# 1996 election - Christian-right races had mixed results

## A. Major races

- 1. U.S. Senate: Jesse Helms (R) v. Gantt (D)
  - Both moved to center Helms on abortion, Gantt on welfare & crime
  - Major predictor variables Table 6, attached
- 2. Governor: Robin Hayes (R) v. Jim Hunt (D)
  - Most important role for NC Christian right in 1996 was in primary contest
    - (1) Close and divisive race 50:46
    - (2) Religious purists > pragmatists (Charles Vinroot) in Republican primary
  - General election won easily by Hunt largest victory margin since 1980
    - (1) Hayes trailed Helms
      - (a) Republicans
      - (b) Political conservatives
      - (c) Christian-right identifiers
      - (d) Political moderates
- U.S. House of Representatives: CC backed two politically vulnerable incumbents that lost
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> District: David Funderburk (R) (motor-vehicle violation) v. Bob Etheridge (D) 46:53
  - 4th District: Fred Heineman (R) (defined mc as \$300-750k) v. David Price (D) 44:54 (Raleigh-Cary-Chapel Hill)

### II. 1998 elections

## A. Major races

- U.S. Senate election: Lauch Faircloth v. John Edwards
  - Faircloth campaign: late attempt to link Edwards to Clinton & impeachment
  - Edwards campaign: "New Democrat" centricism
  - Major predictor variables Table 6 handout
- U.S. House: National Republican Congressional Committee TV ads attempted to link Democratic incumbents to Clinton
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> District: State Senator Dan Page (R) unsuccessfully challenged incumbent Bob Etheridge
  - 4<sup>th</sup> District: Software executive Tom Roberg (R) unsuccessfully challenged David Price (D)
  - 8<sup>th</sup> District: open seat won by textile millionaire Robin Hayes (R) over Mike Taylor (D)

#### III. Both elections

- A. Electioneering on religious right
  - 1. Christian Coalition
  - FEC lawsuit
    - a. Endorsing candidates in phone-bank calls
    - b. Partisan voter guides
    - Partisan get-out-the-vote drives
- B. Counter-mobilization on religious left
  - 1. Interfaith Alliance
  - 2. Evangelicals for Social Action
  - Call to Renewal

Table 6
Logistic-Regression Odds Ratios of Support for the Republican Candidate in the 1990, 1996, and 1998 North Carolina U.S. Senate Elections

	Republican U.S. Senate Candidates		
Groups	1990 Helms	1996 Helms	1998 Faircloth
Republican identifiers	2.86***	4.86***	5.78***
Clinton impeachment supporters	na	na	2.72***
Believers that the sexual behavior of politicians is very important	na	na	1.96**
White Christian-right Protestants	na	na	1.62
Weekly-or-more church attenders	1.73*	0.84	1.19
Income	1.02	0.98	1.11
Education	0.95	0.90*	1.07
Age	1.01	1.01*	1.00
Nonwhites	0.16***	0.18***	0.26**
Democratic identifiers	0.30***	0.30***	0.32**
Females	0.56**	0.49***	0.40***
Urban dwellers	0.83	0.96	0.41***
(N)	(494)	(603)	(498)

<sup>\*</sup> p < 0.05 \*\* p < 0.01 \*\*\* p < 0.001

Sources: 1990 and 1996 data adopted from Swisher and Christian (1997, 71); 1998 data from the Fall 1998 Carolina Poll (IRSS).