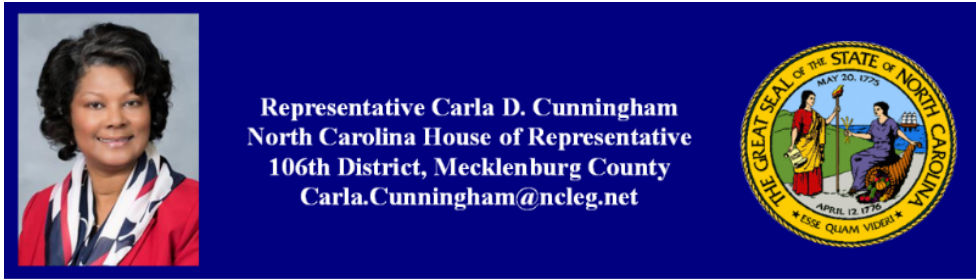


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**June 11-20, 2018**

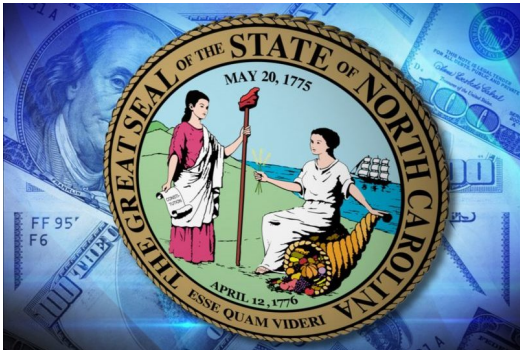
Greetings,

Last week the General Assembly worked overtime. Sessions repeatedly ran late into the night, almost to midnight. Hundreds of bills were rushed through committee and onto the floor for votes. It was not the way to make good laws and good policy.

This week the pace will be slower, but the stakes will be higher. It is expected that Republican legislative leaders will start advancing bills that would amend the North Carolina State Constitution through November referendums. Expected issues include adding language requiring a photo ID for anyone who wants to vote and capping the state income tax at 5.5% thus “locking-in” income tax cuts for the wealthy and making it harder to fund schools.

Best regards,  
Rep. Carla Cunningham

**Governor Cooper Vetoes Budget**



Last week the General Assembly passed a State Budget with all House Democrats and

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One House Republican voting NO. This week Governor Cooper vetoed the budget. Here is [his statement](#) explaining his veto:

“I will not sign my name to a budget that protects corporations and the wealthy at the expense of schools and students. This budget falls short of what our teachers and public education needs. North Carolinians will not stand for a secret, unchangeable budget born of a broken legislative process.”

Additionally, here is a [handy chart](#) showing the [differences between Governor Cooper's budget and the legislative Republican budget](#).

If Republicans continue to vote as a near-block on the vote, they will be able to override the Governor's veto and the State Budget will become law. It takes 49 votes in the House to sustain the veto, but only 46 House members (45 Democrats, 1 Republican) voted against the budget when it passed the House.

[Roy Cooper vetoes state budget](#)  
The News & Observer

[Cooper vetoes GOP budget, saying it 'doesn't cut it'](#)  
WRAL

[Editorial: Gov. Cooper - Veto this bill](#)  
Capital Broadcasting Company

[Our Opinion: Dark efficiency](#)  
News & Record

[Editorial: GOP jams budget into law](#)  
Wilmington Star-News

[Opinion: Soooooie! There's plenty of pork in the state budget](#)  
The News & Observer

[GOP Budget Language Affects I-77 Tolls, Light Rail Projects](#)  
WFAE

[Thousands of families will get help paying for child care. So why are advocates raising alarms?](#)  
The Charlotte Observer

[NC attorney general not happy about lack of funding for 15,000 untested rape kits](#)  
Spectrum News Charlotte

[Proposed NC state budget includes teacher raises, but falls short of expectations](#)  
Fox8

[Opinion: GOP's budget fails on GenX actions](#)  
Wilmington Star News

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**Allowing Municipal Charter Schools**

[HB 514](#) allows the towns of Cornelius, Mint Hill, Huntersville, and Matthews (all in Mecklenburg County) to operate charter schools. The vote was 64 to 53 in favor with all House Democrats present opposing the bill joined by nine Republicans. Because the bill only impacts four towns it is considered a “local bill.” The North Carolina Constitution does not allow the Governor to veto local bills so HB 514 is now law having previously been approved by the Senate.

Supporters of the bill say the towns now have options to give citizens more choices when they are unhappy with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system. Opponents of the bill point out that it will further re-segregate public schools as the towns given this special authority have fewer minority citizens than the county as a whole. Opponents also point out that giving municipalities the authority to fund public education is unprecedented in North Carolina, where public school funding has always been mostly a State responsibility.

[Controversial NC charter bill approved. Now, these four towns could open schools.](#)

The Charlotte Observer

[Segregation in 2018? Resistance builds as NC town charter school bill labeled racist](#)

The Charlotte Observer

[CMS Officials, Clergy Threaten Lawsuit Against Charter School Bill](#)

WFAE

[Editorial: City money for schools? Why that's a false hope](#)

The Charlotte Observer



**Limited School Safety Bill Passes, Gun Safety Amendments Fail**

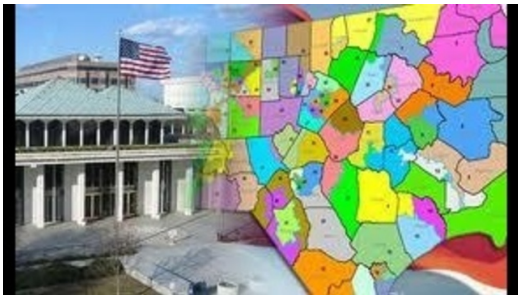
The NC House passed unanimously [HB 938](#), a bill with various changes to state law to make school safety. [HB 938](#) now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

What is missing from HB 938 is funding – several of its promising requirements do not come with state money – and common sense gun safety reforms.

Gun safety amendments were introduced by House Democrats and defeated on a

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<p>procedural vote that ruled them out of order. The proposals include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enacting an extreme risk protection order (similar to existing domestic violence orders) that allow a judge to remove a gun from someone found to be dangerous.</li><li>• To require a dealer to impose a three day waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm. This amendment would give a “cooling off” period to someone who is angry and desperate who might intend to do great harm to others in a school or elsewhere or to him/herself.</li><li>• Raise the age to own a firearm from 18 to 21.</li><li>• Require 911 systems to accept text messages so that anyone in a dangerous situation can reach out to emergency officials quietly.</li><li>• Ban bump stocks that are used to make semi-automatic weapons into machine guns.</li><li>• Restore NC law that allowed law enforcement to destroy surrendered guns.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Allen Johnson: Guns ... 'not germane' to school shootings</a></p> <p>News &amp; Record</p>			

Judicial Redistricting



The General Assembly continued its assault on judicial independence this week. Previously, I reported to you about efforts to gerrymander judicial districts across North Carolina. Those efforts faltered statewide, but bills passed last week to change certain areas.

[HB 1037](#) amends districts in Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson, Scotland, Hoke, Montgomery, Randolph, Moore, Stanly, Anson, and Richmond.

[SB 757](#) amends districts in Wake, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, and Pender. Most significantly, it creates gerrymandered districts for the Wake and Mecklenburg district court judges where those judges have always been elected countywide.

News of the Week

- [Billy Richardson: Backing our teachers who showed us the way](#)  
Fayetteville Observer
- [School building, officer mandates clears N Carolina House](#)  
Associated Press

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	<a href="#">What Budget Cuts Mean for Third Graders in a Rural School in Greene County, NC</a> New York Times		
	<a href="#">NC lawmakers move to protect pork giant hit by big verdict</a> WRAL		
	<a href="#">Judicial remap in Mecklenburg, Wake counties approved</a> WSOC		
	<a href="#">NC lawmakers move to protect pork giant hit by big verdict</a> Associated Press		
	<a href="#">Cooper calls Republican offshore drilling proposal 'ransom'</a> The News & Observer		
	<a href="#">Gov. Cooper: 'The I-77 contract is a bad contract'</a> Charlotte Business Journal		
	<a href="#">Cooper vetoes judicial district, election bills</a> Associated Press		
	<a href="#">Editorial: Filing for judges opens Monday. 'Katie, bar the door.'</a> The Charlotte Observer		
	<a href="#">Editorial: Another opportunity has been missed to build community trust in Raleigh</a> Asheville Citizen-Times		
	<a href="#">North Carolina passes charter school law that critics say is intended to promote segregation</a> Washington Post		
	<a href="#">NC lawmakers pass amendment to better protect victims of date rape</a> WBTV		
	<a href="#">Police access to prescription database approved in the NC legislature</a> The News & Observer		
	<a href="#">Report: Superior court judge finds out via text of his seat elimination</a> NC Policy Watch		
	<a href="#">State budget now law after House overrides veto</a> WRAL		
	<a href="#">Some state employees are discovering they're left out of the new \$15 minimum wage</a> The News & Observer		
	<a href="#">Republicans resurrect the battle over Voter ID in NC</a> WTVD		
	<a href="#">Our view: Voter ID is still a bad idea</a> Winston-Salem Journal		

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<a href="#">Our view: voter ID plan best taken with a grain of suspicion</a> The Fayetteville Observer			
<a href="#">Constitution should favor all, not one political party</a> Greenville Daily Reflector			
<a href="#">North Carolina Could Ban Labeling of Plant-based Drinks As Milk</a> Daily Herd Management			

Health and Wellness



Since Father's Day falls in June, it makes sense that June also is Men's Health Month, as well as International Men's Month. June also serves as the national month for Alzheimer's and brain awareness, aphasia awareness, cataract awareness, hernia awareness, migraine and headache awareness, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) awareness, scleroderma awareness, antiphospholipid antibody syndrome awareness, child vision awareness, vision research, cancer from the sun, world infertility, and professional wellness. The month also recognizes the International Childhood Cancer Campaign.

June

- National Safety Month
- Cataract Awareness Month
- Men's Health Month
- National Scleroderma Awareness Month

Weeks to note:

- June 1 to June 7: National Migraine Awareness Week
- June 12 to June 18: National Men's Health Week
- June 15 to June 22: National Nursing Assistant Week
- June 24 to June 30: Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

Days to note:

- June 4: Cancer Survivors Day
- June 14: World Blood Donor Day
- June 19: World Sickle Cell Day
- June 27: National HIV Testing Day

Bad Early Voting Changes Head to Governor's Desk

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Legislative Republicans passed [SB 325](#) to significantly change early voting beginning with the 2018 elections. Here is what the bill would do:

First, the bill cancels early voting on the Saturday before Election Day and replaces it with the third Wednesday before the election. Saturday typically features the heaviest voting of the early vote period, particularly with African-American voters.

Second, [SB 325](#) ends local discretion to have staggered early voting hours at multiple sites. Right now, a county has the discretion to have some sites open the full period and some sites open for just part of the time. This helps with staffing issues and allows local officials the flexibility to balance voter convenience issues with efficiently using tax dollars. You see it play it out in cities where downtown sites may not be open on weekends or in rural areas where more remote sites may be open for only a few days because few residents live nearby.

[SB 325](#) would require localities to keep all sites open, if they want to keep one site open. The result will likely be fewer sites as there is no state funding to pay to keep all sites open.

Third, [SB 325](#) mandates that any site that is open be open from 7 to 7. Some areas may have difficulty staffing 12 hour sites and thus won't open the site at all.

[SB 325](#) passed its final House and Senate readings with no Democrats in support and head's to the Governor's desk for his likely veto

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#### **Medicaid Expansion Dead for Now**



Medicaid expansion lacked the votes to pass from the moment the General Assembly began back in January 2017. While Republican-led legislatures in states like Virginia voted to expand Medicaid just this year, the NC General Assembly remained steadfast in voting down all efforts.

The latest effort took place with [HB 998](#) titled "Improving NC Rural Health." Medicaid

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<p>expansion is the single most important thing we can do to make rural North Carolina a healthier place to live. It would give hundreds of thousands of people access to health care and throw a lifeline to rural hospitals that are struggling. Yet an amendment to expand Medicaid was ruled out of order and voted down when that ruling was appealed.</p> <p>A second amendment to study the issue of Medicaid and rural North Carolina succeeded on a 69 to 43 vote with 25 Republicans joining with all the Democrats. Unfortunately, the Senate removed the study from the bill meaning that North Carolina continues to send its taxpayer dollars to DC for health care access for citizens in other states, but not NC citizens.</p> <p><a href="#">Senators say no to a study of expanding Medicaid in North Carolina</a></p> <p>The News &amp; Observer</p>			

# NC 2-1-1 Help Starts Here

North Carolina 2-1-1 is a statewide information and referral service that can connect you to a network of more than 19,000 community services and resources. The service is free, confidential, and available anytime in many languages. Visit [NC211.org](#) for details.

Simply dial 2-1-1 and you can talk with specialists who can assist you. Statewide the top contacts and needs focus on housing, utilities, healthcare, and food. The United Way of North Carolina provides administrative and leadership support for the program.



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**Rep. Carla Cunningham: House Committee  
Assignments 2017-2018 Session**

- Appropriations
- Appropriations Health and Human Services
- Commerce and Job Development
- Energy and Public Utilities
- Health
- Health Care Reform
- House Select Committee on Implementation of  
Building Code Regulatory Reform
- House Select Committee on School Safety  
Regulatory Reform

**Non-Standing Committee**

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and  
Human Services

**Appointment by North Carolina  
Governor Roy Cooper**

North Carolina Commission for Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse  
Services

**Appointments by North Carolina House of  
Representative Speaker Tim Moore**

- Minority Health Advisory Council
- Associates Advisory Committee Member- Council of  
State Government (CSG)
- Health Public Policy Committee - Council of State  
Governments (CSG)
- North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing

**North Carolina Institute of Medicine  
Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program**

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Lobby Day at the North Carolina General Asser



A few of Mecklenburg's teachers that  
joined thousands of NC teachers at the  
NC Teacher Rally in Raleigh, NC



Nurse - Family Partnership Legislative Day at the  
General Assembly.



Home and Hospice Care Annual Legislative Day -  
Bayada Home Health

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