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Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:42 PM

To: Steve Johnston

February 20, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed





Representing District 99 Mecklenburg County



PEACE. Members of the Mecklenburg Delegation recently toured Metrolina Greenhouses; a family-owned, wholesale plant and services company in the North Mecklenburg Town of Huntersville. Metrolina has annual sales of \$250 million dollars and is the largest single site greenhouse in the world occupying over 178 acres of land. They employ 700 people in their analytics driven robotic plant. What an impressive operation.

I'm pictured here with co-owner Michael Van Wingarden.






House Page Applications Are Available Online for the 2020 Short Session

"Youth Learning through Serving"

This program offers young men and women the opportunity to learn about, and participate in, the legislative process of our state. It is a four day long experience that allows high school students between the ages of 15 and 18 (or 14 if already in the 9th grade) to observe firsthand how our laws are made. It provides them the unique privilege of working in the House Chamber in the midst of legislative action.

House Pages are important to the operation of the General Assembly as they assist the Members and staff of the House during the legislative session. They participate in daily sessions, committee meetings, and perform other duties including, but not limited to, delivering messages and materials within the legislative complex, completing mailings for Members, and passing out documents or running errands in the House Chamber during daily sessions.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Pages may only serve one time in the House
- House Pages are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications are accepted until all weeks are full

In order to apply, the applicant can either fill out an [online application](#) and submit electronically **OR** print/complete a [hard copy](#) and send/deliver to the sponsoring Representative.

When using the online format, the applicant will complete the application, digitally include all components (essay and recent color photo), and submit on the website.

- Upon submission of an [online application](#), the applicant will receive a confirmation email.
- When using the [printable/hard copy](#) format, the applicant will send/deliver

the signed application (including an essay and color photo) to the Representative.

GENERAL STEPS IN THE PAGE APPLICATION PROCESS:

- **Step 1:** The interested student contacts his/her House Member and requests sponsorship or the House Member may initiate the sponsorship.
- **Step 2:** The student completes an online application **OR** prints and completes a hard copy application (including essay question and recent color photo).
- **Step 3:** The student submits the completed application online **OR** sends/delivers a hard copy application to sponsoring Member for his/her signature.
- **Step 4:** The Member reviews/approves applications on Dashboard **OR** Member reviews, signs a hard copy application, and delivers to the House Page Supervisor.
- **Step 5:** The House Page Supervisor receives the completed application for processing.
- **Step 6:** The Speaker of the House appoints the Pages.
- **Step 7:** Appointment letters will be mailed to Pages and sponsoring Members notified beginning in March. The appointment letter will contain detailed information about serving as a Page.
- **Step 8:** The Page attends and serves his/her assigned week.

The selection process for this program is highly competitive. Each Representative is allotted a specific number of students that he or she can sponsor each session. Appointments are made on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you have a student interested in the program you should act quickly. Official appointments are made by the Speaker of the House.

Voting Information for March Primary



Early voting for the March 3rd primary is now underway.

- [In-Person Early Voting Information for all 100 counties](#)

- [Find the In-Person Early Voting locations in your county](#)
- [You can register to vote at an Early Voting location.](#)

Registered Democrats may vote in the Democratic primary. Registered Republicans may vote in the Republican primary. Voters who are registered Unaffiliated may choose either the Democratic or Republican primary to participate in.

Voters are not required to show photo ID for the primary because of a [federal court order](#).

NC Court of Appeals Ruling on Voter ID

There are two lawsuits involving voter ID: one in state court and one in federal court. Previously, there was a favorable ruling in federal court which led to the suspension of photo ID requirements for the March primary. On Tuesday the decision made in state court increases the chances that there will not be a requirement in the general election as well.

In Tuesday's ruling a unanimous Court of Appeals panel found that Republican legislators passed a photo ID law with "an intention to target African American voters" rather than a desire to comply with the North Carolina constitution. This intent to discriminate against African American voters was the "primary motivating factor" behind the photo ID law. The legislature's past attacks on African American voter participation was a factor in the decision as well.

For those who want a photo ID requirement in 2020, their task became far more difficult with Tuesday's decision. We now have state and federal court rulings blocking the implementation of the law. If legislative leaders want to overcome these rulings, they have a difficult path ahead in state and federal court with clock ticking before voting starts in the fall.

You can read the opinion here - <https://appellate.nccourts.org/opinions/?c=2&pdf=38774>. It was written by Judge Toby Hampson and joined by Judge John Arrowood and Judge Allegra Collins. All Democrats.

North Carolina Health Care Facts from the Kaiser Health Foundation

- North Carolina is the 9th largest state, with a population of 10,044,400 in 2018.
- 33.5% of North Carolina residents had incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2018, which was larger than the US share (30.4%).

- In North Carolina, there were 1,081,000 uninsured people in 2018; the uninsured rate was 12.9%, higher than the uninsured rate for the US overall (10.4%).
- Medicaid and CHIP provide health and long-term care coverage to more than 70 million low-income children, pregnant women, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities across the US. Total Medicaid and CHIP enrollment in North Carolina was 1,730,800 in November 2019.
- Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), people can purchase non-group coverage and may qualify for premium tax credit assistance through health insurance marketplaces.
 - During 2019, about 447,680 North Carolina residents enrolled in a plan through the marketplace.
 - About 94% of these enrollees received an advanced premium tax credit to help them pay their premium.
- Employer-sponsored insurance is the largest source of health coverage in the nation, covering 157,299,500 people in the US.
 - The average annual premium for employer-sponsored coverage for families in 2018 was \$18,211 in North Carolina, lower than the US average premium (\$19,565).
 - The average deductible for private-sector employees enrolled in family coverage in 2018 was \$3,752 in North Carolina, higher than the US average (\$3,392).
- Medicare is a federal health insurance program that covers people age 65 and older and younger adults with long-term disabilities. In 2018, there were 1,966,300 Medicare beneficiaries in North Carolina.

Have a great weekend.

PEACE,



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