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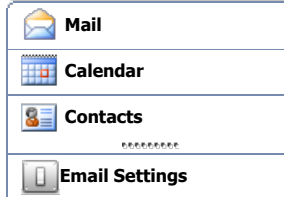
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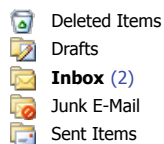
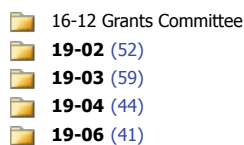
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## Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, July 12, 2019 5:20 PM

To: Steve Johnston


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*July 12, 2019*



## Representative Nasif Majeed

### Serving District 99 Mecklenburg County



Peace. After coming back from our 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday break, the House immediately addressed the Governor's veto of the budget. As you recall, Governor Roy Cooper vetoed [HB 966 \[2019 Appropriations Act\]](#), which was 395 pages of the Republicans agenda and nothing that he requested in his budget proposal [\[HB588\]](#) [\[SB452\]](#).

A vote to override the Governor's veto was on the calendar all week, however budget talk is different this year because prior to this session, the General Assembly had a veto-proof majority and could easily put vetoed-bills into law. No longer the case, the majority party needs members of the minority party to vote with them if an override is achievable.

On a side note, it has been an interesting education watching the Republican Majority leadership attempting to bribe the Democratic Minority with pork barrel accommodations to influence their vote to override the Governor's veto. I don't understand how these "thirty pieces of silver sellouts" can sleep on their pillows at night. Currently, we are still holding strong and thankfully they still don't have enough votes to override the Governor's veto. Stand by!!

### **NC House Passes Stopgap Budget Bill as Legislative Leaders Refuse to Hold Veto Override Vote**

North Carolina does not yet have a State Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020, but unlike with the federal government, there is no government shutdown. State law allows state operations to continue to be funded at recurring levels from last year's budget.

Additionally, the NC House passed a bipartisan bill this week that will facilitate the use of federal dollars during this time without a State Budget.

We are at this impasse because the General Assembly passed a State Budget on a largely party-line vote and Governor Cooper vetoed the bill. Legislative leaders have refused to hold a veto override vote because they do not have the votes to win. Overriding a veto requires a 3/5 majority rather than a simple majority.

Governor Cooper has introduced his counter budget proposal, which our state's largest education advocacy organization for public school employees has endorsed. [See

statement below]

## STATEMENT FROM NCAE ON GOVERNOR'S BUDGET COUNTER PROPOSAL



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 2019

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### STATEMENT FROM NCAE ON GOVERNOR'S BUDGET COUNTER PROPOSAL

"NCAE applauds the commitment of Governor Cooper to his priorities of increased funding for public education and expansion of Medicaid in his budget counter proposal," said NCAE President Mark Jewell. "With real investment through equitable raises for educators, serious consideration of instructional needs, and a robust approach to the wellness of students and their families, this is the kind of budget that will not only start moving public education in the right direction, but the state as a whole. We hope this will be well received by leaders in the General Assembly and will be given serious and thoughtful consideration."

NCAE is the state's largest education advocacy organization for public school employees, and represents active, retired, and student members.

###

As Republican leaders try to convince Democrats to join with them to override the budget veto, Governor Cooper and House/Senate Democrats released a detailed compromise offer.

The compromise proposal would:

- Expand Medicaid healthcare coverage for 500,000 to 600,000 working North Carolinians.
- Increase teacher pay by an average of 8.5% over two years with no plateaus and a pay raise for every teacher. The Republican conference budget proposed an average teacher raise of 3.8% plus a one-time bonus.
- Fund extra pay for teachers with master's degrees, paying substitutes so teachers don't have to pay them out of pocket, support National Board certification and improve recruitment of diverse teachers.
- Better state employee pay raises by providing a 5% raise for state employees, 5% for non-certified school personnel, 5% for UNC employees, and 4% for community college employees. Under the Republican conference budget, only 27% of state workers received the 5% raise that was promised while non-certified school personnel got a 2% raise, UNC employees received a 1% raise, and community

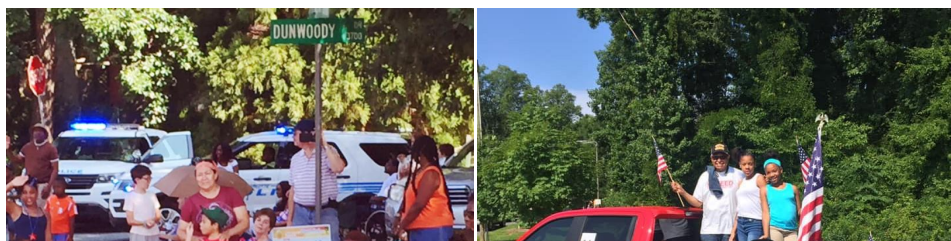
college employees received a 2% raise.

- Increase retirees' cost-of-living adjustment to 2% for state employee retirees. This is up from 1% in the Republican conference budget.
- Allow voters to approve a \$3.5 billion dollar statewide bond to pay for local school construction and investments in universities, community colleges, and sewer/water. Reduce the Republican conference budget's reliance on the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) to pay for infrastructure needs. Reducing the SCIF allows more money for teacher and state employee pay.
- Accept tax cuts for people by raising the standard deduction on income tax as included in the Republican conference budget, but eliminate nearly \$400 million in corporate tax cuts.
- Maintain private school vouchers in the base budget for those who now use them, but do not include additional money or special provisions that expand and promote additional private school vouchers. I would prefer to eliminate private school vouchers entirely, but this is a compromise offer.
- Increase investment in early childhood education and Smart Start to reach more children.
- Increase investment in clean air and water through the Department of Environmental Quality with a focus on GenX and other PFAs and emerging compounds.
- Restore cuts to DHHS in the Legislature's budget to provide flexibility on Medicaid transformation to managed care, with a special budget provision that allows the department to tap Medicaid Contingency Fund if needed.

For a spreadsheet on the compromise proposal with specific numbers please click [HERE](#).

Where do we go from here? North Carolinians chose to elect a Democratic Governor and a General Assembly with a Republican majority, but one where there are enough Democrats to sustain a veto. Basically, the voters elected a divided government. They expect us to compromise and reach common ground. That is what I am committed to doing and will work toward that goal until we have a State Budget for all of North Carolina.

### **The 51st Annual Hickory Grove Parade Was A Huge Success**





**Food, Family, & Friends....  
A Good Time Was Had by All!**

It was a great turnout and it's always fun to participate in this historic event. Because our legislature was in session, I was unable to participate in this year's planning but I can never forget the leadership and sacrifice of Susan Lindsay (RIP) over numerous years that built this parade into a premier Charlotte venue for July 4th festivities.



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PEACE.



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