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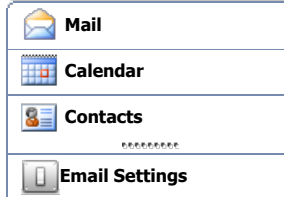
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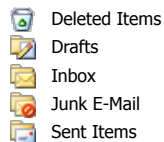
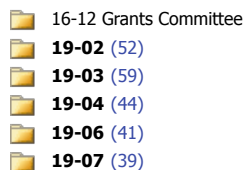


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Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, August 01, 2019 6:36 PM

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August 1, 2019

Representative Nasif Majeed



Representing District 99 Mecklenburg County

Legislative Updates:

PEACE. On July 7th, Governor Cooper, Senate Democratic Leader Dan Blue, and House Democratic Leader Darren Jackson sent a compromise proposal to legislative leaders. Legislative leaders rejected the proposal and have so far refused to make a counter proposal. So we are at an impasse with no State Budget.

You can read details of the [compromise offer here](#).

Though there has been no counter proposal from legislative leaders, that does not mean they have been sitting on their hands doing nothing. In the past 24 days, they have:

- Scheduled budget veto override votes to take advantage of Democratic legislators' illnesses, family medical situations, and absences due to out-of-state government conferences.
- Ignored State House rules to defeat Democratic attempts to schedule a budget veto override vote for a certain date.
- Criticized Medicaid Expansion that closes the health care coverage gap for 500,000 North Carolinians as a "pet project."

- Wasted tax dollars on legislative sessions with no meaningful votes.

What does it mean to not have a State Budget?

The good news is North Carolina is not the federal government. We have a state law in place that provides funding to state government services at the same recurring level as last year until a new State Budget is passed. So there are no disruptions yet to state parks, government offices, state services, etc.

What are the downsides to not having a State Budget?

North Carolina is growing and so is our economy. That means we have growing spending needs and also growing tax revenue. Relying on what we did last year allows us to muddle along, but does nothing to address problems like the need to increase teacher and state employee pay and closing the health care coverage gap.

What is the hold up?

The General Assembly passed a State Budget that had good parts, but also some significant shortcomings. The main problems were:

- Failure to use federal tax dollars we send to Washington to expand Medicaid and close the health care coverage gap here in North Carolina.
- Additional corporate tax cuts that diverts money away from public education.
- Expansion of private school vouchers that diverts money away from public education.
- Refusal to use statewide bond package to fund local school construction and clean water projects across the state.

North Carolina's State Budget runs on the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). The State Budget is the roughly \$25 billion plan for how state government raises and spends money.

Every day Republican legislative leaders delay the start of negotiations on a compromise budget means more tax dollars wasted on "do-nothing" legislative sessions and more delay in getting a State Budget that invests in public education more, cuts corporate taxes less, and closes the health care coverage gap for North Carolinians.

Governor Cooper vetoed the budget because of these problems (and others). House and Senate Democrats have enough votes to sustain Governor Cooper's veto which means we do not have a State Budget unless both sides compromise.



I support the efforts to close the health care coverage gap, stop the corporate tax cuts, and use those funds for public education, teacher pay, and state employee compensation. We also need a statewide bond referendum for voters to consider that would take advantage of low interest rates to provide a guaranteed stream of funding for local school construction and clean water projects across North Carolina.

Virginia Governor Announces More Than 300,000 Virginians Now Enrolled in Expanded Medicaid Program

Virginia just expanded Medicaid with a Democratic Governor, Republican State House, and Republican State Senate. They did it through their State Budget bill. 300,000

Virginians now have health care coverage who did not have it just a few months ago. In North Carolina it would be around 500,000. If Virginia can do it, why can't North Carolina?

All it takes is a willingness of Republican leadership to compromise on the State Budget and do the right thing. No state that has expanded Medicaid has changed its mind. It means billions of dollars we are sending to DC through our taxes would come back to North Carolina for health care jobs and health care coverage for our citizens.

Every year we refuse to close the coverage gap means that money and those jobs are lost, and more rural hospitals go bankrupt. More importantly, it means more North Carolinians will die needlessly or lead less healthy lives.



Modest School Safety Bill Passes

Unfortunately, legislative leaders refuse to consider any gun safety bills that would make our communities and schools safer and promote responsible gun ownership.

Last week the House and Senate did pass [SB 5](#) to improve school safety in our classrooms. It's a small step and one I will continue to work to build on with real gun safety reforms.

Here is some of what is in [SB 5](#):

- Provide public safety training for school personnel.
- Require annual vulnerability assessments for each public school building.
- Require threat assessment teams be established at each public school.
- Require local boards of education to require peer-to-peer support programs at all schools with grades six and higher.
- Provide funding for an anonymous safety tip hotline app for local schools.

Here are some common-sense gun safety proposals that legislative leaders have blocked in any Senate or House bill:

- Ban bump stocks that turn guns into fully automatic weapons.
- Require permits for assault weapons and long guns, just like we do already for handguns.
- Prohibit sales of assault weapons and long guns to 18, 19, and 21 year olds.
- Require safe storage of firearms.
- Limit the size of high capacity ammunition magazines.





Governor Roy Cooper has launched the 3rd Annual Governor’s School Supply Drive to encourage school supply donations for public-school students and teachers across the state. On average, teachers spend about \$500 of their own money on supplies for their classrooms each year.

The School Supply Drive runs until Friday, August 16th

Supplies requested for donation include:

- Paper - all types, including copy paper
- Pens & Pencils
- USB Flash Drives
- Dry Erase Markers
- Folders
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Tissues

Donation bins will be available in state government buildings, businesses that partner with the North Carolina Business Committee on Education, and all [NC State Employees Credit Unions locations](#).



You can listen to Daily Sessions on the General Assembly’s website at www.ncleg.gov - Once on the site, select either House or Senate, then look for the speaker.

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