

# ITE RESEARCH REPORT

# INVEST *to* ELECT

ILLINOIS

**SUBJECT:** Cheri Beasley  
**REPORT CURRENT AS OF:** February 7, 2022  
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- INCUMBENT
- CHALLENGER
- OPEN SEAT

**PRIMARY DATE:** May 17, 2022  
**STATE OR DISTRICT:** North Carolina

## **CANDIDATE(S) BACKGROUND:**

Cheri Beasley is an attorney, jurist and public servant. She is a graduate of Rutgers University, earned a law degree from University of Tennessee and an LLM from Duke University. She worked as a public defender in Fayetteville. Cheri then won her first election as district judge after she and her husband welcomed twin sons.

In 2008 she won a statewide election to the North Carolina Court of Appeals by a 15 point margin of victory.

In 2014 she again showed her strength as a candidate when she was elected Associate Justice of the state Supreme Court, overcoming a Republican wave in North Carolina and across the country in that midterm election.

In 2019 Cheri was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper and became the first African American woman to serve as Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.. When had to run for election to that position in November of 2020, although she had a stellar reputation for her deep commitment to "serving the public and upholding justice" -she lost by 401 votes out of nearly 5.4 million ballots cast-- a prime example of why voter engagement and education on the voting process is vital. Data shows that many Democratic voters did not vote the full ballot and down ticket races were not voted on.

Issues listed on her website as most important to her include the breadth of issues Democrats care about beginning with: Expanding access to quality, affordable healthcare; Improving the quality of education from early childhood through college prep including fully funding educational programs for children with disabilities and equal opportunities for children from all zip codes; job creation and economic opportunity; Investment in small towns, rural areas and agricultural communities; standing up for women's rights (she established a family leave policy for Court employees while Chief Justice); voting rights; addressing the climate crisis; aiding veterans; making communities safer; criminal justice reform and immigration reform.

While the primary is not until May 17<sup>th</sup> both of the leading Democratic opponents have dropped out of the race and now support Beasley. Governor Cooper has endorsed her for Senate.

**CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN FINANCES:**

Gov Beasley has raised more than \$2.1 million for the three months ending Dec. 31 for a total of just over \$4.9 million raised between April and December. She had \$2.8 million cash on hand entering the new year.

**OPPONENT(S) BACKGROUND:**

The incumbent Republican Congressman Tom Tillis is retiring. The main Republican rivals are Congressman Ted Bund, endorsed by Trump and Pat McCrory former Governor and former Mayor of Charlotte. According to some polling Beasley trails the leading Republican candidates by about 1-2% with 13-16% undecided (see link below).

**OPPONENT CAMPAIGN FINANCES:**

U.S. Rep. Ted Budd raised more than former Gov. Pat McCrory in the fourth quarter of 2021, according to FEC filings. Budd's campaign said it raised over \$968,000, while McCrory's campaign reported \$748,000. Budd reported \$2.2 million in the bank while McCrory reported \$1.95 million in the bank. Budd is also receiving significant funding from "an outside group".

**STATE POLITICAL CLIMATE:**

North Carolina has a Democratic governor and a Republican dominated legislature. They currently have two Republican Senators, with one retiring. The State Supreme Court recently rejected the gerrymandered Congressional map which would have given the Republicans 10 of 14 Congressional seats in a state that is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. Members of the Trump family visit this state regularly.

**BIDEN +/- 2020**

Biden lost North Carolina by 1.4%.

**POLITICAL REPORTS AND POLLS (e.g., Cook Political Report, FiveThirtyEight, Sabato's Crystal Ball)**

The Cook Political Report rates this race as a Toss Up. Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales and Larry J. Sabato's Crystal Ball both rate this Lean Republican.

**SUPPORT:**

- YES
- NO
- TBD

**NEWSLINKS:**

[Beasley leads NC Senate fundraising; GOP side stays close](#)

[Polling against Republican Candidates](#)

[How 2 Black women conquered Senate primary politics](#)

[North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper Backs Cheri Beasley as Senate Primary field clears](#)

[North Carolina Redistricting and Gerrymandering](#)

Website: <https://cheribeasley.com/>

[Cheri Beasley talks with students on campus about her campaign](#)

[Will a Red State Elect a Black, Female Democrat to the U.S. Senate? Cheri Beasley Thinks So.](#)