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Senator Waddell's September 3, 2015 Newsletter

Jyrta Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 4:04 PM

Senator Waddell's September 3, 2015 Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell
NC Senate
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Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*Serving District 40 and
Mecklenburg County*



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The Waddell Weekly Bulletin

Vol. I Ed. 13 **September 3,
2015**



Dear Friends:

It is now the beginning of September, and there is still not a budget in sight. The latest budget extension has a new set deadline of September 18, 2015. This marks the third continuing resolution of the lawmaking session. I am concerned for the fiscal well-being of North Carolina. We are two full calendar months past the start of the new fiscal year, July 1, and the promise we made to the citizens of North Carolina has not been fulfilled.

I spent Friday, August 28, 2015, with several schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and observed the important role that teacher assistants play in the classroom. Teacher assistants are highly valued and contribute to high student achievement, cohesive curriculum advancement, and the overall success of the individual classroom and learning environment. Teacher assistants help lighten the teachers' workload by assisting individual students so the teacher can continue the group lesson. They re-teach, practice and reinforce skills previously introduced by the teacher. It is unacceptable for lawmakers to consider removing such a valuable position.

On August 31, 2015, the North Carolina Supreme Court met to rehear the case of Dickson v Rucho. The case was sent back from the United States Supreme Court for further review based on a new ruling from the Supreme Court in a similar case from Alabama. The point of contention is whether or not the districts that were redrawn in 2011 were separated based on race. The United States Supreme Court has rejected electoral segregation and felt that the district lines in North Carolina deserved another look. I hope that this marks a move towards independent districting that will help better represent the citizens of North Carolina.

Please continue at 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 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.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Bills Now Session Law

- [**Amend School Health Assessment Requirement \(HB 13/ S.L. 2015-222\)**](#) – This bill requires each child presented for admission into public schools for the first time to submit proof of a health assessment. The health assessment must be made no more than 12 months prior to the date the child is eligible to initial entry into public school. Absences due to the failure to present the health assessment transmittal form will not result in suspensions. Students are allowed to make up missed work. This bill became law on August 18, 2015.
- [**Protect LEO Home Address/Other Information \(SB 699/ S.L. 2015-225\)**](#) – This bill is designed to protect the identities of our law enforcement officers and some data of our emergency responders. It prohibits the disclosure of employee personnel files for counties and cities that might identify the residence, emergency contact information, and personal information regarding a sworn law enforcement officer. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill became law on August 18, 2015.
- [**Study Subdiv. Streets/Traffic Calming Devices \(SB 581/ S.L. 2015-217\)**](#) - This legislation directs the Department of Transportation to study and establish policies to accept subdivision streets in the State highway system for maintenance. It amends a provision which allows certain subdivisions to install traffic calming devices by lowering the percentage of property owners needed to approve a device by 70% to 60%. The DOT is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight committee by February 1, 2016. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill became law on August 18, 2015.
- [**Transfer of Bladen Correctional Facility \(SB 477/ S.L. 2015-230\)**](#) – This legislation transfers 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. The Bladen Court Board of Commissioners will bear the costs associated with the conveyance during the time it is utilized for county government purposes. I voted in support of this legislation. This bill became law on August 25, 2015.

At the General Assembly

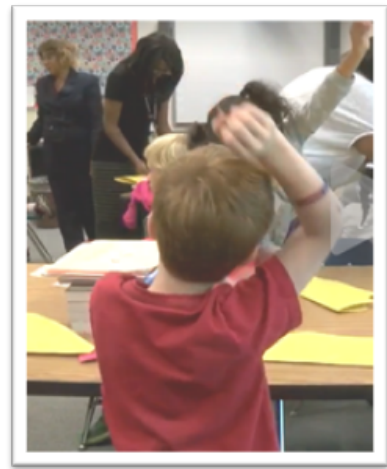


Senator Waddell talks to the University of North Carolina Students about their concerns regarding higher education, from a student's perspective, on September 2, 2015.

In Charlotte, NC



Senator Waddell accepts the challenge to be a teacher assistant for a day on August 28, 2015.



Senator Waddell assists students with their tasks on August 28, 2015.



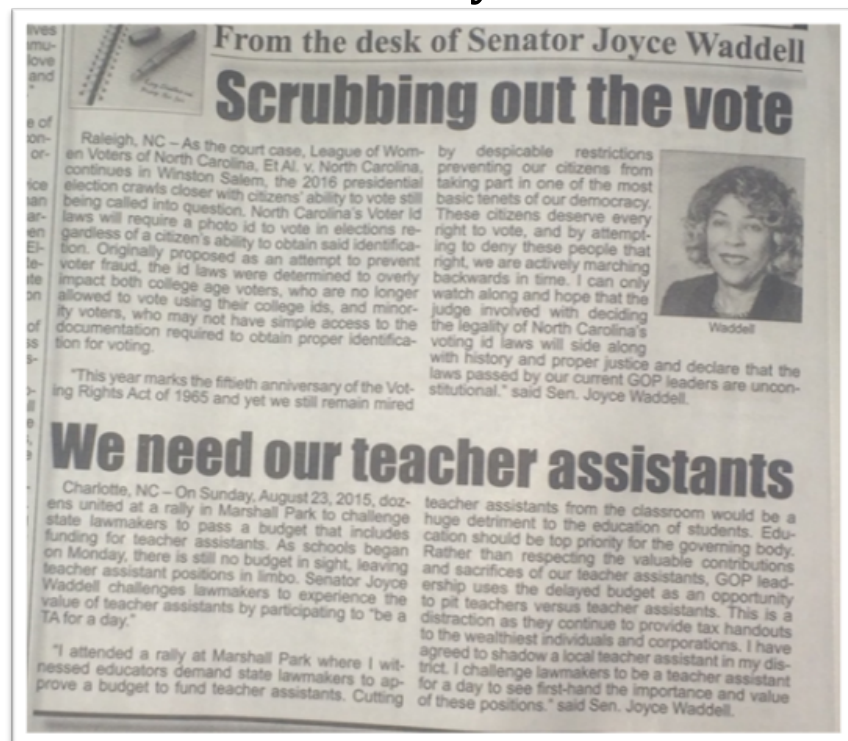
Senator Waddell speaks to the press about the importance and value of teacher assistants on August 28, 2015.



Senator Waddell provides individualized instruction to the students on August 28, 2015.

In the Media

The County News



Save Our Teacher Assistants

[Click this link to view the news clip of Senator Waddell's interview on teacher assistants. She shares her experience on the challenge she accepted to become a teacher assistant for a day.](#)

[Click this link to view the online publication and news clip of Senator Waddell sharing her concerns on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' Teacher Assistants.](#)

[Click this link to view the news clip on Senator Waddell explaining the importance and value of teacher assistants.](#)

Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant Jyrta 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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