

Amy Block DeLoach

Media Report

Draft

July 6, 2022

Part I Introduction

This report reviews electronically available news stories on Amy Block DeLoach, candidate for the NC House, District 20.

The Table of Contents in **Part II** of the report is a useful guide to the entire report and can be used as a stand-alone summary. In one section, it surveys the bulk of the news file, through the headlines we have assigned to each item.

Part III, the **Greatest Hits** section, identifies key points taken from available media articles.

Parts IV, **The News File**, contain edited copies of the most relevant electronically available stories.

We hope you find this useful.

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Part III DeLoach: Greatest Hits from Media Review

Website Profile

There is very little in terms of media pieces about DeLoach despite the fact she comes from a distinguished family background in the state. This is from her website.

- As a native of New Hanover County, serving the Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach communities runs in Amy's blood. Amy's grandmother, Hannah Block, served the community as Mayor Pro Tempore of the Wilmington City Council, supported our troops during WWII at the USO (now the Hannah Block Historic USO), and helped create key events for the Azalea Festival, among many others.
- Amy's father, Frank Block, employed hundreds of New Hanover County residents at the Block Southland shirt factory before serving three terms in the North Carolina State Senate.
- Amy's mother, Wendy Block, served our community on the boards of Thalian Hall and the NC Battleship Commission. She led the efforts to raise money to build Wilmington's Hospice facility as well as funding for a wide variety of other charities. Both Hannah and Wendy were awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the Governor for their lifetimes of service to our communities, including North Carolina overall.
- Amy has continued this tradition by serving on the boards of The Children's Museum of Wilmington and the Bellamy Mansion Museum. She has also served on the Advisory Council of the Rape Crisis Center of Coastal Horizons Center, and as president for elementary, middle, and high school PTAs at her children's schools. Amy currently volunteers with A Safe Place, an organization that combats human trafficking in our community, and is serving as President of Bnai Israel Congregation. Amy is excited to be continuing her family's tradition of service by joining the race to serve as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives representing House District 20.
- Beyond tradition, Amy has stated, "I'm running for this seat because too many common-sense policies, like expanding Medicaid, are being passed over in the General Assembly while dangerous partisan policies, like banning books in schools loom." If elected, Amy will put the interests of her district above partisan politics. She will fight for policies that members of the Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach communities, and indeed all of North Carolina, needs such as protection of our water, improving education and childcare, expanding access to healthcare, and protecting women's reproductive rights.
- Amy will listen to voters in shaping her priorities. She views honesty as a central service component and will remain accessible to voters who wish to discuss their concerns and ideas.
- With the principles of service, commitment, and honesty, Amy Block DeLoach is excited to be throwing her "hat in the ring" for the North Carolina State House of Representatives from District 20. (<https://amyblockdeloach.com/>)

Issues (From Website)

Her website reveals more about her stance on issues than media coverage does.

Healthcare

- Amy believes in common sense policies like expanding Medicaid and lowering the outrageous costs of prescription drugs in order to help people in need. There are extreme inequities in the current system and Amy is committed to helping more families and communities access quality health insurance.

The Environment

- Clean air and clean water are fundamental human rights. Too long have polluters been allowed to poison our natural resources, and it's time our legislature took a stand. Amy is not only committed to implementing regulations that will protect our public lands and resources but also seeks to make North Carolina a leader in the fight against climate change by investing in renewable energy projects across the state.

Education and Childcare

- Amy is dedicated to improving communities across North Carolina and she sees investing in public education and childcare as a way to not only lift up future generations but relieve some of the strain on working parents today. Amy wants to change the conversation away from culture war topics, such as banning books, and towards solutions such as expanded Pre-K, improved teacher pay, and reliable internet in every classroom. We need to ensure that every child in the state can receive a quality education.

Protecting Women

- Women's rights and bodies are under attack around the country, and we must protect women from losing access to essential services and healthcare. Amy believes that we must fight for women by protecting their right to choose, cracking down on workplace discrimination and domestic violence, and expanding services such as prenatal care and paid family leave.

Affordable Housing

- There is a growing housing shortage in North Carolina that is raising prices and hurting those most in need. Amy will reach across the aisle and pursue policies that will not only sustainably expand the number of affordable housing units but will also boost existing programs and crack down on discrimination in the lending process.

Protecting our Democracy

- There may be no issue more important than ensuring free and fair elections. To Amy, that means reducing the partisan gerrymandering and protecting every person's right to vote. Voting is a sacred right in this country and Amy believes in making it easier, rather than harder, to exercise that right.

Transparency and Access

- As a citizen, Amy believes that there isn't enough honesty or transparency in our political system. As an elected representative, Amy will ensure that her constituents have access to her so they can help shape her priorities. Amy isn't running to represent corporations or cater to powerful special interests, she wants to improve the lives of everyday North Carolinians. To Amy, that means listening to you. (<https://amyblockdeloach.com/priorities/>)

Miscellaneous

B'Nai Synagogue

DeLoach has been an active member of the B'Nai Israel Synagogue and was the first ever president of that Synagogue (an administrative position), elected to a two year term in 2006.

- A bold mantra hangs in the hallway leading to Amy B. DeLoach's kitchen: **"The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality."** Dante.
- DeLoach lives by that saying whether in crisis or calm. **"I have an opinion about everything,"** said the petite Sandra Bullock look-alike. She is also a trailblazer in her faith - having recently been elected the first female synagogue president at B'Nai Israel Synagogue, a 108-year-old conservative Jewish congregation on Chestnut Street. (Before her, the first woman elected to the board was in 1984.)
- The congregation elected her to two-year position in November. A synagogue president chairs meetings and announces synagogue business at the end of each service; DeLoach also hopes to reach out more to a growing, local unaffiliated Jewish community.
- DeLoach knows a female president will be an adjustment because of traditional Jewish beliefs about a women's involvement in synagogue. At one time, for instance, women weren't allowed to stand in the pulpit area. **"I am sure there were people who were against it, theologically," she said. "Judaism is just coming around to this woman thing."**
- Rabbi Robert Waxman, spiritual leader of the synagogue, said he thought that now was the appropriate time in DeLoach's life for "synagogue leadership because it should parallel children's involvement in the synagogue." With her three children near bar and bat mitzvah age, now is an active time for DeLoach.

- When DeLoach was growing up, she knew what a good Jewish girl should do - marry a nice Jewish boy (though she married a Methodist), stay home and take care of the kids. But a woman should never step in the altar area or read from the Torah during synagogue services. That was the realm of men. Today is different. It's time for a woman to lead, she said.
- "And I'm the safest thing they could have done," DeLoach said, smiling. She says that because her family is old Jewish Wilmington to the core. Her grandfather, William Block, was congregation president when it was still on Walnut Street in the early 1900s. Her father, former senator Frank Block, was president in the 1970's and 1990's. And her mother was a president of the Sisterhood organization there.
- Her father is proud of his daughter's achievement. "It's not a religious position, but purely administrative, so I see no religious reason at all why she shouldn't be in that position," Block said. "I'm very proud she was the first."
- Leading the synagogue is part of giving "back to your family, your God and your community," she said. **"To me, this is about continuing the tradition. . . I have the trust of the old families and I know the new families, too."** (Star-News, 2/4/06)

She will likely play up this part of her background extensively.

Not a Big Paper Trail

Even the liberal blog Watauga Watch acknowledged it was hard to find too much about her past actions and positions. But he suggested this lack of a paper trail could win GOP swing voters.

- My problem has been with documenting her actual activities. Other than sitting on non-profit boards, she never got her name in the press on the World Wide Web for leading something, steering something, organizing for a cause -- no mentions of her passions, her organizational skills, her sweat equity in service to a particular cause. If she's been engaged in active politics in the recent past, I can't find the trail. Her one talking-head video posted on her website hits all the liberal sacred cows (pro-choice, for expanding Medicaid, pro-environment, against banning books). Her pitch is for "common-sense and moderation," which points vaguely at the far-out, extremist, radical nature of the new Trump Republican Party. DeLoach, despite the greenhorn patina, could appeal mightily to the suburban Republican and Unaffiliated women of southeast Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach. (Watauga Watch Blog, 7/6/22)

Part IV DeLoach: The News File, 1995-2022

1995

JUL 1995 Treasurer - New Hanover County Democrats

A group of New Hanover County Democrats is expected to denounce the recent actions of one of their own: District Attorney Jerry Spivey.

The executive committee of the New Hanover County Democratic Party will meet Monday to decide whether to issue a statement about Mr. Spivey's use of a racial slur last week while he was drunk at a bar.

Democratic officers who met last Monday "wholly condemned" Mr. Spivey's actions and decided his apologies were not enough to make amends, said party Chairman Jim Lea.

Their position came only days after Mr. Spivey admitted he got drunk and became involved in a scuffle at Clarence Foster's, a Wrightsville Beach bar.

Witnesses said Mr. Spivey called Denver Bronco football player Ray Jacobs a "nigger," prompting a shoving match that resulted in the district attorney's expulsion from the bar.

"I feel it would be in the best interest of the whole community for Mr. Spivey to step down," said Joselia Davis, the party's first vice chairman. "The main thing is not just the racial overtones, but the heavy use of alcohol."

The position taken by the six Democratic Party officers will be discussed Monday by the executive committee, which has more than 80 members.

In addition to Ms. Davis and Mr. Lea, the other four officers who met this week are: Second Vice Chairman Ken Watkins, Third Vice Chairman Fran Castillo, Treasurer Amy Block DeLoach and Secretary Charlie West. (Wilmington Star-News, 7/7/95)

2002

AUG 2002 B’Nai Israel Synagogue Member

On Sunday, the rabbi and about 60 members of B’Nai Israel Synagogue boated to Masonboro Island for tashlich - the annual throwing away of sins.

For the first time, the synagogue held the event at the beach.

After prayer and song, the group cast bread into the water, representing letting go of their wrongdoings from the past year.

”I’m going to dunk myself I’ve got so many sins,” said Jerry Fox, a key organizer, who like almost everyone was wearing a swimsuit.

Layered with symbols, the event calls for the “sins” to be thrown in water inhabited by fish because - like God - fish always have their eyes open, said Adam Moskowitz, a 10th-grader at New Hanover High School.

Performed for centuries, tashlich accompanies the Jewish high holy days, as preparation for God’s judgment for the following year, Rabbi Waxman said.

This year Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, begins at sundown on Sept. 6. Yom Kippur, the religion’s holiest day, is Sept. 16.

Usually, participating B’Nai Israel congregants do tashlich at a creek near the synagogue on Chestnut Street, the rabbi said.

But with the holidays coming early this year, it was a good time for “totally tubular tashlich,” he said, referring to the numerous kids bobbing in inner tubes.

Normally a modestly attended affair, this was the biggest tashlich ever, Rabbi Waxman said.

”It’s never been this big a deal before,” agreed Amy DeLoach, a lifelong member of the synagogue. “It’s good for the kids.”

Afterward, people gathered for a barbecue as others swam or played volleyball. To ensure everything was kosher, they flew in the hamburgers, hot dogs and salads from Charlotte, Mr. Fox said. (Wilmington Star News, 8/26/02)

DEC 2002 Co-President Alderman PTA

After learning that three students at Alderman Elementary School were charged with drug possession, Amy DeLoach sat down and talked to her children about it.

"I asked them how they would handle it if they saw someone with drugs at school," she said. "Then, I told them to contact an adult as soon as they could."

Ms. DeLoach, co-president of the Alderman PTA, also told them to call home if they felt they couldn't tell someone at school.

"I wanted them to know it's OK to tell," she said.

Principal Julie Duclos said an "extremely small" amount of marijuana was discovered in a classroom Tuesday after the school counselor was told about the drugs being present. The principal said they were hidden in the classroom, but she wouldn't say where.

She said interviews with witnesses led school officials to the three students. They were automatically suspended for 10 days in accordance with New Hanover County Board of Education policy. Dr. Duclos and the school resource officer also met with the parents of each child.

"We are taking it very seriously," she said.

Dr. Duclos said she couldn't provide any other information about the situation because it involves students. School board policy prohibits school officials from identifying students when incidents occur.

Maggie Murden, co-president of the Alderman PTA, said she was shocked by what happened, but it showed her that it could happen anywhere.

"It emphasizes the need for parents to stay close to their children and to keep the lines of communication open," she said. "Kids are getting exposed to drugs at an earlier age. It is rare. But drugs are out there."

Ms. Murden and Ms. DeLoach stressed that Alderman Elementary is a safe school.

"It's a very disturbing situation," Ms. DeLoach said. "But I am thankful that if this type of thing is going on that Alderman was on its toes to catch this and to help the children. The Alderman personnel handled it perfectly." (Wilmington Star-News, 12/19/02)

APR 2003 Grandfather, Chancellor of UNC at Wilmington

She and the group of volunteers sent out invitations to about 200 addresses, but only about half responded. Readers can try dishes enjoyed by familiar names including Amy Deloach, granddaughter of Hannah Block, and James Leutze, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. (Star-News, 4/9/03)

2005

JAN 2005 Preschool at Synagogue

Wilmington's B'Nai Israel Synagogue will open its doors in the fall for daily instruction of preschool-age children.

"It is a structured, curriculum-based school with an emphasis on Jewish tradition," said board member Amy DeLoach.

A project that has been in the making since April 2004, the Friedman-Neuwirth Preschool will introduce (children) to Hebrew letters and Jewish prayers, songs and stories. It will also provide what it deems developmentally appropriate educational content through the use of movement, art, music and play activities.

Children of all faiths may be considered for admission, but preference will be given to children whose families attend B'Nai Israel or Temple of Israel Synagogue.

Conceived by a small group of B'Nai congregants, the idea for a preschool with a distinctly Jewish orientation and instructional setting evolved when the sons of one of the synagogue's former rabbis donated a substantial grant earmarked for outreach.

Board member James Felds recalled that the decision to use the money for education seemed only natural.

"There are a lot of young Jewish parents who would prefer to send their children to a Jewish school," Mr. Felds said. "Where before they had no choice, now they will."

Mrs. DeLoach said plans to move forward with the preschool also helped many congregants re-examine their culture's history and its traumatic trouble spots.

"For decades, Jews in Wilmington have been proud of their Jewish heritage. But now we're beginning to celebrate our Jewish heritage," Mrs. DeLoach said.

Steffaney Cohen, mother of two preschoolers, said she welcomes the many opportunities the school will provide, both socially and culturally. It's often difficult, she said, to find other couples with children who share the same religious and cultural traditions.

"The most important thing is for my children to be with other Jewish children," said Mrs. Cohen. "You have to work very, very hard to find other Jewish families and kids."

And then there's ritual, a defining characteristic of Judaic culture.

Mrs. Cohen said her children "get excited over weekly rituals like Shabbat," a day set aside by Jews to observe centuries-old traditions.

"My kids go around all week asking when we will celebrate Shabbat," she said. "In this way, it also keeps me mindful of the importance of tradition."

Just as in Christian denominations, Mr. Felds said, children reach a certain age and stop attending worship. He is hopeful that if the preschool catches children's interests early, they will continue to return throughout adolescence and young adulthood.

The preschool will be open to children 3-5 years old and will operate 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. If enough parents of 2-year-olds express interest in the program, it might expand. Preschool staffers are currently accepting applications.

Rabbi S. Robert Waxman, spiritual and educational leader of B'Nai Israel Synagogue, is excited about the preschool's opening and the value it will add to the life of the congregation.

"The preschool is a tremendous form of outreach for families and their children. Where young kids are interested, there is tremendous energy to promote our culture," Rabbi Waxman said. (Wilmington Star News, 1/26/05)

FEB 2006 First Ever Woman President of Synagogue

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two-year position in November. A synagogue president chairs meetings and announces synagogue business at the end of each service; DeLoach also hopes to reach out more to a growing, local unaffiliated Jewish community.

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Rabbi Robert Waxman, spiritual leader of the synagogue, said he thought that now was the appropriate time in DeLoach's life for "synagogue leadership because it should parallel children's involvement in the synagogue." With her three children near bar and bat mitvah age, now is an active time for DeLoach.

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Today is different. It's time for a woman to lead, she said.

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HER GOALS

Synagogue president Amy DeLoach is starting Friday night dinners with speakers to attract teenagers and young families to the synagogue. She also wants to begin a "Havdalah and Cocktails" service that celebrates the end of the Shabbat or Sabbath at sundown on Saturday nights, entailing a brief 15-minute candlelit service of prayers and blessings, fragrant spices and a drink. (Star-News, 2/4/06)

AUG 2006 Pro-Israel Rally at Synagogue

On the saddest night in Jewish history - the day the second temple was destroyed, - Dvir Peretz told a crowd of about 150 Jews and supporters of Israel how Palestinians killed his best friend when he was a boy.

That was the incident that prompted him to serve in the Israeli Army for six years when he became a man.

Speaking at the "We Stand with Israel" rally at B'Nai Israel Synagogue on Wednesday, Peretz said of the current Arab-Israeli conflict: "If they (the Palestinians) would love their children more than they hate us, we will have peace with them. But it's hard for me to believe we'll have peace with them until Hezbollah is eliminated."

The Jewish community organized the rally to both raise money to help maintain social services to displaced Israeli citizens and to show solidarity for Israel on the holy day of Erev Tisha b'Av.

"The second temple was destroyed this day," said Rabbi Robert Waxman, leader of the synagogue, "so it's fitting we're here tonight to say never again." (B'Nai Israel means "Children of Israel" in Hebrew.)

Speakers at the event included U.S. military personnel, representatives of Jewish organizations such as Hadassah and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and a speechwriter for the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. A letter of support for Israel from U.S. Sen. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., also was read.

"I stand with all of you in strong support of Israel and its unfailing hope of independence," the letter said. "Israel should always be allowed to defend itself."

From his experiences fighting insurgents in Iraq, Zach Iscol, a local Marine and recipient of the bronze star, gave a cautionary tale of Israel's use of military force in Lebanon.

"Israel has an obligation to win. But is there a better way of dealing with these challenges than using overwhelming force?" he said. "I hope Israel will learn from the tough lessons we are learning in Iraq. ... The battlefield of the future is in the marketplace. Opening trade schools, opening hospitals, empowering

women to be a moderating force for peace and empowering Palestinian moderates with health care, education and social services. . .I hope that somehow Israel finds a way to choose life."

The rally, with all its pro-Israel rhetoric, was also a prayer service with call-and-response prayers read for the redemption of the captive Israeli soldiers, for Israel and "that all the displaced, Arab and Jew, will be rooted again."

Roslyn Lasar, a member of B'Nai Israel, attended because "Every good deed helps, as the rabbis say. Israel's our only democracy in that area. We must support Israel."

On a night when Jews around the world were saying the same prayers, B'Nai Israel's president, *Amy DeLoach*, said it felt good to be with people who knew her sadness - about Israel and innocent people in Lebanon.

"We want to help the people of Lebanon. We hate to see their suffering," she said. "But without Israel, I don't know what would happen."

The rally ended with the singing of the Israeli National Anthem and other songs of peace such as Shalom Rav.

Its lyrics, a prayer. "Pray for peace for us, for Israel, for all humanity." (Wilmington Star News, 8/3/06)

2012

JUN 2012 Mother Obituary

The following information was released by the Jewish Federations of North America:

The Jewish Federations of North America mourns the passing of Wendy Block, z"l, of Wilmington, N.C. Block passed away Monday at the age of 72, after a long battle with cancer.

A dedicated supporter of Jewish Federations, Block held numerous major roles at JFNA and its predecessor, United Jewish Communities. A philanthropic leader in the small Jewish community of Wilmington, Block in 2006 became national chair of JFNA's Network of Independent Communities. She provided guidance, support and vision for the more than 300 small, vibrant Jewish communities across North America that make up the Network.

Block was also involved in National Women's Philanthropy (NWP), serving as campaign vice chair and NWP Board member. Last year, JFNA awarded her the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award, which recognizes extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism. She will be honored posthumously at the International Lion of Judah Conference in New York City this September.

"Wendy was not a just a special friend to me, but a special person. She was warm and friendly - everyone was Wendy's friend. And she was a great fundraiser, especially when it came to Israel," said Eileen Schwartz, an advisory council member of the NWP Board.

In addition to her Federation work, Block was passionately committed to local Jewish organizations. She served as president of the B'nai Israel Sisterhood and president of the local Hadassah. She and her husband endowed a chair in Jewish history at the University of North Carolina Wilmington in memory of her mother-in-law, Hannah Block.

In Wilmington, Block served on the boards of New Hanover Regional Medical Center and the New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation. Block led a campaign to raise \$2 million to build the Robert Fales Pavilion for the Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCare Center. She also served on the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission, and was a board member for the Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, where she co-chaired the capital campaign for the historic theater's renovation.

"Wendy was a force of nature. When she decided to get involved in something, you knew it was going to be successful," said Bruce Moskowitz, president of UJA Wilmington. "In the Wilmington, N.C. community and beyond, she was a tireless worker on behalf of numerous causes, both Jewish and otherwise. However at the end of the day, Wendy always made it clear that Jews needed to look after other Jews. If not us, who?"

"Wendy loved life, loved to laugh, loved her family and friends. The Wilmington Jewish community is a far better place thanks to Wendy, and her shoes cannot be filled."

To honor her many local commitments, Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo last week presented Block with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of North Carolina's highest public-service honors, on behalf of Gov. Beverly Perdue.

With the oft-spoken words, "There, but for the grace of G-d, go I," Block encouraged so many across North America to support the Jewish community around the globe. "The Jewish people can always be relied on to do the right thing when our fellow Jews are in need," she once said. "We will not - we absolutely cannot - let these people down."

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 27 at B'Nai Israel Synagogue at 2601 Chestnut St. in Wilmington, N.C. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation, Lower Cape Fear Hospice, UNCW, Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Cameron Art Museum or JFNA's Network of Independent Communities.

Block is survived by her husband of 53 years, Frank Block; her children Steven Block and his wife Leslie, Amy Deloach and her husband Mark, and Ellen Engelhardt and her husband Steve; and her grandchildren Katie, Charles, Graham, Jessi, William, Annie and Georgia.

May the entire Block family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and may her memory be forever as a blessing. (Press Release, 6/26/12)

2022

JUN 2022 Polling Suggests No GOP Wave?

Thanks to Carolina Forward for this bombshell:

Last week, our research team discovered leaked Republican polling on key NC state legislative races. Here's how it works.

When state-level Republicans want national, DC-based GOP organizations to pay for key campaign activities like polling, there are certain campaign finance legal hoops they must jump through. Those organizations can conduct the polling, but they must post it somewhere "public" for the North Carolina GOP to "find" it. Usually, this is by posting it somewhere obscure.

Well - this time, we found that polling . And it tells a very different story than you've probably heard in the media. Republican polling shows that several Carolina Forward Slate candidates - and many beyond it - are running in a dead heat, or narrowly ahead, of their Republican opponents:

Rep. Howard Hunter (NC House District 5): +7%

Amy DeLoach (NC House District 20): -0.9%

Christy Clark (NC House District 98): -1.7%

Sen. Sydney Batch (NC Senate District 17): +3%

... And beyond the Carolina Forward Slate:

Frank McNeil (NC Senate District 21): -0.7%. GOP incumbent: Sen. Tom McInnis

Christine Kelly (NC House District 37): +1.2%. GOP incumbent: Rep. Erin Paré

Rep. James Gailliard (NC House District 25): +0.3%

Again: this is Republican-sponsored polling, intended for internal use by their legislative caucus and partners.

So, what does this all mean? Here are our takeaways:

At a bare minimum: there's just no evidence - in 15 separate polls all across the state - for any sort of "red wave" building for the 2022 election

In previous cycles, polling in June/July was strongly indicative of November results

Cheri Beasley is running tied, or slightly ahead, of Ted Budd in all of the closest districts (Watauga Watch. 6/20/22)

JUL 2022 Watauga Watch Profile

NC House District 20 in New Hanover County down on the coast ranks high on

Carolina Forward's 2022 slate

for potentially flipping a Republican district. Right now, the seat is held by old possum Ted Davis, who, I'm happy to remind everyone, when he was a county commish, he turned down aid from the state for free contraceptives for Hanover County teenage girls: "If these young women are being responsible and didn't have the sex to begin with, we wouldn't have this problem to begin with," he huffed. There's living in the real world, and then there's Ted Davis.

NCFree rates the district R+3. Dave's Redistricting puts it 48% D v. 49.1% R. Looks doable.

Amy Block DeLoach (D)

That name Block stands for royalty of a sort, both civic and cultural. Amy DeLoach's grandmother, Hannah Block, became Mayor Pro Tempore of the Wilmington City Council in the '60s, had headed the local USO in the '40s (the building is now known as "Hannah Block Historic USO"), and became big in the early years of the Azalea Festival (started 1948) as a key mover. Amy's father, Frank Block, owned the Block Southland shirt factory, served three terms in the North Carolina State Senate, and endowed the Charles and Hannah Block Distinguished Professorship in Jewish History at UNCW. "Named after their mother and father, the professorship serves to provide UNCW students the opportunity to learn from distinguished faculty about a culture and history that is near and dear to the Blocks" (Wrightsville Beach Mag). Amy's mother, Wendy Block, served on the boards of Thalian Hall and the NC Battleship Commission. She led the efforts to raise money to build Wilmington's Hospice facility as well as other charities. Both Grandmother Hannah and Mother Wendy were awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the Governor for their lifetimes of service. Amy is active (as president) in the 120-year-old conservative B'nai Israel congregation in Wilmington.

Why, that's Junior League-level prominence.

DeLoach belongs to a noble eleemosynary heritage and evidently practices it herself, volunteering on various non-profit boards (her website lists several, all in keeping with family tradition), but this is her first foray into elective office, following her grandmother's path. My problem has been with documenting her actual activities. Other than sitting on non-profit boards, she never got her name in the press on the World Wide Web for leading something, steering something, organizing for a cause -- no mentions of her passions, her organizational skills, her sweat equity in service to a particular cause. If she's been engaged in active politics in the recent past, I can't find the trail. Her one talking-head video posted on her website hits all the liberal sacred cows (pro-choice, for expanding Medicaid, pro-environment, against banning books). Her pitch is for "common-sense and moderation," which points vaguely at the far-out, extremist, radical nature of the new Trump Republican Party. DeLoach, despite the greenhorn patina, could appeal mightily to the suburban Republican and Unaffiliated women of southeast Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach.

In addition to Carolina Forward, she's been endorsed by Lillian's List and Climate Slate. Her Twitter feed is lively, where she's establishing a platform, forming a progressive identity. (Watauga Watch, 7/6/22)