

North Carolina 2024 Supreme Court

JEFFERSON
GRIFFIN

REPUBLICAN



ALLISON
RIGGS

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This seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court is up for election on November 5. The Democratic nominee is incumbent Justice Allison Riggs, and the Republican nominee is North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge Jefferson Griffin. The winning candidate will serve an eight-year term. The Court consists of five Republican justices and two Democrats.

The Court decides questions of state law that can have significant impact, as well as death penalty cases. The Court issued a number of significant decisions in 2023, including on [partisan gerrymandering](#), [voter identification](#), and [felon voting rights](#). It is expected to issue an opinion soon in a long-running [education funding](#) case called *Leandro*. The Court is revisiting the case after it previously ordered state officials to disburse education funding to schools throughout the state. Issues expected to come before the court in 2025 include [election maps](#), the [powers of gerrymandered legislatures](#), and the [Governor's power to appoint executive bodies](#).

THE ISSUES

JEFFERSON GRIFFIN
jeffersongriffin.com

Jefferson Griffin [graduated](#) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned a J.D. from North Carolina Central School of Law. He worked in private practice before joining the Wake County District Attorney's Office in 2010. Griffin was appointed as a District Court judge in Wake County in 2015 and then elected to keep his seat in 2016. He was elected to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 2020. Griffin [serves](#) as a Captain in the North Carolina Army National Guard and as the National Security Law [Judge Advocate](#).

ALLISON RIGGS
riggsforourcourts.com

Allison Riggs [earned](#) bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Florida and a J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Riggs worked at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ) for 14 years, including as the Co-Executive Director and Chief Counsel for Voting Rights. She [served](#) as a judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals before she was appointed to the Supreme Court of North Carolina in September 2023 to fill then-Justice [Michael Morgan](#)'s seat after his resignation.

- **On abortion**, Griffin indicated his likely opposition to it when he [concurred](#) in an opinion that said “life begins at conception.”
- **On education funding**, Griffin joined the majority in a Court of Appeals [decision](#) in the *Leandro* line of cases, [blocking disbursement](#) of previously approved education funds to schools statewide.
- **On granting felons the right to vote**, Griffin [dissented](#) from a Court of Appeals order allowing certain felons to vote, stating that the Constitution does not let felons “be treated the same as similarly situated, law-abiding citizens” and that if felons were allowed to vote, “untold thousands of lawful votes cast by North Carolina citizens likely will be diluted.”
- **On the impact of race in law enforcement**, Griffin [wrote](#) that a defendant was wrong to say they were “treated differently because of the color of their skin.” “The law is colorblind... We are fortunate to live in the United States of America where the law is applied the same to all citizens.”
- **On his judicial philosophy**, Griffin [wrote](#) that he “is an originalist and a textualist” and [says](#) he most agrees with the judicial philosophies of U.S. Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch.

Griffin’s [endorsements](#) include North Carolina sheriffs and retired sheriffs. Griffin’s website also states that he was endorsed in 2020 by the North Carolina Advocates for Justice, the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, and the North Carolina Republican Party.

- **On abortion**, Riggs [stated](#) that North Carolinians should “elect people who will respect women’s freedom.”
- **On education funding**, she [joined](#) Justice Earls’ dissenting opinion in the *Leandro* line of cases, siding with a [previous Supreme Court ruling](#) that [ordered](#) state officials to disburse education funds to schools.
- **On voting rights**, Riggs [represented plaintiffs](#) challenging [voter identification laws](#) and in other [voting rights cases](#). She [said](#) that she “had the privilege of advocating for” the “marginalized and disenfranchised.” She called [gerrymandering](#) an effort by “politicians [to] pick their voters rather than voters picking their representatives.”
- **On campaign finance laws**, she has [described](#) the negative effects that money in politics can have on underrepresented communities: “Low-income communities... are often at a disadvantage to front the money it takes to put yourself forward as a candidate.”
- **On unions**, she [wrote](#) “Growing up in West Virginia, I saw what unions did to keep folks safe. We have to elect judges who value working people. I’m so honored to have the endorsement of the @NCStateAFLCIO.”
- **On her judicial philosophy**, Riggs [agrees](#) with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson’s commitment to judicial methodology over philosophy.

Riggs’ [endorsements](#) include the Sierra Club, Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People PAC, Young Democrats of North Carolina, Carolina Federation PAC, Replacements, Ltd. PAC, NC State AFL-CIO, Progressive Caucus of the NC Democratic Party, People’s Alliance, Wake County Voter Education Coalition, and Pro-Choice NC.

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