

Public Policy Network of Western NC and North Georgia  
Candidate Profiles—NC Congressional District 11  
**Financial Security**

**Mark Meadows- Republican Incumbent**

Rep. Meadows' office indicated that they do not respond to surveys; however, PPN was able to identify several published statements by Rep. Meadows which address several policy issues which impact Financial Security in our region.

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- **Do you have any plans to ensure that vulnerable low-income, elderly and disabled individuals and families in North Carolina who rely upon Medicaid for their healthcare will NOT be negatively impacted by Congress' efforts to reduce the federal budget?**

On his website, Rep. Meadows states, "Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid must be at the center of any serious proposal to return spending to sustainable levels... Without reform, both Social Security and Medicare will be unable to fully meet their promises to the next generation of retirees and will enslave future generations with debt... I do not support seriously proposing radical changes to current or soon-to-be retirees' benefits. But if we are to continue providing these safety-nets for Americans in need we must renegotiate expectations with younger Americans. This could include increasing the retirement age for those just starting their careers, raising or eliminating the cap on payroll taxes for higher wage earners and creating incentives for personal retirement and health care savings."

"We must ensure that Social Security and Medicare are sustainable and seniors who depend on them are protected. I promise to work with my colleagues in Congress to get these programs back on track so they are available in the future for all Americans."

- **Do you believe the new federal tax legislation provides the greatest benefits to the wealthiest Americans? If so, what measures would you take to try to remedy the inequity?**

We were not able to find any published remarks by Rep. Meadows to address this; however, The New York Times reported that Rep. Meadows voted for the new federal tax law.

- **Do you support an increase North Carolina's minimum wage (to supplement the federal minimum wage)?**  
No information available
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**Jobs/Economic Development:**

Rep. Meadows' website states that that one of his top priorities is to ensure that "government creates an economic-friendly environment that will spur growth and help rebuild the economy of Western North Carolina and the nation." He says Congress must prioritize legislation that encourages job creation by keeping taxes low, paying down our national debt, controlling spending and eliminating waste, fraud and abuse within our government.

"Economic growth originates from the hard-working entrepreneurial spirit of the American people, not from Washington. The best thing we can do to reignite job growth in this country is to get the federal government out of the way of the American worker and ensure that the United States remains a top global economic competitor."

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**Sources cited:** <https://meadows.house.gov/issues/>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/us/politics/tax-bill-house-live-vote.html>

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**Phillip Price-Democratic Challenger**

- **Do you have any plans to ensure that vulnerable low-income, elderly and disabled individuals and families in North Carolina who rely upon Medicaid for their healthcare will NOT be negatively impacted by Congress' efforts to reduce the federal budget?**

Mr. Price's website describes the "Republican Game Plan," as "massive tax cuts for the rich that result in exploding deficits, then a call for reductions to Social Security, along with Medicare and Medicaid, to pay down those deficits they just created." Price acknowledges that adjustments to Social Security will be needed in order to continue funding it as Baby Boomers reach retirement, and people live longer. "Fortunately, the way to save and fund Social Security is already known. Currently, a cap on Social Security contributions means the wealthy—who just received that huge break on their income taxes—do not pay the same percentage as low and middle-income workers. They pay a fraction of a percentage of their income to cover Social Security. That needs to be more equitable. Millionaires and billionaires need to pay their fair share just like the rest of us. I will join with progressive Democrats to protect and expand Social Security so retirees and the disabled may live decent, meaningful lives.

- **Do you support an increase North Carolina's minimum wage (to supplement the federal minimum wage)?**

Mr. Price's website states, "We have had a minimum wage of \$7.25 for nine years. Nine years! No one can live on that. Yet every time the prospect of a \$15 per hour living wage is brought up, (Rep.) Meadows dismisses it. He says it will cost jobs, a stance that all too conveniently allows large corporations to hold down wages for everyone while cashing in as executive pay soars."

- **Do you believe the new federal tax legislation provides the greatest benefits to the wealthiest Americans? If so, what measures would you take to try to remedy the inequity?**

Mr. Price describes the new federal tax legislation as "nothing less than a trillion-dollar redistribution of wealth from the poor and middle class to the rich." He also questions whether Republicans in Congress will go forward with a push to "privatize Social Security, which would hand over management of our retirement to Wall Street, and put our future at risk in a volatile market," or whether they will simply "cut benefits, creating fears particularly for some who have been paying into Social Security for decades believing it would be their safety net in retirement."

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**Mr. Price's Job Development Proposals:** Mr. Price advocates for creation of jobs for western North Carolina that pay well, and the political leadership to push for policies that can help generate those kinds of jobs. He believes a single-payer "Medicare for All" health care system would generate more jobs because more employees would be needed to provide health care. Mr. Price also favors environmental policies that push green energy, which would create high tech job growth while protecting our tourism industry, as well as tuition-free education so our workers could be better trained to take on those high-tech jobs. Finally, he calls for "much-needed investment in our infrastructure," including repair and building of bridges and roads, and bringing high speed Internet and cellular service to rural areas of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Mr. Price feels these are essential to open up opportunities for businesses to grow, create more jobs, and hire more local workers to fill those jobs

**Source:** <https://www.price4wnc.org>