

## Modeling an R+15.6 Final Result and the Impact on Robinson's Campaign

While the projection of **R+4** offers Mark Robinson a plausible path to overcoming his **13.8% deficit**, it is worth exploring a scenario where Republicans achieve a **R+15.6% swing**—consistent with the swing observed in 2020 between early voting and the final result. If this shift occurs, it would significantly enhance Robinson’s chances.

### What an R+15.6% Election Would Look Like for Robinson

Assuming the same **15.4-point shift** observed in 2020 applies to the 2024 election:

- Republicans start with a **+0.2% lead** in early voting.
- Adding the **15.4-point swing** from Election Day turnout leads to a **R+15.6% final result**.

#### Impact on Robinson's Race

- **Current Poll Deficit:** Robinson trails by **13.8%** in the RCP average.
- **R+15.6 Swing Applied:**
  - Robinson would **overcome his polling deficit** with a **+1.8% margin** over Josh Stein.

In this scenario, Robinson would ride a wave of Republican momentum, surpassing Stein and potentially securing a win.

### Coattail Effect of a Trump +8 Victory in NC

According to **On Point Politics**, Trump is projected to win North Carolina by **8 points**. If Trump achieves this margin, it aligns closely with Robinson’s path to victory, as GOP voters are more likely to follow **straight-ticket voting patterns**.

- **If Trump wins by +8 points:** Robinson’s deficit would narrow further, as **down-ballot Republicans** often perform closely to the top of the ticket. With a Trump +8 margin, Robinson would likely be within **striking distance** even if the GOP lean only reaches **R+4**.

### Summary of Outcomes by Republican Lean

Election Lean	Robinson RCP Deficit (%)	Trump Margin Needed for Robinson	Projected Robinson Outcome
R+2	14	Trump +7	Trailing by 7
R+3	13	Trump +5	Trailing by 4
R+4	13	Trump +4	Close to parity
<b>R+15.6</b>	13.8	Trump +8 or more	<b>Winning by 1.8%</b>

### Conclusion: The Path to Victory Through GOP Momentum

With the **R+15.6% scenario**, Robinson can **overcome his polling deficit** and secure a victory. However, this requires:

1. **Sustained Republican momentum** in early voting and on Election Day.

2. **Strong alignment between Trump's margin** and down-ballot performance.
3. **Straight-ticket voting behavior** overcoming North Carolina's historical tendency for split-ticket voting.
4. **Unaffiliated voters breaking toward Republicans**, boosting Robinson's totals.

If these factors align, Robinson's campaign will have capitalized on shifting voter behavior and turnout, making a narrow but real victory achievable in North Carolina.

North Carolina's “**Day-Of**” turnout—the number of votes cast by Republicans (and the margin over Democrats)—has been a critical indicator in its elections. While exact GOP-specific day-of turnout isn't always broken out in public data, we can **estimate the “R+” (Republican advantage) margins** based on trends from the last **8 election cycles** (midterms and general elections) by using a combination of election results, voter behavior shifts, and early voting data.

Here’s a **cycle-by-cycle guess of R+ day-of margins** based on historical patterns:

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## NC GOP Day-Of Turnout Margins – 8 Past Cycles

1. **2022 Midterms** (U.S. Senate: Ted Budd vs. Cheri Beasley)
  - **R+10 to R+12**
    - Republicans dominated **same-day voting** while Democrats leaned heavily on **mail-in** and **early voting**.
    - Same-day voters skewed rural and conservative, providing a crucial boost to Budd’s Senate victory.
2. **2020 Presidential Election** (Trump vs. Biden)
  - **R+15**
    - The **GOP significantly outperformed** Democrats in same-day voting, offsetting Biden’s early/mail voting edge.
    - Trump ultimately won NC by **1.3 points**, driven by a large **Election Day surge** from rural and exurban areas.
3. **2018 Midterms**
  - **R+8 to R+10**
    - Though a “**blue wave**” **year nationally**, NC Republicans still had strong **same-day performance** due to the GOP’s strength in rural counties.
    - Early voting favored Democrats, but GOP voters came out hard on Election Day.
4. **2016 Presidential Election** (Trump vs. Clinton)
  - **R+18**
    - **Huge GOP advantage** in same-day turnout, especially in rural areas and smaller towns. Trump’s ground game focused on driving Election Day turnout, while Clinton had a modest early vote lead that wasn’t enough.
5. **2014 Midterms** (Thom Tillis vs. Kay Hagan - Senate)
  - **R+12 to R+15**
    - Republicans used a **strong Election Day advantage** to unseat Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan, narrowly winning despite Democrats doing well with early voters.
6. **2012 Presidential Election** (Romney vs. Obama)
  - **R+10**
    - Romney dominated **Election Day turnout**, securing his NC win. Obama relied heavily on early voters, but the day-of surge from Republicans proved decisive.
7. **2010 Midterms**
  - **R+12 to R+15**
    - A **red wave year** nationwide. Republicans came out in force on Election Day, flipping the NC General Assembly and gaining key Congressional seats.
8. **2008 Presidential Election** (Obama vs. McCain)
  - **R+5 to R+8**
    - Democrats dominated early voting, but Republicans did better on Election Day, narrowing the final margin. Obama's victory in NC (by **0.32 points**) was largely thanks to early/absentee voters.

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## Key Observations and Trends

- **Rural areas** heavily favor the GOP and are more likely to turn out on **Election Day** compared to urban Democrats who prefer early voting or mail-in ballots.
- In **midterms**, the **Republican R+ margin** tends to be higher, as GOP voters traditionally participate more reliably in off-cycle elections.
- The **Democratic reliance on early/mail voting** has grown since **2020**, leaving **same-day turnout to favor Republicans more significantly**.
- **GOP campaigns focus on driving turnout late** in the cycle through targeted ground operations, especially among rural, white, and non-college-educated voters.