



**Joe Stewart** is the Vice President for Governmental Affairs for the **Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina (IIANC)**, starting in that role in October 2017; in addition, he serves as the state lobbyist for the **NC Chapter of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals** (agents who sell health insurance). Joe has nearly 40 years of experience in government, politics, association management, issue advocacy, campaigns and fundraising in North Carolina, Baltimore and Washington, DC.

In July 2019, he won the **Bob Slocum Award** from the **Association Executives of NC**, recognizing his consistent outstanding professional conduct in advocacy and political engagement. In October 2019 he received the **IIANC Chairman’s Citation** for his work on hands-free driving legislation, and in April 2021 the IIANC Governmental Affairs program won the **Maurice G. Herndon Legislative Award** from the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America for exemplary work on legislative issues and political engagement. In 2024, a poll of state legislators conducted by the **North State Journal** ranked Joe as one of the five most effective trade association lobbyists in North Carolina.

Prior to his current position providing leadership for the legislative and political action efforts of the 10,000+ statewide membership of IIANC, Joe was the Executive Director of the **NC Free Enterprise Foundation (NCFREE)**, a non-profit, nonpartisan political research organization with a business and economic orientation – Joe also served a term on the **NCFREE** Board following his departure as Executive Director.

While Executive Director of **NCFREE**, Joe served as producer and host of **Bottom Line**, a weekly program broadcast on North Carolina Public Television (UNC TV). The show examined how topics of politics and public policy impact North Carolina’s economic landscape and business climate.

Joe remains a media source for objective information and insights on North Carolina’s dynamic political environment, and has appeared as a guest political analyst for **Capital Tonight** on **Spectrum News** and on UNC-TV’s **Front Row with Marc Rotterman** (ended in 2022) and **State Lines** (launched in 2023). He did more than 150 presentations to association and business audiences during the 2016 election cycle, and was frequently featured in state and national media outlets ranging from **The New York Times** to **Fox News**.



Joe’s resume includes **Political Director** of the **NC Chamber of Commerce** (launching both the PAC and Independent Expenditure programs for that organization, and winning the 2010 and 2011 Business and Industry PAC President’s Award for outreach and advocacy efforts); **Executive Director** of the **Insurance Federation of North Carolina** (a trade association representing the insurance industry on legislative and regulatory issues, where he was ranked among the most effective lobbyists by the NC Center for Public Policy Research); and, **Chief Deputy State Treasurer of North Carolina** and **Assistant Secretary of the NC Department Public Safety**.

Joe currently serves on the Board of the nonpartisan campaign training organization **NC Institute of Political Leadership (IOPL)**, and is Board Chair of **The NC Alliance for Safe Transportation (NCAST)**. He is also a former Board President of the **Association Executives of North Carolina (AENC)** and former member of the **NC Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)** Leadership Council.



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