

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

September 17, 2021

Noteworthy Votes





Below are a few noteworthy bills I voted on over the past two weeks. You can find a full list of bills I voted on [here](#).

Yes votes:

- **[HB103](#), Automatic Renewal of Contracts.** Adds consumer protections to disclosure and notice requirements for consumer contracts with an automatic renewal clause, including a requirement that a consumer who enters into such a contract online be permitted to cancel the contract online.
- **[HB890](#), ABC Omnibus Legislation.** Bipartisan bill that modernizes and changes the laws concerning ABC stores, distilleries, and other alcohol-related statutes. It retains state control of alcohol sales, but allows new flexibility including allowing a) distilleries to operate more like wineries, b) online ordering and delivery of alcohol to restaurants, and c) outdoor alcohol sales by restaurants that have expanded to parking lots and other outdoor dining spaces. More about the bill [here](#).

No votes:

- **[HB91](#), Accountability and Fair Play in Athletics (third reading).** Creates new requirements for overseeing regulation of high school interscholastic athletics, including a memorandum of understanding that requires specific obligations for a nonprofit authorized to administer high school interscholastic athletics. I voted no on the third reading because while some state oversight is warranted, the bill sponsors failed to work out a reasonable compromise with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association that would, for example, enable the NCHSAA to continue to offer scholarships.
- **[HB218](#), Streamline Permits/Redevelopment of Property.** Requires local governments that implement water supply watershed programs to allow an applicant to exceed the allowable density under water supply watershed program rules in certain circumstances, and would exempt certain footprint expansions from site plan modification requirements. I voted no because the bill limits local

authority to ensure proper storm water control and water quality, which results in flooding and poor water quality, especially in highly developed counties like Mecklenburg.

- **HB264, Emergency Powers Accountability Act.** Seeks to expand the circumstances under which the Governor must get "concurrence of the Council of State" under the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, in order to issue executive orders during an emergency, such the current pandemic. I do not support this bill because it would prevent the Governor from acting effectively to protect North Carolinians during an emergency, would politicize every step of an emergency response, and would expand the powers of the Council of State members beyond what the Constitution provides.

Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee Updates

NCGA REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING

The NCGA's Joint Redistricting Committee will only be in Mecklenburg County once. This is your opportunity to make your voice heard on the redistricting and map drawing process.

**September 22nd @3PM, Harris Conference Center
3216 CPCC Harris Campus Drive
Charlotte, NC 28208**

Sign up to speak online in advance or when you arrive to the hearing.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/requesttospeak/54>

Senator Natasha Marcus

Thank you to everyone who has already made their voices heard at the **Redistricting and Elections Committee public hearings**. I attended the hearing in Winston-Salem earlier this week and took four pages of notes from all the speakers, who raised concerns from protecting communities of interest, to holding hearings after the maps are made public, to preventing racial discrimination in the map drawing process. You can watch recordings of the previous hearings [here](#).

There are 5 public hearings left. **The Joint Committee will be in Mecklenburg County this Wednesday at 3pm**. I hope you will make plans to attend.

- Tuesday, September 21 at 5pm: Western Carolina University
- **Wednesday, September 22 at 3pm: Central Piedmont Community College ([sign up to speak here](#))**
- Thursday, September 23 at 3pm: Mitchell Community College (Iredell County Campus), Shearer Hall, 500 W. Broad Street, Statesville, NC 28677 ([sign up to speak here](#))
- Tuesday, September 28 at 4pm: UNC Pembroke*
- Wednesday, September 29 at 5pm: UNC Wilmington*

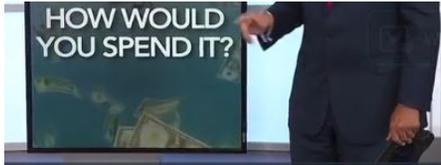
You can sign up to speak at the hearings or you can sign up online in advance. Note that the online signup closes four hours before each hearing.

If you can't make an in-person hearing, you can also submit written comments through the [online portal](#).

*The online signup and specific locations for these meetings are not posted yet. Check the NCGA's website for the links five days before the hearings.

The Status of the State Budget





State budget negotiations are moving slowly. We may see the compromise bill between the House and Senate Republicans within the next week or so. In addition to differences in spending goals, there are several problematic policy provisions included in one or both versions of the budget, which will need to be worked out. GOP leadership in both chambers plan to give Governor Cooper an opportunity to share his top priorities and concerns before the bill comes for a final vote, in hopes of avoiding another veto and stalemate like in 2019. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with me about your concerns and what you would like to see included in the budget this year.

You can read more about the budget process [here](#). Keep an eye on my social media for up to date information as negotiations continue.

Senate Judiciary Committee Updates



Below are some of the bills we discussed in Judiciary Committee over the past 2 weeks:

- **SB550, Modify Surety/Bail Bond/Bondsmen Provisions.** Amends the qualifications and examination requirements for bail bondsmen and runners, and would modify requirements for setting aside bail bond forfeitures. This bill does not appear to undermine non-profit bail organizations, like those operating in Mecklenburg County.

- **HB402, Begin Modernizing Ignition Interlock Laws.** Makes changes regarding ignition interlock requirements, including amending certain limited driving privilege restrictions, allowing an individual who owns multiple vehicles to designate certain vehicles for operation with an ignition interlock system, and creating a waiver for costs associated with a required ignition interlock system for those who are unable to afford it. This will allow those on probation to get to work.
- **HB854, Landlord/Tenant Changes.** Reaffirms that landlords may recover out-of-pocket expenses and litigation costs in summary ejectment proceedings. Provides that a tenant's criminal record would not affect the foreseeability of any future injury or damage caused by the tenant, and that a landlord would have no duty to screen a potential tenant's criminal history or refuse to rent to a person because of their criminal record. Allows authorized persons to direct the removal or disposal of certain personal property of a decedent located in leased premises. Prohibits discriminatory practices against tenants with service animals or support animals.

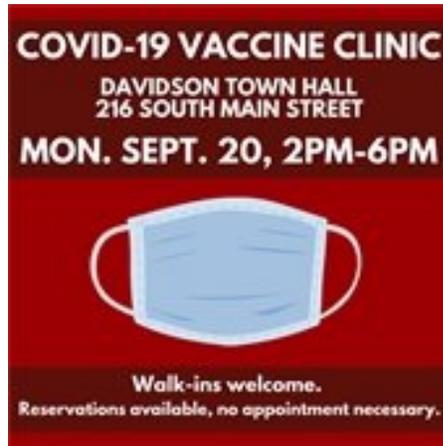
Breaking News about NC Voter ID Law



This afternoon, [a three-judge panel ruled](#) that the NCGA's 2018 law to enact Voter ID requirements was discriminatory saying the law "was motivated at least in part by an unconstitutional intent to target African American voters." This means that **voters will not have to show photo ID (in most cases) in the upcoming 2021 elections and that the NCGA will have to try again to craft a bill that enacts the Constitutional Amendment passed in 2018 to require photo ID to vote, without being discriminatory or otherwise unconstitutional.** As the court stated, "Other, less restrictive voter ID laws would have sufficed to achieve the legitimate nonracial purposes of implementing the constitutional amendment requiring voter ID, deterring fraud, or enhancing voter confidence."

You can read today's published opinion in *Holmes v. Moore* [here](#) and a statement about the ruling from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, which brought the suit, [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Davidson This Monday



The Mecklenburg County Department of Health is offering **COVID-19 vaccinations** at the Davidson Town Hall clinic on **Monday, Sept 20 from 2-6pm**. The vaccine is free, and no photo ID or insurance is needed. The clinic will be open to Davidson residents and the surrounding community and will provide both first and second doses of either Pfizer or Moderna. Sign up in advance [here](#) or just show up that day. County resources on COVID-19 (vaccine information, data, etc.) can be found [here](#).

Letter to NC Federal Delegation in Support of *Roe v Wade*



Rep. Dan Bishop
Rep. Greg Murphy
Rep. Alma Adams
Rep. David Rouzer
Sen. Thom Tillis
Sen. Richard Burr

Dear Delegates,

Earlier this month, in the dead of night, the Supreme Court turned its back on 50 years of precedent, rendering *Roe v. Wade* effectively meaningless in Texas. The vast majority of people in Texas seeking an abortion are being denied the care they need.

Considering what the Texas Legislature has done to ban most legal abortions for women, and the Supreme Court's decision to turn a blind eye and effectively overturn *Roe v. Wade* by its refusal to invalidate the Texas law, we are concerned that some states will seek to follow Texas's approach. Politicians in Florida and Arkansas have already announced they will pass similar laws.

This is a dangerous movement against women's health. These kinds of laws are dangerous and un-American. We want to protect North Carolinians' right to privacy and access to basic healthcare, including access to safe and legal abortion care.

With nearly 600 restrictions introduced in 2021, this year has been the worst attack on abortion care since the *Roe v. Wade* decision. In North Carolina, several bills to restrict access to abortion care have been filed. One bill — HB 453 — was recently vetoed by Governor Cooper.

We cannot allow women's basic healthcare rights to be denied on a state-by-state basis. We must treat all women as equal citizens, with the basic right to control their own bodies and reproductive decisions — regardless of whether they live in Texas or North Carolina.

We call on you to pass federal legislation that guarantees all Americans the protections set forth in *Roe v. Wade*.

Women's rights to control our bodies and our reproductive decisions are under attack from state legislatures and the US Supreme Court. **We need federal legislation to codify the protections established in *Roe v. Wade***, so that all women in America have the same rights to privacy and autonomy no matter where they live. I am proud to send this letter to our Federal Delegation calling on them to step up and guarantee these rights before they are further eroded by state laws. We cannot allow women to be treated as second-class citizens subject to forced pregnancy and parenthood. You can read the full letter [here](#).

Bills I Support That Have Been Signed into Law by the Governor



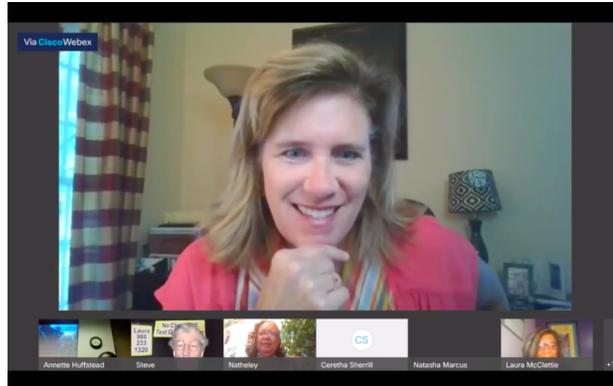


Below is a condensed list of some of the bills I voted "yes" on this session that have been signed into law by Governor Cooper. A full list of bills the Governor has signed can be found [here](#).

- **[SB300](#), Criminal Justice Reform.** Makes various changes to the Criminal Code, and increases law enforcement standardization and oversight. You can read more about the bill [here](#).
- **[HB436](#), Support Law Enforcement Mental Health.** Requires psychological screening examinations for police officers prior to initial certification or employment; requires mental health and wellness strategies training as a component of qualification and in-service training; and expands access to mental health resources available for officers.
- **[HB536](#), Law Enforcement Duty to Intervene.** Creates a duty to intervene in cases of excessive force for law enforcement officers. Requires that the National Decertification Index (NDI) be searched as part of officer certification and that officers report certain notifications related to testimony.
- **[HB608](#), Dignity for Women Who are Incarcerated.** Establishes health and safety requirements for pregnant and postpartum incarcerated women to allow safer pregnancies and dignity for pregnant and birthing mothers. The bill specifically disallows shackling of women during labor except under specific circumstances. It will lead to healthier mothers and babies.
- **[HB769](#), Foster Parents' Bill of Rights.** Creates a Bill of Rights recognizing the rights of foster parents, including notice of hearing, reimbursement of relevant expenses, and notice of meetings.

Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum Charlotte:

Legislative Update



Thank you to [Tuesday Forum Charlotte](#) for inviting me to speak at their weekly meeting last week. As Mecklenburg Legislative Delegation Chair, I provided an update on what's happening in Raleigh, from **public education to redistricting to the state budget**. I am grateful for everyone who woke up early after a holiday weekend to join us.

A New Ocular Melanoma Resource



The Melanoma Research Foundation CURE OM “Vision Registry” is online now. It’s an ocular melanoma registry research tool that will **enable experts to gather important information and aid research about this dangerous cancer** that has impacted people in the North Mecklenburg area. If you or someone in your family has been impacted by ocular melanoma, I encourage you to report your case to the registry:
www.visionregistry.org

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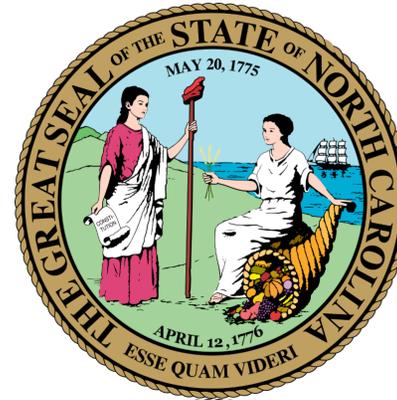
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

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