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

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2017 1:37 PM

Senator Joyce Waddell's January 20, 2017, Newsletter

**Senator Joyce Waddell**  
 NC Senate  
 1113 Legislative Building  
 16 West Jones Street  
 Raleigh, NC 27601-1030

*Serving District 40 and  
 Mecklenburg County*

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## The Waddell Weekly Bulletin

**Vol. 3 Ed. 1  
 No. 1**

**January 20, 2017**

**Dear Friends:**

Happy New Year! This month marks the start of a new legislative session. There is great potential for this to be a very productive session. The composition of our state government has changed since our elections last year. Our new Democratic Governor, Roy Cooper, will lead the executive branch while the GOP will have the majority in both the House and Senate.

On Wednesday, January 11, legislators and I convened for our ceremonial opening day. We took an oath into office surrounded by family, friends, and special guests. House Speaker, Tim Moore, and Senate President Pro Tem, Phil Berger, were both re-elected to serve again for the 2017-18 legislative term in their respective chambers.

I feel honored to have been elected Chaplain of the North Carolina 2017-18 Legislative Black Caucus. My duties as Chaplain consist of serving as a spiritual counselor, conducting prayer meetings, and coordinating religious studies for members of the Legislative Black Caucus.

The Republicans will continue to hold supermajorities in the Senate and House chambers. There is a host of matters for the General Assembly to resolve this session. The main initiative of the long session is to pass the state budget. The budget preparation is assigned to the Senate this biennium. Afterwards, it will be sent to the House for consideration. Other issues include teacher salary, government spending, and tax reform. There is a push for redistricting reform in hopes of changing the current system to a nonpartisan process. House Bill 2, the controversial measure which limits the rights of the LGBT community, was left unresolved due to its failed repeal in the legislative special session on December 21, 2016. Governor Roy Cooper announced plans to expand Medicaid in North Carolina, despite the efforts by the Republican leaders to block his attempt. Both sessions adjourned the opening session on Wednesday, January 11, and will reconvene at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, January 25.

*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).*

## Session News

- **Third Extra Session:** On Tuesday, December 13, 2016, legislators convened for an extra special session to address recovery efforts for the devastation of Hurricane Matthew, the western North Carolina wildfires, and Tropical Storms Hermine and Julia. U.S. Congress allocated \$300 million to assist the state in recovery. [House Bill 2 / S.L. 2016-124, the Disaster Recovery Act of 2016](#) provided \$200 million to aid citizens across the state affected by the disaster. This legislation passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed by Governor Pat McCrory on December 15, 2016. Highlights of this bill include:
  - A fee waiver for driver's license and license plate charges for those affected by the disasters
  - \$20 million to the Housing Trust Fund
  - \$9 million to the Division of Emergency Management for short term housing needs
  - \$11.5 million to the Division of Emergency Management for redevelopment planning
  - \$66.2 million to match federal disaster relief funds
  - \$10 million to local governments to rebuild damaged infrastructure
  - \$10 million to the Department of Environmental Quality to help with cleanup
  - \$37.5 million to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to help restore nurseries and other facilities
  - The bill limits the use of disaster funds used to rebuild homes being in the floodplains
  - The bill gives extra flexibility to school systems that had to close during the hurricane
  
- **Fourth Extra Session:** The following Wednesday, December 14, 2016, legislators convened for another special session in which multiple bills were introduced. [Senate Bill 4 / S.L. 2016-125, Bi-Partisan Ethics, Elections & Court Reform](#), merges the State Board of Elections with the State Ethics Commission under a new, bipartisan state agency. Previously, the Governor appointed the majority of the 5 members on the State Board of Elections. The newer board will have eight members evenly split between the parties. The Governor will appoint half of the members, while the other half will be appointed by the General Assembly. A provision of the legislation authorizes the Republican representatives to have

control over the board during General Assembly election years. Senate Bill 4 was signed by the governor on December 16, 2016. I did not vote in support of this legislation.

[House Bill 17 / S.L. 2016-126, Modify Certain Appts/Employment](#), makes various changes to the process for executive appointments. The bill authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint advisors to the State Board of Education instead of the Governor. The bill decreases the number of positions the Governor may designate as exempt throughout the Cabinet departments and offices from 1,500 to 425. The legislation also shifts authority over the K-12 education from the State Board of Education to the Office of Superintendent. The bill eliminates the Governor's power to appoint members of various education boards, such as the North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board and UNC Schools' Board of Trustees. I did not vote in support of this legislation. House Bill 17 was signed by the Governor on December 19, 2016.

In response to both of the new laws passed during this special session, Governor Roy Cooper has chosen to file a lawsuit against the Republican leaders of the General Assembly. Governor Cooper's legal team argue that certain provisions passed in the two laws are deemed unconstitutional, because they violate executive privileges and the separation of power preserved in North Carolina's Constitution.

The provisions of House Bill 17 limit the executive branch's ability to faithfully carry out its policies and administer services to the citizens of North Carolina. Likewise, Senate Bill 4 restructures the State's election and ethic laws which were formerly under the executive branch's jurisdiction. ([Governor Roy Cooper's Complaint](#))

**Fifth Extra Session:** On Wednesday, December 21, 2016, the North Carolina General Assembly convened for its final special session for the year. The legislators in agreement with the Charlotte's City Council, were expected to fully repeal [House Bill 2 / S.L. 2016-3, Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act](#), a controversial measure that cost North Carolina millions of dollars in lost jobs, sports events, and boycotts. However, after a 9-hour long session in Raleigh, House Bill 2 failed to repeal. State Republican leaders declared for months that House Bill 2 would be repealed if Charlotte rolled back its ordinance protecting transgender people. The Charlotte City Council voted Wednesday, December 21, to fully repeal its ordinance, which prompted the Governor to call for a special session.

Several Democratic Senators filed [Senate Bill 3, Repeal House Bill 2](#), which called for a full repeal of House Bill 2, but the bill was sent to the committee and never heard. The Republicans filed [Senate Bill 4, Repeal House Bill 2](#), which included a six-month cooling-off period preventing local governments from enacting nondiscrimination ordinances that regulated employment practices or public accommodations. The GOP was divided over whether to partially or fully repeal the transgender bathroom law. The House did not vote on the repeal of House Bill 2 and passed a resolution to adjourn the fifth special session. The North Carolina General Assembly adjourned the special session with House Bill 2 still standing.

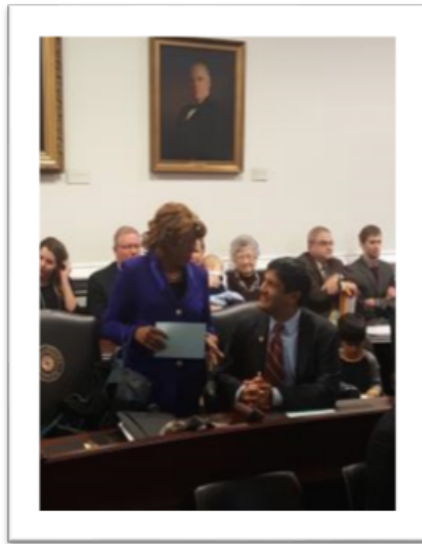
## At the General Assembly



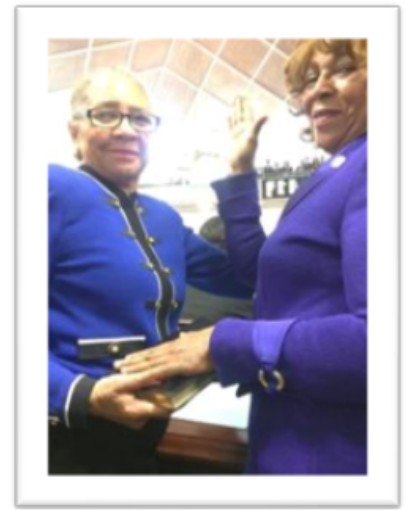
Senator Joyce Waddell was elected Chaplain of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, which includes members of the House and Senate. The Chaplain serves as a spiritual counselor, conducts prayer meetings, and coordinates religious studies for members of the Legislative Black Caucus. The newly elected N.C. Supreme Court Judge Mike Morgan administered the oath of office.  
Wednesday, January 11, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell and the newly elected officers of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus are sworn in by N.C. Supreme Court Judge Mike Morgan for the 153<sup>rd</sup> Session of the North Carolina General Assembly.  
Wednesday, January 11, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell catches up with her Democratic colleague, Senator Jay Chaudhuri, before the ceremonial opening day of the 2017 legislative session.  
Wednesday, January 11, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell was sworn in as North Carolina Senator for District 40. The Honorable Judge Charlotte D. Brown participates by holding the Bible as the oath of office is administered.  
Wednesday, January 11, 2017

## In Charlotte, NC



Senator Waddell greets the new Superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, Dr. Clayton Wilcox.  
Tuesday, January 10, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell participates in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Parade.  
Saturday, January 14, 2017



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 [waddelljila@ncleg.net](mailto:waddelljila@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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