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Rep. Carla Cunningham - November 2018 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 11:10 PM

To: Steve Johnston

Representative Carla D. Cunningham

North Carolina House of Representative

106th District, Mecklenburg County

Carla.Cunningham@ncleg.net

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

November 19, 2018

Greetings,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the voters of the 106th House District for re-electing

me to the North Carolina General Assembly. I am honored and humbled that you have placed your trust in me.

It has been so encouraging to meet so many new people. During my campaign travels, I met not only new residents in the district, but also new and longtime residents of my district.

The support I felt on Election Day was incredible and I owe it to you.

With your trust, I will work tirelessly on your behalf to help address challenges, and to secure lasting and meaningful improvements to your quality of life.

Not only am I thankful for your support, but also for all the candidates who offer to serve their communities and seek solutions for public problems. It is not easy to put oneself out there in such a public forum, so I give credit to those with the initiative to do so.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Best regards,
Rep. Carla Cunningham



"Happy Thanksgiving"

From Representative Carla Cunningham and Sherrie Burnette

On this Thanksgiving Day, we want to express our gratitude for all of the wonderful blessings in our life.

First and foremost, we are grateful for our amazing families. They motivate us to reach our full potential. We are also grateful for our family and friends, who instilled good values in both of us.

We are so blessed to be citizens of this great nation. We are thankful for our inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are thankful for small steps and giant leaps. We are thankful for the woman on the bus and the man with the dream. We are thankful for the bravery of the greatest generation. In short, we are thankful for over 200 years of American history defined by courageous, innovative, and thoughtful men and women.

Please take some time on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018 to reflect on the blessings in your life and to express your gratitude. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,
Rep. Carla Cunningham and Sherrie Burnette



The General Assembly is in recess. We are set to return on November 27 to continue our 2018 Short Session. This is an extremely unusual late-year session that will likely feature attempts by the outgoing Republican supermajorities to pass controversial legislation while they still have the votes to override Governor Cooper's vetoes.

In this year's statewide contests, four constitutional amendments passed and two failed. The four that PASSED are:

- Creating a constitutional right to hunt and fish;
- Expanding existing crime victims' constitutional rights;
- Requiring a photo identification to vote in person; and
- Capping state corporate and individual tax rates at 7%.

The two proposed amendments that FAILED are:

- Creating a new evenly-divided Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement with appointments controlled by legislative leaders; and
- Filling judicial vacancies with interim appointments controlled by legislative leaders to serve extra-long terms before the voters can vote on who fills the seat.

North Carolina also voted on a NC Supreme Court seat and three seats on the NC Court of Appeals. You may remember that Republicans have fought hard to make these elections (and all judicial elections) partisan so it's a little ironic that Democrats won all four races. I continue to believe judges should be independent and their elections non-partisan.

All seats in the State Senate and State House were also on the ballot. Results are not final yet, but Republicans won majorities in both chambers and Democrats gained enough seats to break the current supermajorities. The likely final margin is 29 Republicans and 21 Democrats in the State Senate and 65/66 Republicans and 55/54 Democrats in the State House.

What does breaking the supermajority mean?

- No more constitutional amendments unless there is bipartisan support.
- No more special sessions unless there is bipartisan support.
- If Governor Cooper vetoes a bill, there are now enough Democratic votes to sustain that veto (and prevent the bill from becoming law) even if all Republicans vote to override the veto.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and encouraged or worked to get others to do the same!



November is Military Family Appreciation Month

North Carolina is home to over one million active military members, veterans, guards and reservists, and their families. Military personnel and families contribute over \$66 billion to the state's economy, supporting 578,000 jobs, \$34 billion in personal income, and 80,000 veteran-owned small businesses.

Governor Cooper declared November to be Military Family Appreciation Month in recognition of their importance to our state economy, but even more importantly, in recognition to their civic and community service.

You can read his [proclamation here](#) and also [his proclamation](#) declaring this week as Veterans Small Business Week.

Additionally, there is a new state resource for veterans looking for employment. [NC Works Veterans Portal](#) provides a one-stop shop for veterans looking for employment and for employers looking to hire workers with military backgrounds.



North Carolina Launches Educator Discovery Awards to Help Public School Teachers Connect Students with Careers

A new program will help North Carolina public school teachers get the training and experience they need to provide more opportunities for their students to learn about promising careers.

The Governor's Educator Discovery Awards recognize the value of quality professional development for teachers at all phases of their careers. The program will provide a stipend of up to \$1,000 for preK-12 traditional public and public charter school teachers to pursue a professional development experience of their choosing. Teachers can use the grant award to attend a workshop or conference that deepens their subject area knowledge, such as a coding workshop for computer science teachers, or a session on how to create a project-based

learning experience for students. The program aims to hand out six to 12 awards during the 2018-19 school year.

To be eligible for the Governor's Educator Discovery Awards, teachers will submit a proposal that includes details about their teaching experience and the professional development activity they wish to pursue. Applicants also need to describe how their participation in the professional development experience will enhance their efforts to create a work-based learning activity for their students.

Applications submitted online by January 1, 2019 will be considered for the first set of awards. Future applications will be considered after the 15th of April and July and beyond, if sufficient funding is available. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of business leaders and educators.

To learn more about the Governor's Educator Discovery Awards or submit an application, [click here](#).



Hurricane Florence Recovery – 2 Month Update

Two months after the federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Florence, more than \$869 million in state and federal funds has been provided directly to North Carolinians to aid in their recovery. The funds include grants from FEMA, payouts from the National Flood Insurance Program and low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Among the assistance provided by the federal government:

- \$114.3 million for homeowners and renters;
- \$465.2 million in flood insurance claims;
- \$290 million in small business low-interest disaster loans.

Other updates and signs of recovery include:

- 32,088 North Carolinians have been approved for housing assistance grants. Of those, 18,804 homeowners and renters received temporary rental assistance.
- 88 eligible households have been licensed in to occupy travel trailers and manufactured housing units.
- \$19.5 million in grants have been approved to help homeowners and renters replace personal property, for medical and dental expenses, moving and storage fees and other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance.
- The joint state/FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers have assisted 32,455 visitors.
- Teams of Disaster Survivor Assistance crews have visited 100,374 homes in storm-damaged communities, registered 4,782 survivors and made 4,774 case updates and

inquiries.

- FEMA inspectors have completed 99 percent of 97,449 assigned home inspections as part of the process of determining whether applicants are eligible for assistance.
- More than \$125 million in food assistance has been issued through the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- 1,422 households have received a single \$500 payment for cleaning and removing contaminated floor coverings through Clean and Removal Assistance, totaling \$711,000.

There is a lot of work yet to be done and survivors who still have not sought the help they need. They should:

- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov or DisasterAssistance.gov in Spanish.
- Call the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 (TTY) anytime from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. local time seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available.
- Visit a disaster recovery center. Find an open center online at fema.gov/DRC, download the FEMA mobile app in English or FEMA mobile app in Spanish, or the ReadyNC app. An in-person American Sign Language interpreter is available by calling or texting 202-655-8824. If possible, please allow 24 hours to schedule an interpreter.

The deadline to register with FEMA, as well as apply for direct disaster loans from the SBA as a result of Hurricane Florence has been extended to Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018.

The 34 North Carolina counties designated for Individual Assistance are: Anson, Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Chatham, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Greene, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pender, Pitt, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Union, Wayne and Wilson.

For more information on North Carolina's recovery from Hurricane Florence, visit ncdps.gov/Florence and FEMA.gov/Disaster/4393. Follow us on Twitter: @NCEmergency and @FEMARegion4



November National Health Observances

The month of November focuses special attention on many important diseases and other health issues, including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes, as well as the importance and benefits of quitting smoking.

- [American Diabetes Month](#)
- [Bladder Health Month](#)
- [COPD Awareness Month](#)
- [Diabetic Eye Disease Month](#)
- [Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#)

- [National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month](#)
- [National Family Caregivers Month](#)
- [National Healthy Skin Month](#)
- [National Hospice and Palliative Care Month](#)
- [Stomach Cancer Awareness Month](#)
- 9 [National Diabetes Heart Connection Day](#)
- 13 - 19 [U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week](#)
- 16 [Great American Smokeout](#)
- 17 [International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day](#)
- 20 - 26 [Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week](#)
- 22 [National Family Health History Day](#)

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