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16-12 Grants Committee



20-02 (18)



20-03 (27)



20-04 (27)



20-05 (13)



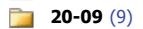
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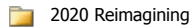
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2020 Reimagining



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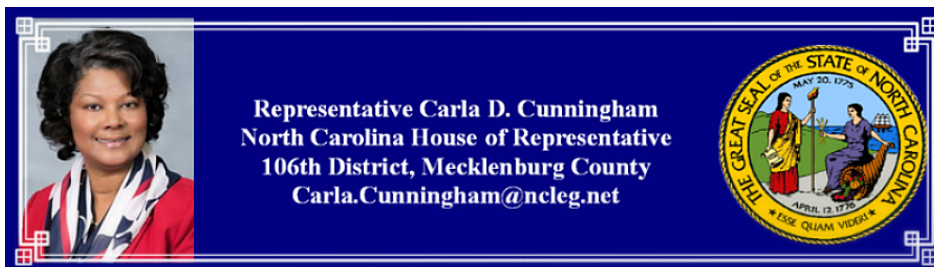


## Rep. Carla Cunningham's September 8, 2020 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2020 2:32 AM

To: Steve Johnston



### Rep. Carla Cunningham: House Committee Assignments 2019-2020 Session

Appropriations

Appropriations Health and Human Services

Commerce

Energy and Public Utilities

Health

House Select Committee on Community Relations, Law Enforcement and Justice

House Select Committee on COVID-19

House Select Committee on COVID-19 Health Work Group - Chair

House Select Committee on School Safety

Wildlife Resources

### Non-Standing Committee

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

### Appointment by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper

North Carolina Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome

### Appointments by North Carolina House of Representative Speaker Tim Moore

Minority Health Advisory Council

North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### North Carolina House Leadership

Democratic Whip

North Carolina Institute of Medicine Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program

**September 8, 2020**

House Bill 1105 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Relief Bill Passes

The General Assembly approved its final round of COVID-19 relief of the year on September 3, 2020 ([HB 1105](#)), unless additional funding is appropriated by the federal government. I will summarize what is good in the bill, what is bad in the bill, and what should have been included but was left out.

### The Good

- \$50 increase in weekly unemployment insurance compensation (more on this in the “What’s Missing” section)
- \$335 tax credit for families with children
- \$52 million in funding for public schools (more on this in the “What’s Missing” section)
- \$30 million in additional grants to expand high-speed Internet access
- \$20 million in funding to stabilize operations at North Carolina museums, zoos, and other cultural attractions
- \$6 million in direct assistance to food banks and nutritional programs
- \$14 million for personal protective equipment (PPE)
- \$13 million in assistance to farmers
- \$13 million in funding for the UNC System
- \$5 million in funding for community colleges
- \$41 million for early childhood services
- \$38 million for mental health services
- \$59 million to expand COVID-19 testing and contact tracing
- \$23 million for aging adult services
- \$3.5 million for small business grants (More on this in the “What’s Missing” section)

### The Bad

- In a bill that is supposed to deal with the many challenges posed by COVID-19, we fund and expand private school vouchers.
- Pork projects. Millions of dollars are diverted away from COVID-19 relief to legislative leaders and their key allies.
- HB 1105 was drafted in backrooms by a few GOP leaders with no input from the public, Democratic legislators, or Governor Cooper. GOP leadership prevented lawmakers from offering any amendments to the bill. That’s not how representative democracy should work.

### What’s Missing

- Medicaid Expansion. Medicaid Expansion means billions of dollars come to NC from the federal government. We use that money to expand health care access and create health care jobs and infrastructure. That sounds like a pretty good idea anytime, but particularly during a global pandemic and recession. It’s now a decade and counting of failing to expand Medicaid, costing us lost jobs, lost lives, and lost investment.
- Pay increases or bonuses for teachers and public school employees. HB 1105 does \$0 for public employees. Governor Cooper’s proposal included \$2000 for teachers and principals, \$1000 for other public school employees, and \$1500 for community college and university employees.
- Significant investment in public schools needed to satisfy our state constitutional guarantee of a sound public education to all students as required by recent court orders.

- Assistance to small businesses most impacted by COVID-19, such as restaurants, bars, gyms, etc.
- Fixing the long-term problem that NC's unemployment system is the worst in the country for unemployed workers.
- Significant assistance to local governments.

I ultimately voted Yes on HB 1105 because we have a strict deadline to finish spending the federal money we received for COVID-19 and there is much in the bill that is good and badly-needed right now. However, the items we failed to do are critically important and remain the top of my "Must Do" list for when we return to Raleigh in 2021.

[General Assembly approves \\$1B federal virus relief package](#)

WRAL

[NC virus relief aid heads to Cooper as General Assembly ends](#)

WLOS

[Partisan rifts on NC billion-dollar COVID relief bill, despite bipartisan vote](#)

Carolina Public Press

[Cooper says COVID-19 bill doesn't do enough for North Carolinians in need, should expand Medicaid](#)

CBS-17

[Opinion: More flawed, "our way or the highway" governance at the General Assembly](#)

NC Policy Watch

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### **Governor Cooper Move to Phase 2.5**

North Carolina entered Phase 2.5 Friday, September 4th at 5 pm. After a summer of hard work by North Carolinians practicing prevention measures, this is a modest step forward to ease some restrictions. Mask requirements will remain in effect.

Under Phase 2.5:

- Mass gathering capacity will increase to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors and large event spaces remain subject to the mass gathering limits.
- Playgrounds can open.
- Museums and aquariums may open at 50% capacity.
- Gyms and indoor exercise facilities, such as yoga studios, martial arts, and rock climbing, as well as skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor basketball, volleyball etc., may open at 30% capacity.
- Bars, nightclubs, movie theaters, indoor entertainment facilities, amusement parks, and dance halls will remain closed.
- Large venues remain subject to the mass gathering limits.

Also, NC Department of Health and Human Services issued an order allowing outdoor visitation at nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities. Effective through September 22, 2020, the Order outlines standards and requirements these facilities must meet to participate.

Read the [Executive Order](#) and the [FAQs](#) for more information.

Read the [Press Release](#).

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### **Child Care Hotline Extended to Families Seeking Child Care for School-Age Children**

North Carolina families in need of childcare can call the child care hotline 1-888-600-1685 to be connected with child care options in their communities for school-age children up to age 12.

The hotline is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Licensed child care professionals meeting the NCDHHS health and safety guidelines are available to provide care through this service. For more information about child care during COVID-19, visit [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/child-care/child-care-information-families](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/child-care/child-care-information-families)

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### **Free Community Testing Around NC**

For an up-to-date list of events, visit the [Community Testing Events](#) page. People who may not currently have symptoms but may have been exposed to COVID-19 should get tested, especially people from historically marginalized communities.

If someone tests positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 Community Team will reach out to connect them with needed resources. People should answer when the Community Team reaches out, via phone, text from 45394, or email from NC-ARIAS-NoReply@dhhs.nc.gov with further instructions.

Find a nearby testing site [Find My Testing Place](#).

[New program provides no-cost COVID-19 testing for the uninsured](#)

WECT

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### **Other News**

[\\$300 federal boost hits NC unemployment checks](#)

WRAL

[North Carolina Census Participation Lags Behind Other States, with Four Weeks Left in Count](#)

Spectrum News

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**Know Before You Go!**

**The next election is a general election and**

**will be held November 3, 2020.**

**Preview your ballot by your name**  
**OR [http://apps.meckboe.org/addressSearch\\_New.aspx](http://apps.meckboe.org/addressSearch_New.aspx)**

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**VOTER REGISTRATION**

**In order to register you must be:**

- a U.S. citizen; and
- a resident of North Carolina and Mecklenburg County for 30 days; and
  - at least 18 years old.
- An individual may pre-register up to two years before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- An individual who is 17 years old may vote in any primary associated with a general election that will occur after that individual turns 18.

**You must not be:**

- Serving a sentence for a felony conviction (including probation or parole).  
If a prospective voter has been convicted of a felony, his/her citizenship rights **must be restored**.

[More information on voting rights for those in the North Carolina criminal justice system.](#)

 [Download the Registration Application](#) - send the signed, completed form to our office:

Mecklenburg County Board of Elections  
PO Box 31788  
Charlotte, NC 28231  
fax: 704-343-0537 \*  
voterregistration@mecklenburgcountync.gov \*

**\* change of name and address only. New registrations must be mailed or hand delivered.**



Thursday, October 15, and ends Saturday, October 31.

**One-Stop Early Voting**

Any registered voter or eligible individual may cast an absentee ballot in person

during the early voting period. In North Carolina, this period is sometimes called “one-stop early voting.”

**In 2020, the in-person early voting period begins Thursday, October 15, and ends Saturday, October 31.** During early voting, voters may cast a ballot at any early voting site in their county. This is different from Election Day when registered voters must vote at their assigned precinct. When you check in to vote at an early voting site, you may update your name or address within the same county, if necessary.

Find early voting sites and schedules in your county with the [One-Stop Early Voting Site Locator](#). *These voting sites and schedules change for each election. They will be available through this tool as soon as they are finalized.* County boards of elections generally adopt early voting sites and schedules for their counties. But if a county board of elections cannot agree unanimously on an early voting plan, the State Board of Elections adopts a plan for the county.

To see the voting equipment your county uses for one-stop early voting, go to the [Voting Equipment](#) page, and see the map for “One-Stop Early Voting Equipment, by County.”

## Same-Day Registration

Individuals who are not registered to vote in a county may register at early voting sites during the early voting period. After registering, the newly registered voter can immediately vote at that same site. This process is called “same-day registration.”

Same-day registrants must attest to their eligibility and provide proof of where they live. A voter attests to their eligibility by completing and signing a North Carolina Voter Registration Application. The voter must prove their residence by showing any of the following documents with their current name and address:

- North Carolina driver’s license
- Other photo identification issued by a government agency. Any government-issued photo ID is acceptable, provided that the card includes the voter's current name and address.
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing the voter’s name and address.
- A current college/university photo identification card paired with proof of campus habitation.

Within two business days of the person’s registration, the county board of elections will verify the registrant’s driver’s license or Social Security number, update the voter registration database, search for possible duplicate registrations, and begin to verify the registrant’s address by mail. The registrant’s ballot will be counted unless the county board of elections determines that he or she is not qualified to vote that ballot.

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Use the [Voter Search Tool](#).

## By-Mail Absentee Ballot Drop-Off

Voters who receive an absentee ballot by mail may deliver their ballot to an election official at a one-stop early voting site during any time that site is open for voting. Ballots will be kept securely and delivered to the county board of elections for processing.

## Voter Assistance and Curbside Voting

Voters at one-stop early voting sites are entitled to the same assistance as voters at a voting place on Election Day. [N.C.G.S. § 163-166.8](#).

Curbside voting is available for eligible individuals at all early voting sites. For more information, see the [Curbside Voting](#) page.

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Rep. Carla D. Cunningham  
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Charlotte, NC 28262



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