

2014 NORTH CAROLINA SENATE CANDIDATES

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

HAGAN:

Sen. Kay Hagan backed the Women's Health Protection Act, which would prohibit regulations that restrict abortions in North Carolina. In 2013, Hagan spoke out against measures taken by the North Carolina Legislature to impose restrictions on facilities that provide legal abortions. She also supported the Affordable Care Act, which covers the cost of

TILLIS:

In 2011, Thom Tillis, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, he supported the state budget which prevented Planned Parenthood from receiving state money. In January of 2011, he told the Raleigh News & Observer that "I am pro-life, I believe all life is sacred." More specifically, he said abortion should be illegal except to save the life of the mother and in cases of rape and incest.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND MANAGING EDITOR

KAY HAGAN
DEMOCRAT

THOM TILLIS
REPUBLICAN

HEALTH CARE

Hagan voted for the Affordable Care Act and supported a Medicaid expansion that would have increased the number of low-income people benefiting from the health care law. She has been criticized for incorrectly promising North Carolinians they could keep their previous health care plans.

In 2013, Tillis claimed expanding Medicaid would hurt taxpayers, and throughout his campaign he labeled himself an enemy of the Affordable Care Act. As of Oct. 21, his views have changed. Appearing on Time Warner Cable News, Tillis said it might make sense for the state to expand Medicaid coverage once the state has better control of the funding.

EDUCATION

Hagan supported a bill to make college loans more accessible. The bill, attached to Obamacare, would have prohibited colleges from using federal education funding for lobbying ensuring funds are used for student financial aid. Hagan also pushed for incentives and more competitive

An outside Democratic Political Action Committee has accused Tillis of cutting \$500 million in education, but a closer look will show the number is a hypothetical. It's a two-year figure accounting for a "continuation budget," which acts as an illustration, not a budget. Funding has increased about 1 percent since 2009, but North Carolina schools have increased by 44,000 students, or 3 percent.

ENVIRONMENT

Hagan supports fracking as long as regulations that take environmental and economic impact into account are imposed. She opposed a fracking bill passed by the North Carolina legislature that made it a crime to reveal the chemicals used in fracking. Hagan also voted against an amendment that would require 60 votes to approve a carbon tax, making it more difficult to apply such a tax in the future.

Tillis has denied the existence of climate change. Tillis has also supported a bill by Gov. Pat McCrory that would lift the prohibition on hydraulic fracking for shale gas in 2015. Since the Duke Energy coal spill in 2013, Tillis has tightened his stance on coal ash, pushing for legislation that regulates Duke Energy's coal ash pits. Environmental groups have lashed out against the bill, claiming it weakens the state's existing groundwater protection laws, allowing Duke Energy to cover pits rather than empty them.

North Carolina spends record amount on attack ads

SHAME ON KAY HAGAN!

Hagan voted FOR taxpayer-funded abortion.

More money is being spent in this race between Hagan and Tillis than any Senate race in United State's history. 2,900 anti-Hagan ads have run, making her the eighth-most attacked national candidate in this election.

Kaitlin Dunn
Assistant News Editor

As the election season draws to a close, politicians are doing whatever they can to get their names out there and bashing their opponent is as good as any form of that.

U.S. Senate candidates D-N.C. Kay Hagan and R-N.C. Thom Tillis are running brutal ads slamming each other, making the North Carolina Senate race one of the most expensive and vicious in the country right now. But whether attack advertisements are really effective is up in the air.

Scott Windham, Elon University assistant professor of German Scott Windham said he dislikes attack ads because they show a lack of integrity.

"I'm generally disgusted by the way political candidates refuse to engage in what I consider good public discourse and respectful treatment of opposing opinions," Windham said. "Attack ads are a great example of how candidates are not respectful of the other side."

According to Kantar Media/CMAG, which monitors TV signals for political advertising, North Carolina candidates and support groups have run more than 90,500 ads

and spent more than \$54.4 million this election season. North Carolina politicians have spent more than \$16 million more than the second state on the list, Georgia, with politicians spending \$37.8 million.

The Center for Public Integrity reported that more than 10,800 of these ads in just one-week feature content that negatively targets either Hagan or Tillis. This means viewers are subjected to an average of one attack ad for every minute of television time.

The same report revealed that in one week, the Hagan campaign ran more than 4,300 attack ads (including ads attacking Tillis for attacking her), while Tillis has only run 2,900 ads attacking Hagan.

According to the Washington Post, Tillis has been attacked more than any other politician this campaign season while Hagan is the eighth-most-attacked politician. But the majority of the money being spent of the negative ad campaigns does not come directly from the politicians' campaigns, but rather is paid for by independent or nonprofit groups such as Americans for Prosperity, which began running ads against Hagan last October, and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which has spent more than \$17

million targeting Tillis.

Hagan has criticized Tillis on his support for the voter identification law, fight to defund Planned Parenthood and cuts to education, while Tillis has slammed Hagan for openly supporting President Barack Obama, voting with him 96 percent of the time.

Windham is frustrated by the lack of clarity that comes with attack advertisements.

"I wish that candidates would outline what they stand for in more detail instead of using empty words," Windham said. "In the last election people were calling Obama a socialist, and regardless of if you support him or not,

the fact is that he is not a socialist. Anyone who says that he is clearly has no idea what the word means."

Like Windham, Junior Anna Patterson said she is also disgusted by candidates who run ads against their opponents and said she will be taking this into consideration when she casts her vote.

"We need to elect people who will work together to find common ground, not attack each other and create greater divides in our already polarized system," Patterson said. "I would be less likely to vote for someone who runs an attack ad."



THOM TILLIS
SHARED AN APARTMENT
WITH HIS CHIEF OF STAFF

More than 4,300 ads have run against Tillis in this campaign, making him the most targeted candidate this cycle.