



Our Energy, Our Future

What the candidates say

Two of the most-watched contests this election season are the statewide races for the U.S. Senate seat held by Elizabeth Dole (challenged by Kay Hagan) and the North Carolina governor's seat pitting Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, the Democratic nominee, against Charlotte mayor Pat McCrory, the Republican nominee. The North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives posed questions about our energy future to each of these candidates. Their responses follow (candidates listed alphabetically for each race).

Candidates for U.S. Senate



Elizabeth Dole

Elizabeth Dole is a Republican who has represented North Carolina in the U.S. Senate since her election in 2002. Prior to that she was deputy assistant to President Richard M. Nixon for Consumer Affairs, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, assistant to President Ronald Reagan for Public Liaison, President

Reagan's Secretary of Transportation, President George H.W. Bush's Secretary of Labor, and president of the American Red Cross. She currently serves as the national director of Education and Information for Hospice. She was born in Salisbury and is married to former U.S. Senate Majority Leader and 1996 Republican presidential nominee Sen. Bob Dole.

DOLE 2008

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Kay Hagan

Kay Hagan is a Democrat who has represented Guilford County in the N.C. Senate since her election in 1998. Prior to that she was a vice president at NCNB (now Bank of America), then North Carolina's largest bank. She has served in the senate as a co-chair of the Budget Committee and the Pensions, Retirement &

Aging Committee, and has been a member of the following committees: Appropriations; Commerce, Small Business and Entrepreneurship; Education/Public Instruction; Finance; Health Care; Joint Select Committee on Economic Development Incentives; and Select Committee on Employee Hospital and Medical Benefits. She was born in Shelby. Sen. Hagan and her husband, Chip, have three grown children.

Kay Hagan for U.S. Senate

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There's never been an election that could affect your energy expenses more than this one!

A conversation with U.S. Senate Candidates Elizabeth Dole and Kay Hagan

Your plan for electricity in the future?

Q. Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewable energy, conservation and efficiency can provide, especially in a state growing as fast as North Carolina. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?

DOLE: We need to make sure we have the base load electricity generation at affordable costs to supply North Carolina's growing population—this means keeping all options on the table. We must pursue all of our resources, including nuclear, clean coal, natural gas, wind, solar, biomass and geothermal. We need a stronger Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff to approve new nuclear applications expeditiously, and move those projects forward. We also need to put much more in terms of resources into the research, development and deployment of renewable resources, and the ability to harness and store the energy those renewable sources provide. We must move forward with a smart grid to bring our electrical grid into the 21st Century and make better use of our energy generation. North Carolinians also need affordable transportation fuels, and that is why I support offshore drilling, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and next generation biofuels.

HAGAN: The United States has less than 3 percent of the world's oil reserves and yet we use a quarter of the world's oil. We're never going to produce all of the oil we need, and we aren't going to be able to rely solely on conservation either. There needs to be a comprehensive plan which addresses additional production, as well as additional investments in renewable energy. I support the bipartisan "Gang of 10" proposal currently in the U.S. Senate, which allows for some drilling in cooperation with a sustained investment in renewable energy. I have repeatedly called for repealing the \$17 billion in tax incentives Big Oil and Gas are currently receiving from Elizabeth Dole and President Bush, using those funds to invest instead in renewable energy and new technologies that expand local energy production in America and create local jobs that can't be exported, a strategy adopted by the new bipartisan plan. Ultimately, this problem can only be solved with an aggressive, forward-thinking plan to get us to the point of energy independence.

Your position on nuclear energy?

Q. Nuclear power emits no greenhouse gases and has a strong safety record in the United States. Please explain your level of support or opposition concerning new nuclear power plants, including federal incentives for utilities to build them?

DOLE: I am a strong supporter of new nuclear, and we need to do everything possible to create the atmosphere for a nuclear renaissance in America. We need:

- an investment tax credit for nuclear power facilities
- an accelerated depreciation for new nuclear power facilities
- a credit for qualifying nuclear power manufacturing
- stand-by support for certain nuclear plant delays
- incentives for innovative technologies.

Further we need greater support for programs like NuStart. These include:

- projects to develop the next generation nuclear plant
- create a nuclear energy workforce
- an interagency working group to promote a domestic manufacturing base for nuclear components and equipment
- create a nuclear power technology fund
- fast-track a spent fuel recycling program.

We also need to open up Yucca Mountain and the federal nuclear waste depository. The current delays are simply unacceptable.

HAGAN: As part of a plan to end our dependence on foreign oil and increase the use of renewable fuels, I support the use of nuclear power and would like to see its use expanded. However, it must be safe and cost efficient, and we need a practical, safe, and secure way to deal with spent nuclear rods.

Your approach to climate change legislation?

Q. Legislation to combat climate change will likely be debated as a major part of Congress' energy policy in 2009. It is vital that any climate change legislation balance the costs to consumers with real environmental benefits. How will climate change legislation impact North Carolina's consumers?

DOLE: In any climate legislation, the goal must be to not negatively impact North Carolina's consumers - with regard to cost or behavior. We can find the right balance between protecting North Carolina and the United States against the predicted negative ramifications of global climate change

while also protecting families, consumers and our economy against any costs associated with climate change legislation. Doing this will be essential for any sort of carbon legislation to garner support in the Congress.

There are certainly issues that we need to address, and we will, with regard to cost-containment, the technology gap, international competition, and allocations.

I will continue fighting for what is right for North Carolina in any climate change bill, and make sure I represent the priorities of the North Carolina electric cooperatives.

HAGAN: Our planet is in peril. Global warming, once treated as a fringe theory, is increasingly accepted as mainstream fact. Unfortunately, the United States has yet to develop an energy policy that addresses our need for additional energy capacity in a clean and sustainable way, and has blatantly ignored attempts to move forward in combating global warming. We need to start by getting rid of the \$17 billion in tax subsidies that are being given away to Big Oil and Gas. We need to instead invest those resources into clean energy created right here in North Carolina that will help spur innovation and ultimately end our dependence on oil. I believe we can create jobs by boosting our research, agriculture and manufacturing sectors, and I will push to find new ways to help consumers save on energy costs by using less energy and producing new, cost-effective energy sources.

A conversation with N.C. Governor Candidates Pat McCrory and Bev Perdue

Your plan for North Carolina's energy future?

Q Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewable energy, conservation and efficiency can provide, especially in a state growing as fast as North Carolina. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?

McCRORY: We need a comprehensive policy that:

- explores environmentally friendly energy sources such as wind, solar power, hydrogen fuel cells, clean coal and nuclear power
- invests in research for alternative fuel sources
- explores for more American energy sources
- includes tax credits for families and businesses, conservation land banking and research and development at our state's universities.

As chairman of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Committee for the Environment, I consider myself a conservationist. I have enjoyed and valued the beautiful natural resources across North Carolina all my life and want to protect them for future generations. However, we have a clear choice. We can continue to spend billions of dollars a day on an

unstable energy policy, or we can end our dependence on foreign sources by encouraging conservation, investing in alternative energy technologies and tapping into American sources of energy. Our ability to create jobs, encourage technological advancement and provide for America's national security depends on our willingness to use American resources to provide energy in a responsible and reasonable way.

The following is my ten point energy and conservation plan:

1. Promote mass transit (light rail and clean energy buses that use biodiesel, hybrid or fuel cell technology and natural gas).
2. Encourage land use planning that ensures adequate space for future park-and-ride facilities, HOV lanes, and future mass and traditional transit corridors. Also encourage revitalization of brown fields to provide more in-fill development and shorter commutes.
3. Require state-owned fleets to convert to vehicles that use alternative energy sources such as biodiesel, hybrid, electric, fuel cell and natural gas.
4. Require higher energy efficiency in state-owned and leased facilities through retrofitting and green development.
5. Provide tax incentives for private homeowners and businesses to follow similar conservation and efficiency efforts in transportation, industry and buildings.
6. Permit deep sea exploration and development off the coast of North Carolina.
7. Promote the use of natural gas. Only 28 percent of primary energy consumption in the U.S. is utilized by the transportation sector. Natural gas is used for power generation and utilities such as heating and cooking. The Manteo Prospect that lies 37 miles off of North Carolina's coast is estimated to contain 5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
8. Utilize clean coal technology by upgrading North Carolina's coal-fired plants through incentives to install smokestack scrubbing technology to remove carbon dioxide. Also expand the use of coal-to-liquids technology.
9. Expand alternative energy sources such as wind, solar power, hydrogen fuel cells, clean coal and nuclear power.
10. Increase energy research and development at North Carolina's colleges, universities and research centers. That can be funded in part with royalties from deep sea exploration.

PERDUE: As a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, both in the Senate and the House of Representatives, I had several electric cooperatives in my district and I have continued to stay in touch as the Lieutenant Governor. I applaud the cooperatives for advocating for the 2007 renewable energy legislation, which I actively supported.

I believe that our main focus in our energy policy in the immediate future should be on providing clean, reliable

Candidates for N.C. Governor



Pat McCrory

Charlotte mayor Patrick "Pat" McCrory, a Republican, was first elected to that position in 1995 and has been re-elected a record seven times. He grew up in Guilford County and graduated from Catawba College with a degree in political science/education and a North Carolina Teaching Certificate. He worked for Duke Energy Corporation in

various management positions. In 1989 he was elected as at-large member of the Charkotte City Council. He has served on the national Homeland Security Advisory Commission and chairs the U.S. Conference of Mayors Committee for the Environment. He is married to Ann Gordon McCrory.

Pat McCrory for Governor

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Bev Perdue

Bev Perdue, a Democrat, has served as N.C. lieutenant governor since 2000, when she became the first woman elected to the position, and was re-elected in 2004. Prior to that, she served in the N.C. Senate from 1990–2000, and in the N.C. House from 1986–1990, representing the New Bern area. She grew up in the coal-mining

mountains of southwest Virginia, then moved to North Carolina, where she worked as a public school teacher, a director of geriatric services at a community hospital, and earned a Ph.D. in education administration. She is married to Bob Eaves and has two sons and a granddaughter.

Bev Perdue for Governor

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energy to consumers and businesses while keeping costs affordable. To achieve meaningful changes in generation and consumption, we must take action on multiple fronts. This includes:

1. Making alternative energy use and energy efficiency major components of our public policy
2. Growing one of the nation's leading green economies
3. Pursuing regional cooperation
4. Developing an effective long range partnership with our utilities to improve efficiency and production.

I know that pursuing such strategies is easier said than done, but as our next governor, I plan to call upon the people of North Carolina to unite behind an ambitious initiative that will achieve these goals. Accomplishing this will require us to change the paradigm of energy production, consumption, and environmental protection. Meeting that challenge will require bold steps to forge workable industry-government partnerships that produce results.

North Carolina's population will continue to boom in the next few decades, and that will contribute to the challenges we face in energy policy. We need to look to producing more wind and solar power to sell to the grid. In addition, I am hopeful that research on carbon capture and sequestration technology will develop new ways to produce clean energy, but we may also have to make some tough decisions in our energy policies in the coming years.

Reliable and affordable energy is vital for continued economic growth in North Carolina. According to the Energy Information Administration, North Carolina has some of the lowest electricity costs in the nation. This has contributed greatly to our ability to attract new businesses. For six of the last seven years, North Carolina has ranked first in the nation for business relocation by Site Selection magazine.

We must have a balanced approach to energy policy that focuses on clean energy while keeping costs affordable.

To read more on my energy plans, please visit my Web site at www.bevperdue.com.

Your position on nuclear energy?

Q: Nuclear power is emission free, and it has a strong safety record in the United States. Please explain your level of support or opposition concerning expansion of nuclear power to meet the growing electricity demand in the state?

MCCRORY: I am 100 percent in favor of expanding nuclear power to meet the growing electricity demand.

PERDUE: The cost, disposal and security concerns surrounding nuclear power are formidable and must be addressed before if we are to develop new nuclear facilities. However, we must keep our options open to all clean energy sources and that includes the possibility of additional nuclear energy. 