



Senator Tom Apodaca

Colorful, plain-spoken and conservative, Republican Senator Tom Apodaca is arguably the most powerful person in the WNC legislative delegation and one of the most powerful in the General Assembly. He is serving his seventh term in the General Assembly and represents Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties.

Sen. Apodaca and his wife, Lisa, call Hendersonville home and live in a renovated loft on Main Street. They have been married for more than 30 years and have two sons, Brandon and Tate. All four Apodacas are graduates of Western Carolina University, where Sen. Apodaca served as a member of the

board of trustees. The Apodacas are active in a number of local charities, especially The Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County.

Sen. Apodaca is an entrepreneur who has started a number of businesses during his career. His current interests include bond insurance, real estate investment, and a travel agency. Lisa is a former public school teacher.

In the General Assembly, Sen. Apodaca chairs the Senate Rules Committee – making him responsible for determining whether, when and in what committee any and all bills will be heard in the Senate. Apodaca is also member of the Appropriations Committee, which controls spending and budgeting, and serves as a co-chair of Appropriations on Education/Higher Education. Apodaca's influence and reach extend throughout the Senate; he serves on 12 of the 23 Senate standing committees and is widely considered Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger's most important lieutenant.

Sen. Apodaca is well known for his direct style and off-the-cuff remarks. He is a pragmatic, pro-business, low regulation, low-tax Republican, who will occasionally stray from the typical GOP agenda when it suits him and/or western interests. After the 2014 coal ash spill in the Dan River, Apodaca was an early and strong voice for closing coal ash ponds, particularly those in his district. Indeed, he was the principal Senate sponsor of the legislature's coal ash legislation. More recently, he has championed a deal to replace Duke Energy's coal-fired plant at Lake Julian with a new plant that burns natural gas. As part of the deal, Apodaca moved legislation through the North Carolina Senate in a matter of days to direct the state Utilities Commission to expedite its review of the utility's construction application. The bill, which became law in June of 2015, also extends a deadline to close coal ash impoundments at the site by three years, allowing sufficient time for the old plant to close and the new plant to be constructed.

In keeping with his power and influence, Sen. Apodaca is a prodigious fundraiser. His total fundraising is approaching \$2 million. His top contributors are Nationwide Insurance, the N.C. Medical Society, Bank of America and Duke Energy. Consistent with his leadership position, he has contributed more than \$1.3 million to other candidates – mostly other GOP North Carolina senators – to help maintain and expand the Republican majority in the

North Carolina Senate. For more information about Apodaca's political fundraising and donating, visit:

<http://www.followthemoney.org/entity-details?eid=5865635>

<http://votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/41167/thomas-apodaca#.VWS070anQb4>

Sen. Apodaca has consistently scored low marks on important environmental votes, as compiled by the NC League of Conservation Voters. His lifetime as an NC legislator score is 36. In 2014, he scored 0. For more information about the NCLCV scorecard and Apodaca's votes, visit:

<http://nclcv.org/what/scoring/>

For information about Apodaca's voting record on a range of issues, visit:

www.wncvotetracker.org

<https://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/41167/thomas-apodaca#.VWSTNEanQb4>

Other resources for Sen. Tom Apodaca

NC General Assembly Contact Information

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<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=senate&nUserID=83>

Campaign website:

<http://www.senatorapodaca.com/>

In June, 2015, the Charlotte Observer ran a largely positive profile of Apodaca. You can find it here:

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article23936392.html>