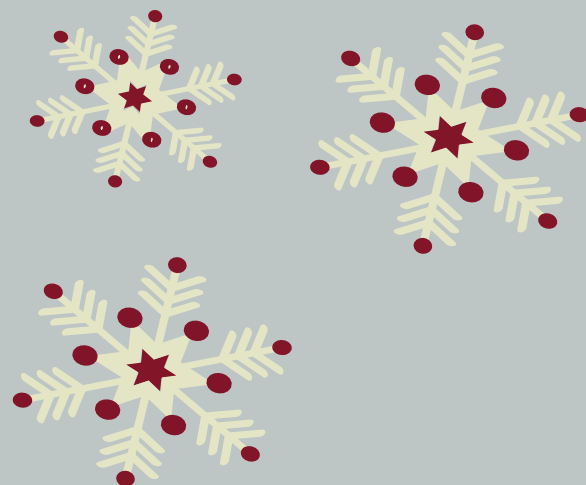


Naughty & Nice

This is our annual list of those in NC who deserve to get everything on their wish lists from Santa, and those who should get only lumps of coal. We're sure there are many who could be added to the list; we'll keep them in mind for N&N next year!



NAUGHTY: **Dr. E. Lee Cooley**, the State Board of Elections (SBE) employee who traveled around the state giving “advice” that amounted to tips on how to evade the election laws. She already got one lump of coal, by being fired from the board. But she deserves another for such egregious behavior. And as for the other naughty girls and boys at the SBE ...

NICE: Alamance County **Sheriff Terry Johnson**, who won our Audentia Award for standing firm in a legal battle against the U.S. Department of Justice. The award was given in recognition of his steadfastness in the face of false accusations of racism from the Justice Department. Instead of making a deal to make these charges go away, he stood his ground because he knew that backing down and was wrong.

NAUGHTY: **People in Wake County** who voted for an increase in the sales tax to fund an inefficient and wildly expensive transit plan.

NICE: **Legislators** who voted for more tax cuts in 2016 – in this case by increasing the standard deduction amount, for a projected tax cut of \$145 million this year.

NAUGHTY: The **Human Rights Campaign**, the Washington, D.C.-based organization responsible for funding and orchestrating the Charlotte bathroom ordinance that caused the state legislature to pass HB2.

NICE: **Budget writers** who set aside another \$475 million into the state's Rainy Day Fund this year, bringing the total to \$1.6 billion. This puts NC on much more sound footing as the inevitable next recession looms.

NAUGHTY: Superior Court **Judge Mike Morgan** for failing to recuse himself from a Voter ID case that would have impacted an election he was running in and would win: the race for the NC Supreme Court. Plus, he gave \$1,500 to the Bladen County Improvement Association, a group accused of vote fraud in the election.

NICE: The 4.6 million **North Carolinians** who came out to make their voices heard at the polls this year. Our system depends on eligible citizens voting.

NAUGHTY: A slew of **federal judges**: those who struck down commonsense elections reforms; those who threw out the state's congressional maps just weeks before the election, throwing the process into disarray; and those who just threw out the state legislative maps and demanded that NC draw new districts and hold elections again in 2017.

NICE: **Legislators** who approved expansions of school choice programs in the state by increasing funding for both the Opportunity Scholarship and Disabilities Grant programs.

NAUGHTY: **Legislators** who failed to get behind the Regulatory Reduction Act of 2016, which would have been a step toward cutting down the red tape that hinders job growth in NC.

NICE: **State leaders** who championed a gift that really does keep on giving: unemployment reform. Conservative legislators got a lot of flak for the changes

in 2013, but by this year the fruits had become evident: NC paid off a big debt to Washington, and the ranks of the unemployed shrank. Moreover, claimants and job seekers got far faster and better help from the Division of Unemployment Security under the tutelage of Dale Folwell. That may have helped persuade voters to give him an early present in November: victory in the race for state treasurer.

NAUGHTY: State Treasurer **Janet Cowell**, for joining the boards of two companies while she was still in charge of \$90 billion in state assets. The treasurer cannot afford to appear to have the slightest appearance of a conflict of interest.

NICE: The **concerned citizens** all over the state who devoted their time and resources to investigating possible voting irregularities. These North Carolinians play a crucial role in keeping election officials on their toes and keeping elections honest.

NAUGHTY: In a holdover from late December 2015, the **Academic Standards Review Commission**, for failing to scrap Common Core. The commission was charged with coming up with better standards, but at the deadline failed to do so, leaving students and schools in the lurch.

“NICE”: To **Duke University**, for providing housing for 240 students at “1 Duke University Road” in Durham – or, at least, that's what their same-day registrations said. But curious observers couldn't find any housing at that location. Were student voters bad boys and girls who were lying about where they lived?

NAUGHTY: To **UNC campus administrators** whose obsession over safe spaces and microaggression stunts student development and leaves most ill-equipped to deal with the real world.

NICE: To the selfless **North Carolinians** who chipped in to help the state recover from the double-barreled devastation of Hurricane Matthew and this summer's wildfires. The courage and hardwork of these citizens helped mitigate the damage of two of the biggest natural disasters to hit our state in many years.

NAUGHTY: Organizations like the **NBA** and **NCAA** who hypocritically cancelled events in NC in alleged protest over HB2. Meanwhile, they hold events in places like China and the Bahamas – both with civil rights records far worse than even the harshest depiction of HB2.

NICE: **Forbes Magazine**, for naming North Carolina No. 2 on its list of “Best States for Business,” for the second year in a row; and also to **the employers** who have been hiring people at record rates in our state.

NICE: Supporters of Civitas (of course!).
Your help is essential to allowing us to fight for freedom – and win.