



Mail



Calendar



Contacts



Email Settings



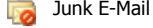
Deleted Items (62)



Drafts [2]



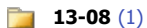
Inbox (1)



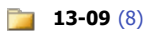
Junk E-Mail



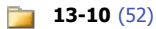
Sent Items

[Click to view all folders](#)

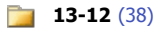
13-08 (1)



13-09 (8)



13-10 (52)



13-12 (38)



Manage Folders...



Fwd: Greetings from Senator Joel Ford

Joel Ford [joelford@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 5:02 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

Please post.

Thanks,

Joel

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jackie Ray (Sen. Joel Ford)** <Fordjla@ncleg.net>

Date: Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 4:57 PM

Subject: Greetings from Senator Joel Ford

To: "joelford@gmail.com" <joelford@gmail.com>

LEGISLATIVE NEWS



Senator Joel D. M. Ford
North Carolina Senate
District 38 – Mecklenburg County
Joel.Ford@ncleg.net



Season's Greetings

Vol. I, Ed. 9

December 19, 2013

Greetings Constituents and Friends,

I am pleased to report that I worked with City of Charlotte and NC Department of Transportation officials in securing necessary funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the \$1 million Brookshire Boulevard and Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road project. This project will improve the Brookshire Boulevard (NC Highway 16) and Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road intersection, which is located in the Northwest Corridor connecting northern Mecklenburg County with Mt. Holly in Gaston County. Construction for the project is expected to begin in August 2014 and is scheduled to be completed in November 2014.

NORTH CAROLINA TAX REFORM UPDATE

This Legislature has made substantial changes to the personal income tax laws effective for the 2014 taxable year as a result of HB 988. The rates to be paid are lower, the standard deduction is higher and some deductions/credits have been changed and/or eliminated.

Employee Withholding Certificates- The NC Department of Revenue (DOR) is requiring all employees to provide employers with a new Employee's Withholding Certificate (Form NC-4 EZ or Form NC-4). All NC employees will have to complete new employee withholding certificates if you haven't already done so. The DOR links for these forms are listed below.

- **Form NC-4 EZ** – anticipated to be a simplified form that will suffice for most employees, <http://www.dor.state.nc.us/downloads/nc4ez.pdf>.
- **Form NC-4**– extended withholding form to provide more precise withholding figures, but will require historical tax return information and estimation of 2014 income, deductions, and credits from the employee, <http://www.dor.state.nc.us/downloads/nc4.pdf>.

New Sales Tax on Entertainment- Beginning in January, the cost of tickets for concerts, plays, movies, ballgames and other types of entertainment will increase with an admissions tax that the State Legislature enacted during this past session. The new tax, enacted as part of a package of tax reforms, applies to venues as diverse as the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, the Charlotte Knights Athletic Park, NC Music Factory and University Artists Series.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

For healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), enrollment should be done by December 23, 2013 for coverage starting as soon as January 1, 2014. March 31, 2014 is the last day of open enrollment under the ACA. For questions, please utilize the ACA website, www.healthcare.gov, or contact a NC Navigator office listed below:

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.	HELPS WITH
Care Ring	601 E. 5 th St., Ste 140, Charlotte 28202	704-375-0172	Application Assistance
NC Medassist (NCMA)	601 E. 5 th St., Charlotte 28202	704-536-1790	Application Assistance (Spanish)
Crisis Assistance Ministry	500-A Spratt St., Charlotte 28206	704-371-3001	Application Assistance
Center for Prevention Services	1117 E. Morehead St., Charlotte 28204	704-375-3784	Application Assistance
Legal Services of Southern Piedmont	1431 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte 28204	704-376-1254	Application Assistance (Spanish assistance included)
C.W. Williams Community Health Center	900 E. Blvd., Charlotte 28266	704-971-1485	Application Assistance
C.W. Williams Community Health Center	3333 Wilkinson Blvd., Charlotte 28208	704-971-1485	Application Assistance
Mecklenburg County Health Department	2845 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte 28216	704-336-4700	Application Assistance
Mecklenburg County Health Department	249 Billingsley Rd., Charlotte 28211	704-336-4700	Application Assistance
CGS Billing Service	610-B Minuet Ln., Charlotte 28217	704-668-6130	Application Assistance

INTERIM COMMITTEES

As you may know, the 2013 legislative interim period has begun with several interim and legislative research committees having met. I encourage you to keep abreast of all relevant committee issues and how it may affect you. The following is an abbreviated listing of some of the interim study committees and legislative research joint study committees for 2013-2014:

INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES		
COMMITTEE	PURPOSE	MEETING DATE
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee	Study the budgets, programs and policies of the NC Dept of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, the Community Colleges System Office, the Board of Governors of the Univ. of NC and constituent institutions of the Univ. of NC to determine ways to improve education; examine the Basic Education Plan and the School Improvement and Accountability Act of 1989; study educational initiatives in NC's public schools, community colleges, and public universities; and study other educational matters related to children and youth	12/03/13 (last) 01/07/14 (next)
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services	Examine the systemwide issues affecting the development, budgeting, financing, administration, and delivery of health and human services, including issues relating to the governance, accountability, and quality of health and human services delivered to individuals and families in the state of NC	12/10/13 (last)

Legislative Research Commission (LRC)	Study and investigations into governmental agencies and institutions and matters of public policy	To Be Announced (TBA)
Revenue Laws Study Committee	Study the revenue laws of NC and the administration of those laws	12/10/13 (last)
Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee	Review reports by the NC Dept of Transportation, monitor highway funding, and study railroad issues	12/10/13 (last)

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION (LRC) - JOINT STUDY COMMITTEES		
COMMITTEE	PURPOSE	MEETING DATE
LRC Study Committee on Jordan Lake	Consider all issues deemed relevant to addressing the water quality in Jordan Lake	TBA
LRC Study Committee on the Assessment of Regulated and Non-Regulated Industry Utility Fees	Examine the regulatory fee structure of the NC Utilities commission to ensure that fees are not inequitably assessed	TBA
LRC Study Committee on Common Core State Standards	Study both current and suggested curriculum standards in K-12 education in NC	TBA

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION (LRC)- HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEES		
COMMITTEE	PURPOSE	MEETING DATE
LRC Study Committee on Property Owner Protection and Rights	Study the establishment of a property owner protection act that would favor the free use of land	TBA
LRC Study Committee on Judicial Efficiency and Effective Administration of Justice	Study the structure and needs of the NC's judicial and prosecutorial districts	TBA

For a complete list of the 2013 interim committees, please go the NC General Assembly's website, www.ncleg.net, and follow the "Committees" link, or refer to the following link, <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/Committees/Committees.asp?Action=ViewCommitteeType&sActionDetails=Non-Standing>.

*****DISTRICT/RELATED NEWS*****

Center for International Understanding China Expedition- I had the opportunity to accompany a North Carolina delegation to visit the providences of Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing on October 18th-30th. The purpose of this trip was to:

- Expand understanding of China's economy today,
- Explore the role of the pharmaceutical and medical devices industries in China's economy and the potential opportunities and challenges they present for NC,
- Learn about features of Chinese culture, history and government which impact business interactions, and
- Identify policies, resources and practices which might strengthen NC's economy through increasing exports to and engagement with China.

No costs associated with this trip was paid for with taxpayers' funds.

Charlotte Housing Authority Event - I had the pleasure to address this group on November 1st. The discussion centered around US HUD Hope 6 Grants/Funding.

I-77/I-277Noise Walls Public Meeting - December 11th and 17th - Public meetings to learn about noise walls, options, locations, impact, decisions and next steps.



Merry Christmas
from the Office of



Senator Joel Ford

Thank you for voicing your issues, thoughts, and concerns through your many e-mails, phone calls, and office visits during 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and safe New Year! I look forward to a productive year in 2014.

Senator Joel D. M. Ford
North Carolina State Senate
Legislative Building
16 West Jones Street, Room 1119
Raleigh, NC 27601
[**\(919\) 733-5955**](tel:9197335955) phone
[**\(919\) 754-3254**](tel:9197543254) fax
[**Joel.Ford@ncleg.net**](mailto:Joel.Ford@ncleg.net)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please click [here](#).

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Joel

