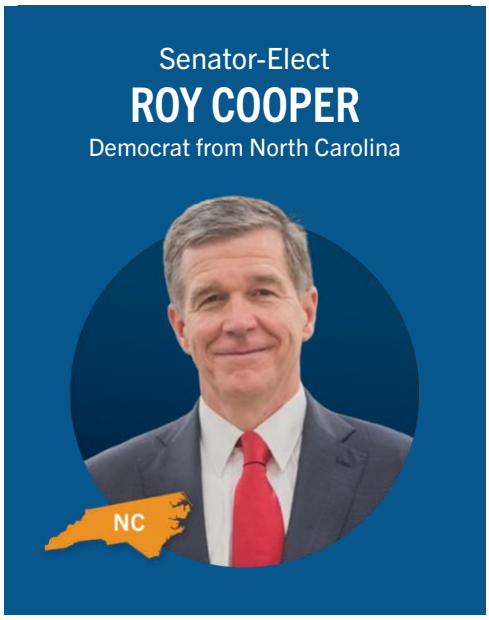


Background on the Senator-elect's statements, positions, and record on diplomacy, international assistance, and U.S. international affairs programs.

A North Carolina native and two-term governor, Roy Cooper connects international engagement to North Carolina's economy and communities. His 2024 Global Engagement Day proclamation said the state's well-being depends on "effectively engaging the rest of the world." Drawing on USGLC's North Carolina fact-sheet data, it highlighted 1.2 million trade-supported jobs and more than 23,000 international students, illustrating the reach of those ties across the state.

Before serving two terms as governor, Cooper served four terms as North Carolina attorney general and in both chambers of the state legislature, including as Senate majority leader.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY:

- At a July 2020 World Affairs Council of Charlotte event with German Ambassador Emily Haber, Cooper said, "If ever, ever there was a time for work on international cooperation and collaboration, it is now."

ON GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN ENGAGEMENT:

- On Global Engagement Day in 2021, Cooper stated that "global partnerships and trust are key to ending the spread and impact of COVID-19." It placed international cooperation within the state's response to a health threat affecting communities at home and abroad.
- Marking Refugees Welcome Week in 2024, Cooper said "welcoming the oppressed and persecuted has long been a core American value." He recognized nearly 2,000 Afghan newcomers who had supported U.S. troops and nearly 2,000 Ukrainians, alongside the faith groups and nonprofits helping refugees resettle in North Carolina.
- In a November 2020 interview, Cooper described North Carolina as "a place that the world looks to help to manufacture life-saving medicines, run clinical trials, do research."
- On World AIDS Day in 2024, Cooper stated that North Carolina would "stand with an estimated 39 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, fight this devastating pandemic through education and vaccine research, and renew our commitment to preventing the spread of this virus."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Before a 2024 investment trip to Europe, Cooper said, "We know our strategy of recruiting foreign direct investment from companies around the world creates great paying jobs and puts money in the pockets of North Carolina families." His administration also signed a 2022 memorandum with the United Kingdom covering trade, investment, and the clean-energy transition.
- During a 2026 tobacco-farm tour, he criticized tariffs and called for a senator who would "work with anybody to make life more affordable."
- Governor Cooper's global economic vision connects through western North Carolina's Advanced Superabrasives, a manufacturer in Mars Hill , and a 2020 Governor's Export Award recipient.

Recognizing the exporters, Cooper said, "Today, we honor these companies for the way their exports promote the North Carolina economy." The company has used Export-Import Bank credit insurance, and its President, Jonathan Szucs, serves on USGLC's North Carolina Advisory Committee—linking local manufacturing experience to the coalition's international-engagement work.

- As governor, he personally participated in economic-development missions to **Japan in 2017 and 2023** and led a **2024 investment mission to France, Germany, and Switzerland**. His administration and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina also pursued investment recruitment, official economic delegations, and overseas trade-show participation in **Canada, China, Denmark, Italy, Poland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom**..
- During a July 2026 interview, Cooper urged Congress to reclaim its authority over trade policy, saying, "Taking them back on trade and tariffs. We've got to roll back these chaotic tariffs."
- In a campaign discussion of Canadian trade, Cooper asked, "Why are we fighting with Canada? Canada is North Carolina's number one foreign export country," noting the toll on small businesses and farmers.

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- In April 2022, Cooper announced that North Carolina National Guard equipment would support Ukraine at the Defense Department's request, saying, "North Carolina stands with the people of Ukraine and is ready to support their fight for democracy and freedom." His administration also directed state agencies to review contracts and end arrangements directly benefiting Russian entities.
- Announcing sanctions in February 2022, Cooper said his executive order would help ensure "no public dollars or operations from North Carolina will benefit Russia and its unjustified aggression." The order directed covered state agencies to review contracts and operations and take reasonable steps to terminate those directly benefiting Russian entities.
- Following a 2022 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Cooper said Zelensky "appreciated the continued support from the United States and how critical it was." Cooper also described North Carolina military training and nonprofit support for Ukrainians.
- During an October 2026 interview with The Bulwark, Cooper called Russia "an enemy" and said relaxing pressure on Moscow "gives them more money to drop more bombs on Ukraine."

ON CONFLICT IN MIDDLE EAST:

- On the Iran war, he called for a clear strategy in a March 2026 interview, stating, "There must be an exit strategy here. We cannot afford another forever war, particularly when we do not know what the consequences are."
- Following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, Cooper said, "I stand with Israel and its right to defend itself from barbaric violence," and called on Congress to fund assistance requested by President Biden.
- In a January 2024 interview, Cooper called for the United States to press Israel "to limit the loss of civilian life as much as possible" and "to work toward a two-state solution."
- Cooper also urged for a ceasefire, humanitarian aid for Gaza, hostage releases, and Arab countries' participation in pursuing a two-state solution In a March 2024 interview.