

## Hoyle again survives Republican sweep

[Daniel Jackson](#)

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N.C. Sen. David Hoyle was the only Democrat to win a majority of Gaston County's votes Tuesday in a narrow victory over real estate agent Kathy Harrington.

Hoyle, who has represented District 43 since 1992, received 35,677 votes to Harrington's 33,623. But Hoyle's immediate reaction to the victory was hardly joyous because he said he was still upset over a string of attack ads mailed to voters and aired on television by the Harrington campaign.

Hoyle, whose political life began in 1967 when he was elected mayor of Dallas, said this was the nastiest opposition he's ever faced. He called Harrington's ads, "a pack of lies."

"I think I've had more slanderous things, more lies told about me than anybody in the history of North Carolina politics," Hoyle said. "I saw Mrs. Harrington on the campaign trail and I spoke to her and shook her hand. How anybody could look me in the eye after doing something like this, I don't know."

Harrington congratulated Hoyle and thanked her campaign staff, saying she was proud of the race she'd run against Hoyle.

"We've been working really hard since February and we did everything we could to win," Harrington said. "I'm proud we had so many great people that worked hard for something they believed in."

Despite the attacks, Hoyle said he is the only Democrat that gets the support of Gaston voters because they believe in him.

"I am proof that a person can win a campaign if they just stick to the positives. This was as bad as it gets," Hoyle said. "I tell people the truth ... It's over with. I've won. And I won the right way, with good people supporting me."

Like much of the nation, Gaston County is facing some challenges and Hoyle said he'd put his experience to work for Gaston people again in his ninth term.

"We've got some tough times coming," Hoyle said. "I'm going to Raleigh just as I have for the last 16 years."

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