



Representative Chuck McGrady

Now in his third term in the North Carolina House of Representatives, Rep. Chuck McGrady, a Republican from Henderson County, has quickly moved up the ranks of the House GOP leadership to become one of the chamber's leaders on budget issues. McGrady's path to power has been surprising, given his background. He is the former national president of the Sierra Club – one of the Republican Party's least favorite organizations – and has continued to speak out on conservation issues in a House that is indifferent at best and hostile at worst to environmental issues. That he has managed to make a difference on environmental issues while moving also moving up the Republican political ladder in the legislature is a testament to McGrady's considerable skills as a legislator and policy maker.

Indeed, McGrady, an attorney, is now the most influential member of the General Assembly on issues related to the environment. An ally of House Speaker Tim Moore, McGrady co-chairs the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which oversees development and approval of state expenditures. He is also vice chairman of the Environment and Judiciary committees and serves on Agriculture and Wildlife Resources committees.

McGrady's environmental work before running for office is considerable. In addition to his leadership on the national Sierra Club and the Board of Trustees of the John Muir Foundation, he is the former executive director for the Environmental & Conservation Organization (ECO) of Henderson County, which is now part of MountainTrue. McGrady has also been active with Friends of DuPont Forest, the North Carolina Urban Forest Council and the Mountain Resources Commission. He has served as chairman of the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Land-of-Sky Regional Council of Governments.

Rep. McGrady's conservation experience and concern for clean air and water have shaped his legislative agenda. Along with Sen. Apodaca, he was a primary architect of the 2014 coal ash bill, which set a timetable for the closure of all unlined coal ash ponds in North Carolina. As a freshman, he spearheaded legislation that established greater uniformity and consistency in exempting land owned by land trusts from local property taxes, an issue that had been high on the list of priorities for North Carolina's land trusts for years. As a GOP legislator, McGrady picks his battles carefully, staking out territory as a moderate in a party that has seen many other moderate members retire or face challenges from more conservative Republicans in primary elections.

Rep. McGrady has generally received favorable marks – especially for a Republican – on important environmental votes as compiled by the NC League of Conservation Voters. His lifetime as an NC legislator score is 63. In 2014, he scored 27. For more information about the NCLCV scorecard and McGrady's votes, visit:

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

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

www.wncvotetracker.org

<http://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/92467/chuck-mcgrady#.VaR-3JNViko>

One initiative on which Rep. McGrady and MountainTrue disagreed vehemently was his co-sponsorship of the bill to take the City of Asheville's water system and give it to a regional body.

McGrady was also the primary sponsor of a number of "beer bills" that became law last session, allowing the sale of "Growlers" and paving the way for roaming beer sales in smaller stadiums. These legislative changes have helped to support North Carolina's craft beer industry in WNC and across the state.

McGrady's rise to power in the Republican House began in 2013, when then-Speaker Thom Tillis picked him to co-chair the House appropriations subcommittee on education, which oversees all education expenditures and helps shape the House GOP's education agenda. McGrady moved up a step, as chair of the entire appropriations committee, in 2015, when Moore took over leadership of the House.

Rep. McGrady has raised close to \$200,000 during his three races for the N.C. House. Aside from family members and personal contributions, McGrady's top contributors include environmentalist Fred Stanback, the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, Asheville Anesthesia Associates and the N.C. Hospital Association. For more information about McGrady's political fundraising, visit:

<http://followthemoney.org/entity-details?eid=6686992&default=lawmaker>

<http://votesmart.org/candidate/campaign-finance/92467/chuck-mcgrady#.VaR8DZNViko>

When he is not in Raleigh, McGrady is active in his district, as well as on his website, newsletter, twitter and Facebook. He is quick to respond to questions and frequently responds to #MTRaleigh email updates and tweets.

McGrady brought a wealth of local government experience to the General Assembly. He was elected to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners in 2004 and served until his election to the House in 2010. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Henderson County Board of Social Services and has also served on

the Henderson County Planning Board, Village Council of Flat Rock, the Asheville Airport Authority, and the Green River Community Association.

McGrady credits summers at Camp Sequoyah, near Weaverville, for his love of nature, and he has been active in connecting youth to the outdoors. He and his wife Jean served as directors and owners of a summer camp for boys – Falling Creek Camp in Tuxedo – from 1989 to 2005. He has also been involved on the Board of Directors of the American Camp Association, as Executive Director of the North Carolina Youth Camp Association (a trade association representing summer camps throughout North Carolina) and with Muddy Sneakers — an education program for kids that focuses on hands-on learning in natural settings.

Chuck McGrady grew up near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and is a graduate of Mercer University School of Law in Macon, Georgia. He taught law at Wayne State University Law School in Michigan, clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati and practiced law in corporate settings, large firms and private practice.

McGrady and his wife Jean have two grown children.

Other resources for Rep. Chuck McGrady

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<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=H&nUserID=605>

Campaign website:

<http://nchouse117.com/>