

Latest Updates from the NCGA



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NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

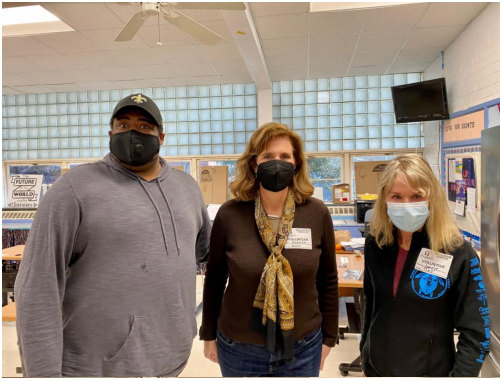
February 4, 2022

Redistricting Update



The North Carolina Supreme Court heard oral arguments this week in the three combined cases challenging the district maps enacted by the NC General Assembly. The trial included **discussion and debate on the permissibility of partisanship, the role of the North Carolina constitution, the disenfranchisement of Democratic voters, and more.** We expect the Court to issue its opinion soon. You can learn more about the trial [here](#) and you can watch a recording of the first day of the trial [here](#).

Senator Marcus in the Community: Volunteering for the Ada Jenkins Center After School Program



Last week I **volunteered again with the Ada Jenkins Center's LEARN Works After School Program**. This time, I was in Mr. Caseem's and Ms. Andrea's classrooms. It was wonderful to see these great teachers cultivate creativity and imagination with their students. It was fun to meet the excellent readers and talented artists in their classes. You can learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Ada Jenkins Center [here](#).

Panel on Gun Violence hosted by Davidson College Presbyterian Church



(From L to R): Senator Marcus, Davidson Police Chief Penny Dunn, CMS Board Chair Elyse Dashew, Community Superintendent for NW Learning Community Acquanetta Edmond

The **Social Justice Committee of the Davidson College Presbyterian Church invited me to be part of the panel to discuss gun violence** last week. I was honored to join the other panelists: Davidson Police Chief Penny Dunn, CMS Board Chair Elyse Dashew, and Acquanetta Edmond, the Community Superintendent for the NW Learning Community for CMS.

We discussed the **need for background checks on all gun sales, the importance of safe**

storage of firearms, the status of gun safety legislation in NC, the work CMS is doing to protect students, and the need for solutions that are mindful of mental health considerations. We took questions from in-person and online audience members.

You can watch the full discussion [here](#) (note that the forum begins about 4 minutes in). More information about gun violence in NC can be found [here](#), and more information about the group I mentioned, Moms Demand Action for Gun Safety [here](#).

Meeting with the Principals



Last week I joined principals from CMS and other public schools in southwest NC for their bi-monthly [Southwest Education Alliance](#) Meeting. I was invited to share my thoughts about education policy and answer the principals' questions on various topics: retention, incentives, teacher and principal pay, the importance of calendar flexibility, and investments required by *Leandro*. I was joined by Sen. Carl Ford (R-Rowan). It is important that we have educators at the table when education policy is made. I appreciated this opportunity to speak with and listen to educators in NC public schools.

Expanded Medication Access in North Carolina



Starting February 1st, people in NC will be able to get birth control pills and patches, prenatal vitamins, HIV prevention medication, glucagon to treat hypoglycemia and nicotine replacement therapy from a pharmacist without a prescription. This is one of those examples when Republicans and Democrats in Raleigh agreed and made life better for North Carolinians. I was proud to [vote for this bipartisan bill](#) during the Long Session. You can read more about the new law [here](#).

CMS Needs Talented Applicants



CMS is hiring for various positions and is offering new incentives -- including instructional, non-instructional support services, non-instructional operations, and licensed school and district administrators. CMS recently hosted a webinar on the open positions, which you can watch [here](#).

Apply Here

Virtual Grand Opening of Atrium Health Mountain Island Lake Emergency Department



On Monday Atrium Health hosted the virtual grand opening of [Atrium Health Mountain Island Lake Emergency Department](#). The facility is at the intersection of Mt Holly-Huntersville Road and Brookshire Blvd/Highway 16, in northwest Mecklenburg County. This will **expand access to quality healthcare** for residents in this part of Senate District 41. I am grateful that area residents will now have the benefit of closer, accessible healthcare. Our region is growing quickly and its important that healthcare options increase to meet demand.

Resource for Unclaimed Property



Earlier this week was National Unclaimed Property Day, an initiative to reunite Americans with billions of their own missing dollars that are being held for them in secure accounts. More information, including how to find out if you are owed money, can be found [here](#).

Red Cross Offering Gift Cards to Blood Donors



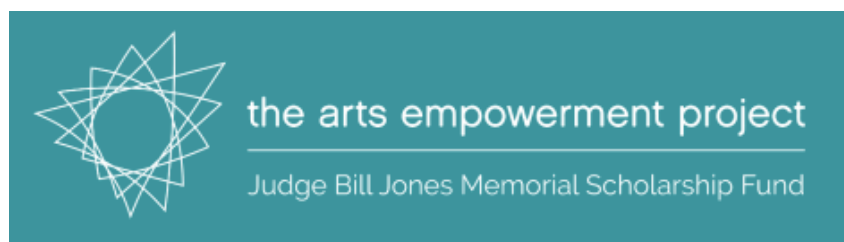
North Carolina is facing a shortage of **blood supply** because many blood drives were cancelled due to winter weather. The Red Cross is offering a **\$10 Amazon gift card to all donors in February**. You can make an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), or calling 1-800-733-2767,

Homeowner Assistance Fund Application



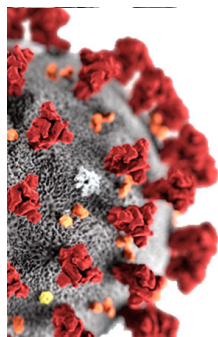
The NC Homeowner Assistance Fund prevents mortgage delinquencies, defaults, displacements, and foreclosures for eligible homeowners experiencing financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic. You can register to get more information on their application process [here](#) or contact the NC Homeowner Assistance Fund call center at (855) 696-2423, Monday through Friday from 8AM to 8PM ET.

The Arts Empowerment Project Scholarship Opportunity



The Arts Empowerment Project is accepting applications for the Judge Bill Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund. **The scholarship, named for a judge who advocated for at-risk youth, gives students up to \$1,500 in funding for visual and performing arts workshops, classes, camps, productions, research opportunities, and more.** Read more about the scholarship [here](#). **Applications are due by March 31, 2022.**

COVID-19 Updates: Vaccines & Testing Options



COVID-19 INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Do you have questions about who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine or booster, or where you can get a vaccine? Please go to the DHHS website [here](#) for more information on all things related to the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, **the Biden administration is offering free rapid COVID-19 at-home tests** (4 per household). You can place your order [here](#).

Mecklenburg County Public Health Department has also opened two new COVID testing locations in North Mecklenburg:

- **First Baptist Church of Cornelius, 21007 Catawba Ave, Cornelius. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **R.C. Bradford Park, 17005 Davidson-Concord Rd, Huntersville. Monday - Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

These are free PCR tests, with results expected in about 3 days. No appointment necessary. Schedules are subject to change. Please check [here](#) for the latest information and additional resources.

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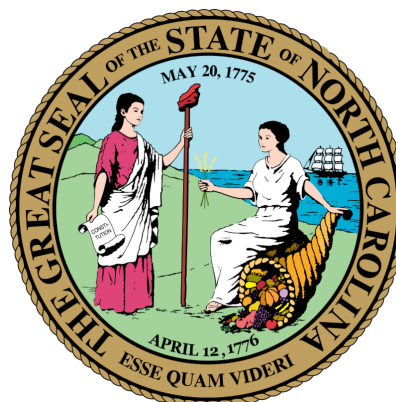
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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