

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

**From** Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Reply-To** <anita.bennett@ncleg.gov>  
**Date** 2022-04-11 09:30



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 11, 2022  
Volume 14

**CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell**  
(919) 733-5650  
[Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net)  
<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



## Greetings:

*There was an Interim Committee Meeting in Raleigh last week. We participated at an Administrative Oversight Committee meeting to discuss legislative requests from the Office of Administrative Hearings to give the Chief Administrative Law Judge greater flexibility in the Office of Administrative Hearings staffing, and to amend the hearings process for the NC criminal justice education and training standards Commission.*

*After hearing the request, the committee voted to displace the request to study the issue before making a decision.*

*Joyce Waddell*

## Pandemic Relief

State officials overseeing COVID-19 relief efforts say hundreds of millions of dollars remain available to help businesses and

homeowners who suffered financial loss due to the pandemic. A state legislative oversight committee Tuesday heard reports from agencies in charge of business relief and homeowner relief programs. In both cases, money is already flowing to help those impacted by the pandemic and its related shutdowns. Plenty of money remains to be claimed.

Since Feb. 25, the program has issued checks to 3,409 businesses. More than 6,500 initially applied, but he said many were ineligible because they did not use a specific type of tax document the program required. Out of the initial sum, about \$27 million remains for hospitality grants, and \$177 million remains for reimbursement grants for other businesses.

Phase 2 is about to get underway. In Phase 2, the revenue department will expand eligibility to non-hospitality businesses that had received previous help, in addition to the same groups from Phase 1. It will also expand the range of tax documents acceptable for eligibility, which should help many business owners who were turned away in Phase 1.

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency manages the state's Homeowner Assistance Fund. The agency director said the state's initial federal allocation was \$273 million to help homeowners who suffered financial hardship due to the pandemic. The grants do not go to the homeowners themselves. They go to lenders or tax agencies to pay off delinquent accounts that could lead to foreclosure. The director told lawmakers Tuesday the process generally takes six to eight weeks because the agency and lenders have to coordinate to verify eligibility and confirm delinquent amounts.

## **SNAP Expiration**

Many people on food stamps in North Carolina will see their monthly allotments decrease as their extra Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program pandemic benefits run out on April 15. The benefits were increased under the American Rescue Plan, which allowed states like North Carolina to waive certain eligibility requirements and give households the maximum amount for their household size, even if their income might traditionally qualify them for fewer SNAP dollars, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those extra benefits will vanish on April 15 unless Congress passes a last-minute extension. The executive director of the Charlotte-based Loaves and Fishes food pantry network, says demand for food banks

and food pantries will likely go up as a result. More than likely we will see a 5 to 7% increase in the next month or two, simply based on these benefits expiring.

It comes as many food banks are already feeling strained by rising food and gas prices. Loaves and Fishes said many items like peanut butter and ground turkey have become significantly more expensive, and some older volunteers on fixed incomes have had to scale back the number of food deliveries they can make because of the high cost of gas.

More than 1.7 million North Carolinians were receiving SNAP benefits in December 2021, representing a 19% increase from the year before. Nationally, more than 41 million people received SNAP benefits in fiscal year 2022.

## Local Day Care Visit

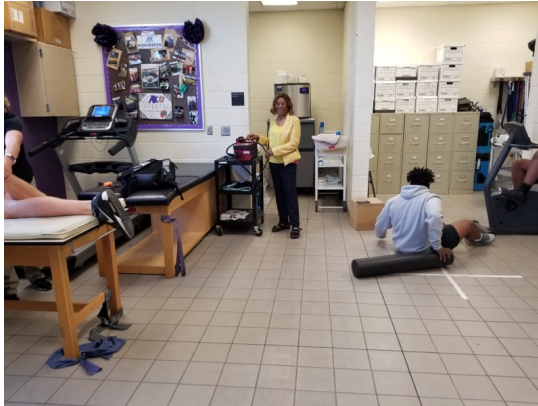
*Senator Waddell, Governor Cooper, and members of Mecklenburg delegation tour a local day care center.*



## Gas Prices

Average gasoline prices in North Carolina fell 1.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.01/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 6,092 stations in North Carolina. Prices in North Carolina were 15.8 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.41/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 5.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.17/g Monday. The national average is up 25.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands \$1.31/g higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data

compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.



Senator Waddell visits local high school - (Audrey Kell High School) to hear about athlete trainers and their daily activities, as well as discussions about licensing under proposed regulations

## 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.

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?

[CLICK HERE TO](#)

**DONATE \$25; \$50; \$100; \$250  
OTHER AMOUNT \$\_\_\_\_\_**

*April is here and as the old saying goes "April showers bring May flowers," so I guess we can expect a month of showers. I am excited for what the days ahead brings us.*

###

Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by joyce.waddell@ncleg.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!