

Lowe
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grant, a component of President Lyndon Johnson's War of Poverty. He said he wanted to make sure everyone had the same opportunity. He mentioned his positions against school vouchers and support of expanding Medicaid.



Paul Lowe is sworn in by Judge Denise Hartsfield with his wife, LaGail, and Earline Parmon.

"The emergency room should not be a plan for good healthcare, but there ought to be a health-care system for all," he said.

When he said "our seniors should not have to choose between eating everyday and buying medicine," he drew applause. A promise to champion a minimum wage hike, which Parmon

long fought for, also drew enthusiastic response. The vote was decided by 105 Forsyth DNC Executive Committee members in attendance, all of whom are either precinct chairs, vice chairs, party officers, auxiliary chairs, elected officials and/or state executive committee members. In the end, they chose Lowe, 71-34.

Nominee	Votes
Paul Lowe	71
Joycelyn Johnson	34

Parmon wouldn't say who her pick was, but said she was pleased with the outcome. "We had two good candidates that ran, and I think Sen. Paul Lowe, the newly elected senator, will do a great job to articulate and address those issues that have been important to the citizens of this district that I stood up for," she said.



Campbell

Lowe, a native of Seattle, has been an active Democrat since the 1960s, when he helped his father distribute campaign materials for candidates. A longtime party leader and official, he was a delegate at the Democratic National Convention in 2008 and 2012. He and his wife, LaGail, attended a dinner hosted by President Barack Obama at the White House in 2012.

Lowe credited his victory to a campaign that focused on calls and mailings to local Democrats. He considers politics an extension of his work as pastor, as both professions help those in need.

"The need is so great," he said. "I mean there's a lot of hurting people in our community in the 32nd District and I wanted to try to be a voice for the hurting."

Lowe said he is not daunted by Republicans' firm control of the state legislature.

"Even though there's a supermajority in Raleigh, that doesn't negate that we have to try to speak for all, try to help all peoples," he said.

Monday was Lowe's first day in the N.C. Senate.

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