

*****SPAM*** For Immediate Release**



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greetings:

There were no meetings this week at the General Assembly. There will be interim meetings scheduled throughout the rest of March and April until our first day of session in May.

*All committee meetings are open to the public and while we are not in session now, constituents can still keep with actions taking place at the General Assembly. You can stay informed by **clicking here** to hear the committee meetings.*

I participated in a monthly meeting of a committee council that the Governor assigned me to - The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. This council was formed to make recommendations to the Governor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services aimed at improving human services to the elderly, and to study ways and means of promoting public understanding of the problems of the aging and consider the need for new state programs in the field of aging.

Joyce Waddell

Mecklenburg County Primary Voting Schedule

04/22/22 Voter Registration Deadline

04/27/22 Voter Registration Deadline - Exception for missing or unclear postmarked forms and deadline for hard copies of forms submitted electronically

04/28/22 Absentee One Stop Voting Begins

05/10/22 Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail - CIV

05/14/22 Absentee One-stop Voting Ends

05/17/22 Primary Election

05/27/22 Protest Deadline (re tabulation or counting votes)

For additional information **click here** to be linked to the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections.

COVID Strategy

North Carolina is entering a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic with an emphasis on personal responsibility and a new way for the state to measure the presence of COVID-19. It is believed that the worse is over and the state is figuring out how to plan for the future.

Starting on March 23, the state will adjust how it reports COVID-19 data and will reallocate resources as the disease becomes an “endemic” part of everyday life, much like the common flu.

“Data will continue to drive our response as it has through the entire pandemic, but some metrics no longer measure the moment,” said the Secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

“Some that you are used to seeing, like the percentage of positive tests, will no longer be our focus.” After reporting COVID-19 data on a mostly daily basis for much of the past two years, the state will now present metrics for COVID-19 on a weekly basis.

The state’s COVID-19 dashboard also will change to represent seven key metrics of the state’s revised pandemic response. The site will feature wastewater sampling data, the percentage of people going to emergency departments with COVID-like illness, hospital admissions for COVID-19, total case trends, booster rates, COVID-19 variants currently present in North Carolina and the level of community spread as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The dashboard no longer will include contact tracing data and will report case data and positive tests on a weekly basis.

Equitable Education

“Students in high-poverty schools are about half as likely to have access to highly effective teachers, compared to students in low-poverty schools,” said the executive director of The Belk Foundation, at a recent convening of their board of directors and education stakeholders. This is not a new data point, but strategies are emerging to address it given vacancies in local labor markets for those working in schools and districts, and an initiative to redesign teacher licensure, support, advancement, and pay structures in North Carolina.

Calling for more on-ramps into the teaching profession, the State Superintendent said, “Opening these doors into the profession for our teachers can turn into opening the doors of opportunity for our

students.” This policy conversation is not just about more teachers, it is about more effective teachers and whether they end up in the classrooms and schools that need them most.

Recently, North Carolina’s report on the state of the teaching profession in 2020-21 was released. The report identifies geographic differences across the state.

I believe that it is important that all counties across the state have access to equal opportunities with respect to education. This allows all students to be able to compete globally.

Mecklenburg Legislators

*Senator Waddell with
Mecklenburg County's female
Legislators at the Madie Maddox
Smith Women's Health Equity
Institute Awards Dinner*



Senator Waddell

*Senator Waddell congratulates
the guest of honor at the Awards
Dinner who is seated with her
husband.*

Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

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As the weather continues to change throughout the Spring season, it is time to begin our season of yard work and outside activities. Be mindful of the pollen that has been falling. I have found masks can help with this necessary but sometimes annoying part of nature.

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