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16-12 Grants Committee

18-01 (41)

18-02 (45)

18-03 (41)

18-04 (53)

18-05 (55)

18-06 (33)

18-07 (47)

18-08 (29)

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Senator Joel Ford September Newsletter

Monica Fuller (Sen. Joel Ford) [Fordlla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 10:38 AM

To: Steve Johnston

Vol. 7, Ed. 3

September 10, 2018

Back to School Message of Support

A new school year of **success** has officially started and I want to first and foremost send a special **Thank You** to the teachers of the **Charlotte-Mecklenburg School** system for enriching our children to **strive for greatness**. I want to also thank staff and faculty for being the **backbone** of our school district. May this school year bring more **accomplishments** and **success**.

Repeal Literacy Requirement/ Const. Amendment

As the **Co-Sponsor** for Senate Bill 2, I **agree** with Senator Ben Clark that there is a need for swift **repeal** of the North Carolina Constitution regarding **literacy requirements**. Currently, the state constitution **requires** residents “to have the ability to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language.” A literacy requirement is **NOT** a representation of what North Carolina stands for. Supporting a literacy requirement will do more **harm** to our state than good.

November 2018 Election

The **general election** is only a couple of months away. As you prepare to **vote** at your respective polling location, please **be advised** that you **ARE NOT REQUIRED** to show any form of **photo ID** to vote in this upcoming election.

Also keep in mind you will be tasked to **VOTE** on six (6) proposed constitutional amendments.

House Bill 551	Strengthening Victims’ Rights (Marsy’s Law)
House Bill 913	Bipartisan Ethics and Elections Enforcement
House Bill 1092	Const. Amendment- Require Photo ID to Vote
Senate Bill 75	Const. Amendment- Max. Income Tax Rate of 7.0%
Senate Bill 814	Judicial Vacancy Sunshine Amendment
Senate Bill 677	Protect Right to Hunt and Fish

The **2018 General election** will be held on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018** with **ALL** polling locations opening 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. **One stop early voting** begins on **Wednesday, October 17** and ends on **Friday, November 2, 2018**.

Voter Registration

Registering to vote is **essential** to your involvement in the political process. Those who **are not registered** can **print off** a voter registration form from the

1 of 3

9/15/18, 9:14 AM

NC Board of Elections website and either fax, mail or drop it off in person to the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections. Aspiring voters can also **complete forms at the office** or seek out a **voter registration drive**. Those who have **previously registered** to vote but **have moved** since then should complete a voter registration form to **update their registration** to their **current** address. **Here is a link to the printable form** <https://goo.gl/KtUaM8>. The voter registration deadline for the November election is **Friday, October 12, 2018 at 5 p.m.**

LEGISLATIVE

Second Extra Session

For the **second** time this year, we have been called into an **Extra Session**. In response to a court order, the NCGA had to **rewrite** the language of two (2) **proposed constitutional amendments**; Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections and the Judicial Vacancy Sunshine Amendment. To address the Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections, the courts wanted the NCGA to **remove all election issues**. Also, instead of direct nominations from the Governor, leaders of the **largest parties** in office will submit a list to the **governor**. This list must have more names than that of what the governor can nominate to **create discretion**. To address the Judicial Vacancy Sunshine Amendment, the changes focus on the Nonpartisan Judicial Merit Commission. **New additional language** was added in **Section 5** to address the **vagueness** of the Commission and will read as follows **“and containing no other matter.”** The **ballot language** was also changed and for further reading please refer to the provided link <https://www2.ncleg.net/BillLookup/2017E2/H3>.

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

Our committee met to discuss **Hurricane Matthew relief efforts** which affected our state October of 2016. This **devastating** hurricane not only caused more than **two dozen storm-related deaths** but an estimated **\$10.3 billion** in damages. This hurricane impacted our state **691 days ago** and we are still faced with many unanswered questions. It **pains** me to know that we still have displaced families and I assure you we are working hard to **rectify** the situation. If any of you or if you know of **anyone** that has been **affected** by Hurricane Matthew and needs assistance please **contact** our office. We continued our meeting by discussing the **Atlantic Coast Pipeline**. For those **unfamiliar** with the pipeline project, it is an underground **natural gas** transmission pipeline that will run approximately **600 miles** beginning in West Virginia and Virginia and ending in North Carolina. The pipeline is to generate **\$60 million** in local property tax revenue between 2018 and 2025. Atlantic committed to providing **\$57.8 million** in funding to services such as support and funding for **economic development** in counties that will be affected by the pipeline. One of many concerns regarding the funding is who will have **authority** over the distribution and how the **funding** will be spent. Though we were unable to receive the appropriate answers in a timely manner, the committee **voted** to create another committee that will address **all** unanswered questions pertaining to Hurricane Matthew and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

DISTRICT/RELATED NEWS

The North Graham Extension Project- There are no new updates this month; however, the projected **completion date** for this project is **April 27, 2019**. I want to thank everyone who is working hard on this extension project and I want to thank Charlotte residents for your patience.

I-77 Update- I-77 Express **completion** is set for **late 2018** and the Mobility Partners will host a **public hearing** which will provide a **presentation** on the toll pricing and initial **toll rates**. A public hearing will be September 13, 2018 at the **Huntersville United Methodist Church Worship Center; 14005 Stumptown Road; Huntersville, NC 28078**. The presentation will begin at **6:30 p.m.** and public comments at **7:00 p.m.** If you would like to participate in the **public comment section**, registration will be at the venue and you must **register** prior to 7:00 p.m. Check out <http://www.i77express.com/> for further updates.

A complete list of all of the road closures can be found on the I-77 website.

Lane	Lane Closure	Date and Times Closed
I-77 Northbound	Exit 11 to Exit 12	Tuesday, September 11 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
		Wednesday, September 12 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

	Exit 19 to Exit 30	Saturday, September 15 from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m.
	Exit 19 to Exit 33	Thursday, September 13 from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Saturday, September 15 from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m.
	Exit 31 to Exit 33	Friday, September 14 from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. Saturday, September 15 from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m.
I-77 Southbound	Exit 31 to Exit 30	Friday, September 14 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Saturday, September 15 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
	Exit 30 to Exit 28	Wednesday, September 12 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
I-277 Outer/Westbound	Exit/ramp 5A	Saturday, September 15 from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.
I-277 Inner/Eastbound	Exit/ramp 5A	Friday, September 14 from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Thank you for continuing to voice your issues, thoughts, and concerns through your many e-mails, phone calls, and office visits. Please feel free to contact me or my office at any time. Please kindly forward this newsletter to your family and friends so they can stay in the loop as to what is going on in Raleigh and our District. If interested, they may send us their contact information so we can add them to our newsletter!

Senator Joel D. M. Ford
North Carolina State Senate
Legislative Office Building
300 N Salisbury St., Room 520
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 733-5955 phone
(919) 754-3254 fax
Joel.Ford@ncleg.net

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