

Senator Newton was born in Smithfield, North Carolina, and grew up in Eden, North Carolina. He earned both his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and his law degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in '82 and '85. He graduated from Harvard Advanced Management program in 2008.



Following law school, Paul joined the Hinkle Law Firm in New Mexico for five years and returned to North Carolina to serve as a lawyer for Duke Power, becoming General Counsel of Duke's national utility operations. He then moved to the business side to serve as Senior Vice-President of Strategy, Rates, Wholesale Customers, Commodities and Analytics, and finally served as Duke Energy's North Carolina State President, before retiring in September of 2015, after 25 years with the company.

Paul currently serves as the State Senator for District 36, which is defined by all of Cabarrus and portions of Union Counties. This is Paul's first term in office.

In his first term, Senator Newton was named 2017 Senate Legislator of the Year by both the League of Municipalities and the Metropolitan Mayors' Coalition for his outstanding work resolving a conflict with developers that threatened the financial health of many North Carolina Cities and Counties. The conflict jeopardized future development across the State. Senator Newton was the Senate's lead negotiator on HB 589, establishing State energy policy for years to come. He was named a "Jobs Champion" by the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, with his 100% pro-jobs voting record. He was also recognized for outstanding service by the state's Occupational Therapists and Optometrists.

Senator Newton is a member of some 14 Committees and is Senate Chair of the Joint Energy Policy Commission and Committee to Study Local Enterprise Rates and Charges. <sup>1</sup>

Paul has been married 32 years and has four children and three grandchildren.

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<sup>1</sup> 7 standing committees: the Senate Healthcare, Commerce and Insurance, Judiciary, Pensions and Retirement and Aging, Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources, Appropriations on Agriculture, Natural and Economic Resources and Redistricting committees.

This interim, Paul was selected to serve as a co-chair for the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy and the Committee to Study Rates and Transfers/Public Enterprises (LRC). He was also appointed to be a member of 5 non-standing committees: the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, Study Commission on Efficiency and Cost-Savings in State Government, Elections Oversight Committee, Judicial Reform and Redistricting Committee and Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance. Additionally, Paul is a member of 2 Senate select committees: North Carolina River Water Quality and Judicial Reform & Redistricting.

Paul participates in the Motor Sports, Life Science, Sportsmen's, Ag and Prayer caucuses.