



Black lawmakers stand to gain new clout

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trails Republican Thelma Drake in the 2nd District.

Three Caucus members would assume the chair of powerful House Committees — Charles Rangel (Ways and Means), John Conyers (Judiciary) and Aleece Hastings (Intelligence). Watt could have his choice of subcommittee assignments in Commercial and

Administrative Law or Financial Services, both of which are important to Charlotte, the nation's second-largest banking center. Watt, however, says he concentrating on his 12th District campaign against Republican Ada Fisher.

"I haven't spent a lot of time thinking about it," said Watt, a seven-term representative I don't count chickens before

they've hatched."

The Caucus, and Democrats in general, have been locked out of key positions and policy making with Republicans controlling the House, Senate and White House. A Democratic takeover of one or both chambers would put them in position to craft legislation on issues related to Iraq, homeland security and immigra-

tion. President Bush, who has benefited from a Republican majority, would have to deal with opponents who share opposing views of his party's policies.

"Bush is going to be in a position where if he wants to

get things done, he's going to have to listen" to Democrats, Bostis said. "Of course, he can stop things from getting done because he has the power of veto."

Said Watt: You've got some leverage to get him to see

some things your way. We would certainly be in a position to have our voices heard on issues coming before the House."

On the Net:
Congressional Black Caucus:
www.cbcc.org

A look at 12th Congressional District

Rep. Mel Watt has represented the 12th District, stretching from Winston-Salem to Charlotte, since 1993. He's a former lawyer and state senator and now serves as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Republican challenger Ada Fisher is a Salisbury doctor who has made unsuccessful runs for Senate in 2002 and House in 2004.



Fisher

the Congressional Black Caucus. Republican challenger Ada Fisher is a Salisbury doctor who has made unsuccessful runs for Senate in 2002 and House in 2004.

DISTRICT HISTORY:

Registered Republicans: 98,242.

Registered Democrats: 224,392.

2000 Presidential Election: Gore 115,445 (67 percent); Bush 85,950 (42 percent).

2004 Presidential Election: Kerry 149,940 (63 percent); Bush 88,955 (37 percent).

2004 House Election: Melvin Watt 154,908 (67 percent); Ada Fisher 76,898 (33

percent).

INCUMBENT:

NAME: Melvin L. Watt.
AGE: 61. Born Aug. 26, 1945 in Mecklenburg County, N.C.

RESIDENCE: Charlotte.

PARTY: Democrat.

FAMILY: He and his wife Eulada Paysour Watt have two sons.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of science, 1967, UNC-Chapel Hill; law degree, 1970, Yale University.

CAREER: Practiced law, 1971-1992.

POLITICAL CAREER: Served in state Senate, 1985-1986; elected to Congress in 1992.

FINANCES: \$160,357 cash on hand as of Oct. 18, \$455,450 raised for campaign.

WEB SITE: <http://www.wattforcongress.com>

CHALLENGER: NAME: Ada Fisher.

AGE: 59. Born Oct. 21, 1947 in Durham.

RESIDENCE: Salisbury.

PARTY: Republican.

FAMILY: Fisher has two sons.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree, University of North Carolina-Greensboro; Medical degree, University of Wisconsin; Graduate degree in public health, Johns Hopkins University.

CAREER: A doctor, Fisher has worked for the VA hospital in Salisbury and as a physician and manager for two Fortune 500 companies.

POLITICAL CAREER: unsuccessful runs for Senate in 2002 and House in 2004.

FINANCES: \$5,876 cash on hand as of Oct. 18; \$394,620 raised for campaign.

WEB SITE: www.dradamfisher.org

Source: Almanac of American Politics; N.C. State Board of Elections; Candidate Web sites and interviews.

ELECT Thurman Ross



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Mecklenburg County Commissioner District 4

- Dedicated
- Involved
- Experienced

“Eleven years ago, I ran for a seat on the Cornelius Town Board and I have been re-elected six times. For the past twelve years, I have focused on building, building and bringing opposing parties together for the benefit of all. I would like to bring this approach to the Mecklenburg County Commission, and together we can make a difference.”

Thurman Ross

Landfill sitings by race

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Bureau figures in the areas surrounding the sites on racial and ethnic makeup and average home values, a measurement of a community's wealth.

Adjusting for population density, the report found solid waste facilities were 2.1 times more likely to be located in a community where more than 10 percent of residents were minorities when compared to areas where less than 10 percent of residents were minorities.

Looking at permits issued between 1990 and 2003 to communities that didn't already have a landfill, the odds to get a permit were 2.2 times greater for an area where more than 10 percent of residents were minorities than areas with less than 10 percent.

The information seems to suggest that solid waste dumps have been disproportionately placed in communities with more minorities, Wing said.

The odds of a community having a landfill was 40 percent higher in an area with average home values under \$100,000 compared to over \$100,000. However, since 1990, landfills were permitted less often in low-wealth housing areas without landfills.

Wing said waste reduction wouldn't occur until white and more affluent communities handle their own trash in their own communities.


Gary Grant, executive director of the environmental justice group Concerned Citizens for Tillery, said the report "confirms what we have already believed for a long time."

However, Greg Peverall with the Carolinas chapter of the National Solid Wastes Management Association said the data reflects past practices.

Today, "our industry would never support, endorse or accept the placement of modern municipal solid waste landfills in low-wealth or minority communities," he said.

RE-ELECT JENNIFER ROBERTS

MECKLENBURG County Commission At Large



Many Voices, One Community.

Jennifer Roberts is *dedicated* to working with all groups to make Mecklenburg County a *safer and healthier* place to live.

Jennifer's *open approach* to leadership means that *people have a voice* in how their government can work better.

Re-elect Jennifer Roberts and show your support for government that is *inclusive, effective, and accountable.*

About Jennifer:

- Charlotte native • CMS graduate
- Former high school teacher • Mom
- Adjunct Professor, UNC-Charlotte

"Mecklenburg County has a long tradition of leaders in our neighborhoods, churches, social organizations and business community, who bring people together to improve life for everyone. There are some in our community who have recently tried to destroy for political purposes what we have built. I pledge to oppose this divisiveness and work with all groups to make Mecklenburg County a safer and healthier place for all of us."

— Jennifer Roberts

Help Re-elect
County Commissioner Jennifer Roberts
PO Box 5243 • Charlotte, NC 28299
704-650-1673 • jennifer@jenniferroberts.net
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Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Jennifer Watson Roberts

Thank You For Your Support!

VOTE JENNIFER ROBERTS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7