

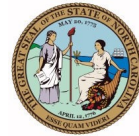
## A Redistricting Update



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## Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



### A Redistricting Update

Peace. Once a decade, the Federal Census provides an accounting of the number of people living in the United States. We use that information to reapportion districts to ensure that representation is divided evenly across the state. This week we passed new district lines for State House, State Senate, and Congress. I voted against all of these plans.

Why did I vote against the new district lines? Sadly, they continue a long North Carolina tradition of gerrymandering districts to help one group of people and hurt another. It is politicians picking their voters rather than the other way around. I support a different approach of independent redistricting that gets this mess away from politicians and will lead to fairer district lines and better public policy.

What happens next? The district lines passed this week are now law, but at least one lawsuit has been filed opposing them and more will likely follow. If the courts find the maps violate laws protecting citizens' right to participate in the political process, the maps will be put on hold and lawmakers will be ordered to try again. This has happened many times in recent history and could happen again.

What are the main problems with the new lines?

The first problem is they were passed without meaningful public input. The General Assembly held a series of public hearings to get public input, but no

draft maps were shown to the public and the hearings themselves were not very accessible to citizens.

The second problem is the maps discriminate against African-American voters, particularly in Eastern North Carolina. This is not an accident, but a deliberate feature of all three sets of maps for NC House, NC Senate, and Congress.

The third problem is the maps are partisan gerrymanders, packing Democratic voters in a few districts while spreading Republican voters out to maximize the number of seats their party can win. Again, this was not an accident but a feature of all three sets of maps. You can see it most clearly in the Congressional maps. North Carolina is very close state politically, it is close to 50/50. Yet the maps nearly guarantee that 10 Republicans will be elected with an 11<sup>th</sup> seat competitive between the two parties. The remaining three seats would be so overwhelmingly Democratic that it would be impossible for a Democrat to lose no matter how good or bad they are. Not a great way to run a democracy.

The lack of competition, the lack of political balance, and the lack of public participation are all huge flaws in the approved maps that North Carolina could be stuck with for the next 10 years.

## **Governor Cooper Vetoes Bill that would Limit Emergency Powers**

Governor Cooper vetoed HB 264, legislation that would limit the ability of the governor to react in an emergency. The Emergency Management Act gives the Governor of North Carolina the ability to act quickly during emergencies instead of being mired in multiple levels of bureaucracy. Due to public health concerns, courts have upheld the governor's ability to act during emergencies. North Carolina has been able to recover from the pandemic with a stronger economy and fewer deaths than many other states. There were not enough votes in the House of Representatives on the original HB264 to override a veto.

In vetoing the bill, Governor Cooper said:

“North Carolina is emerging from a global pandemic with lives saved and a strong economy because of effective statewide measures to protect public health under the Emergency Management Act. Critical decisions about stopping deadly diseases, or responding to any other emergency, should stay with experts in public health and safety, not a committee of partisan politicians. We must be able to act quickly and thoroughly when deadly diseases, hurricanes, or any other dangers threaten people's lives and jobs. An emergency needs decisive, quick and comprehensive action, not bureaucracy and politics.”

## **Protests Surround Seating of Newest NC House Member**

When a member of the General Assembly leaves office before his or her term expires, the local party of that representative picks a replacement to fill out the remaining term. Sadly, one of our colleagues passed away last month requiring this process to happen.

Gaston County Republicans chose a replacement who attended the January 6 riots in Washington DC that resulted in several deaths and so much damage to our country. Governor Cooper is required by state law to appoint whoever the local party selects. When the newest member of the NC House was seated, House Democrats chose to leave the chamber in a silent protest of his involvement in the January 6 riots.

We did not miss any votes or legislative action, but felt it important to note our opposition to what happened on January 6, his involvement, and his seating as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

## **Governor Cooper Proclaims "Employ a Veteran Week"**

Governor Cooper announced via press release the celebration of "Employ a Veteran Week," November 8 – November 12. Several events across the state will take place to connect veterans to jobs and other services that may benefit them.

Here is a list of events happening statewide:

- Tuesday Nov. 9 (8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.) - Interviewing Skills Workshop/Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, followed by a Recruitment/Job Fair, at the NCWorks Career Center, 1391 Bessemer City Road, Gastonia, NC.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9 (9 a.m. - noon) - Wilkes County Community Resource Fair for Veterans, at the NCWorks Career Center, 1320 West D Street, Suite 2, North Wilkesboro, NC.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) - Veteran Appreciation & Community Hiring Event, at the Vance-Granville Community College Civic Center, 200 Community College Road, Henderson, NC.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) - Veterans Job & Resource Fair, at the NCWorks Career Center, 111 Jordan Plaza, Elizabeth City, NC.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) - Lenoir County Drive-Thru Veterans Resource Fair, at the NCWorks Career Center, 231 Highway 58 South, Kinston, NC.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9 (10 am-2 pm) - Veterans Day Job Fair, presented by the NCWorks Career Center in Craven County in partnership with Dayspring Ministries, at 1246 Pollock Street, New Bern, NC.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9 (1 - 4 p.m.) - HKY4Vets Virtual Hiring Event for Transitioning Military & Military Spouses, Hickory, NC ([www.HKY4VETS.com](http://www.HKY4VETS.com)).

- Tuesday, Nov. 9 (2 - 4 p.m.) - Rivers East Virtual Job Fair, open to veterans and the general public (<https://app.premiervirtual.com/events/a2d9389a-6dc9-4dc5-868b-fdb312e5e3d7/time-for-a-change/attendee>).
- Wednesday, Nov. 10: NC4ME Virtual Hiring Event with the N.C. Department of Public Safety & the N.C. National Guard ([nc4me.org/november/](http://nc4me.org/november/)).
- Wednesday, Nov. 10 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) - Veterans Job & Resource Fair, at the NCWorks Career Center, 133 Island Ford Road, Statesville, NC.
- Wednesday, Nov. 10 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.): Foothills Veterans Stand Down at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center, 1909 Hickory Blvd., Lenoir, NC.
- Wednesday, Nov. 10 (10 a.m. - noon) - Sandhills Regional Job Fair at the National Guard Armory, 500 E. Morganton Road, Southern Pines, NC. The event is also open to the general public from 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 10 (10 - 11 a.m.): Virtual Job Fair conducted by the Turning Point Workforce Development Board and NCWorks Career Centers in Rocky Mount, Wilson, and Roanoke Rapids (<https://app.premiervirtual.com/events/d51dee86-7697-4d32-8b21-d116553dc3b5/turning-point-workforce-development-board-regional-virtual-job-fair>). The event is also open to the general public from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 12 (10 - 11 a.m.): Veterans Outreach Event at the National Guard Armory, 301 S. Glenburnie Road, New Bern, NC. The event is also open to the general public starting at 11 a.m.

## NC Artist Opportunities

The North Carolina Arts Council recently [shared a list](#) of opportunities for North Carolina artists. The listing is free and highlights job opportunities in the arts both in North Carolina and nationally.

They also provided resources that may be helpful to arts-related jobseekers:

### Statewide Job Resources

- [ARTS North Carolina](#)
- Publicizes job and internship opportunities through its membership listserv. Arts North Carolina will not post job listings that do not provide a salary range or that request candidates provide a salary history. Members may submit unlimited listings at no charge. Non-members pay \$100 per listing.
- [Jobs in North Carolina Government](#)
- Jobs openings are listed for all agencies within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, including the N.C. Arts Council.

### Nationwide Job Resources

- [Americans for the Arts](#)
- A service for both job seekers and arts employers. Job seekers can post their resumes and use the searchable database of nonprofit and for-profit arts management positions at organizations across the United States. For a moderate fee, employers can post a job opening and use the searchable database of online resumes to find qualified professional candidates.

- [New York Foundation for the Arts](#)
- Job seekers can access listings for free and arts organizations are charged a moderate fee to post a job opening or artist opportunity.

Enjoy your weekend. PEACE!!



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