe Queen, “I Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State, as mandated by law, do here by certify that

“Meadowland Apartments, LLC

“has been administratively dissolved pursuant to the procedure set forth in N.C.G.S Section 57D-6-06 for failure to file an annual report effective as of the date set forth hereunder.”¹¹
- **In February 2020, Joe Sam Queen’s Haywood Rentals, LLC was administratively dissolved by the North Carolina Secretary of State for failure to file an annual report; As of March 10, 2020, the business was still listed as administratively dissolved**
 - According to a Feb. 4, 2020, certificate of administrative dissolution from the North Carolina Secretary of State to Haywood Rentals, LLC, with a registered agent of Joe Queen, “I Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State, as mandated by law, do here by certify that

“Haywood Rentals, LLC

“has been administratively dissolved pursuant to the procedure set forth in N.C.G.S Section 57D-6-06 for failure to file an annual report effective as of the date set forth hereunder.”¹²
- **In 2005, Joe Sam Queen’s architecture license expired for failure to renew; In spite of the expired license, Joe Sam Queen continued to offer and render architectural services and used the title “architect”**
 - According to the Consent Order for Case 914 for the North Carolina Board of Architects, re: Joe Sam Queen, “The Board and Respondent agreed to entry of the following Consent Order. Respondent was formerly licensed as an architect by this Board and has submitted an application to reinstate his license. He is subject to Chapter 83A of the General Statutes of North Carolina and Title 21, Chapter 2 of the North Carolina Administrative Code.

¹¹ Certificate of Administrative Dissolution: Meadowland Apartments, LLC, North Carolina Secretary of State, Feb. 4, 2020

¹² Certificate of Administrative Dissolution: Haywood Rentals, LLC, North Carolina Secretary of State, Feb. 4, 2020

“Respondent’s license expired on June 30, 2005 for failure to renew. Respondent continued to offer and render architectural services and used the title ‘architect’ in this state.”¹³

➤ **Joe Sam Queen was reprimanded by the Board of Architecture, ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$3,500, and his license was reinstated**

- According to the Consent Order for Case 914 for the North Carolina Board of Architects, re: Joe Sam Queen, “Respondent maintained membership with the American Institute of Architects, maintained a privilege license indicating the profession to be ‘architect’ and maintained a business address for ‘Joe Sam Queen, Architect’ - thereby conveying the impression that he was licensed and qualified to practice architecture in this State.

“Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by Consent and agrees that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Order with the Board ex parte whether or not the Board accepts this Order as written.

“CONCLUSIONS OF LAW The Board has jurisdiction over this matter and over Respondent and Respondent is therefore subject to North Carolina General Statute 83A and Title 21 Chapter 2 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. The Conduct described in Paragraphs 2-5 constitutes violations of N.C.G.S. 83A-11, 83A-12, 83A-15(a) (3) and 21 NCAC 02.0213.BASED on the foregoing, the Board and respondent agree to the following:

“Respondent’s license to practice architecture shall be reinstated.

“Respondent is reprimanded.

“Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$3,500.00

“Respondent shall submit proof of twenty-four hours of continuing education as set forth in 21 NCAC 02.0900.

“Respondent shall reimburse the Board for Administrative Costs associated with this matter.”¹⁴

➤ **In 2010, while Joe Sam Queen was a state senator, Queen’s rental properties failed to meet a new state law requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detectors by January 2010**

- In an Aug. 13, 2010, article, the *Smoky Mountain News* reported, “A little known law went into effect this year requiring landlords to install carbon monoxide detectors in

¹³ Consent Orders: Case 914, Queen, Joe Sam, Newsletter of the North Carolina Board of Architecture, Fall 2012/Winter 2013

¹⁴ Consent Orders: Case 914, Queen, Joe Sam, Newsletter of the North Carolina Board of Architecture, Fall 2012/Winter 2013

any rental property with oil or gas furnaces, gas appliances, fireplaces or attached garages.

“The bill, passed by the N.C. General Assembly, went into effect Jan. 1, 2010. However, some landlords are unaware of the new law.

“In a survey of 15 landlords advertising rentals in newspaper classifieds or on craigslist, only half had carbon monoxide detectors despite all the rental property meeting the criteria. Six did not have detectors and two said they didn’t know.”¹⁵

- o According to the same article, “Dawn Johnson, property manager for a large number of rentals owned by Joe Sam Queen in Haywood County, found out about the new law by reading the April edition of the Waynesville town newsletter.

““They expect us to know it, but we’ve not received much of a formal notice,” Johnson said.

“It took the firm until June to finish installing carbon monoxide detectors in all its units. Queen is a state senator.”¹⁶

¹⁵ Elizabeth Jensen, “Landlords show spotty compliance with new carbon monoxide law,” *Smoky Mountain News*, Aug. 3, 2010

¹⁶ Elizabeth Jensen, “Landlords show spotty compliance with new carbon monoxide law,” *Smoky Mountain News*, Aug. 3, 2010

INEFFECTIVE

- **After being elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 2012, Joe Sam Queen admitted it would be tough to be effective in a Republican-dominated state government**
 - In a Nov. 7, 2012, article, the *Smoky Mountain News* reported, “Waynesville Democrat Joe Sam Queen beat out Republican candidate Mike Clampitt by a commanding margin to take an open seat in the N.C. House.

“Queen, an architect and businessman with a long mountain lineage, carried a district that includes Swain, Jackson and part of Haywood counties — one of the more Democratic leaning areas of Western North Carolina. Queen won in all three counties, including Clampitt’s home turf of Swain.”¹⁷
 - According to the same article, “When asked how he would be effective in a Republican-dominated state government, he admitted it’d be tough.

“‘I’ve got to figure that out quite frankly,’ Queen said. ‘It depends on how mean spirited the Republicans are. I’m full of good ideas and I’ll share them.’”¹⁸
- **In 2013, Joe Sam Queen ranked 112th in effectiveness out of 120 members of the North Carolina House of Representatives**
 - According to the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, in 2013, Joe Sam Queen ranked 112th out of 120 members of the North Carolina House of Representatives in effectiveness.¹⁹
- **In 2015, Joe Sam Queen’s effectiveness ranking fell from 112th to 115th**
 - In an April 29, 2016, article, the *Citizen-Times* reported, “Three Western North Carolina legislators were among the 10 most effective in the chamber they serve in last year, according to a recent survey conducted by the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research.

“In the Senate, Sen. Tom Apodaca, R-Henderson, ranked as the second-most effective and Sen. Ralph Hise, R-Mitchell, was sixth. In the House, Rep. Chuck McGrady, R-Henderson, was eighth.”²⁰
 - According to the same article, “Below are the effectiveness rankings for WNC legislators. The first figure is for 2015, the second (in parenthesis) is for 2013. NA indicates a legislator was not in office in 2013.”

“115. Joe Sam Queen, D-Haywood, (112)”²¹

¹⁷ Andrew Kasper, “Queen slips by Clampitt in House race,” *Smoky Mountain News*, Nov. 7, 2012

¹⁸ Andrew Kasper, “Queen slips by Clampitt in House race,” *Smoky Mountain News*, Nov. 7, 2012

¹⁹ Citizen’s Guide to the North Carolina Legislature, North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research,

²⁰ Mark Barrett, “3 WNC legislators among most effective in Raleigh,” *Citizen-Times*, April 29, 2016

²¹ Mark Barrett, “3 WNC legislators among most effective in Raleigh,” *Citizen-Times*, April 29, 2016

SUPPORT FOR HIGHER TAXES

➤ **In 2009, Joe Sam Queen voted for a budget bill that included nearly \$1 billion in new taxes**

- On Aug. 5, 2009, Joe Sam Queen voted for SB 202, a bill that would make base budget appropriations for current operations of state departments, institutions, and agencies, and for other purposes (Passed 27-18).²²
- In an Aug. 5, 2009, article, the Associated Press reported, “The \$19 billion budget North Carolina lawmakers approved Wednesday puts a focus on nearly \$1 billion in new taxes and forces spending cuts on local school leaders.

“The General Assembly gave the budget final legislative approval on party-line votes with Democrats voting yes and Republicans voting no. The Senate voted 27-18 and the House 66-52. Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue said she would reluctantly sign into law the package that includes higher taxes and reduced services.”²³

➤ **About 80 percent of the tax increase came from increasing the sales tax rate by one penny; Corporate profits faced a 3 percent surtax for two years; Cigarette taxes rose permanently by 10 cents per pack; Individuals with taxable income of at least \$60,000 and couples reporting \$100,000 to \$250,000 faced a surtax amounting to an extra \$20 for each \$1,000 in tax they owed in 2009 and 2010**

- In an Aug. 5, 2009, article, the Associated Press reported, “The budget includes temporary taxes worth \$990 million. About 80 percent of that comes from increasing the sales tax rate by one penny, so that most consumers would pay 7.75 cents on each dollar they spend through mid-2011. Corporate profits would face a 3 percent surtax for two years. Cigarette taxes will rise permanently by 10 cents per pack.

“Also, individuals with taxable income of at least \$60,000 and couples reporting \$100,000 to \$250,000 would face a surtax amounting to an extra \$20 for each \$1,000 in tax they owe in 2009 and 2010. Couples reporting taxable income of more than that would pay \$30 extra for every \$1,000 they owe.”²⁴

➤ **Joe Sam Queen called the bill a “modest tax hike”**

- In an Aug. 25, 2009, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “The legislative session recently wrapped up in Raleigh was undoubtedly one of the toughest ones in the state's history, said State Sen. Joe Sam Queen, D-Waynesville.

“National and global economic challenges plunged the state into a \$5 billion deficit, and as a balanced-budget state, legislators couldn't adjourn until a plan was in place where expenses equaled revenues.

²² Senate Bill 202, North Carolina State Senate, Aug. 5, 2009

²³ Emery Dalesio, “NC lawmakers pass \$19B budget, raise taxes,” Associated Press, Aug. 5, 2009

²⁴ Emery Dalesio, “NC lawmakers pass \$19B budget, raise taxes,” Associated Press, Aug. 5, 2009

“The final solution was a reasonable compromise, Queen said, between budget cuts and increased revenue.”²⁵

- o According to the same article, “For the first time I’ve been senator, I voted for a tax hike. We have to grow our economy. If we stall, we will never get back to where we used to be. The modest tax hike saved \$1 billion in cuts.’

“Tax hikes Queen said will be temporarily imposed select extra fees and added 1 cent on the sales tax, which raises North Carolina’s tax rate to 7.75 percent. Estimates show the taxes will cost the average family of four with a combined income of less than \$100,000 annually an extra \$4.50 a week, Queen said.

“The tax hikes ultimately imposed were not supported by a single Republican, Queen said, and were definitely not his preferred solution. Citing research on the health effects of products such as tobacco, alcohol or soft drinks, Queen said he passed out flyers and continually spoke of the extra costs to the state associated with them.”²⁶

➤ **In 2009, Joe Sam Queen lobbied his colleagues to tax soft drinks at the same percentage as other goods, not at the 2-cent tax rate levied on food items**

- o In a Sept. 23, 2009, editorial, *The Mountaineer* wrote, “Taxpayers collectively should not pay for bad choices of some

“As Americans grow more and more obese, it is clear the education effort about making healthy lifestyle choices is an uphill battle.

“Anyone older than 8 who pays attention to what's being said in school or by healthcare professionals or the media knows what the healthy choices are -- exercise often, eat more vegetables, consume less fat and sugar. It is in applying those principles where our society falls short.

“While it is true each person has the right to make the unhealthy choices, it is not fair that all must pay the price.

“State Sen. Joe Sam Queen was on the right track earlier this year as he lobbied his colleagues to tax soft drinks at the same percentage as other goods, not at the 2-cent tax rate levied on food items.

“Sugary soft drinks aren’t food, Queen insists, and should not be taxed as such. He is right.”²⁷

➤ **In 2014, Joe Sam Queen supported Haywood County’s proposal to increase the county tourism tax from 4 to 6 percent**

²⁵ Vicki Hyatt, “Queen: State managing tough economy well,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 25, 2009

²⁶ Vicki Hyatt, “Queen: State managing tough economy well,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 25, 2009

²⁷ Editorial, “Sen. Queen is on target with idea to tax sugary drinks,” *The Mountaineer*, Sept. 23, 2009

- o In an Oct. 27, 2014, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “Elected municipal, county and appointed tourism leaders in Haywood County agreed last session increasing the county tourism tax from 4 to 6 percent was needed to fund capital projects in the county that would draw tourists. Local officials were unanimous in their support except for Maggie Valley Alderman Philip Wight.

“The tax is one that would be paid by those staying in local hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, inns or rental accommodations.

“Rep. Queen and Sen. Davis both supported local government leaders, but Rep. Presnell opposed the measure. As is customary with local bills in Raleigh, unless there is unanimous agreement among the local legislative delegation, the measure goes nowhere.”²⁸

➤ **In 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against a bill to repeal the estate tax**

- o On May 8, 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against HB 101, a bill to repeal the estate tax (Passed 82-37).²⁹
- o In a May 10, 2013, article, the *Wilson Daily Times* reported, “North Carolina’s ‘death tax’ has one foot in the grave after a Wilson lawmaker’s bill passed the state House on Wednesday.

“House Bill 101 will advance to the Senate after House members voted 82-37 to repeal the estate tax, which applies to inheritances valued at \$3.5 million or more. Rep. Susan Martin, a Wilson Republican, is the bill's primary sponsor.

“‘The death tax is arguably the most unfair tax in all of North Carolina’s statutes,’ Martin said in a Thursday statement. ‘It punishes success and investment in our state and makes it difficult for families to pass businesses down to future generations. Family farms in my district will benefit from the death of the death tax.’”³⁰

²⁸ Vicki Hyatt, “Candidates weigh in on Lake Junaluska annexation, occupancy taxes,” *The Mountaineer*, Oct. 27, 2014

²⁹ House Bill 101, Roll Call Vote No. 529, North Carolina House of Representatives, May 8, 2013

³⁰ Corey Friedman, “Estate tax repeal passes House,” *Wilson Daily Times*, May 10, 2013

OPPOSED A GAS TAX CUT

➤ **In 2015, Joe Sam Queen opposed a bill that would reduce the state's gas tax by 3.5 cents a gallon**

- o In a March 31, 2015, article, the *News & Observer* reported, "North Carolina's gas tax will drop by a few pennies over the next 15 months - starting Wednesday with a reduction of 1.5 cents a gallon - under a law enacted Tuesday to ward off a larger tax cut that was expected to cost the state \$800 million in transportation money over the next four years.

"House Democrats protested that the measure will put an unfair tax burden on working families, but both chambers gave final approval by comfortable margins Tuesday afternoon. Gov. Pat McCrory quickly signed it into law.

"The old tax rate, 37.5 cents a gallon, will be reduced to 36 cents Wednesday and stay there through December. Then the tax will fall to 35 cents in January and 34 cents in July 2016."³¹

- o According to the same article, "Rep. Joe Sam Queen, a Democrat from Waynesville, said the state would have more money for transportation if the legislature halted the transfer of gas tax receipts to the General Fund - about \$255 million a year - where it is spent for non-transportation needs. He noted that Republican legislative leaders are pushing for income tax cuts that would reduce money for the General Fund.

"We're paying for tax cuts out of the General Fund with tax hikes in the gas tax, and that's my objection to this bill,' Queen said."³²

³¹ Bruce Siceloff, "Legislature drops NC gas tax 1.5 cents, starting Wednesday," *News & Observer*, March 31, 2015

³² Bruce Siceloff, "Legislature drops NC gas tax 1.5 cents, starting Wednesday," *News & Observer*, March 31, 2015

ABORTION

➤ **In 2012, Joe Sam Queen said that, “Children should be wanted and prepared for, and women should be in control of their own reproductive decisions”**

- o In a Sept. 26, 2012, article on where candidates stood on abortion, the *Smokey Mountain News* reported, “Joe Sam Queen, D-Waynesville

“Women’s health is very important — important to the next generation. Children should be wanted and prepared for, and women should be in control of their own reproductive decisions. The legislature should stay out of those personal decisions.

“They have voted to force pregnant victims of rape and incest, if they’re thinking to end the pregnancy, to have unwanted vaginal probes while their doctors describe the fetus. I think that is way out of line for the legislature. It is meddling in a personal relationship between a woman and her physician.”³³

➤ **Joe Sam Queen in 2012 on state funding for Planned Parenthood: “This current legislature’s assault on Planned Parenthood was ideologically driven. It shows that some legislators are willing to throw women’s rights away to curry favor with special interests. I’m not one of them”**

In a Sept. 26, 2012, article on where candidates stood on abortion, the *Smokey Mountain News* reported, “Queen went on to comment about the controversy over state funding for Planned Parenthood.

“This current legislature’s assault on Planned Parenthood was ideologically driven. It shows that some legislators are willing to throw women’s rights away to curry favor with special interests. I’m not one of them.”³⁴

➤ **In 2015, Joe Sam Queen voted against a bill that would extend the period between the time a physician must tell a woman seeking an abortion certain information and the time the abortion is performed from 24 hours to 72**

- o In an April 28, 2015, article, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* reported, “Abortion waiting period. The bill would extend the period between the time a physician must tell a woman seeking an abortion certain information and the time the abortion is performed from 24 hours to 72. The required information includes possible medical assistance for pregnancy and the availability of alternatives to abortion. The bill passed the House 74-45 on Thursday and was sent to the Senate.

“Voting yes were Rep. Josh Dobson, R-McDowell; Rep. Chuck McGrady, R-Henderson; Rep. Michele Presnell, R-Yancey; Rep. Roger West, R-Cherokee; and Rep. Chris Whitmire, R-Transylvania.

³³ “Where state candidates stand: abortion and women’s health,” *Smokey Mountain News*, Sept. 26, 2012

³⁴ “Where state candidates stand: abortion and women’s health,” *Smokey Mountain News*, Sept. 26, 2012

“Voting no were Rep. John Ager, D-Buncombe; Rep. Susan Fisher, D-Buncombe; Rep. Joe Sam Queen, D-Haywood; and Rep. Brian Turner, D-Buncombe.”³⁵

➤ **In 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against a bill that would ban sex-selection abortions**

- On May 7, 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against HB 716, a bill that would prohibit a person from performing or attempting to perform an abortion when the sex of the unborn child is a significant factor in seeking the abortion (passed 79-40).³⁶
- In a May 7, 2013, article, the *News & Observer* reported, “The sex-selection abortion ban bill, House Bill 716, passed the House on a 79-40 vote, with three Democrats crossing party lines to vote with the Republicans: Rep. Kelly Alexander of Charlotte, Rep. Larry Bell of Clinton and Rep. Larry Brisson of Dublin.

“It would expose doctors to lawsuits and heavy fines if they knowingly perform an abortion because of the gender of the fetus.

“The primary sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Ruth Samuelson, a Republican from Charlotte, acknowledged it isn’t known if there are any sex-selection abortions in North Carolina, but she said one would be too many.”³⁷

➤ **In 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against a bill that would direct state regulators to change standards for abortion clinics to bring them in line with more regulated outpatient surgical centers. It also requires doctors to be present for an entire surgical abortion and when a patient takes the first dose for a chemically induced abortion**

- On July 11, 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against SB 353, a bill that would modify certain laws pertaining to abortion, to limit abortion coverage under health insurance plans offered under a health benefit exchange operating in North Carolina or offered by a county or municipality, to prohibit a person from performing or attempting to perform an abortion when the sex of the unborn child is a significant factor in seeking the abortion, to direct the department of health and human services to amend rules and conduct a study pertaining to clinics certified by the department of health and human services to be suitable facilities for the performance of abortions, to amend the women’s right to know act, and to increase penalties for unsafe movements by drivers that threaten the property and safety of motorcyclists (Passed 74-41).³⁸
- In a July 12, 2013, article, the Associated Press reported, “Republican lawmakers pushed ahead Thursday with their demand for new rules at North Carolina’s abortion clinics, saying they will make the procedure safer for women. Opponents

³⁵ Mark Bennett, “Abortion, elections divide mountain area legislators,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, April 28, 2015

³⁶ House Bill 716, Roll Call No. 517, North Carolina House of Representatives, May 7, 2013

³⁷ Craig Jarvis, “NC House committee approves bill requiring teens to get parents’ OK for birth control,” *News & Observer*, May 7, 2013

³⁸ Senate Bill 353, Roll Call No. 1159, North Carolina House of Representatives, July 11, 2013

argued it was a blatant attempt to shut down clinics and curb a woman's right to choose.

“The House voted 74-41 to approve new rules after a highly-charged, three-hour debate watched from the gallery by advocates on both sides of the issue.

“The bill directs state regulators to change standards for abortion clinics to bring them in line with more regulated outpatient surgical centers. It also requires doctors to be present for an entire surgical abortion and when a patient takes the first dose for a chemically induced abortion.”³⁹

➤ **In 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against the bill that would have created a new crime against doctors and nurses who fail to care for an infant delivered during an unsuccessful abortion**

- o On April 16, 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against SB 359, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (Passed 65-46).⁴⁰
- o On June 5, 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against the veto override of SB 359, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (Failed 67-53).⁴¹
- o In a June 5, 2019, article, the Associated Press reported, “North Carolina Republicans failed to override Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper’s veto of legislation that would have created a new crime against doctors and nurses who fail to care for an infant delivered during an unsuccessful abortion.

“On June 5, enough Democrats sided with Cooper to block the override, which required 72 votes of support. The vote was 67-53 in favor of the override. The Senate had voted to override in April.

“The unsuccessful override, after nearly an hour of debate, hands a victory to abortion-rights groups and allied lawmakers after a series of legislative defeats in recent weeks in other states, such as Alabama.”⁴²

³⁹ Gary Robertson, “NC House approves abortion legislation,” Associated Press, July 12, 2013

⁴⁰ Senate Bill 359, Roll Call No. 175, North Carolina House of Representatives, April 16, 2019

⁴¹ Senate Bill 359 Veto Override, Roll Call No. 472, North Carolina House of Representatives, June 5, 2019

⁴² Gary Robertson, “North Carolina GOP fails to override ‘born alive’ bill veto,” Associated Press, June 5, 2019

IMMIGRATION

➤ **In 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against a bill that would require sheriffs and other law enforcement officials to honor detention requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

- On Aug. 20, 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against concurring to the Senate Committee Substitute of HB 370, a bill that would require the administrator or equivalent of any county jail, local or district confinement facility, satellite jail or work release unit (facility) to attempt to determine if any prisoner who is confined for any period in their facility and charged with a criminal offense is a legal resident (previously, limited to prisoners charged with a felony or an impaired driving offense). Requires the administrator to make a query to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if the administrator is unable to determine that the prisoner is a legal resident or citizen (previously, qualified the requirement with where possible). Mandates the administrator or equivalent to allow an ICE official to interview any person in custody of the facility within 24 hours of receiving the request from ICE, with the clarification that this provision does not deny bond or release from a prisoner otherwise eligible. Provides that the ICE interview can be in person, or by phone or other electronic means. Establishes requirements for instances in which ICE has notified the administrator or equivalent that it has issued a detainer and administrative warrant that reasonably appears to be for any person charged with a criminal offense and confined in a facility for any period of time. Includes requiring that, prior to release, the prisoner be taken before a State judicial official and provided with the detainer and administrative warrant prior to the prisoner's release, and the judicial official issue an order directing the prisoner be held in custody if the prisoner appears to be the person subject to the detainer and the administrative warrant, subject to release upon the earlier of 48 hours from receipt of the detainer and administrative warrant, ICE takes custody, or the detainer is rescinded by ICE. Adds criminal and civil immunity for any state or local law enforcement officer or agency acting pursuant to the statute (Passed 62-53).⁴³
- In an Aug. 20, 2019, article, the *News & Observer* reported, “Gov. Roy Cooper now controls the fate of a bill that would require North Carolina sheriffs to comply with certain requests from federal immigration agents.

“In a 62-53 vote on Tuesday, N.C. House members largely voted along party lines to approve a bill that will require sheriffs and other law enforcement officials to honor detention requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE. The Senate approved the bill in June.

“The vote ends the legislature’s summer-long debate over a bill that pitted Republicans against Democrats, civil rights advocates against tough-on-crime lawmakers, and urban sheriffs against the N.C. Sheriffs Association.”⁴⁴

⁴³ HB 370, Roll Call No. 766, North Carolina House of Representatives, Aug. 20, 2019

⁴⁴ Paul Specht, “Legislature requires NC sheriffs to comply with ICE requests, sending bill to governor,” *News & Observer*, Aug. 20, 2019

➤ **In 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against a bill that would remove foreign citizens from voting rolls**

- o On Oct. 2, 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against SB 250, a bill that would remove foreign citizens from voting rolls (Passed 55-49).⁴⁵
- o According to an Oct. 2, 2019, WRAL report, “Jury excuses would be sent to the State Board of Elections so officials can remove non-citizens from North Carolina’s voting rolls under a bill that cleared the state House on Wednesday.

“Senate Bill 250 was pitched by Republican supporters as a way to combat voter fraud. Democrats against the bill said it was unnecessary and sure to snare innocent people.

“The vote was party line, 55-49.”⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Senate Bill 250, Roll Call Vote No. 841, North Carolina House of Representatives, Oct. 2, 2019

⁴⁶ “Bill to scrub voter rolls based on jury excuses clears House,” WRAL, Oct. 2, 2019

DRUGS

- **In 2013, Joe Sam Queen called a bill that would require state aid recipients to take a mandatory drug test “unnecessarily mean-spirited,” adding, “It is just the Republicans trying to be tough on the poor people”**
 - In a May 1, 2013, article, the *Smoky Mountain News* reported, “A bill that recently passed the state Senate would take social assistance away from anyone using drugs by requiring state aid recipients to take a mandatory drug test.

“Drug testing is a surefire way of ensuring no one using drugs is receiving government subsidies, said N.C. Sen. Jim Davis, R-Franklin, a primary sponsor of the legislation.”⁴⁷
 - According to the same article, “N.C. Rep. Joe Sam Queen, D-Waynesville, called the bill ‘unnecessarily mean-spirited.’

“‘It is just the Republicans trying to be tough on the poor people,’ Queen said. ‘We need to create some jobs and help the poor people.’”⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Caitlin Bowling, “State debates drug testing for aid recipients,” *Smoky Mountain News*, May 1, 2013

⁴⁸ Caitlin Bowling, “State debates drug testing for aid recipients,” *Smoky Mountain News*, May 1, 2013

CLIMATE

➤ **Joe Sam Queen was named 2015 Representative of the Year from the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, citing his opposition to fracking**

- According to the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters 2015 Green Tie Awards, “2015 Representative of the Year – Rep. Joe Sam Queen

“Rep. Joe Sam Queen has been a staunch advocate for NC citizens as well as our state’s air and water resource when it comes to the fast-tracking of hydraulic fracturing (‘fracking’). Rep. Queen has spoken on record that the ‘potential permanent poisoning of our drinking water supplies from fracking is a real concern that most leaders have glossed over in their attempts to put profits in front of the health and safety of people.’ He recognizes the critical importance of pushing the pause button for an activity that will have serious ramifications on the entire state. Rep. Queen passionately supported all of the attempts to amend to the Energy Modernization Act (SB786) for more health and environmental safeguards. We appreciate his continued advocacy to keep our air and water clean – not just within his district – but for all of North Carolina’s citizens.”⁴⁹

⁴⁹ 2015 Green Tie Awards, North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, Accessed March 3, 2020

BATHROOM BILL

- **Joe Sam Queen opposed H.B. 2, but didn't show up for the vote, saying, "They called a special session for something that had no merit, it was Holy Week, and I had some obligations in my community"**

- In an Oct. 15, 2016, Q&A with the *Smokey Mountain News*, when asked if H.B. 2, was good for North Carolina, Joe Sam Queen said, "There wasn't one, not a single, never, not the first transgender abuse in North Carolina. They've started this big firestorm, it's cost us a billion dollars. The law protects no one. It legalizes discrimination. It is bad for business and business has said so.

"SMN: But you were absent on that vote, weren't you?"

"JSQ: I was. They called a special session for something that had no merit, it was Holy Week, and I had some obligations in my community.

"SMN: But if you had made it to the session, you would have voted against it.

"JSQ: I would assume so. Nobody saw it. The didn't see it until up in the night. So it's hard to know what you would have done. I just knew it was arbitrary and capricious, and political theater."⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Cory Vaillancourt, "Queen-Clampitt: Third time's a charm?" *Smokey Mountain News*, Oct. 5, 2016

SECOND AMENDMENT

➤ **According to VoteSmart, in 2018, Joe Sam Queen had a 47 percent rating from the NRA**

- According to VoteSmart, Joe Sam Queen received a 47 percent rating from the National Rifle Association in 2018.⁵¹

➤ **In 2015, Joe Sam Queen voted against legalizing Sunday hunting with firearms on private property**

- In a July 22, 2015, article, the *Smokey Mountain News* reported, “Sunday hunting with firearms will now be legal on private property following passage of the Outdoor Heritage Act by the N.C. General Assembly and governor’s concurrence.

“The act includes some restrictions to hunting on Sundays. Hunters can’t fire within 500 yards of a place of worship or house someone else owns. They can’t hunt deer with dogs on Sundays or shoot between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. — except on licensed hunting preserves — or hunt migratory game birds. And no one can hunt on Sundays in counties with more than 700,000 people — that is, Wake and Mecklenburg.

“Lifting the Sunday hunting ban has been a contentious discussion in North Carolina. One of only 11 states banning the practice, North Carolina often lost hunters — and the revenue they bring in — to neighboring states, opponents of lifting the ban had argued. Meanwhile, supporters of the ban had said that it provided balance between hunting and other forms of recreation while also honoring tradition and reverence for Sunday services.

“Rep. Michele Presnell, R-Burnsville, and Sen. Jim Davis, R-Franklin, voted for the bill. Rep. Joe Sam Queen, D-Waynesville, voted against the bill. Though a supporter of hunting heritage and gun rights, Queen had come out in support of the ban as a way to ensure worshippers ‘are not burdened by the echoes of firearms’ and that other outdoors users could have one day to use public lands without having to be aware of hunters.”⁵²

⁵¹ Joe Queen’s Ratings and Endorsements, VoteSmart, Accessed March 5, 2020

⁵² Holly Kays, “Sunday hunting now OK in North Carolina,” *Smokey Mountain News*, July 22, 2015

BUDGET

➤ **In 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against the budget bill that included teacher pay raises, pay raises for correctional officers, public post-secondary institution faculty and other public workers, and raised the standard deduction for income tax payers**

- On June 27, 2019, Joe Sam Queen voted against HB 966, the 2019 Appropriations Act (Passed 64-49).⁵³

- In a June 27, 2019, article, the *Watauga Democrat* reported, “A budget of \$24 billion that was worked out between the state House and Senate quickly worked its way through the Republican-controlled N.C. General Assembly June 26-27, despite Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper’s criticism of the budget.

“House Bill 966 was adopted by both the state House and Senate, along mostly party-line votes; with third votes of 33-15 in the N.C. Senate and 64-49 in the N.C. House passing the compromise budget on June 27. HB966 was presented to Cooper following the votes.”⁵⁴

- According to the same article, “Teacher pay has been a hot-button issue during the budget process. In the biennium budget, teacher salaries in 2019-20 would start at \$3,500 a month for new teachers and go up to \$5,260 a month for teachers with 25-plus years of experience. In 2020-21, the budget would increase teacher pay for those with 16 or more years of experience, setting 25-year-plus teachers at \$5,310, for instance.

“The compromise budget includes pay raises for correctional officers, public post-secondary institution faculty and other public workers, including funding new court positions to implement the state’s ‘Raise the Age’ mandate, which means 16- and 17-year-olds tried for misdemeanors and low-level felonies will no longer be tried as adults.”⁵⁵

- According to the same article, “The standard deduction for income taxpayers would increase across the board, going from \$20,000 to \$21,000 for married couples filing jointly and from \$10,000 to \$10,500 for single filers.

“Rep. Tim Moore (R-Kings Mountain) said the budget authorizes \$1.5 billion for capital expenditures on K-12 schools and \$400 million for community colleges.”⁵⁶

⁵³ House Bill 966, Roll Call Vote No. 557, North Carolina House of Representatives, June 27, 2019

⁵⁴ Thomas Sherrill, “NC legislature hammers out compromise budget,” *Watauga Democrat*, June 27, 2019

⁵⁵ Thomas Sherrill, “NC legislature hammers out compromise budget,” *Watauga Democrat*, June 27, 2019

⁵⁶ Thomas Sherrill, “NC legislature hammers out compromise budget,” *Watauga Democrat*, June 27, 2019

MEDICAID

➤ **In 2019, Joe Sam Queen said he was fighting to expand Medicaid in North Carolina**

- o In a Nov. 18, 2019, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “Incumbent N.C. House Representative Joe Sam Queen (D-Waynesville) is running for re-election in 2020.

“I’m running to represent the people of Haywood, Jackson and Swain,’ Queen said. ‘We’ve got to move North Carolina forward, not backward.’

“Since 2003, Queen has been in and out of office, first serving three terms in Raleigh as a state senator. Queen is presently serving his third term in the N.C. House of Representatives, and said he hopes to win a fourth term in office.

“We’re still fighting to expand Medicaid, which is hundreds of jobs and tens of millions of dollars for healthcare in my district,’ Queen said.

“To make Medicaid expansion a reality, the state legislature first needs to pass a budget, Queen said.”⁵⁷

➤ **In 2009, Joe Sam Queen voted for a budget bill that cut Medicaid rates paid to doctors and other health care providers by \$76 million**

- o On Aug. 5, 2009, Joe Sam Queen voted for SB 202, a bill that would make base budget appropriations for current operations of state departments, institutions, and agencies, and for other purposes (Passed 27-18).⁵⁸
- o In an Aug. 5, 2009, article, the Associated Press reported, “The \$19 billion budget North Carolina lawmakers approved Wednesday puts a focus on nearly \$1 billion in new taxes and forces spending cuts on local school leaders.

“The General Assembly gave the budget final legislative approval on party-line votes with Democrats voting yes and Republicans voting no. The Senate voted 27-18 and the House 66-52. Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue said she would reluctantly sign into law the package that includes higher taxes and reduced services.”⁵⁹

- o According to the same article, “Health and human services programs were given \$1 billion less than the amount lawmakers appropriated last year, though much of the state cuts may be replaced by federal recovery dollars. Community support services will be cut by \$65 million, group homes will get \$15.9 million less, Medicaid rates paid to doctors and other health care providers will be cut by \$76 million, and the Smart Start early childhood program will lose \$16 million.”⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Luke Weir, “Joe Sam Queen to run for re-election in 2020,” *The Mountaineer*, Nov. 18, 2019

⁵⁸ Senate Bill 202, North Carolina State Senate, Aug. 5, 2009

⁵⁹ Emery Dalesio, “NC lawmakers pass \$19B budget, raise taxes,” Associated Press, Aug. 5, 2009

⁶⁰ Emery Dalesio, “NC lawmakers pass \$19B budget, raise taxes,” Associated Press, Aug. 5, 2009

➤ **Joe Sam Queen on the budget: “We cut Medicaid for first time, which will reduce reimbursements to physicians, hospitals and home health services. Mental health services have been cut, too”**

- In an Aug. 25, 2009, article, *The Mountaineer* reported, “The legislative session recently wrapped up in Raleigh was undoubtedly one of the toughest ones in the state's history, said State Sen. Joe Sam Queen, D-Waynesville.

“National and global economic challenges plunged the state into a \$5 billion deficit, and as a balanced-budget state, legislators couldn't adjourn until a plan was in place where expenses equaled revenues.

“The final solution was a reasonable compromise, Queen said, between budget cuts and increased revenue.”⁶¹

- According to the same article, “Queen predicted state residents will feel the cuts in medical services more than anywhere else.

“We cut Medicaid for first time, which will reduce reimbursements to physicians, hospitals and home health services. Mental health services have been cut, too.”⁶²

➤ **In 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against a bill opposing the opposition of a state-run health exchange and Medicaid expansion under Obamacare**

- On Feb. 26, 2013, Joe Sam Queen voted against SB 4, a bill that would clarify the state's intent not to operate a state-run or ‘partnership’ health benefit exchange, (2) to provide that future Medicaid eligibility determinations will be made by the state rather than the federally facilitated exchange, and (3) to reject the affordable care act's optional Medicaid expansion (Passed 74-40).⁶³

⁶¹ Vicki Hyatt, “Queen: State managing tough economy well,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 25, 2009

⁶² Vicki Hyatt, “Queen: State managing tough economy well,” *The Mountaineer*, Aug. 25, 2009

⁶³ Senate Bill 4, Roll Call Vote No. 69, North Carolina House of Representatives, Feb. 26, 2013