

**Senator Waddell's August 27, 2015 Newsletter**

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*Serving District 40 and  
 Mecklenburg County*

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**The Waddell  
 Weekly Bulletin**

Vol. I Ed. 12

August 27,  
2015**Dear Friends:**

"Another day, another deadline" seems to be the running theme at the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh. The NC Senate and House GOP leaders announced earlier this week that the second continuing resolution, which extended the budget deadline to August 31, will not be enough time for these leaders to set aside their differences and put North Carolina first. Instead, the state is left to suffer with intraparty fighting and squabbling while our schools start back with an uncertainty still hanging over funding and staffing problems.

A school from Mecklenburg County contacted my office this week to plead for my strongest efforts in helping complete the budget. Teachers were already informed that they will have to wait for their first paycheck until the GOP can handle their responsibilities and finish North Carolina's new budget. It is bad enough that GOP leaders have taken away tool after tool from our teachers but to leave them unpaid is shameful.

Senate leaders also introduced a disappointing new tax distribution plan that would split revenues, "with half staying in the county where the sale took place and half then distributed based on county population. About 80 counties would gain money and 20 counties would lose." Counties that base their revenue around tourism are some of the hardest affected but it will also strip funds from Mecklenburg, Orange, and Wake County as well. This contradiction is staggering: GOP leaders, who claim to support businesses, are now hurting the counties where business is taking place.

We also saw a "tax payer's bill of rights" get shoehorned through the debate process in the Senate as well. This bill, based off a Colorado bill of a similar theme, is catastrophic for the state of North Carolina. Sadly this is not speculation, Colorado's economy went into a proverbial tail spin when these recession-like restrictions were put in place and is still recovering from the damage. This bill will place unnecessary burdens on budget writers in the future and prevent the state from expanding at a reasonable pace- instead relying on an archaic formula that has been found not to work. We will be willingly returning to the conditions the state faced in 2008 during the great recession by capping the state's spending to recession-like level.

Please continue to refer to the North Carolina General Assembly website [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net). You will be able to track legislation, sign up for committee notices and review the in depth 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](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net).

I look forward to hearing from you!

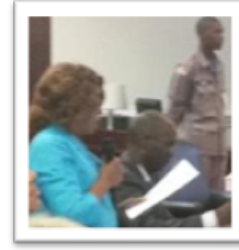
**Session News**

- [\*\*Dealer Loaners/Unmanned Aircraft/Brunswick Co \(SB 446\)\*\*](#) - Senate Bill 446 is a simple resolution that redefines how loaner cars are used by dealers and how they are quantified. It also redefines North Carolina's unmanned aircraft laws to better align them with federal standards designed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This legislation authorizes Brunswick County to regulate navigable waters within its boundaries. I am a cosponsor of this bill. It has since been ratified, signed by the Governor, and is now Session Law as of August 25, 2015.
- [\*\*Honor World War II Veterans \(SJR 720\)\*\*](#) – Both the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives joined together to honor the veterans of World War II and commemorate the veterans still living in North Carolina. These veterans deserve the utmost respect and I am so glad that some of these brave soldiers were able to join us in the General Assembly for this wonderful ceremony on August 18, 2015. This bill passed without dissent and was ratified on August 19, 2015.
- [\*\*Cities/Means for Activating Parking Meters \(SB 52\)\*\*](#) – Senate Bill 52 is an act authorizing cities to allow activation of parking meters by coins, tokens, cash, credit/debit cards or other electronic means. The original wording of the general statute only mentioned the use of coins or tokens. This legislation expands the definition of appropriate monies for metered parking. Parking meters are an effective method for cities to collect funds for road repair and infrastructure repair. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill has since been ratified, signed by the Governor, and is now Session Law as of August 25, 2015.
- [\*\*Register of Deeds-POA Indexing Fees \(SB 332\)\*\*](#) - This bill enables register of deeds to collect additional fees for indexing instruments that contain exhibits with multiple enterable parties. It allows the registers to collect more fees if they have to record excessive recording data. I voted in support of this legislation. It has been ratified, signed by the Governor, and is now Session Law as of August 25th.
- [\*\*Transfer of Bladen Correctional Facility \(SB 477\)\*\*](#) – Senate Bill 477 will transfer the property that was formerly the Bladen Correctional Center to the Bladen County Board of Commissioners. Since the closure of the Correctional Facility, the property has gone unused and will now be returned to the County for further use. I voted in support of this legislation. It has been ratified, signed by the Governor, and is now Session Law as of August 25, 2015.
- [\*\*Unemployment Insurance Law Change \(SB 15\)\*\*](#) – This bill makes changes to the unemployment insurance laws. The tax changes will consist of a suspension of the 20% surcharge that generates \$240 million for the 2016 tax year. This is dependent upon the amount in the States account for unemployment being equal to or exceeding \$1 billion by March 1st of 2016. This legislation was last in concurrence in the Senate.
- [\*\*Unclaimed Life Insurance Benefits \(SB 665\)\*\*](#) – This legislation requires insurance companies authorized to transact life insurance business in North Carolina to conduct a comparison, semi-annually, if the insurer's records of policies, annuities, and account owners cross-match with any record in the U.S. Social Security Administration's death master file or a similar database. When there is a match, the insurer must engage in good-faith effort to verify the person who has died and locate any beneficiaries. If passed, this act will become effective on October 1, 2015.

## At the General Assembly



Senator Waddell joins her colleagues of the Joint Democratic Women Caucus and other organizations at the press Conference highlighting the many bills that would have helped women and families and acknowledging Women's Equality Day on Wednesday, August 26, 2015.



Senator Waddell declares her Senatorial Statement recognizing, "Women's Equality Day and the Continued March Towards Equality," during Session on August 26, 2015.

## In Charlotte, NC



Senator Waddell addresses the crowd expressing the theme, "Unity in the Community for the Children," at the GMEN 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion at Southside Park on August 22, 2015.



Senator Waddell shares her concerns on how the incomplete budget negatively impacts the education system at the Teacher Assistant Rally on August 23, 2015.



Senator Waddell speaks out on the importance of teacher assistants at the Teacher Assistants Rally at Marshall Park on August 23, 2015. She encourages everyone who strongly supports education to shout until legislators understand that education needs to be top priority in the governing body. She challenges lawmakers to "Be a TA for a Day," to witness first-hand the value of these positions.

## In the Media

### The County News



North Carolina..

**BRIEFS:****The new budget extension**

RALEIGH, NC – With the budget discussions seemingly in gridlock; a second continuing resolution for this Session has been signed by the Governor so that state spending can continue until the end of the month. The new continuing resolution will most likely take budget discussions to the start of September at least, making this the longest running session in the last thirteen years.

"We cannot continue this waiting game. Our schools will be starting up in the coming days and still have no idea how many teachers and teacher assistants to hire due to GOP indecision over the education budget in Raleigh. Discussions are still being held in the House and Senate whether to fund

teacher assistants. Lawmakers must decide on other important legislative issues such as Medicaid reform and sales tax revenue distribution. Unfortunately, Democratic Senators are exempt from the budget decision making process. We have a responsibility to the schools and to the citizens to finish our main objective.

The bickering going on behind closed doors will do nothing but continue to hurt the state going forward." said Sen. Joyce Waddell.



Waddell

## Save Our Teacher Assistants

[Click this link to view the online publication on the Teacher Assistants Rally which took place at Marshall Park, in Charlotte, NC, on August 23, 2015. Senator Waddell supports teacher assistants and shares her concerns on their job security.](#)

## The Charlotte Observer



### TEACHER ASSISTANTS GET A HELPING HAND

Speakers Melinda Zarate, of the N.C. Association of Teacher Assistants and a teacher assistant herself, left with back to camera, and state Sen. Joyce Waddell embrace at a rally Sunday at Marshall Park to demand that state lawmakers approve a budget. Members of the group said the delay in settling the budget has left the status of thousands of teaching assistant jobs in limbo. Waddell challenged lawmakers to "be a TA for a day" to experience firsthand the value of teacher assistants and said she already has agreed to shadow a local teacher assistant when school starts this week. "Before these politicians decide to fire 8,500 teacher assistants across the state, they should take the time to find out what we actually do for North Carolina students and teachers," said Zarate, one of the organizers of Sunday's event. "Time is running out, and too many educators and students are being left in the lurch by politicians who decided to take a vacation instead of doing the jobs they were elected to do."


—DIEDRA LAMB

*Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant Jyrita Moore at 919-733-5650 or by email at [waddelljla@ncleg.net](mailto:waddelljla@ncleg.net)*

*All committee meetings and press conferences can be heard on the General Assembly's website at [www.ncleg.net](http://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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