

Redistricting Update / Medicaid Expansion / Rising Seas / NC Homeowner Assistance Fund



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An Update on Redistricting

Peace. Last week the legislature passed new maps for the North Carolina House, North Carolina Senate, and for Congress. We are at this place because the courts found unconstitutional the maps we passed last fall.

Unfortunately, the process has not been transparent or open to the public. Over the past few months we have wasted a lot of time and taxpayer dollars. The need for independent redistricting has never been more clear. Voters should pick their representatives and not the other way around.

What passed the legislature last week will now go to the courts for their review. The North Carolina House passed a compromise map with a bipartisan vote. Neither side was happy with the compromise and there are still Voting Rights Act problems with some districts in Eastern North Carolina that the courts will need to address. But the final product in the North Carolina House map is much more fair than what Republicans passed on a party-line vote last fall.

No compromise was reached on maps for Congress and the North Carolina Senate. Those maps passed despite all Democrats and a few Republicans voting against them.

If you want to see the maps, here are links:

[Congress](#)

[NC House map](#)

[NC State Senate](#)

Medicaid Expansion Explored by Committee

Medicaid expansion has been available to North Carolina for a decade after the Affordable Care Act paved the way for states to cover more people with the health care program. While most states have opted for the deal, North Carolina remains one of a dozen states that have still held out. But a key committee is now set to meet and one of the topics for discussion is whether North Carolina will finally expand Medicaid.

A joint House-Senate committee held its first meeting on February 18th. That committee may submit a pathway for Medicaid expansion to the full General Assembly later in the year.

Medicaid expansion has been a top priority of mine for years, and many rural leaders of both parties have advocated for expansion to address the need to provide affordable health care coverage to people across the state. Hundreds of thousands of people would stand to benefit.

According to studies, North Carolina stands to benefit immensely from Medicaid expansion:

- More than 600,000 additional North Carolinians would be covered by health insurance
- Nearly \$6 billion in additional federal money
- More than 80,000 new jobs

United States Faces Rising Seas

A new report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with other federal agencies, points to a continued rise in the sea levels off the coasts of the United States.

The agency says that the continued rise is alarming given that the 20th century marked the fastest pace of sea levels rising in 2,000 years. Particularly in the northeast, the coast is home to a large share of cities and populations.

Earlier this year, Governor Cooper issued a new executive order seeking to

slow the rate of climate change. This follows earlier action that put North Carolina on a pathway toward lower emissions.

Governor Cooper called for cutting statewide greenhouse emissions by 50% from 2005 levels by the end of the decade, and to net zero by 2050. This was a more ambitious goal than an order issued in 2018.

NC Homeowner Assistance Fund Provides Help for Those with Financial Hardship

North Carolinians who are having trouble making housing payments can find assistance from the NC Homeowner Assistance Fund. The Fund can help with housing payments if you have had financial hardship during the pandemic and need help with housing expenses related to your home.

Financial hardship can be due to job loss/business closure, reduction in hours or pay, difficulty obtaining new employment, death of a spouse or co-borrower or increased expenses due to the pandemic, according to their website.

You can view more details on eligibility by visiting their website:
<https://nchaf.gov/eligibility>.

Stay safe....PEACE!



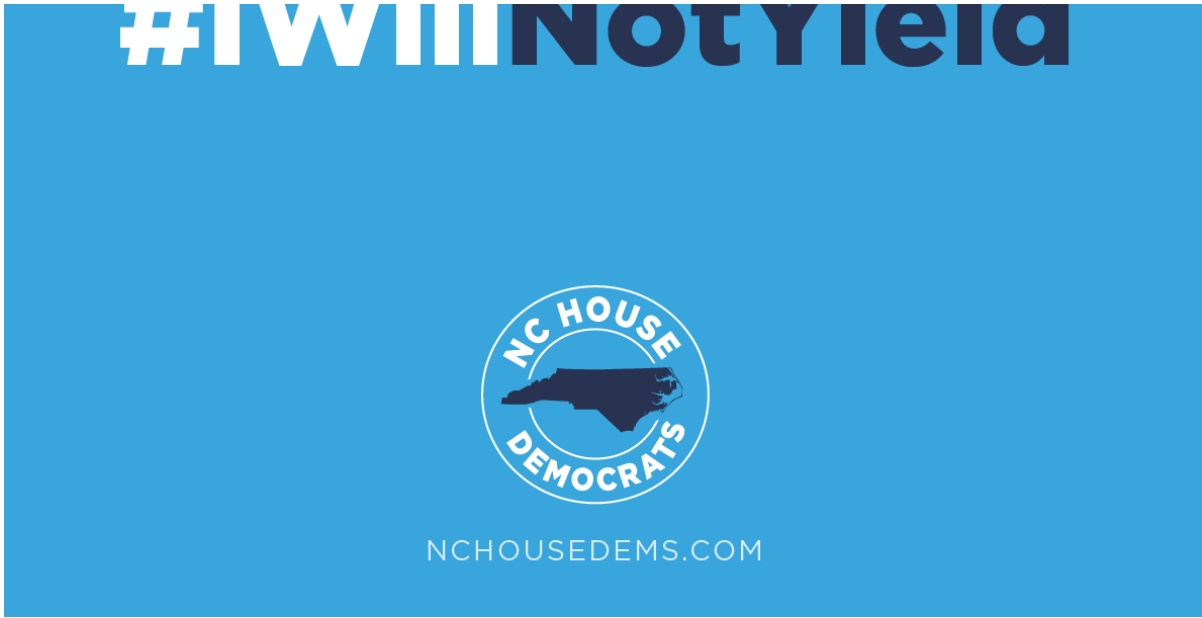
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