



Type here to search

This Folder



Address Book

Options



Log Off

- Mail
- Calendar
- Contacts
- Email Settings

- Deleted Items (2)
- Drafts
- Inbox (6)
- Junk E-Mail
- Sent Items

Click to view all folders

- 16-12 Grants Committee
- 20-01 (26)
- 20-02 (18)
- 20-03 (27)
- 20-04 (27)
- 20-05 (13)

Manage Folders...

Reply Reply to All Forward Move Delete Close

Legislative Updates

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Steve Johnston

May 29, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed

District 99 - Mecklenburg County



Legislative Updates



PEACE. Yesterday was a hectic day at the General Assembly. The atmosphere was tension-filled with legislators running around NOT wearing masks and NOT taking the necessary precautions needed to stay socially distant. It was a long day but we did get a few things accomplished that should help many citizens across the state.

COVID-19 Elections Bill Passes NC House

A compromise elections bill with good and bad provisions (and omissions) passed overwhelmingly in the NC House yesterday. I voted yes. [HB 1169](#) now goes to the State Senate for its consideration. This bill was introduced by a bipartisan committee and I had to swallow the bitter with the sweet on this one. The November Presidential Election is rapidly approaching and we will receive matching funds from the federal government, **with this bill**, that will enable our county Boards of Election throughout North Carolina to get out the massive amount of Early Voting ballots. I don't want anything to impede our

voters from exercising their **RIGHT TO VOTE** in this important Fall election.

COVID-19 illustrates the need for voters to have a number of safe options to cast a vote: a voter-friendly vote by mail system, in-person Early Voting with numerous sites and extended hours, and in-person Election Day voting that is not crowded.

Here is a breakdown of what is in the bill and what is not

What HB 1169 Does

- Allows you to request an absentee ballot with your cell phone through a new online portal;
- Lowers the witness requirement to cast an absentee ballot from two to one;
- Invests funds for more and larger early voting sites, more weekend hours, and PPE for voting sites;
- Makes it easier for counties to recruit poll workers;
- Improves procedures for election officials and voters to track an absentee ballot;
- Prevents the 2020 election from being a mail-in ballot ONLY election;
- Allows the use of a public assistance photo ID (more on this below).

What HB 1169 Does Not Do

- Make Election Day a holiday to encourage voting and poll worker volunteering;
- Provide for postage-paid mail-in absentee ballots;
- Make it harder to vote early or by mail-in ballot.

What's the Deal with Photo ID?

North Carolina's constitution requires a photo ID to vote, but the details are left to the legislature. Lame duck Republican legislators who lost in the 2018 election used a Christmas 2018 special session to push through laws that allowed some photo IDs to count, but prevented other photo IDs from being used for voting.

State and federal courts have stepped into say the legislature's decision to bless some IDs and ban others was unconstitutional. **So, right now, there is no requirement to show a photo ID for the 2020 election and that is highly unlikely to change before November.**

Whenever the photo ID requirement is implemented, HB 1169 includes a provision to allow public assistance IDs to count for voting purposes. This was one of the issues fought about in court, but many other issues remain for the courts to resolve.

What Else Should We Do to Help Voters?

Protecting the right to vote and promoting voter participation are critical for our

democracy. While the bill that passed this week is a good first step, there are other steps we can take such as the ones in [HB 1184](#). HB 1184 was filed this week, but has yet to receive a hearing. It would make it easier to register to vote by extending the deadline by 14 days, expand options to submit absentee ballot request forms, provide pre-paid postage for absentee ballot forms, promote the counting of all absentee ballots, make 2020 Election Day a paid state holiday, and provide for drive-thru voting at early voting sites if necessary because of COVID-19 or another infectious disease outbreak.

Legislature Votes to Reopen Bars on NC's Highest Day for Hospitalizations and Deaths

Legislative leaders used emergency rules to push through in one day [HB 536](#), a bill that would override Governor Cooper's Executive Orders and local rules to re-open bars across the state immediately. The bill passed 65 to 53 and I voted no. There's no way that I could vote for this bill, basically for two reasons. First, the number of COVID-19 cases in North Carolina are still on the rise and this is not the time to increase exposure in venues where large numbers of people gather. We should continue to follow the recommendations of the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services in order to avoid a resurgence. Secondly, the glowing fact that this bill would override the Governor's Executive Power is definitely a poisonous pill that I can't swallow.

North Carolina recently entered the "Safer at Home" Phase Two of our COVID-19 response. Public health officials did not allow bars to open due to concerns about crowded conditions, alcohol, and a lack of social distancing. [HB 536](#) would override the judgment of public health officials, Governor Cooper, and limit the ability of towns, cities, and counties to apply local restrictions.

The bill now goes to Governor Cooper for a possible veto.

Thank you for your involvement, encouragement, and support; it is my privilege to represent you at the Legislature. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

PEACE,



**Join Our Mailing List &
Follow Me on Facebook**



**It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email
address by text message:**

Text MAJEEDN to 22828 to get started.

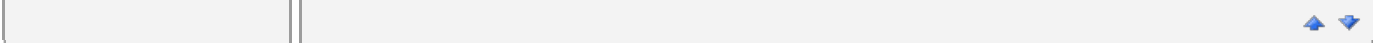
Visit our Website

Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building, 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008,
Raleigh, NC 27601

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by majeedla@ncleg.net in collaboration with



Connected to Microsoft Exchange