

# DAVID BRAGDON



David Alan Bragdon, nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, has been shamelessly vocal about his views on government, criminal justice, reproductive freedom, and social safety nets. Through student legislative work, advocacy, and public commentary, he has repeatedly pressed for policies that expand state punishment, restrict women's rights, and weaken protections for vulnerable communities — all while championing a worldview rooted in religious nationalism and hostility to government oversight.

Bragdon's lifetime appointment would legitimize his extreme rhetoric and pave the way for dangerous shifts in the rule of law, turning the legal system from a protector of equal rights into a tool that punishes and harms America's communities.

## RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT RHETORIC

On his "Radical: Conservative, Republican, Libertarian" [homepage](#), Bragdon has described himself as a Christian who believes "nothing is more important than Jesus." He uses this religious lens to attack the structure of American government, lamenting that the "freedom that our founding fathers fought for is fading" because "government has expanded beyond recognition." He insists that "big government has become a fact of life" and complains that "equality is beginning to replace liberty as the primary principle." In his words: "When government does more, it is actually taking away our freedom."

## ABORTION EXTREMISM

Bragdon has written extensively in opposition to abortion rights, portraying reproductive freedom as illegitimate and equating abortion with murder. He [argued](#) that "abortion is wrong because person or not, a fetus has just as much right to life as an infant does" and that "our constitution protects the fetus." Dismissing the rights of pregnant women, he compared abortion to killing a neighbor one did not want: "It would be in my pursuit of happiness to kill the neighbor," he wrote, claiming that "a citizen's rights end when they inflict on another person's rights."

He further argued that "each mother going to get an abortion already had her choice" and asked whether "our government [should] make the child pay the consequences for the woman's poor judgment." His position is clear: women "must face the consequences" of unintended pregnancy and should be denied access to abortion.

## BROADER WORLDVIEW ELEVATES RELIGIOUS-NATIONALIST POLITICS

In *A Treatise on Corruption in Government*, Bragdon described society as consumed by selfishness and moral decay, declaring that "in God we trust is written on our dollar bills, but it is no longer written in the hearts of our people and leaders." His writings consistently elevate a religious-nationalist framing of politics, advocating for smaller government, harsher punishment, and restriction of personal freedoms for women and marginalized groups, while defending expansive state power in criminal punishment.

His view directly attacks constitutional protections and principles, such as freedom of religion and the separation of church and state.

## EXPANSION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

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Bragdon has also promoted sweeping use of capital punishment, writing in *Evidence that the Death Penalty Deters* that there is “enough of a logical link between the death penalty and deterrence to call for an increased use of the death penalty.” He rejected arguments about racial bias, quoting Ernest van den Haag to say the solution is not to “let[] the guilty blacks escape the death penalty because guilty whites do, but [to] mak[e] sure that the guilty white offenders suffer it as the guilty blacks do.” For Bragdon, “the benefits of the death penalty will never be wholly realized unless it is carried out in a regular, consistent manner,” and he has called for the death penalty to be “the standard punishment for murder” by eliminating appeals and other safeguards.

Bragdon turned these ideas into legislative proposals while serving in the North Carolina Student Legislature. His *Capital Punishment Reform Act* (Senate Bill 14, 1997) sought to reduce the number of jurors required to impose a death sentence, strip away procedural protections, and make the crime itself an aggravating circumstance. In his *Homicide Reform Act* (Senate Bill 15, 1997), he proposed eliminating the distinction between first- and second-degree murder altogether.

## ATTACKS ON WELFARE AND SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

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Bragdon has consistently railed against public assistance programs, declaring that “our welfare system should be a safety net and not a hammock” and insisting that people on assistance should be forced to work and limited in how long they can receive benefits. He has argued that “government doesn’t fix the economy, it distorts it!!!” and warned that “when the liberals win, you will lose; and only YOU can make a difference!!!”

In essays like *Let’s Reform Welfare*, he painted welfare recipients as criminals, claiming the system “encourages drugs and crime” and citing articles that described welfare as “implicated in the tragedy of an under-class...characterized by idleness, illegitimacy, drugs, and crime.” This view reflects a troubling contempt for people living in poverty, ignoring the systemic factors that have unfairly marginalized their existence and stripped them of economic access and basic rights. Such a perspective is particularly alarming in the context of a lifetime federal judgeship, where he would often be the final arbiter on matters of government assistance, social safety nets, and the rights of marginalized communities.