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Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed
 Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]
 Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 6:18 PM
 To: Steve Johnson

September 12, 2019



Representative Nasif Majeed
 Serving District 99
 Mecklenburg County



PEACE. What a terrible day for democracy in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Yesterday, Republicans misled the public and Democrats about the legislative calendar and held the State Budget vote when **almost all House Democrats were absent. It was a sneak attack, dishonest at its core, and NOT WORTHY OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

Speaker Tim Moore, Representative David Lewis, and the Republican majority deceived our Democratic Minority Leader, Representative Darren Jackson, by letting him believe that there would be **NO VOTES during our 8:30 a.m. session.** It's Leader Jackson's responsibility to share what he has been told from a Majority leader to the Minority House legislators. And that is just what he did! He gave us a schedule of events that were to occur on yesterday, including a no voting session at 8:30 a.m. and another session scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Since there was not going to be any recorded votes taken at 8:30 a.m., many legislators chose to attend 9/11 ceremonies and other events during that timeframe. We often have no-vote sessions which typically means not many legislators will be in the chamber.

Day after day my colleagues have missed doctor appointments, family time, cancer treatments, and work obligations to attend sessions where little work was done. Why did we have these sessions? So Republican leaders could wait for funerals, sickness, or other life events to rig the vote.

They knew that they needed eight Democrats to be absent in order to ensure their override vote would be successful. But for the last two months, we [Democrats] have showed up to sustain the Governor's veto and work to compromise with Republicans, however they refused to make even one compromise offer.

Instead they have played games, offered bribes, lied, and manipulated legislative procedures to finally figure out a way to do just what they did on yesterday. **CHEAT!**

They've known for the past two months that they didn't have the votes they needed to override Governor Cooper's veto fairly, so they held this surprise vote with barely half of the House members present. In fact, out of 56 Democratic legislators, only 9 were in attendance.

Yesterday's vote is wrong but override isn't complete! The Senate still must hold a vote on the issue. Unfortunately, Senate Republicans need only one Democrat to join them to secure victory. Senate absences also could make that easier.

What matters most is better pay for our teachers and public school employees, better school facilities through a statewide bond, and better health care for everyone through Medicaid expansion. Expansion closes the coverage gap for 500,000 North Carolinians and lowers health care costs for all of us. The Republican State Budget fell short on health care and public schools. Governor Cooper rightly vetoed it and I support that veto.

The larger problem is, once again, **our legislative leaders have let down the people of North Carolina.** It is critical that we take back the House and Senate in 2020. Everybody needs to get out and vote these Republicans out of office as they have proven that they **DO NOT** have the welfare of North Carolinians as their top priority.

Because of their deception and disrespect, our state is one step closer to a budget that **gives tax breaks to corporations at the expense of improving our education system, failing our teachers and leaving 500,000 North Carolinians without affordable health care.**

The fight for better health care and public schools continues and I will do my part to get a better deal for all citizens. North Carolina deserves better.

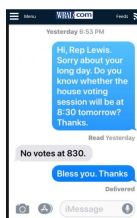
You have probably seen snippets of this video on the news yesterday, but here is the entire interaction when yesterday's vote was called. Note, the Republicans are on the left side of the chamber in full force. I have seen time after time that the chamber is almost empty when a no-vote session is called. Because session still convenes, often a few legislators will go into the chamber simply as a formality. But by no means, would that many legislators have shown up for a no-vote session. It's blatant that Republicans were told to show up and Democrats were not.

I am proud of Rep. Deb Butler for standing up to Speaker Moore addressing the unethical and deceitful manner in which he allowed such a tactic on the House floor. As you can see the Republicans tried to silence Rep. Butler and kept turning her mic off. They even called the General Assembly Police to have her removed but other Democrats surrounded her and would not allow that to happen. I wasn't in the chamber because like many other legislators, I chose to attend participate in 9-11 observance.



Right after yesterday's disgraceful session recessed, Democratic legislators held a press conference where Minority Leader Jackson explained how Rep. David Lewis, Chair of the Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House, told him that the 8:30 session would not have any recorded votes.





Rep. David Lewis also told WRAL-TV reporter Laura Leslie, in a September 10th text message exchange that there would be no votes at the 8:30 session.

Usually WRAL has a camera on the floor during session but they didn't have anyone there on yesterday because of the message received from Rep. Lewis.

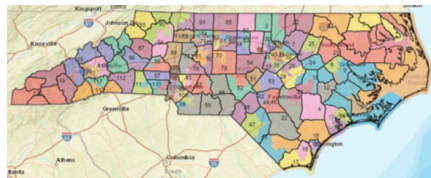
State Court Strikes Down North Carolina's Legislative Maps

Last week a panel of state judges ruled that North Carolina's legislative maps are unconstitutional and must be redrawn before the 2020 elections.

In their 357-page ruling, the Wake County Superior Court found that **the maps violate the state constitution** because "it is the carefully crafted maps, and not the will of the voters, that dictate the election outcomes in a significant number of legislative districts and, ultimately, the majority control of the General Assembly."

Although the ruling may be appealed to the North Carolina Supreme Court, it is now clear that North Carolina's judicial system has realized that the attempts of General Assembly leadership to seize political power despite the will of the people is counter to our state's highest law.

This ruling is a big win for democracy, and may finally mean that the era of partisan gerrymandering in North Carolina has come to an end. Join me in celebrating this victory for justice and preparing for the long road that comes ahead for breaking the majority in 2020.



REAL ID vs. VOTER ID

As elections approach, take a few minutes to **familiarize yourself with what REAL ID is and IS NOT!**

REAL ID FACTS:

Starting October 1, 2020, every U.S resident will need to present a REAL ID-compliant license/ID or another acceptable form of identification (like a passport or passport card) for accessing federal facilities — including boarding commercial aircraft.

The NC DMV is issuing REAL ID compliant licenses (hence the long lines).

A REAL ID is NOT a substitute for a passport for international travel. In most instances, obtaining a REAL ID isn't necessary.

REAL ID requirements DO NOT apply to

- Voting or registering to vote
- Applying for or receiving federal benefits
- Being licensed by a state to drive
- Entering federal facilities that do not require identification
- Accessing health- or life-preserving services, law enforcement, or constitutionally protected activities (including a defendant's access to court proceedings)
- Participating in law enforcement proceedings or investigation

Common Reasons To Obtain A REAL ID

- You want to fly with only your state-issued ID
- You don't have a passport or another TSA-approved ID
- You need to visit a secure federal facility, such as a military base, and don't have a military ID

Reasons You May Not Need a REAL ID

- You are under 18 years old
- You only need your ID for purposes of identification You don't mind bringing another TSA-approved ID (like a passport) along when you fly starting on Oct. 1, 2020

NC VOTER PHOTO ID:

If you have one of these ID's, bring it with you to vote in 2020! If not, YOU CAN VOTE!

Ask for the waiver and a ballot.

- Visit [You Can Vote's Voter ID fact page](#) to learn the latest about NC Voter ID.
- We use [You Can Vote's Fridge Cards](#) to teach others about Voter ID.
- Remember, the address on the ID does NOT matter for voter photo ID.
- Visit [You Can Vote handouts page](#) for all of our 2019 and 2020 educational materials.

Learn more from [You Can Vote](#) →



2020 Census Will Occur Online

The decennial United States Census scheduled for next April will be the first to occur online. In March 2020, all residences in the United States will receive a postcard with instructions on how to fill out the census information online. If a residence does not respond to the online form, they will receive further mail notices and eventually a personal visit from a census representative.

[Read more about accessibility and changes in the upcoming census](#) →

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PEACE.

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