Ronni Butts

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EXPERIENCE

Freelancer, The Raleigh News & Observer and WUNC News ***Sept. 2026 – present***

- Writes Under the Dome politics newsletter four times weekly
- Covers midterms and fact-checks online electioneering misinformation
- Appeared on radio shows twice to explain reporting on upcoming midterm ballot amendments
- Wrote election explainers for WUNC and pitched front-page story to The N&O

The Raleigh News & Observer

Politics Intern – McClatchy HBCU Development Program ***May 2026 – Aug. 2026***

- Covered NC executive and legislative branches, campaigns, immigration, party divisions and Medicaid
- Shared my reporting three times on the Under the Dome podcast and filmed vertical video
- Wrote front-page enterprise story about impacts of federal budget shortfalls on NC wildlife conservation
- Discussed my wildlife story on ABC11, The N&O's partner station
- Wrote exclusive stories about Medicaid and immigration in North Carolina

Politics and Metro Intern – McClatchy HBCU Development Program ***May 2025 – July 2025***

- Covered NC legislature, No Kings protests, higher education and transportation
- Cited in The Marshall Project's newsletter for coverage on lack of air conditioning in NC prisons
- Appeared on Under the Dome podcast twice to discuss my state politics reporting
- Frequently authored Under the Dome politics newsletter

Campus Echo (NC Central University's student newspaper) ***Oct. 2023 – May 2026***

Co-Editor-in-Chief ***May 2025 – May 2026***

- Led weekly professional development sessions about writing mechanics, sourcing and reporting
- Professionalized newsroom by creating policy handbook and social media kit
- Edited award-winning story exposing university threat management protocol violation
- Established and improved relationships with university administrators

Politics Staff Writer ***Oct. 2023 – May 2025***

- Contributed weekly articles about on-campus news and elections
- Reported from press pool for Harris-Walz presidential campaign twice

The New York Times Corps ***Sept. 2025 – present***

- 2025 cohort member and mentee of NYT White House Correspondent Zolan Kanno-Youngs
- Attends professional development seminars and meets with mentor monthly

EXTRACURRICULARS

- **Moderator** – Durham's only mayoral debate in 2025 campaign ***Oct. 2025***
- **POLITICO Journalism Institute** ***May – June 2025***
- **National Association of Black Journalists** – Student member ***Fall 2024 – present***
- **NC Local News and Information Summit** – Panelist ***March 2026***

AWARDS

- Campus Echo Outstanding Achievement Award – Mass Communication Dept. ***April 2025***
- Best News Site (*Campus Echo)* – Southern Regional Press Institute ***April 2026***
- Steve Schewel Campus Echo Award ***April 2025***

SKILLS SUMMARY

Collaborative Leadership • AP Style • Writing and Reporting • SEO • Public Speaking • Canva
Copy Editing • Creating Multimedia Content • Editing on CapCut • Canon EOS

EDUCATION

North Carolina Central University, Expected Graduation May 2027 - 4.0 GPA
B.A. in Political Science, Civic Engagement and Public Policy Concentration, Minor in Mass Communication