



E.C. Sykes for Secretary of State

E.C. Sykes is a results-driven business leader that will help hard-working families by bringing transparency and efficiency to our state government--commonsense policies like honoring the rule of law, cutting waste, limiting the size of government, and restoring citizen's confidence in our government. As a compassionate, conservative problem-solver, man of faith, and servant-leader, E.C. will improve opportunities for all citizens by removing barriers to economic growth, fostering job creation, improving the business environment, and setting North Carolina on a course towards a strong future.

Overview

North Carolina's 2020 election will feature a U.S. Senate and Gubernatorial race, as well as several other high-profile statewide elections for Constitutional Officers. Given that President Trump won the state in 2016 by 3.6%, 2020 presents a prime opportunity to take Republican control of many of these Constitutional offices that have remained in Democratic control for far too long. Specifically, the Office of Secretary of State, currently held by Elaine Marshall, is ripe for the taking — Marshall was elected in 1996 and has yet to have a serious, well-funded challenger. She never had to wage a strategic campaign to win re-election; however, there are signs that she's vulnerable. ***In 2016, she won by less than 5 points despite spending 17 times what her opponent spent.***

E.C. Sykes is the candidate who is going to change this — he will demonstrate to voters that North Carolina needs fresh ideas and conservative leadership in the Secretary of State's office, not career politicians. He will be the first opponent Elaine Marshall has faced that has assembled a national quality campaign staff, who will raise the necessary amount of money, build a grassroots army, and wage a sophisticated campaign.

Business Leader

Over E.C.'s business career, he has created jobs when leading companies of various sizes that grew from \$2M to \$15M, \$20M to \$200M, and \$600M to \$4B. Also, E.C. has boldly stepped into companies that were struggling; he relates to business leaders going through both good and challenging times.

E.C. served as CEO of a small family-owned manufacturing company that was twice recognized as one of the 50 fastest-growing companies in North Carolina. Here he grew to understand the demands placed on leaders of private companies when experiencing rapid growth. He is also familiar with the challenges Venture Capital funded entrepreneurs face when launching new technologies. At the request of a friend and investor of a struggling Silicon Valley start-up, he joined as a board member and eventually became the CEO. The start-up LED Lighting





company, a green energy solution, gave E.C. an understanding of the barriers of bringing disruptive technology into a mature market.

Unafraid of challenges, E.C. accepted the CEO role of a troubled \$800M public IT company, where he reset the strategy to leverage the emerging and fast-growing Internet of Things (IoT) market. E.C. also served as a Group President and Executive Officer in a \$25B Fortune 500 company and he was responsible for managing more than 35,000 people in 20 countries. Through this experience, he gained global market knowledge as well as how to work with a variety of cultures. E.C. is now the founder and General Partner of Aslan Ventures, a real estate investment fund, that invests solely in North Carolina.

Family and Faith

E.C. is a man of strong faith, husband, father, and leader. He and Susan, his wife of 33 years, have two children, Matthew and Carolyn, and three grandchildren. E.C. and Susan opted to homeschool their children for ten years to provide them the best possible social and educational training. Desiring to serve children in difficult circumstances, EC and Susan partnered with a faith-based ministry and opened their home as foster parents for three years. E.C. taught Sunday School for over a decade, served as an ordained deacon, and held various leadership roles within his church.



E.C. is a compassionate Christian with a Biblical worldview. His Christian faith shapes his values and is the reason for this call to action. In June 2015, seeing Sen. Ted Cruz as a leader, conservative Constitutionalist, and defender of religious liberty, E.C. volunteered full-time for Cruz's presidential campaign and eventually became the Executive Director of Faith and Religious Liberty. The experience of working with national and local faith leaders reinforced to E.C. the importance of pastors shepherding the culture and the consequences of

people of faith stepping away from the public square. E.C. has said, *"There were times when I was silent when exposed to an idea that conflicted with my Biblical beliefs, and my silence implied agreement. It gave the appearance I was ashamed of the gospel. I remember Edmund Burke's quote, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Reflecting on this and our purpose to be salt and light, and to serve, I was propelled to take a defining stand for biblical and conservative values."*



Conservative North Carolina Values

E.C. knows the values of North Carolinians—the values that many elected officials seem to have forgotten. North Carolina’s values are strongly ingrained in him through his family, which traces their history back 300 years in North Carolina. He was born in Durham, and only two blocks away, he was baptized at the age of 7. His first job was selling home-grown tomatoes door-to-door; he earned half of his first car by priming tobacco in Warren County. He and his wife graduated high school from North Durham, and they both graduated from North Carolina State University. Additionally, E.C. had the honor of serving two terms on the North Carolina State University’s Electrical and Computer Strategic Advisory Board. He received his BSEE and MS in Management and has been inducted into the electrical engineering Hall of Fame. He continues as a guest lecturer there from time to time.



In North Carolina, hard work is valued. So are the fundamental values of individualism, family, equality, freedom, and the opportunity to prosper. As the government’s powers have grown, sometimes through the actions of unelected judges, our values are threatened. We can build a bright future for ourselves and the next generation by standing on the principles that founded our country and limiting government intrusion.

There are fundamental principles, like life and religious liberty, that E.C. passionately supports. He is a strong supporter of pregnancy resource centers who compassionately care for women before and after the birth of their child. Heroes standing for religious liberty motivate him, and he continues to work with several groups in the fight to maintain our historic freedoms provided in our Constitution.

Conclusion

Although other candidates are running for the Republican nomination, E.C. Sykes is the only one who has the background and experience necessary to win the general election. As a businessman who has led public and private businesses of various sizes, E.C. is the ideal conservative outsider to beat a career politician like Elaine Marshall. As a man of strong Christian faith who has demonstrated a servant-leadership style, the Sykes campaign will highlight commonsense policies that will help hardworking North Carolinians by bringing transparency and efficiency to state government—honoring the “rule of law”, cutting waste, limiting the size of government, and making it easier and less expensive to do business in North Carolina. With his long and proven experience in business, he is the only candidate who can remove the barriers to economic growth, foster job creation, and improve the business environment.



Given this background, E.C. has the ability to appeal to a diverse mix of voters and inspire them to turnout at the polls on election day.

Furthermore, the message of the Sykes campaign perfectly juxtaposes that of Elaine Marshall's. First elected in 1996, Marshall is stale in voters' minds, with no significant accomplishments as Secretary of State. It's easy to envision her as a career politician who needs to go, especially when you realize that she has twice tried to run for the U.S. Senate while still serving as Secretary of State. Furthermore, every day her ideology becomes more and more radical, less and less in touch with North Carolina. In 2017, she made headlines when it was discovered that for years she had allowed illegal immigrants and non-citizens to become state notaries—her positions on other issues largely reflect the extremism of the new Democratic Party. She talks and acts like a coastal liberal who has only managed to stay in office because no one has held her accountable; no one has mounted a serious campaign against her. E.C. is the only candidate with the values and business experience necessary better serve the people of North Carolina and to win against this six-time incumbent.

Preamble of the NC Constitution:

We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain security thereof and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution