

## Questions for Ted Budd

*Letter to the Editor, [Brunswick Beacon](#), 12.29.22*

Mark Meadows represented NC's 11<sup>th</sup> District from 2013-2021, then became Donald Trump's Chief of Staff. Meadows produced thousands of text messages to the Jan. 6 Committee. One raises questions about the conduct of Senator-elect Ted Budd, currently representing NC's 13<sup>th</sup> District.

[On Dec. 22, 2020, Budd announced](#) he would object to the Electoral College Count on Jan. 6, 2021. On Dec. 23, Budd texted Meadows: "Anything I need to do to help get Robin H on the pardon list? I'm on the Jan 6 objector list in case there's anything to sync up on."

After the Capitol was cleared of rioters on Jan. 6, [Budd and 146 other Republicans voted to overthrow the 2020 election results](#). On Jan. 20, in his last moments as president, Trump pardoned Robin Hayes, who [represented](#) NC's 8<sup>th</sup> district in Congress from 1999-2008.

When he left office, Hayes was Congress' [fourth richest member](#), worth \$127 million. He then served as [Chair of the NC Republican Party](#) from 2011-2013 and again from 2016-2019, when he was indicted for bribery, conspiracy to commit fraud and making false statements in connection with what the Charlotte Observer called NC's "[worst political corruption scandal](#)." Hayes pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, saying " I apologize for what I've done. I'll live with this for as long as I live."

Did Budd request a pardon for Hayes? Did he object to the Electoral College Count to help obtain it? That would be "problematic," [said Brian Kalt](#), law professor at Michigan State University. "It sounds like he is sort of hinting at a quid pro quo."

Budd's request "could technically fit the definition of bribery, which is the exchange of official action for something of value," [said Albert Alschuler](#), professor emeritus at the University of Chicago Law School.

Budd owes his constituents an explanation. NC deserves answers.

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