

Final Update on Redistricting / NC Celebrates Public Schools Week / NCCU Highlighted as Leader in Student Mental Health / What Will NC Look Like in 2050?/ Scholarships for College Students



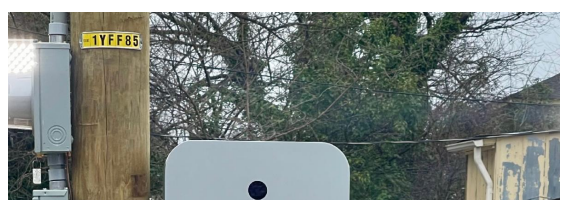
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February 28, 2022

Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



Peace. Our Mecklenburg Legislative Delegation greeted Governor Cooper as he visited a new PoleVolt electric



vehicle charging station in West Charlotte. The charging site is a partnership between the City of Charlotte, Duke Energy, Centralina Regional Council and UNC Charlotte.

The station uses existing streetlights to provide free curbside charging for electric vehicles and expand accessibility to charging infrastructure for people who don't have access to dedicated off street parking.



A Final Update on Redistricting

Last week a three-judge panel upheld the North Carolina House and Senate maps, paving the way for candidate filing which is now open. Candidate filing closes on Friday, March 4. The court did not uphold the Congressional map, instead implementing a map drawn by special masters. You can find the new Congressional map [here](#).

Both parties to the lawsuit appealed different parts of the three-judge panel's ruling, but the North Carolina Supreme Court rejected all appeals.

The Congressional map offers North Carolinians districts that are more likely to represent the nearly-even split of our statewide elections. The Congressional districts will only be in place for the 2022 election and will have to be redrawn ahead of 2024.

The Senate maps fell short of what we wanted, but the House legislative maps which were approved with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote were upheld.

Unfortunately, the Voting Rights Act issues with both the House and Senate maps are still not resolved. The court case about these issues is still ongoing, but it will not be resolved in time for the 2022 elections.

Primary Elections will be held on May 17th.

NC Celebrates Public Schools Week

Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed February 21 - 25, 2022 as Public Schools Week to show support for public schools and the educators, counselors, custodians, bus drivers, school nutrition workers, administrators and other school staff who provide important learning experiences for students.

Public Schools Week celebrates the opportunities that public schools provide to all children and the work that teachers do to prepare students for the future. The pandemic has placed extreme stress on North Carolina's public schools, children, and families but educators and other school staff have worked tirelessly to keep students in the classroom and continue their learning.

Governor Cooper is focused on ensuring that teachers are well-prepared, well-supported and well-compensated.

While proclamations and recognition is important, what is truly important is honoring our state constitution's guarantee that all children receive a sound, basic education no matter where they live. This guarantee was established in our state constitution many years ago, but the courts have found we still have not lived up to that promise to our children with how we fund early childhood education and K-12 public schools.

In a few months, the General Assembly will begin work to update the second year of the two-year State Budget passed in 2021. Initial state revenue forecasts, while not final, suggest we will continue to have the funding available to fully invest in our public schools. I will be working to pass a State Budget that does just that.

Rep. Rosa Gill (D-Wake), a retired educator and School Board member, with [short video on the importance of public schools](#).

NCCU Highlighted as Leader in Student Mental Health

Governor Cooper and US Department of Education Secretary Cardona met with students, faculty and staff at North Carolina Central University this week to discuss mental health services. Mental health initiatives have been an important focus lately, particularly in light of the effect the pandemic has had on everyone. Governor Cooper directed \$5 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding to support mental health initiatives across the state.

North Carolina should continue investing in expanded mental health services to ensure that everyone has access to the tools they need to succeed.

What Will NC Look Like in 2050?

North Carolinians can take a look into the future of our state, if the projections in a report from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management pan out. Below are some of the major takeaways from their analysis of current trends.

North Carolina's population will reach 13.8 million by 2050. Current growth points to North Carolina growing by about 3.4 million people over the next three decades, an increase of 32%.

Our population growth is driven by net migration. Over the next decades, net migration will be the key driver of growth in North Carolina. More people will be moving into North Carolina than moving out.

Our population will become more racially diverse. Projections now point to North Carolina will continue to grow more diverse over the next few decades.

Population growth will be centered in cities. It should come as no surprise that most of the growth in North Carolina will be driven by people moving to urban areas like Wake, Mecklenburg and Durham, but also in Union and Cabarrus.

[Read the full population projections from NC OSBM here.](#)

New Scholarships are Available for College Students

Submissions are now open for North Carolina students to apply for a North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF) scholarship. NCCF has more than \$1.5 million in funds available to help students pay for school at 120 North Carolina colleges.

In 2021, NCCF awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to 289 students across the state, representing 126 cities. All students in the state are eligible and encouraged to apply; requirements vary. Most applications are due by March or April.

You can find more information about the scholarships and how to apply [at this link](#).

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