

**Senator Joyce Waddell's February 29, 2016 Newsletter**

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**Senator Joyce Waddell**  
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## The Waddell Weekly Bulletin



*Serving District 40 and  
Mecklenburg County*

Vol. 2 Ed. 2

February 29, 2016

**Committees**

Appropriations on Education/  
Higher Education  
Commerce  
Finance  
Insurance

Pensions & Retirement and Aging  
State and Local Government  
Workforce and Economic  
Development  
Joint Legislative Program  
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Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
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**Dear Friends:**

The time is drawing near! The 2016 election primaries will take place on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Early voting will begin on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. A valid photo ID is required to vote in the March primaries. If you are unable to obtain one by the specified deadline, you may vote through the use of a provisional ballot. It requires that you provide: your date of birth and the last four digits of your Social Security number, a document that bears your name and address, or a voter registration card.

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee presented a report by the Public Schools of North Carolina, the State Board of Education, and the Department of Public Instruction concerning the educational effectiveness of charter schools. For the past 20 years, there has been a marked increase in the number of charter schools operating within our state. A recent study analyzed the success of North Carolina's charter programs compared to traditional schools. The study found that charter schools were less diverse and catered to fewer disadvantaged youths than traditional schools. Although a greater number of charter schools deemed well-performing, a comparable number was found to be inadequate in meeting the educational needs of their respective communities.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, three federal judges determined that North Carolina's first and twelfth electoral districts were unconstitutionally drawn with racial bias. The 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District spreads across northeast North Carolina. The 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District runs from Charlotte to Greensboro along Interstate 85.

As a result, on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting met to survey public opinion regarding the recent decision of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, legislators were called to convene in an extra special session to vote on the new congressional map.

***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](http://www.ncleg.net). You will be able to track legislation, sign up for committee notices, and review the citizen's guide.***

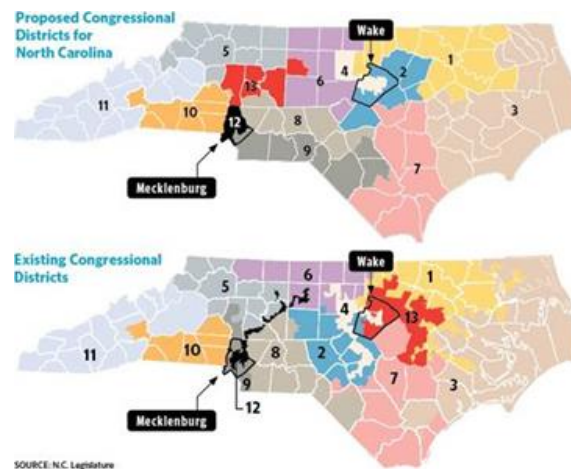
***I encourage you to contact us with your thoughts, comments, or suggestions. Please feel free to have others join in on conversation by sending contact information to [Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net).***

***I look forward to hearing from you!***

# 2016 Extra Session

- [2016 Contingent Congressional Plan \(S2 / S.L. 2016-1\)](#) – This legislation realigns the congressional districts to comply with the court order, *Harris v. McCrory*. The House of Representatives and Senate convened into an extra session on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> to vote on the proposed reconfiguration of North Carolina’s 13 U.S. House districts. The bill passed on February 19, 2016, and is now session law. The federal court will either accept or deny the new maps by March 18.
- [2016 US House of Representatives Primary \(HB 2 / S.L. 2016-2\)](#) – This bill provides that the 2016 U.S. House of Representatives primary election will be held on June 7, 2016. The Governor signed the bill into law on February 23, 2016.

*Below is a comparison of the new district map with the old one. Some counties, including Mecklenburg, have been impacted.*

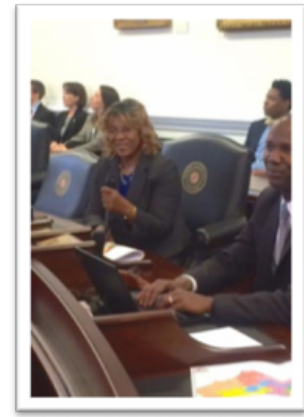


“The congressional district map should be drawn in a constitutional manner that fairly represents the voters of North Carolina. Every citizen deserves an equal voice in our democracy. The drawing must demonstrate the best interest of our state and its citizens in a nonpartisan manner,” said Senator Joyce Waddell.

## At the General Assembly



Senator Joyce Waddell discusses various legislative proposals at the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee meeting on Monday, February 8, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell attends Session in Raleigh to discuss and take up legislation concerning the redrawing of the congressional district map on Thursday, February 18, 2016.

## In Charlotte, NC



Senator Joyce Waddell was recognized as the first woman of color from Mecklenburg County to serve in the North Carolina Senate at the African-American History event on Saturday, January 30, 2016.



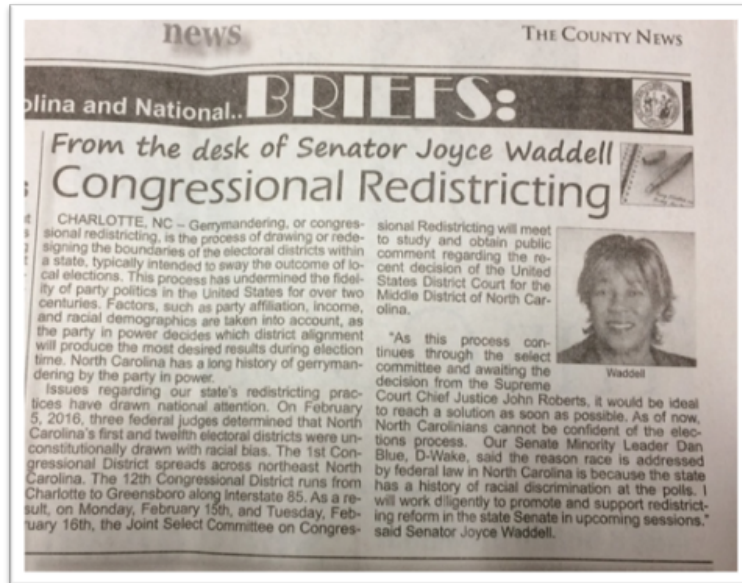
Senator Joyce Waddell educates senior citizens of legislation on Monday, February 8, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell will receive the Inaugural North Carolina Women's History Month

Leadership in Action Award at the Charlotte City Club on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.  
She will be honored for her outstanding leadership, iconic global presence,  
and extraordinary career achievements.

## The County News




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](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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