

TRIAD BUSINESS JOURNAL

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

40 Under 40 2021: Ches McDowell

BY JANE LITTLE

Special Sections Editor, Triad Business Journal

Ches McDowell, senior government relations adviser, Kilpatrick Townsend

Age: 31

Work address: 1001 W. Fourth St., Winston-Salem 27101

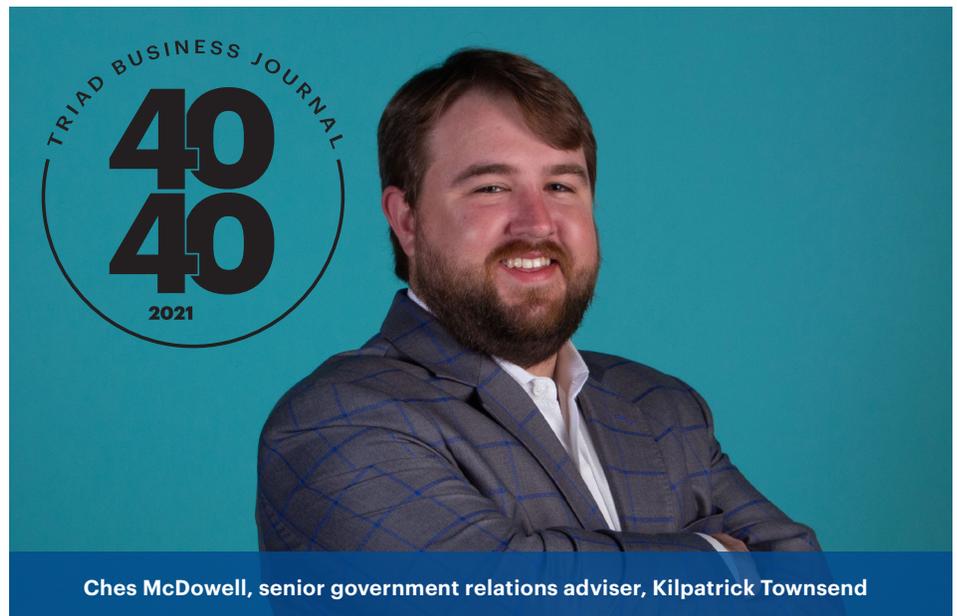
City you live in: Winston-Salem

Education: Bachelor's, political science, N.C. State University; law degree, Campbell University

Why selected: McDowell works as senior governmental relations adviser for Kilpatrick Townsend, and in 2020 was named one of the top 10 lobbyists in North Carolina by the North State Journal. Over the last five years, he grew the firm's governmental practice from scratch to \$2.6 million. McDowell also serves as the co-chair of Triangle Delta Waterfowl and the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Winston-Salem and Fellowship Home of Winston-Salem.

How can the Triad better retain young and talented professionals? Triad cities need to have more policies that focus on business development, business creation and business attraction. Raleigh and Charlotte have continually beat us in recruitment while boasting incredibly high tax rates. We have an opportunity to differentiate ourselves and recruit and retain businesses through competitive tax rates.

Most meaningful volunteer activity? I serve on the board of Cross Trail Outfitters. CTO's mission is "Guiding the next generation to Christ through the outdoors." Being involved with an organization that helps



Ches McDowell, senior government relations adviser, Kilpatrick Townsend

the next generation grow and teaches them the value of nature and sportsmanship has been very meaningful to me.

I am passionate about ... creating a better world for my kids.

A fun fact people may not know about you? I have a collection of political campaign memorabilia that goes back to 1824 (Andrew Jackson) and includes pieces from Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and every president since Jackson.

Tell us about a talent you are most proud of. I am most proud of my ability to carve duck decoys in the old traditions of coastal North Carolina. I enjoy carving ducks from solid blocks of wood, painting them, ensuring they are sea worthy, and using them for duck hunting. My family and friends enjoy it because it is a form of art, they

look nice on the mantle and they require a significant amount of time – but as with most things, if it is worth doing, it's worth doing right.

Have you displayed your talent publicly? I have competed in numerous decoy shows across the state and won ribbons at the Core Sound Decoy Festival in Harker's Island and the East Carolina Wildlife Arts Festival in Washington, North Carolina.

What television show or movie would be best suited to demonstrate your talent and why? "How It's Made" on Discovery Channel

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would you like to meet? Johnny Cash. Cash was an incredible artist with incredible talent that transcended the globe and multiple decades.