



**RALEIGH,
NORTH CAROLINA**

For Immediate Release . . .

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Sex Offenders aren't whipping posts; They are voters

Raleigh, North Carolina—Pilloried and bandied about like metaphorical rag-dolls by both sides of the partisan rancor poisoning the state's airwaves, the nearly 17,000 registered citizens (aka sex offenders) and their families (mothers, fathers, spouses, sons and daughters, et al) in North Carolina question the wisdom of candidates in hotly contested races who appear to have forgotten the danger of alienating marginal voters.

In all of these campaign ads, powerfully pejorative words and phrases like “rape,” “sexually violent predator,” and “internet predator” are scripted alongside of “sex offender” so as to ensure that the average voter gets the message: that all sex offenders, every last one of them, are vile vermin who are to be vigorously monitored by law enforcement—and everyone from the state house to the White House is determined to continue the ruse.

The reality is that only 28 of North Carolina's 17,000 registered sex offenders (less than 1/20th of one percent) have been certified as sexually violent predators. And only 1.2% of registered sex offenders were convicted of a serious and violent rape, most of whom remain behind bars for lengthy sentences.*

“This is simply further evidence that registered sex offenders have become a suspect class that is so overwhelmingly despised that politicians such as Richard Burr, Josh Stein, Roy Cooper, and even so called 'civil rights leader' Debra Ross believe it's perfectly normal to attack their human dignity, humiliate their families, and pay millions of dollars for campaign ads designed to elicit visceral, hate-filled animus as a motivation to vote one way or another. It's reprehensible,” stated Robin Vanderwall, president of North Carolina RSOL.

“We have not seen anything this low, or this despotic, or this demeaning of human beings since the Democratic primary of 1950 where the campaign of Willis Smith doctored photos of his opponent, Frank Porter Graham, dancing with his wife by substituting images of a black woman in his wife's place. There is no doubt in my mind that all of these candidates think of sex offenders—registered citizens of North Carolina—in the exact same way that Willis Smith thought about a white man dancing with a black woman so many years ago.

“The real intent is to dehumanize, ostracize, and galvanize public sentiment against registered sex offenders in a despicable effort to win over the votes of people inspired by such abhorrent and barbaric sentimentality,” Vanderwall concluded.

North Carolina RSOL was organized and incorporated in early 2016 when several registrants and their supporters formed to create a more visible presence throughout the state after being urged on by reports of resurgent legislative efforts to enact tougher laws against North Carolina's more than 12,000 registered sex offenders.

**All relevant statistical data was collected from the North Carolina Sex Offender Registry.*

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