



OBJECT ID

F2016.69

OBJECT NAME

Poster, Political

MEASUREMENTS

55.88 cm. H x 35.2425 cm. L, Item (Overall)

MATERIAL

Paper

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Political poster on paper. White background with black text that reads

"Best for the Fourth

Congressman Nick Galifianakis".

In the middle there is a large color photo of Nick Galifianakis.

ORIGIN

Nick Galifianakis (born July 22, 1928) is a former Democratic U.S. Congressman from North Carolina who served between 1967 and 1973.

Galifianakis was born in Durham, North Carolina, the son of Greek immigrants Sophia (née Kastrinakis) and Mike Galifianakis. Galifianakis attended local public schools and then Duke University, earning a bachelor's degree in 1951 and a law degree in 1953. After serving in the United States Marine Corps from October 1953 to April 1956, he was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Durham. In 1960, he became an assistant professor of business law at Duke and was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly in 1961. Galifianakis left both positions when elected to the United States Congress in 1966. For his first term, he represented the 5th District, which stretched from his home in Durham through Winston-Salem all the way to Stokes County on the Virginia border. However, after the state was forced to conduct a mid-decade redistricting for the 1968 elections, he was placed in the 4th District, a much more compact district stretching from Durham through Chatham County to Raleigh.

Galifianakis sought the Democratic Party nomination for the seat held by Senator B. Everett Jordan in the 1972 election, and defeated him in the primary. While Galifianakis led his Republican challenger, former television commentator Jesse Helms, by a substantial margin for most of the campaign, Helms

closed the gap by tying Galifianakis to his party's presidential nominee, George McGovern, and with the late-campaign slogan, "Jesse Helms: He's One of Us," an implicit play suggesting his opponent's Greek heritage made him somehow less "American." Galifianakis knew that McGovern wasn't popular in his state and tried to distance himself from him.

Ultimately, Helms pulled away and defeated Galifianakis by eight points. Galifianakis, like most Southern Democrats, was significantly hurt by Richard Nixon's gigantic landslide in the presidential election. Nixon carried North Carolina by 40 points and won all but two counties in the state.

Two years later Galifianakis sought the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate in 1974 but lost overwhelmingly to Robert Morgan, the state's attorney general, by a total of 50% to 32% with the rest scattered amongst other candidates.

After leaving Congress, he resumed his law practice, which continues to this day. Nick currently lives in Durham with his wife Lou.

CITATION

Poster, Political, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/06/24.
