

SPAM Latest Updates from the NCGA



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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Date 2021-10-29 16:38

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NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

October 29, 2021



I hope everyone has a happy and safe Halloween weekend! If you have questions or concerns about how to keep your family safe over the weekend, please refer to [this CDC resource](#) on holiday celebrations.

Redistricting Committee Updates

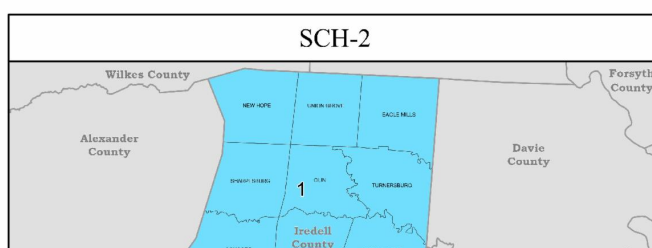


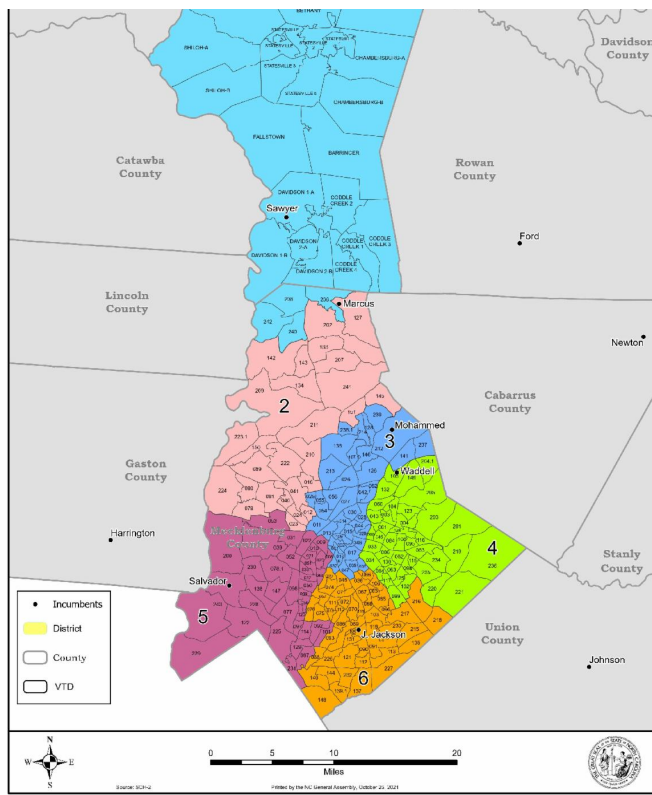
This week the NCGA's Joint Redistricting Committee heard from North Carolinians across the state, both in-person and virtually, about their thoughts and concerns on proposed State and Congressional district maps. I was disappointed that the Committee Chairs limited the number of speakers, required online sign-ups in advance, and scheduled the hearings without much notice. The folks who were able to speak at the hearings overwhelmingly panned the proposed maps, citing **concerns about partisan gerrymandering, splitting urban centers to group them with rural areas, and disenfranchising communities of color**. I did an interview with Fox 46 on the redistricting process and public hearings, which you can watch [here](#).

Additionally, the non-partisan [Princeton Gerrymandering Project](#) recently released their redistricting report card for North Carolina. **5 of the 6 GOP proposed maps received an F on partisan fairness** (the 6th received a C).

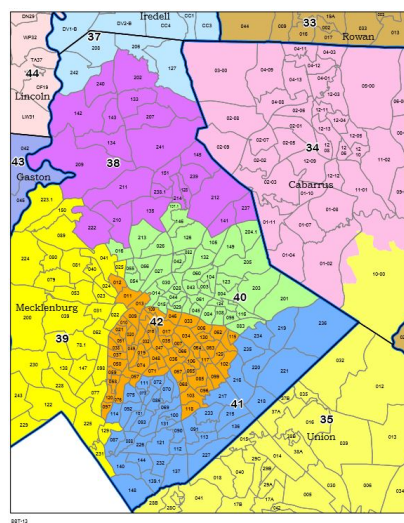
Thank you to everyone who took the time over the past few weeks to share your thoughts on the redistricting process at the public hearings. You can watch recordings of the hearings [here](#).

State Senate Map Proposals for Mecklenburg & Iredell Counties





Mecklenburg Delegation's Proposed Senate Map for Mecklenburg/Iredell County (SCH-2)



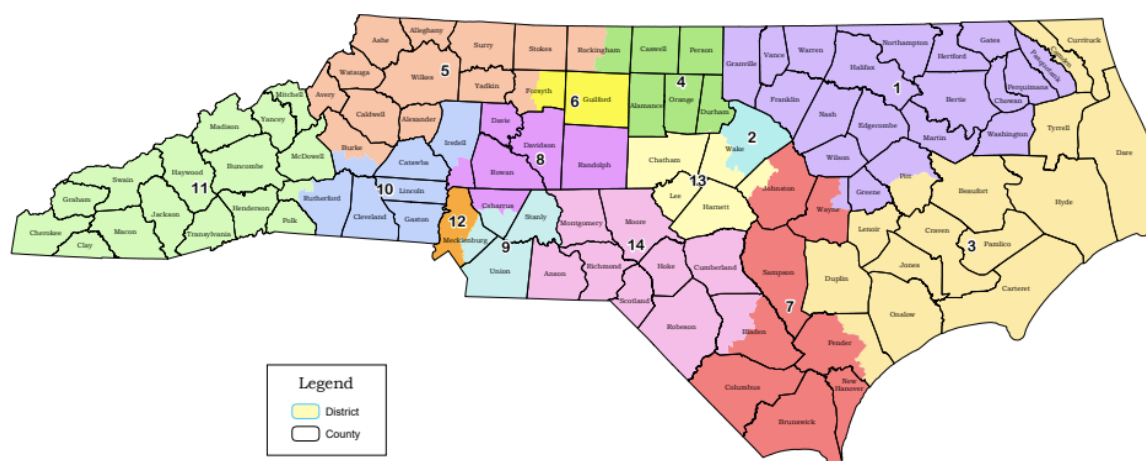
Republican Proposed Senate Map for Mecklenburg/Iredell County (SST-13)

Following the public hearings this week, Republicans and Democrats have filed their final map proposals for State Senate Districts. The two proposals for the Mecklenburg/Iredell county cluster are shown above. The Committee will be debating and voting on these two options on Monday or Tuesday of next week. Floor votes on final maps could happen as early as Wednesday.

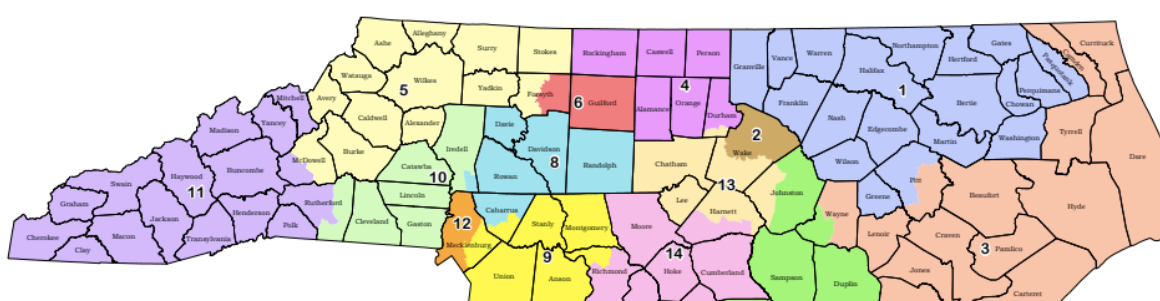
It's not too late to make your opinions part of the public record. You can submit your comments in writing at the online portal [here](#).

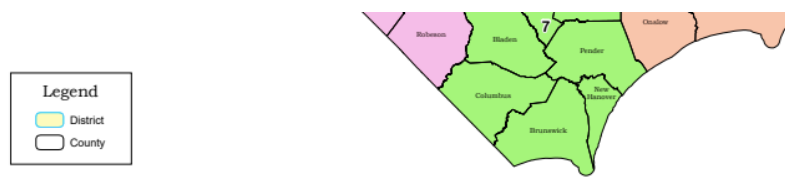
You can see the Republicans' full proposed map online [here](#) (SST-13).

Congressional Map Proposals

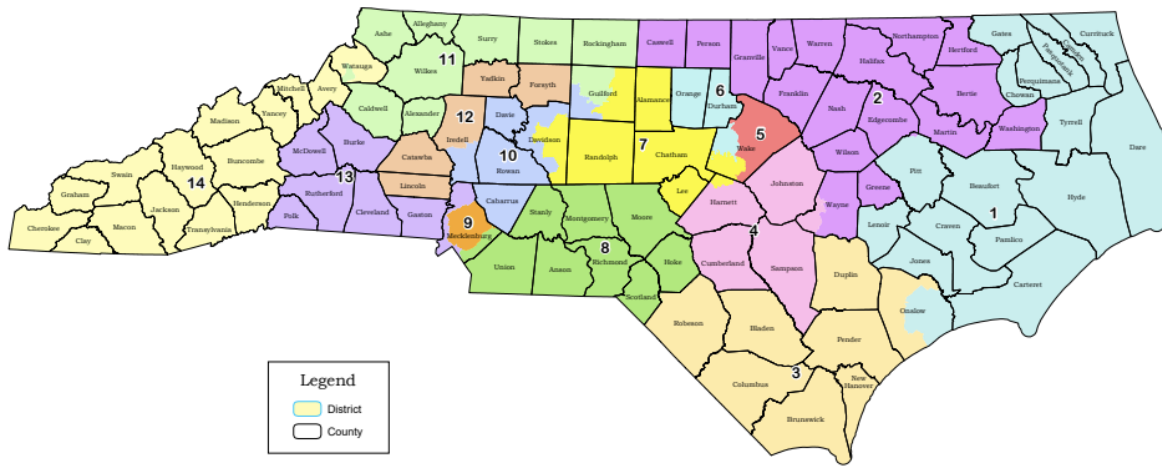


Democratic Proposed Congressional Map (CST-8)





Democratic Proposed Congressional Map (CCH-6)



Republican Proposed Congressional Map (CST-13)

Legislators have also filed their final proposed maps for our 14 Congressional districts. There are 3 proposals (2 Dem, 1 GOP), which split Mecklenburg county into either two or three sections. Each map is shown above.

It's not too late to make your opinions part of the public record. You can submit your comments in writing at the online portal [here](#).

You can see the Democrats' proposed maps online [here](#) (CCH-6) and [here](#) (CST-8) and the Republicans' proposed map [here](#) (CST-13).

Third Online Town Hall of the Year



Thank you to everyone who joined me on October 19th for my third Online Town Hall of the Year. **Constituents from across the county came together to discuss Medicaid expansion, the state budget, redistricting, and more.** Keep an eye on my social media for information on the next Town Hall, which will be sometime in the winter.

Colonial Pipeline Leak Update



NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) has issued **two additional Notices of Violation (NOV) due to Colonial's failure to provide critical, required data** about the size of the underground plume, vapors caused by the cleanup, and more. The full NOV letters are available for anyone who wants to read them. If you want us to send them to you, let me know. It's been 14 months since the spill was discovered and the clean-up drags on, while Colonial is not meeting its obligations to provide information to the state.

We know there are more than 1.2 million gallons spilled, but have not received updated estimates since February about the volume or depth of the plume. NCDEQ will continue to push for information and, as you can see in the letters, will take these violations into account when determining the appropriate **penalties**. Court action may be DEQ's next step to force Colonial to meet its obligations in a timely manner. You can read more about the NOVs [here](#).

State Budget Updates





Negotiations are progressing privately between the Governor and House and Senate budget writers. The rest of the NCGA members do not know yet what compromises have been reached, what is still unresolved, or when we will see the proposal. Issues of contention include education funding, Medicaid Expansion and corporate tax cuts.

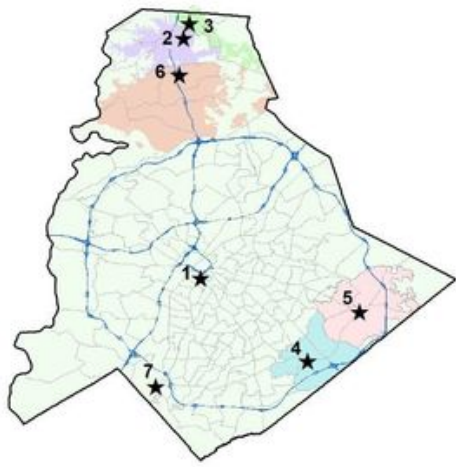
The parties appear to be close to a final proposal and votes on the budget could come as soon as next week. I am hopeful we can reach an agreement soon, since the budget is already four months overdue and many urgent needs are going unmet. You can read more about the negotiations [here](#), and be sure to follow me on social media, where I will give up to date budget information.

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 is almost over. If you live in one of the North Mecklenburg towns, you can still vote early today until 7pm and tomorrow, Saturday, from 8am-3pm. 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.** If you don't vote early, please vote at your assigned precinct on Election Day.

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



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

- **SB191, The No Patient Left Alone Act.** Ensures visitation rights for patients in most healthcare facilities during a declared disaster or emergency and requires DHHS to assess a civil penalty for violations of those visitation rights.
- **SB695, Various Education Changes.** Amends school administrator licensure requirements, makes technical changes to payroll dates, and changes the date for reporting on student meal debt.
- **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.
- **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.

Free COVID-19 Tests in Davidson Beginning November 1



Rapid and PCR Testing for COVID-19 will begin on November 1 in Davidson at MSC Industrial Supply Company, 525 Harbour Place Dr, Davidson, NC 28036 (**Parking Lot Only**). This testing site will be open Monday, Tuesday and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm (subject to change based on need and availability). Anyone can be tested, with or without symptoms, including under-insured, undocumented and homeless individuals. Walk-ups are accepted, no appointments, no identification, and no insurance required. **Residents are encouraged to register at www.upoh.org/covid-testing or call (800) 701-1023.** Additional locations in Mecklenburg County are also listed at the link above (including East Stonewall AME Zion Church). Curbside testing will be available for those who are unable to leave their vehicle.

Leandro Case Update: NC Children's Right to a Sound and Basic Education



The fight for North Carolina students' right to a sound and basic education continues. Last week State Superior Court Judge David Lee made a pivotal decision in the *Leandro* case, **giving state lawmakers three weeks to put \$1.7 billion into public schools before the judicial system potentially orders us to do so.** Judge Lee says he would wait until at least November 8th before giving a court order. All of this is happening as state budget negotiations continue, so we will see what the final budget numbers are for our public schools. It's important that we **uphold students' constitutional rights to "a sound, basic education."** You can read more about the judge's decision [here](#).

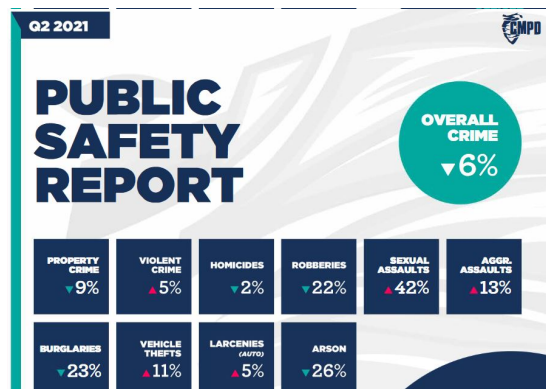
Stillbirths, Infant Loss and The Importance of Medicaid Expansion



I have some upsetting news to share. In North Carolina each year, 800 babies are stillborn. Advocates recently came together to push for more action to prevent stillbirths, miscarriages, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. You can learn more about how to prevent stillbirths from [Count the Kicks](#), a national advocacy organization.

These tragedies are just another example of why Medicaid expansion is so important, as it would help improve access to prenatal and postpartum care, especially in more rural areas of the state. Advocates also called for increased funding for the Safe Sleep NC campaign, which works to reduce SIDS related deaths. The current proposed budget does not include any funding for the Safe Sleep NC campaign. You can learn more about the Safe Sleep NC campaign [here](#).

American Rescue Plan Funds to Reduce Gun Violence



Everytown for Gun Safety recently hosted a webinar for legislators across the country about how **American Rescue Plan funds can be used for gun violence prevention programs**. It was a great conversation from community activists, violence prevention experts, and legislators from across the country on the importance of combating gun violence with creative, local violence prevention programs. You can learn more about how COVID-19 relief funds can be used to fight rising gun violence [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.

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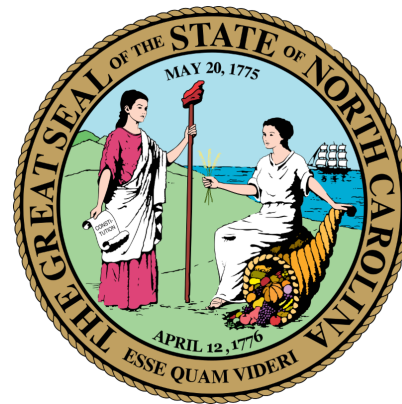
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Raleigh, NC 27603



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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