RAYMOND SMITH
FOR US CONGRESS DISTRICT 3

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CONTACT:

ICYMI: Momentum Continues to Build as Dr. Raymond Smith Heads into Final Stretch of Campaign

EASTERN N.C. — With early voting now underway across Eastern North Carolina, Democratic nominee for North Carolina's Third Congressional District, **Dr. Raymond Smith,** continues to gain ground. In recent weeks, he has picked up a new national endorsement, a race-rating shift toward Democrats, and growing scrutiny of Congressman Greg Murphy's record.

This week, President Donald Trump is holding a rally in Greenville, Congressman Greg Murphy's hometown and the heart of North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District, during the first week of early voting. Trump carried this district by 14 points in 2024. The fact that national Republicans are spending a presidential visit in Eastern North Carolina two weeks before Election Day tells you everything: this region is a battleground, and the GOP knows it. Sabato's Crystal Ball has already shifted NC-03 toward Democrats, and a summer poll had this race statistically tied. Murphy has never faced a competitive race since winning a 2019 special election. Now he is running in a redrawn district that Governor Josh Stein carried just two years ago. Meanwhile, Dr. Smith has spent the last year traveling across the district delivering a simple message: lower costs, protect health care, and answer to the people of Eastern North Carolina, not to any president or party.

"A year ago, nobody in Washington thought this seat was in play. Greg Murphy didn't either," **said Dr. Smith. "**But Eastern North Carolina families are tired of a congressman who looks out for himself while they struggle to keep up with costs, and that's why this race is competitive. I'll go to Washington to lower costs, protect health care, and fight for our veterans. Washington politicians, like Greg Murphy, wrote us off and counted us out. In two weeks, we're going to prove them wrong and win this thing. Early voting is open now. Let's go get it done."

RECENT COVERAGE

Punchbowl News (Daily Punch: "*[Trump] is going to Greenville, North Carolina —Greg Murphy's Trump +14. Which, by the way, we heard is actually close.*"

Sabato's Crystal Ball Moves NC-03 Toward Democrats: University of Virginia Center for Politics' Crystal Ball shifted its rating for the 3rd District toward Democrats. It noted that Dr. Smith has put real pressure on Congressman Murphy.

The Daily Reflector: Smith Lays Out His Priorities: In a full Q&A with the Reflector, Dr. Smith pointed to his record supporting Medicaid expansion in the General Assembly. He laid out a plan to fund rural hospitals, community health centers, and maternal care. And he said Congress should never *"take health care away from people and promise that something better might come later."*

WITN: "The people who send me here, that's my agenda.": In WITN's "Decision 2026" series, Dr. Smith said he isn't answering to any president or political party. He made clear that the people of Eastern North Carolina are his only priority.

The News & Observer: Smith Calls for Real Oversight in Washington: In the News & Observer's candidate questionnaire, Dr. Smith called for Congress to do its job, including subpoenaing cabinet secretaries to testify under oath. Asked whether he used AI to answer the questions, he said no, because he has *"exponentially more life experience than does AI."*

WCTI: "Everyone deserves healthcare.": Speaking with News 12, Dr. Smith said the cost of living is the top concern he hears across the district. He called for fully funding the Affordable Care Act and protecting rural hospitals and trauma care. He also highlighted the fuel and fertilizer costs squeezing Eastern North Carolina farmers.

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About Dr. Raymond Smith

Dr. Raymond E. Smith Jr. is a Gulf War combat veteran, former educator and football coach, and former two-term member of the North Carolina House representing Wayne and Sampson counties. He was the first African American at-large member and vice chair of the Wayne County Board of Education. He holds degrees from NC A&T, NC Central, and Fayetteville State, and lives in Goldsboro with his wife, Dr. Cortrina Smith. He is endorsed by the Congressional Black Caucus PAC, VoteVets, the North Carolina AFL-CIO, and the Communications Workers of America.