

**MY DAILY RECORD.COM**  
THE DAILY RECORD | DUNN, NC

- ▶ YELLOW PAGES
- ▶ WHEELS
- ▶ HOMES
- ▶ JOBS
- ▶ CLASSIFIED
- ▶ SUBSCRIBE

**My PHOTOS**  
CLICK HERE  
TO BUY ONLINE



[home](#) : [local news](#) : [local news](#)

January 30, 2008

12/27/2007 11:55:00 AM

[Email this article](#) • [Print this article](#)



Rouzer

## McGee's Crossroads Man Runs For State Senate

### Steve Reed

Reporter

Several years ago, billboards dotted the highways of eastern North Carolina which simply said, "Thank You David Rouzer."

An aide to former U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, Mr. Rouzer said he was asked by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole to play a key role in the tobacco buyout. A North Carolina group used the billboards to express their appreciation.

"It was clever on their part and created quite a stir," Mr. Rouzer said.

Now Mr. Rouzer, 35, is running as a Republican for the District 12 state Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Fred Smith. District 12 covers Johnston and Wayne counties.

A Durham native, Mr. Rouzer lives in McGee's Crossroads and has family farming ties to Four Oaks dating back to the Civil War.

He is a 1994 graduate of North Carolina State University with a

degree in agri-business management. He said a college trip to the former Czech Republic spurred his interest in politics.

He was one of a dozen American students who participated in a Foundation For American Studies; his roommate was from Romania.

"They knew more about America than we did," Mr. Rouzer said. "They saw America as former President Reagan used to describe it, 'A shining city on the hill, a beacon of hope.' It was a watershed experience for me," he said.

After college, Mr. Rouzer headed for Washington and got a job as a doorkeeper for the United States Senate.

Mr. Rouzer then worked for Sen. Helm's 1996 re-election campaign, joined his staff and handled agricultural matters.

In 2000, Mr. Rouzer returned to North Carolina and ran for state commissioner of agriculture.

Mr. Rouzer ran fourth in a six-candidate Republican field, garnering 11 percent of the primary vote.

After his political run, Mr. Rouzer went to work for NCSU as an assistant dean and director of commodity relations. In 2001, Sen. Helms asked him to return to Washington to work on the 2002 farm bill.

After helping Sen. Dole with the tobacco buyout, Mr. Rouzer worked in the Bush administration in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, overseeing loans and grants in the rural development division, which he said included work with water and sewer.

Mr. Rouzer said improving infrastructure is a top priority of his, along with seeing the state gets "back to the basics" in education.

"Education has to be a key component," he said. "North Carolina ranks sixth in the nation in dropouts." Mr. Rouzer also said there need to be reforms in the tax code and rural health.

He said his federal government experience will serve North Carolina well.

"We have complex problems and we need to return to our core values," Mr. Rouzer said. "Federal and state governments need to work more closely together ... We also need to be aware of our core moral and spiritual values and get back to them."

Mr. Rouzer has gained the endorsement of Dorothy C. Helms, wife of his former mentor.

Mrs. Helms wrote, "David worked in Washington with Jesse for almost a decade ... He is a smart, hard-working gentleman who has an excellent reputation for getting things done."

Mr. Rouzer's GOP opponent is Nena Reeves of Clayton. Democrats running for the state Senate include Fred Bartholomew and Billy Yeargin from the Four Oaks area.

## Article Comment Submission Form

---

Please feel free to submit your comments.

Each submission must be approved by the Web Editor, which may take 24-48 hours for review and approval.

**Note:** All information on this form is required. Your telephone number is for our use only and will not be made public.

**Discuss this story and many other topics immediately at:**

### [Our Town Square](#)

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	
<b>Passcode:</b>	<p>This form will not send your comment unless you copy exactly the passcode seen below into the text field. This is an anti-spam device to help reduce the automated email spam coming through this form.</p> <div data-bbox="343 969 539 1064">A 5x5 grid containing the characters 'w', 'y', 'z', 'e', '4', 'u' in various colors (red, blue, green, purple).</div> <p><b>Please copy the passcode exactly - it is case sensitive.</b></p>
<b>Message:</b>	