

TO: Interested PartiesFROM: Coalition Against Robinson's Extremism (CARE)DATE: April 4th, 2024

## A Robinson Win would be a Disaster for NC, the South, and the Country

Statewide elections in North Carolina are always close, and this year's gubernatorial race is shaping up to be the same. Public polling has consistently put Democratic nominee Josh Stein and radical Republican nominee Mark Robinson–who stridently backs a total abortion ban, believes Trump's lie that the 2020 election was stolen, called public school educators "wicked people," and consistently denigrates women, the Black community, and LGBTQ+ individuals– within the poll's margin of error.

A Robinson win would be a far-reaching disaster, with consequences not only for the people of North Carolina, but also for the region and the nation.

It may be easy to dismiss Robinson's offensive rhetoric and radical policies as bombastic and ultimately inconsequential, but Robinson would yield real power as Governor and would likely be backed by a Republican-led state legislature and state Supreme Court, both of which have bucked decorum and good governance in recent years in favor of naked partisanship.

The real consequences of a Robinson governorship could include:

- The end to abortion access in North Carolina and almost everywhere in the South. Mark Robinson has pledged to work with the Republican legislature to pass a <u>total ban</u> on abortion with no exceptions. The Republican legislature, which passed a 12-week ban last summer, indicated then that they were eager to enact <u>further restrictions</u> down the line. An end to abortion in North Carolina would leave <u>Virginia</u> as the only state in the South where abortion is mostly accessible.
- The dismantling of public education in the state. Robinson has repeatedly <u>denigrated</u> public school educators and has made his disdain for public education clear. He wrote in his own memoir his desire to rid <u>science and history</u> from elementary school curriculum and has voiced support for more <u>private school vouchers</u>. He would have the backing of the Republican nominee for state superintendent who has called public schools socialist <u>"indoctrination centers</u>," the Republican legislature that passed a series of <u>anti-public</u> education bills in recent years, and a state Supreme Court that has sought to put public school funding in jeopardy.

- Businesses and economic opportunity leaving the state, as occurred after the HB2 bathroom bill was passed. It's been estimated that the passing of the disastrous bathroom bill in 2016 would have cost North Carolina \$3.76 billion in lost business if not repealed. We could see similar results as businesses are getting spooked by the radicalism of Robinson, Morrow, and others. The NC Chamber of Commerce has already issued a "warning of the looming threats to North Carolina's business climate" after the primaries this year. And lawmakers in Connecticut are already trying to incentivize companies to leave NC for better business climates.
- An election denier in a position of power to unduly influence future elections. The Republican-led legislature already passed <u>significant restrictions</u> on voting procedures this past legislative session, after meeting regularly with Trump advisor and Big Lie propagator <u>Cleta Mitchell</u> in the months before releasing their anti-voter election proposal. Governor Cooper has been a check on legislative Republicans' increasing brazenness, but with Robinson in charge of appointments to the state Board of Elections and more, the integrity of North Carolina elections, and the fate of its 16 electoral votes, are at stake.

Mark Robinson would make North Carolina a worse place to live and raise a family, and his election would have far-reaching consequences that go beyond our state lines. He must be stopped.

<u>The Coalition Against Robinson's Extremism (CARE)</u> stands together to counter Mark Robinson's message of hate and violence. We are a group of organizations that represent average North Carolinians from the mountains to the sea, in small towns and rural areas, and across Black, Brown, Indigenous, and white communities. We are here to say: Mark Robinson's leadership is wrong for North Carolina.

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