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Legislative Updates

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:14 PM

To: Steve Johnston

March 24, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed

District 99 - Mecklenburg County

Why the Census Matters

What's at stake:

- Census data determines the number of US congressional seats. North Carolina should gain a seat with an accurate count in 2020.
- More than \$1,800 per person, per year is disbursed to North Carolina based on the census count. These are tax dollars already paid. The census does not increase your taxes.
- Census data supports funding for:

schools

roads

public transportation

healthcare

senior services

emergency services

childcare

food assistance

housing programs

Infrastructure

libraries

economic development

youth programs

military resources

parks & more...
- Undercounting, even if by 3%, has a real cost to our communities:

\$1.8 Billion in North Carolina's rural communities

\$400 Million for North Carolina's veterans

\$333 Million for children under the age of 5

\$930 Million in our African American communities

\$545 Million for our state's Hispanic/Latino population
- An inaccurate count will impact planning and services for the next 10 years.

What to know:

- Respond online – using any mobile device or wherever you have internet access. You can also respond by phone or mail and support is offered in more than 50 languages.
- You should be counted where you live the majority of the year.
- Response information cards will be mailed beginning March 12, 2020 in Spanish and English.
- The 2020 Census will not ask for your citizenship status, religious affiliation, social security number, financial information or donations.
- Individual data is protected by law and cannot be shared with anyone for 72 years – including service providers, government agencies and law enforcement.
- This is the one time in our country everyone has a voice – regardless of age, race, citizenship, voter registration, religion, place of residence or family status.

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NC CENSUS 101

The [North Carolina Complete Count Commission \(NC CCC\)](#) is committed to making the 2020 Census a success for our state. Visit [census.nc.gov](#) for information and resources.

The US Census is a once a decade count of everyone residing in the United States, and the 2020 Census will have a big impact on North Carolina's communities through representation, funding, and reliable information. The US Constitution requires a Census every 10 years to determine seats in the US House of Representatives. North Carolina has 13 Congressional seats, but recent estimates show that our state may gain a seat after the 2020 Census. A complete count will ensure that North Carolina's voice will be appropriately represented in Congress. The Census also provides the most detailed picture of our communities, and governmental funding programs rely on Census data

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3/24/20, 3:21 PM

to distribute billions of dollars each year. In Fiscal Year 2015, the US Government distributed over \$16 billion in North Carolina providing resources for schools, health care, highways, and more. That's \$1,623 per person per year, and the State of North Carolina also distributes about \$200 per person per year to counties and towns based on Census information. Information from the Census helps local service providers and businesses plan for our dynamic state. The Census is important to our future. When you complete your 2020 Census form, you Make NC Count.

### How do People Respond

The 2020 Census will shape representation, funding, and planning for North Carolina's future; and being counted in the Census is quick, easy, and safe. This is the first US Census to allow internet or smartphone responses. **Census Day is April 1, 2020**, but you can complete your Census form online as soon as you get it. The Census invitation will have a web address, Census ID code, and phone number. If you do not have internet access or would rather not reply online, you can provide your information by phone. You can also use the phone number to request a paper Census form. Census forms are available in 12 languages, and Census support is available in over 50 languages including American Sign Language.

Questionnaire support is available online via chat and over the phone. After April 1, 2020, Census Enumerators will visit the addresses of non-responders to make sure everyone is counted. The information you provide is confidential and by law cannot be shared for 72 years. This includes all federal and state government agencies, law enforcement, courts, etc. The Census questionnaire is short and can be completed in a few minutes. Your confidential participation helps provide representation, funding, and planning data to serve your community for the next decade. When you complete your 2020 Census form, you Make NC Count.

### How the Census Works

The 2020 Census is important to all North Carolina counties, cities, and towns. Census data supports representation, funding, and planning for services and economic development. The once-a-decade Census is a big operation - in fact, it is the largest peacetime operation conducted by the US government. It takes a big operation to count everyone in a nation that is growing and becoming more mobile and diverse. The task of the Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. This task is required by the Constitution to determine where Congressional seats should be apportioned. Everyone counts in the Census - no matter your age, race, sex, or place of birth. The Census counts everyone in every living situation whether you reside in a house, apartment, dorm, prison, barracks, or are homeless. The Census counts everyone where they usually live on April 1, 2020; but the Census does not change your legal residence for taxes, voter registration, or other residency status.

2020 Census questionnaires were mailed during the week of March 12, 2020, and participation is required by law. Questionnaires can be completed online, over the phone, or on paper; and support is available in over 60 languages including American Sign Language. **Census Day is April 1, 2020**, and Census Enumerators will visit the addresses of non-responders shortly after Census Day. While you can skip questions on the Census form, this increases your likelihood of being visited by a Census Enumerator. Completing your Census form is quick, easy, and safe! Your confidential participation helps provide representation, funding, and planning data to serve your community for the next decade. When you complete your 2020 Census form, you Make NC Count.

## Coronavirus Update

### **Governor Cooper Issued Executive Order to Close NC Public Schools K-12 for In-person Instruction Until May 15**

Yesterday, Governor Roy Cooper announced an executive order that will keep public kindergarten through 12th grade schools closed for in-person instruction through May 15. The Executive Order's effective date will be Wednesday, March 25.

The Executive Order also tightens limits on gatherings and closed some businesses that require close social interaction and limits visitors to long-term care centers.

Also Monday, the Governor's request for a major disaster declaration for North Carolina was received by FEMA. This specifically requested Individual Assistance, Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance and more.

### **50-PLUS MEMBER GATHERINGS BANNED; CLOSE-CONTACT BUSINESSES CLOSED**

Yesterday's announcement prioritized social distancing by lowering the threshold on large gatherings to ban crowds of more than 50 people. To stay consistent with this number, it will require certain businesses to close, including:

- Bingo Parlors, including Bingo sites operated by charitable organizations
- Bowling Alleys
- Indoor Exercise Facilities (e.g. gyms, yoga studios, martial arts facilities, indoor trampoline and rock-climbing facilities)
- Health Clubs
- Indoor Pools
- Live Performance Venues

- Movie Theaters
- Skating Rinks
- Spas
- Sweepstakes Lounges
- Video game arcades
- Barber Shops
- Beauty Salons (including waxing and hair removal centers)
- Hair Salons
- Nail Salons/Manicure/Pedicure Providers
- Massage Parlors
- Tattoo Parlors

**Grocery stores and restaurants providing takeout and delivery will remain open.**

### **SCHOOL DEADLINE EXTENDED, EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TO BUILD PLAN FOR EDUCATION**

The May 15 school closure date is based on current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the situation in North Carolina evolves, more may be needed. Governor Cooper has asked the State Board to collaborate with the Department of Public Instruction and legislators to:

- develop a plan to ensure access to a quality education for students through the remainder of the school year.
- provide students with remote learning while school buildings are closed.
- ensure that all school employees – including janitors, bus drivers, teaching assistants and cafeteria workers -- will work in safe environments and be paid.

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## **Coronavirus Rumor Control**

Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. Because of that, FEMA has set up a website to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to coronavirus pandemic.

Click [here](#) to stay informed on what is [rumor versus fact](#) related to the coronavirus response.

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## **Volunteers to Supplement NC's Health Care Workforce Needed**

The State Medical Response System is recruiting volunteers to supplement NC's health care workforce during #COVID19NC. Volunteers are needed in these areas:

- Clinical (physicians, advanced care providers, nurses, EMS)
- Clinical support (pharmacy, imaging and respiratory care)
- Non-clinical support (facility maintenance, safety, and administrative)

» [Full Details](#)

## Golden LEAF deploys \$15 million in funding to launch NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan Program

In response to the current crisis, the Golden LEAF Foundation is announcing the NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan Program. Businesses are eligible for bridge loans of up to \$50,000 with six months of no interest and no payments. These loans are intended to support businesses until they are able to secure an SBA loan or other long-term assistance. If not repaid in six months, the loans will automatically convert to a term loan.

### Contact Information

For information on the NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan Program and to apply for a loan visit <https://ncrapidrecovery.org>.

To speak with someone about this program or other resources available to small businesses contact Business Link NC (BLNC) at 800.228.8443.

### Who is eligible?

- Applicants must be a North Carolina small business affected by COVID-19 (all 100 NC counties are eligible).
- Applicants must have at least one (1) employee, who could be the self-employed owner.
- Start-up businesses that began operations before March 23, 2020 are eligible.
- Farm businesses
- Nonprofit organizations are not currently eligible

## Current Situation as of 03.24.2020

Updated daily by 11 a.m. each day. Last updated 9:45 a.m., March 24, 2020.

NC Cases*	NC Deaths	NC Completed Tests**
398	0	8,502

\* This number reflects positive results from all tests, including the NC State Laboratory of Public Health and all hospital and commercial labs.

\*\* This number reflects testing completed by the NC State Laboratory of Public Health

\* This number reflects positive results from all tests, including the NC State Laboratory of Public Health and all hospital and commercial labs.

\*\* This number reflects testing completed by the NC State Laboratory of Public Health and reporting hospital and commercial laboratories.

We're now at 398 cases in North Carolina and 0 deaths.  
[There are 48 counties with cases]

MECKLENBURG - 127

The dashboard in this link shows cases per county and is being updated daily.  
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-case-count-nc>

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#IWillNotYield



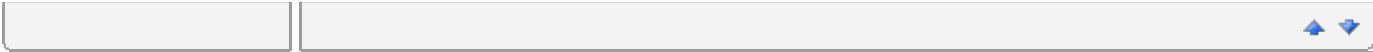
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