

Senator Joyce Waddell's September 6, 2017, Newsletter

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 NC Senate
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Serving District 40
Mecklenburg County

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**The Waddell**
Weekly Bulletin

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**Dear Friends:**

The General Assembly reconvened on August 25 to vote on redistricting maps. The proposed maps came after federal courts found 28 districts approved in 2011 unconstitutionally drawn with racial bias. Three federal judges ordered new maps to be drawn and approved by September 1.

[Senate Bill 691 / S.L. 2017-207](#) and [House Bill 927 / S.L. 2017-208](#) were introduced as a result of the court order. Republicans continued to ignore racial data while drawing new boundaries for General Assembly districts. Senate and House Democrats presented alternative maps, some of which were drawn by attorneys for the plaintiffs who successfully sued to strike down the 2011 districts. Democrats said that the maps addressed the problem, eliminating racial gerrymanders while being responsive to the public's call for fair representation. Republicans voted against them calling the boundaries "an effort to erode current GOP majorities and put more pairs of Republican incumbents into the same district."

North Carolina legislators narrowly beat the deadline having finished redrawing House and Senate district maps on Wednesday, August 30. The House voted 68-47 to approve the Senate map, while the Senate voted 30-15 for the House boundaries. There were many changes made to the redistricting map in the Senate and House. A few Republican incumbents were placed in new Democratic-leaning districts, while other legislators were double-bunked in the same districts. Senate District 40 (Senator Joyce Waddell) included new voting precincts. Now, federal judges must determine whether the problems with racial bias have been cured. The maps and related data and an explanation will be sent to a panel of three federal judges by late next week. The judges could approve the maps for the 2018 elections, draw their own maps, or have an outside expert redraw the maps.

I cannot achieve anything without the support of my constituents. Thank you very much for your continued support!

Please continue to refer to the North Carolina General Assembly website www.ncleg.net. You will be able to track legislation, sign up for committee notices, and review the citizen's guide.

I encourage you to contact us with your thoughts, comments, or suggestions. Please feel free to have others join in on conversation by sending contact information to Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Legislative Veto Update

- [Dental Plans Provider Contracts/Transparency \(House Bill 140/ S.L. 2017-205\)](#) – Initially, this bill only applied to dental insurance until it was amended to address credit property insurance. This bill makes entities that write stand-alone dental insurance subject to the disclosure and notification provisions for fee schedules, reimbursement policies, and claim submission policies. Additionally, House Bill 140 expands lenders’ ability to sell borrowers credit property insurance to cover loan costs when the borrowers cannot pay. I supported Governor Roy Cooper’s veto of this bill, because it allows predatory and high-risk insurance policies that unfairly target low-income North Carolinians. The Senate overrode the Governor’s veto on August 30, and House Bill 140 is now law.
- [Various Clarifying Changes \(House Bill 770/ S.L. 2017-206\)](#) –This legislation amends various environmental and natural resources laws. This bill also allows an employee at the state Industrial Commission to draw a second state paycheck from state’s Property Tax Commission despite rules against salary double-dipping. Lastly, the bill changes how two of the Governor’s appointments to the North Carolina Medical Board are chosen. I supported Governor Roy Cooper’s veto of this bill, because it is unfair to give preferential treatment to a single state employee. The Senate overrode the Governor’s veto on August 30, and House Bill 770 is now law.

At the General Assembly



The General Assembly honors the North State Little League Team on the Senate floor.

August 30, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell speaks on the Senate Floor about racial gerrymandering in Mecklenburg County.

August 25, 2017

In Charlotte



Senator Joyce Waddell gives a legislative update at the Grier Town Labor Day Parade and Community Family Reunion.

September 4, 2017



The Second Ward High School Alumni Association listens to report concerning North Carolina legislative update.

September 1, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell gives inspiration to those who were previously homeless at Moore Place.

August 15, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell spoke with attendees at the 12th Annual Brooklyn Heritage Reunion concerning legislation in the North Carolina General Assembly.

August 12, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell speaks at the Hidden Valley National Night Out about legislation in the North Carolina General Assembly.

The County News



Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant, Jyrira Moore, at 919-733-5650 or by email at waddelljla@ncleg.net.

All committee meetings and press conferences can be heard on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "**Audio**" and then make your selection: House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Committee Room or Press Conference Room. A schedule of committee meetings and other events is also available on the website.

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