

**NOTABLE NORTH CAROLINA****12 Things to Know About  
Former North Carolina 11<sup>th</sup> District Congressman and New Presidential  
Chief of Staff Mark Meadows<sup>1</sup>**

Compiled by [Mac McCorkle](#), [B.J. Rudell](#), and [Anna Knier](#)

**1. Friendship with His Recently Deceased Counterpart on the House Oversight Committee,  
Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD)**

Despite political differences, Rep. Meadows and recently deceased Democratic Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) developed an uncommonly strong friendship that helped bridge partisan divides on the procedures of the House Oversight Committee.

[NPR](#) | [Washington Post](#)

**2. A Founder of the House Freedom Caucus**

Along with outgoing Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney (a former South Carolina congressman), Rep. Meadows was one of the nine founding members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus in January 2015.

[Time](#) | [Washington Post](#) | [Pew Research Center](#)

**3. Support for Governmental Shutdown in the Cause of Limited Government**

A GOP attempt to stop implementation of the Affordable Care Act resulted in a 16-day government shutdown in October 2013. As a newly elected representative, Rep. Meadows helped galvanize the effort by circulating a letter urging the GOP House leadership to take action. The letter gained signatures of support from 79 GOP House members.

[CNN](#) | [Fox News](#) | [New York Daily News](#) | [Asheville Citizen-Times](#)

**4. Meadows Versus GOP House Speaker John Boehner**

On July 28, 2015, Rep. Meadows introduced H. Res. 385 to “vacate the chair”—a resolution to remove Speaker John Boehner. No House member had filed such a motion since 1910. Boehner announced his resignation as Speaker less than two months later on September 25, 2015.

[New York Times](#) | [National Review](#) | [Ballotpedia](#)

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<sup>1</sup> For historical background on recent chiefs of staff, see Chris Wipple, *The Gatekeepers: How the White House Chiefs Define Every Presidency* (2017).

## 5. Meadows Characterized Himself As a “Policy Wonk” and “Trivia Guy”

In an August 2015 interview, Meadows characterized himself a "policy wonk" and "trivia guy." He emphasized that he had made a special point of becoming an expert on the U.S. House’s complex rules.

[Daily Signal](#)

## 6. Confident—and Correct— About Trump’s 2016 Victory in North Carolina

According to the Washington Post’s Bob Woodward, top Trump campaign official Steve Bannon was growing increasingly worried about losing in North Carolina during the fall of 2016. But Meadows told Bannon shortly before the election: “I’m telling you, you do not need to come back to North Carolina. We’ve got this.”

[Woodward, \*Fear: Trump in the White House\* \(43\)](#)

## 7. Trump Criticized Meadows and Other House Freedom Caucus Members for Failing to Support Speaker Ryan’s Legislation in March 2017 Repealing the Affordable Care Act

In March 2017, Rep. Meadows and the Freedom Caucus opposed Speaker Ryan’s legislative proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Speaker Ryan had to withdraw the legislation. During the conflict, President Trump called out the congressman by name on Twitter: “If @RepMarkMeadows, @Jim\_Jordan and @RaulLabrador would get on board we would have both great healthcare and massive tax cuts & reform.” ([March 30, 2017](#)).

According to the [Asheville Citizen-Times](#), President Trump also tweeted: “The Freedom Caucus will hurt the entire Republican agenda if they don’t get on the team, & fast...” regarding a bill in the House to replace the Affordable Care Act.

Ultimately, on May 4, 2017, Rep. Meadows voted for revised repeal legislation from Speaker Ryan and helped the American Health Care Act of 2017 pass by a narrow 217-213 margin.

[Politico](#) | [House Vote Tally](#)

Three weeks after passage of the American Health Care Act of 2017, Rep. Meadows was presented with a Congressional Budget Office report showing that the legislation could significantly hurt people with preexisting conditions. He reportedly became “emotional” and “choked back tears,” promising to support changes to the bill in the Senate, and acknowledging “we will have failed” if the legislation could not adequately address those with preexisting conditions. However, in the end, the Senate did not take up the House bill and failed to pass its own version.

[Business Insider](#) | [Business Insider](#)

## 8. A 2018 Ethics Committee Reprimand

In November 2018, the House Ethics Committee reprimanded Rep. Meadows for failing to adequately address sexual harassment allegations against his former chief of staff and to protect the women who worked in his office from additional harassment and retaliation.

[The Hill](#) | [House Ethics Committee Report](#)

### 9. Support for the Only Woman in the GOP Primary to Replace Him in Congress

Rep. Meadows said his “original intent [was] to stay neutral in the race” to replace him in Congress. But from among the 12 candidates competing in the GOP primary—including one of the congressman’s former staff members—he endorsed the only female candidate: GOP activist and family friend Lynda Bennett. The endorsed candidate finished first in the March 3 primary with 22.7% of the vote. Since she did not exceed 30%, she will compete in a runoff election.

[Roll Call](#) | [Asheville Citizen-Times](#) | [Ballotpedia](#) | [WLOS ABC 13](#)

### 10. Rep. Meadows’ Bipartisan Election Reform

In September 2017, Rep. Meadows introduced election reform legislation entitled the PAPER Act. His legislation has not come up for a vote in the House but gained praise from the liberal Brennan Center for Justice. The bill directed the Election Assistance Commission to report to Congress on best practices for ensuring the cybersecurity of federal elections and for auditing election results. It would authorize grants to each eligible state to implement best practices or recommendations from a Department of Homeland Security Risk and Vulnerability Assessment of the state’s election system.

[Brennan Center, \*The State of Voting 2018\* \(p.7\)](#)

### 11. Paleontology and a Land Investment

Rep. Meadows purchased land in Dinosaur, Colorado a few months after attending a fossil hunt there in 2002. He sold the 134-acre property in 2016 to Answers in Genesis, a creationist organization.

[New Yorker](#)

12. Congressman Meadows' Voting Scorecards

Preference given to lifetime score when provided; otherwise score is for the most recent report:

Ranking Organization	Lifetime or Year or Congress	% Agreement (or Letter Grade Where Indicated)
<a href="#">American Civil Liberties Union</a>	116 <sup>th</sup>	21
<a href="#">AFL-CIO</a>	Lifetime	7
<a href="#">Americans for Prosperity</a>	Lifetime	93
<a href="#">Club for Growth</a>	Lifetime	90
<a href="#">U.S. Chamber of Commerce</a>	Lifetime	77
<a href="#">Children's Defense Fund Action Council</a>	116 <sup>th</sup>	Grade: F
<a href="#">Food Policy Action</a>	Lifetime	19
<a href="#">FRC Action</a>	2019	100
<a href="#">FreedomWorks</a>	Lifetime	94
<a href="#">Heritage Action</a>	116 <sup>th</sup>	98
<a href="#">Human Rights Campaign</a>	115 <sup>th</sup>	0
<a href="#">Humane Society Legislative Fund</a>	2019	8
<a href="#">The Leadership Conference</a>	Lifetime	0
<a href="#">League of Conservation Voters</a>	2019	1
<a href="#">NAACP</a>	115 <sup>th</sup>	6
<a href="#">National Education Association</a>	115 <sup>th</sup>	Grade: F
<a href="#">National Farmers Union</a>	2016	33.3
<a href="#">NIAC Action</a>	115 <sup>th</sup>	Grade: F
<a href="#">National Parks Action Fund</a>	116 <sup>th</sup>	7
<a href="#">National Taxpayers Union</a>	2018	73
<a href="#">NORML</a>	2016	Grade: D
<a href="#">NumbersUSA</a>	Lifetime	92
<a href="#">Planned Parenthood Action Fund</a>	2020	4