

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



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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Date 2021-10-15 16:57

Natasha
MARCUS
NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

October 15, 2021

Online Town Hall This Tuesday

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH | 7-8PM

**ONLINE TOWN HALL:
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND Q&A**

SENATOR NATASHA MARCUS

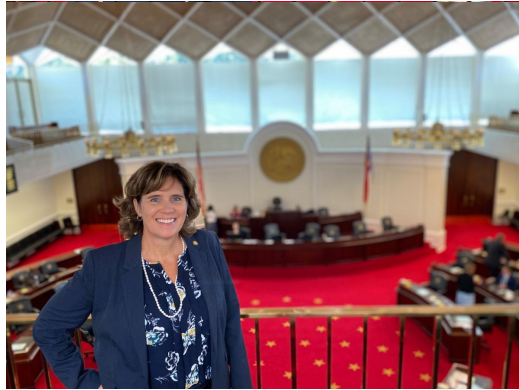
SIGN UP AT: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/SENMARCUSTOWNHALL](https://bit.ly/senmarcustownhall)

The banner features a dark blue background with white and green text. A small portrait of Senator Natasha Marcus is visible in the bottom left corner of the banner.

Join me for my fall Town Hall on **Tuesday, October 19th at 7pm**. You can sign up at the link below. I'll provide updates on the legislative session including my bills, the budget, redistricting, and answer any questions you may have. **Be sure to sign up in advance to get the log-in information emailed to you.**

Sign Up Here

Noteworthy Votes



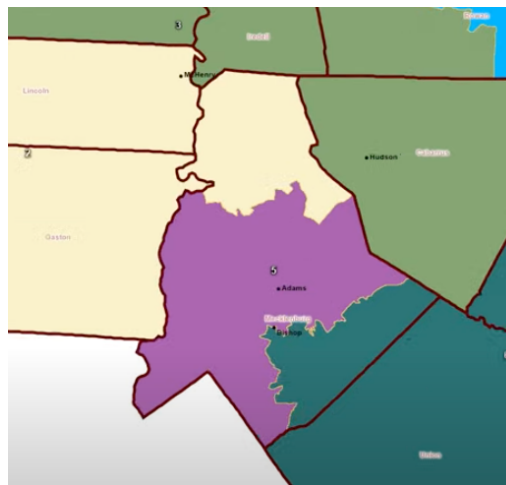
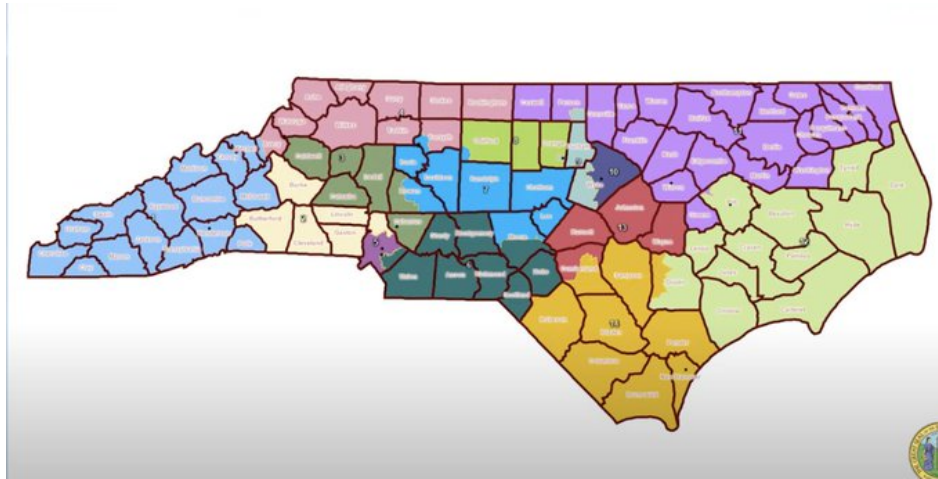
Below are a few noteworthy bills I voted on over the past two weeks. You can find a full list of bills I voted on [here](#).

Yes votes:

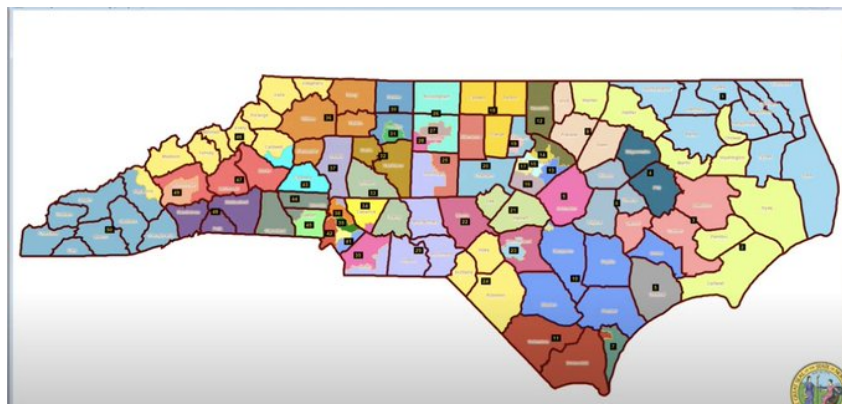
- **[S183](#), Begin Modernizing Ignition Interlock Laws (for concurrence)**. Amends certain driving privilege restrictions, allows an individual who owns multiple vehicles to designate certain vehicles for operation with an ignition interlock system, and expands the current waiver for undue financial hardship to equip a vehicle with a required ignition interlock system.
- **[SB424](#), Private Protective Services Licensing Modifications**. Makes a number of changes to the law regulating the private protective services profession per recommendations from the Department of Public Safety.
- **[H165](#), DOT Legislative Changes**. An agency bill to make various changes to the state transportation laws per DOT recommendations.
- **[H624](#), North Carolina Regulatory Sandbox Act**. Enacts the NC Financial and Insurance Regulatory Sandbox Act and establishes the NC Innovation Council, which will oversee projects that seek to develop products that address a problem or provide some benefit to the state. The bill will further NC's technology industry and protect consumers from harmful products and services. Read more [here](#).
- **[HB761](#), Police Vehicle and Equipment Protection Act**. Increases the penalty for breaking or entering into a vehicle owned by a law enforcement agency and creates two new felony offenses for theft of equipment owned by a law enforcement agency.
- **[H951](#), Energy Solutions for North Carolina**. Authorizes the Utilities Commission to take all reasonable steps to achieve a 70% reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide from electric public utilities from 2005 levels by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, authorizes performance-based regulation of electric public utilities, proceeds with rulemaking on securitization of certain costs and other matters, allows NC's environmental regulators to proceed with rulemaking to set limits on carbon emissions and allows the state to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, in which eleven east coast states operate the nation's first carbon marketplace. This bill is one of the strongest energy policies in the country — and

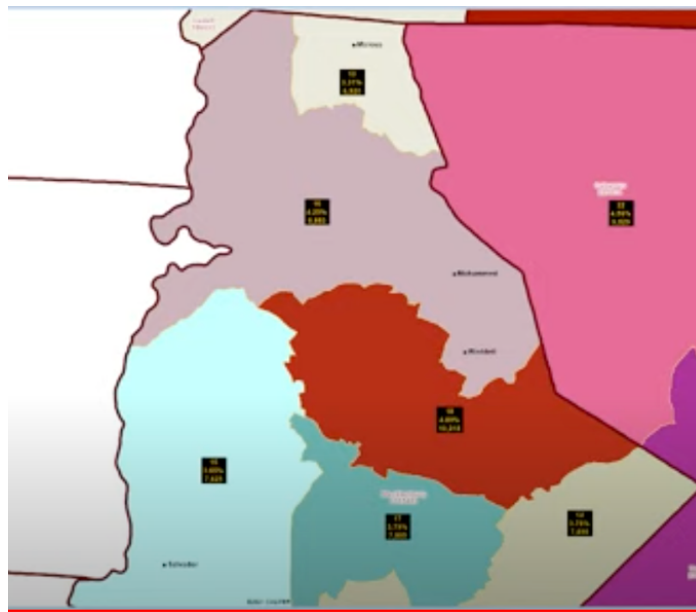
we passed it with a Republican-controlled legislature. **This bill is not perfect, but I voted to support it because the status quo of inaction was not an option and because this compromise enacts Governor Cooper's emissions goals into law and puts our state on track to lead other states toward similar clean energy goals.** The vote was 42-7 in the Senate and 90-20 in the House. You can read more about the bill [here](#).

Redistricting Committee Updates

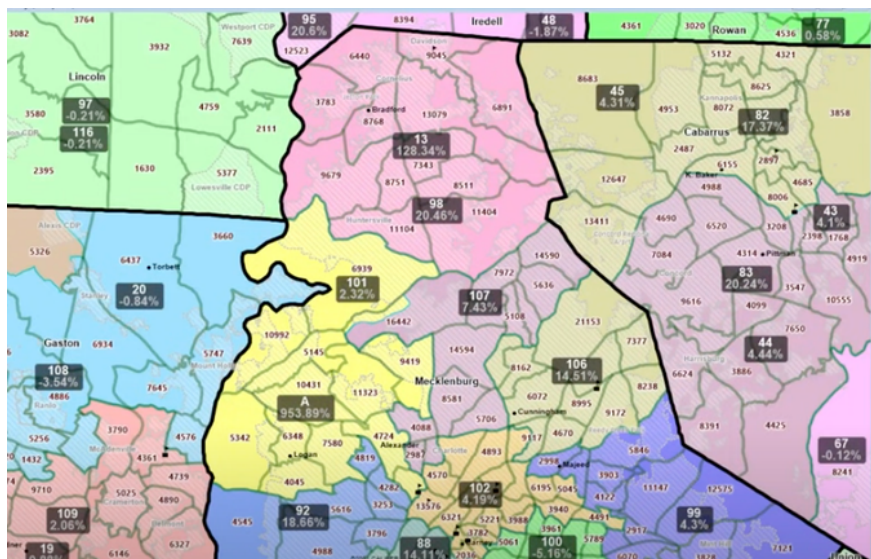


Draft Congressional Map (Statewide & Zoomed in on Mecklenburg County)





Draft State Senate Map (Statewide & Zoomed in on Mecklenburg County)



Draft State House Map (Zoomed in on Mecklenburg County)

The Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee met in Raleigh last week to begin the process of drawing new Congressional and State Legislative maps. Following two weeks of gathering public input, there was unfortunately **no substantive discussion or debate on how the public's ideas and concerns will be implemented into the process.**

Legislators have been drawing draft maps over the past two weeks. The maps above are samples drawn by Republican legislators, which have not been formally presented to the Redistricting Committee yet. They may change before that happens. But they give us some insight into how the maps may look. You'll see that Mecklenburg County is split three ways in the Congressional map. You'll see parts of North Mecklenburg are drawn into Iredell County in the Senate map. You can watch a livestream of the map drawing [here](#).

A **redistricting reform group is hosting a map-making contest** that will run through October 30th. You could win up to \$500 if you draw the best map. Learn more about this initiative [here](#).

The public comment portal on the NCGA website is still live. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns on the redistricting process. You can submit your public comments online [here](#). Thank you to everyone who took the time over the past few weeks to share your thoughts on the redistricting process at the public hearings. You can watch recordings of the hearings [here](#).

Standing Up for LGBTQ North Carolinians



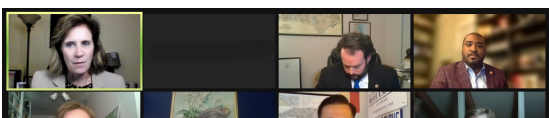
Last week, video came to light of the Lieutenant Governor making offensive and hateful remarks about the LGBTQ community. **I believe that all people have equal value and that the Lt. Governor's remarks are not only completely unacceptable, but disqualifying for someone in his position.** Our state only recently left national headlines for disparaging the LGBTQ community through HB2, and now the Lt. Governor has landed us back in the negative spotlight. Even the White House released a [statement](#) condemning the remarks.

The Senate Democratic Caucus responded with a powerful statement advocating for LGBTQ rights, which you can read [here](#). I am proud to be part of our caucus.

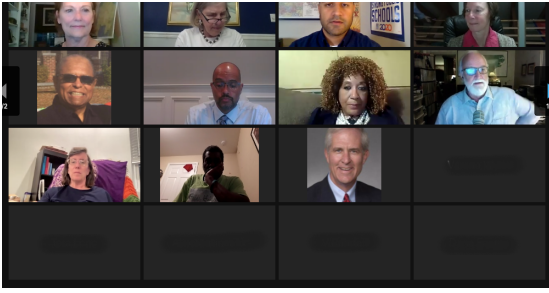
I am even more proud of the legislation I have introduced this session to push for LGBTQ rights, including [Senate Bill 392](#), the Mental Health Protection Act, which would ban conversion therapy for minors, and [Senate Bill 396](#), Equality for All, which would establish comprehensive statewide nondiscrimination protections for all people, including LGBTQ people.

If you are hurting from the Lt. Governor's statements and the fallout since then, I am sorry and urge you to find a supportive person or group. I value you and many others do too. If you don't know where to turn, [start here](#).

Mecklenburg Delegation Listening Session



Thank you to everyone who joined the Mecklenburg Delegation on October 7 for



our third online listening session of the year. **Constituents from across the county came together to discuss COVID-19 recovery, affordable healthcare, LGBTQ rights, and more.** Keep an eye on my social media for information on the next Listening Session, which will be after the new year.

Mecklenburg County Local Elections: Voting Information

**Mecklenburg County
General Election
November 2, 2021
One Stop Early Voting**

MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
(opening October 14th 8 am)
1 - Located at 741 Kenilworth Ave Suite 202

Additional Locations
(opening October 21st 10 am)

- 2 - Cornelius Town Hall 21445 Catawba Ave, Cornelius
- 3 - Davidson Library 119 South Main Street, Davidson
- 4 - Matthews Library 230 Matthews Station St, Matthews
- 5 - Mint Hill Library 6840 Matthews - Mint Hill Rd, Mint Hill
- 6 - North County Regional Library 16500 Holly Crest Ln, Huntersville
- 7 - Pineville Communications Systems 118 College St, Pineville

Early voting in the North Mecklenburg towns begins on October 21. Locations are the **Davidson Public Library** (new this year), **Cornelius Town Hall** and the **North County Regional Library in Huntersville**. You can find more information about early voting in Mecklenburg County this year [here](#). Election Day is Tuesday, November 2.

Issue Spotlight: Teachers Reassigned in Mid-October



I have heard from some constituents, parents and teachers, about the disruption

happening at certain local public schools due to the **reassignment of teachers to account for changes in enrollment, often called “leveling.”** I have responded individually when folks email me, but wanted to share with others who may be wondering or concerned as well.

As we return to in-person learning despite an uptick in COVID cases, educators, parents and students are under a lot of stress. I am concerned about the **growing teacher shortages**, burnout among educators, and the mental and academic health of students during this pandemic. Unfortunately, there is an additional factor that is causing disruption: teacher reassignment.

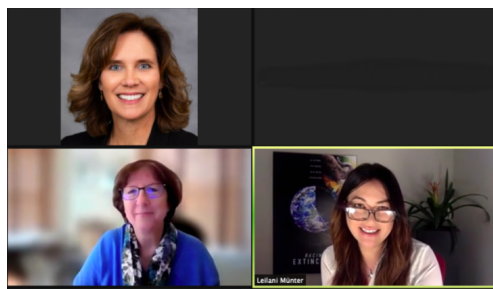
The NCGA funds each district with a certain number of teachers based on the number of students enrolled in each grade level per the official count. There is a **strict formula which dictates how CMS must assign teachers among the schools in the district.** If enrollment drops, teachers must be reassigned. It happens every year and always causes some disruption, but usually not in the North Mecklenburg area since enrollment does not usually drop unexpectedly or significantly here. This year, however, there has been lower enrollment in some schools that don't normally have that happen.

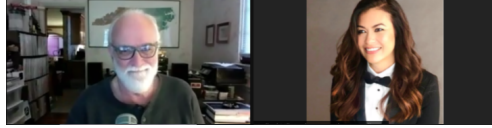
So, in mid-October, teachers are being moved to other schools and students are being moved to other classes, with a new teacher. It's disruptive and no one likes it.

Last year, the NCGA passed a law to "hold harmless" schools whose ADM had dropped due to COVID. It was for last school year only and allowed schools to keep all their teachers, even if enrollment had dropped. So far this year, the NCGA has been unable to reach an agreement on the budget broadly or this issue specifically, so the reassignment is required. Although I am sure Board members would like to avoid the disruption that leveling causes and/or make these decisions on a case by case basis, allowing for variations in the formula when warranted, they cannot. The NCGA funding provides them with no flexibility on this.

I am hopeful that the NCGA will pass the budget soon and that it will include the ADM hold harmless provision to apply retroactively to this school year. If we can get that done, CMS would be able to bring the displaced teachers back to where they were at the start of the year. This is yet one more reason why I'm frustrated that it's taking so long to pass a budget this year. Stay tuned as negotiations continue -- you can read more about the current status of the budget [here](#).

Briefing on Coal Rolling from CleanAIRE NC

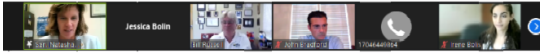




This week, Rep. John Autry and I met with the June Blotnick, Executive Director of [CleanAIRE NC](#), and a local environmental activist, Leilani Munter, to learn about **coal rolling**. “Rolling coal” is when a diesel truck driver purposefully accelerates in order to **emit black exhaust smoke on pedestrians, cyclists or other drivers**. In order to roll coal, one must modify their truck, illegally. The rates of coal rolling have increased recently and hybrid and electric cars are often the targets. I was disheartened to hear that one of the consequences of building a greener car industry is the harassment electric and hybrid car drivers face. Coal rolling has caused collisions and [even death in some cases](#). You can read more about coal rolling and what other states have done to combat it, [here](#).

There are currently no state laws explicitly prohibiting this practice or addressing the vehicle modifications in North Carolina. My colleagues and I will be looking into how best to address the problem. Have you ever experienced coal rolling? If you have and are willing to talk about it, please email me at natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov to share your experience.

Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce: Legislative Update



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2021 SESSION NC SENATE



Thank you to all the business leaders, local elected officials, and constituents who attended the **Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce** meeting last week. I was honored to be a guest speaker, to provide a legislative update from Raleigh. We discussed many topics, including **the budget, local projects, Medicaid Expansion and redistricting**.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic in Davidson

**COVID-19 VACCINE
BOOSTER CLINIC**
DAVIDSON TOWN HALL
MON. OCT. 11, 11AM-2PM

Reservations available.
Walk-ins welcome.

ADA JENKINS CENTER
MON. OCT 18, 3PM-6PM

Mecklenburg County's Public Health Office will be hosting a second **COVID-19 booster clinic in Davidson this Monday, October 18th from 3-6 at the Ada Jenkins Center**. You can register in advance [here](#), but walk-ins are also welcome.

The Pfizer vaccine booster is free, and no photo ID or insurance is needed. You can get a booster if it has been at least six months since your second Pfizer shot, and one of the following is true:

- You are 65 or older.
- You are 18 and older and
 - You live or work in a nursing home or other long-term care residential facility.
 - You have a medical condition that puts you at high risk for severe illness, for example obesity, asthma, heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.
 - You work in a high-risk profession, meaning you come into contact with a lot of people, and you don't know their vaccination status, for example, health care workers, first responders, teachers, food processing workers, retail and restaurant workers and public transportation workers.
 - You live or work in a place where many people live together, for example, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, migrant farm housing, dormitories or other group living settings in colleges or universities.

Charlotte Rally in Support of Reproductive Rights



Last week I joined folks from across the county and state to **demand women's rights to make our own reproductive decisions**. The keynote speaker was Rep. Julie von Haefen, who talked about our bill, the **RBG Act** to remove barriers to abortion access. I'm proud to be the **Senate primary sponsor of the bill** and proud of the many people who showed up for the Charlotte Women's Movement March.

Community Eviction Prevention Fund



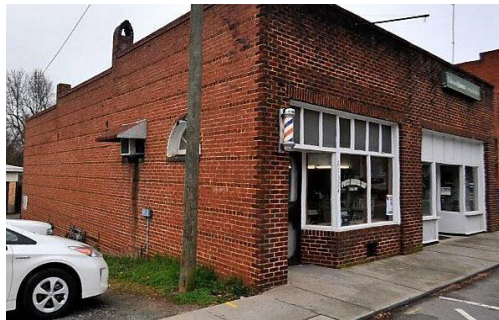


MeckMIN (Mecklenburg Metropolitan Interfaith Network) and **Crisis Assistance Ministry** have teamed up to address the reality that an estimated **22,000+ households in Mecklenburg County are at risk of homelessness** now that the CDC eviction moratorium has ended.

Many of these are the individuals and families hardest-hit by COVID. Many have suffered job loss, reduced income, and medical and/or childcare challenges as a result of the pandemic. **Nationwide, more than one in seven renters have not caught up on rent during the pandemic, with renters of color facing the greatest hardship.**

More information about the eviction fund can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Donations can be made by texting Eviction to 91999 OR on the Crisis Assistance site [here](#).

Cornelius Barbershop Receives Historic Landmark Designation



Congratulations to Potts Barber Shop, one of the oldest small businesses in Cornelius, for **receiving a historic designation from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission**. The Potts family has made such a significant impact on the town and I'm happy to see their barbershop being recognized in this way. The Town Board plans to coordinate the dedication ceremony with other local programs during Black History Month in February 2022. You can read more about the building and the designation [here](#).

2022 CLT Aviation Academy: Now Accepting Applications



The 2022 CLT Aviation Academy provides a one-of-a-kind **opportunity to better understand the inner-workings of Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT)** and its

contributions and impacts on our economy, transportation system, and community. Aviation Academy participants will gain behind the scenes access to current operations and future CLT planning efforts that will impact our local and regional economy. The Aviation Academy is **open to community members and public and private sector leaders from across the greater Charlotte region.**

The 2022 CLT Aviation Academy class will be limited to 25 participants selected based on a competitive admissions process. There are scholarships that cover the cost of attendance for community members. Attendees representing local businesses, non-profits and government agencies must pay a tuition fee -- \$450 for public sector/non-profit and \$500 for private sector. More information about the application process and fees [here](#). Click [here](#) to apply online. **All applications are due by November 12, 2021.** Contact Melissa Treadaway (Melissa.Treadaway@cltairport.com) if you have questions or need more information.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management: Offshore Wind Briefing



Last week the [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#) (BOEM) hosted a briefing on offshore wind energy for state legislators across the country. We learned about how **wind energy impacts technology development, community engagement, and climate change.** I was pleased to see the great headway the Biden Administration is making in clean energy production and jobs, and look forward to seeing how the industry will continue to develop in North Carolina. This will also have an impact in the district, as a local Huntersville company, Southwire, will be a major supplier for the design, manufacturing and installation of the onshore cables for the offshore wind project (more information [here](#)).

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to receive future editions, please subscribe at [this link](#) or email me at Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov and let me know you want to subscribe to the biweekly newsletter.

Contact Our Office



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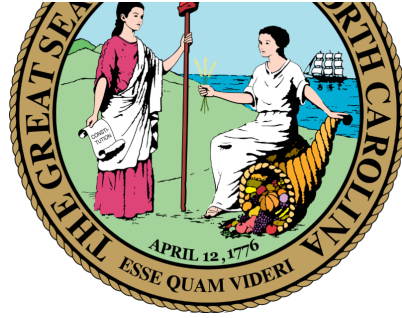
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How can we help you? Let us know and **reach out** to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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