

**\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\* Latest Updates from the NCGA**

**From** Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Reply-To** <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>  
**Date** 2022-04-14 13:03

**Natasha**  
**MARCUS**  
NC Senate District 41



## NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

**April 14, 2022**

Friday is a State Holiday, so we are sending the newsletter a day early. I hope everyone who celebrates has a happy and healthy Passover or Easter.

The NCGA is not in session at this time.



**Mark Your Calendar: Virtual Listening Session**



The Mecklenburg County Delegation to the NC General Assembly is hosting our first virtual listening session of the year on **Thursday, April 21st at 8pm**. The 17-member Delegation wants to hear from you about what is on your mind, what you would like us to know about your community, and what you would like us to work on. **This is your opportunity to talk to us and for us to listen**. Attendees must sign up in advance to join the Listening Session. I hope you will join us.

**Sign Up Here**

## Interview with Spectrum News on Recent Court Ruling on Right to Vote Post-Incarceration



A three-judge panel **recently** restored voting rights to people on probation or parole. **The panel held that when incarceration ends, voting rights must be restored**. The 50-year old NC law that disenfranchise the formally-incarcerated is unconstitutional. This is a the largest expansion of voting rights in NC since the Voting Rights Act in 1965, impacting 50,000+ North Carolinians.

Under NC law, felons had to complete their sentence plus any additional parole, probation, payment of fees or restitution before they could regain their voting rights. Republican lawmakers, who defended the law, have asked the court to put a hold on the ruling until the appeals process is complete. Until the Court gives the Board of Elections a clearer ruling, the Board is not allowing the people in this category to register to vote. We are awaiting guidance and are eager for the Board to begin implementing the court's ruling.

I taped an interview on this topic for the In Focus News Show on Spectrum News, along with Senator Hise, Chair of the Senate Elections Committee, and Karen Brinson Bell, Chair of the State Board of Elections. The episode will air on April 24th and I will share the link when it is available.

## Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion



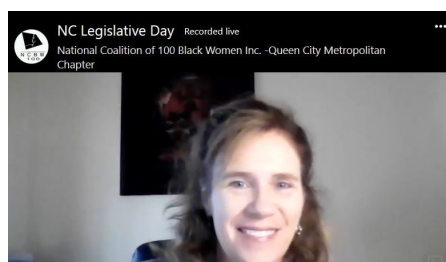
The [Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion](#) met again this week to discuss certificate of need (CON) laws. CON laws are state regulatory mechanisms for approving major capital expenditures and projects for certain health care facilities in order to control healthcare costs by restricting duplicative services and determining whether new capital expenditures meet a community need. The NCGA passed [enacted CON legislation in 2021](#) (I voted yes on the bill).

Members of the committee heard from healthcare experts in support, against, and in favor of amending CON laws. You can read the presentations given in the committee meeting [here](#).

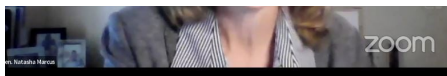
The Committee has also addressed the need for more practitioners to meet growing demand. One solution is to empower advanced practice registered nurses to practice within their full training, with fewer oversight restrictions. The SAVE Act has growing support in the NCGA. I support it.

**[Read More about the SAVE Act Here](#)**

## Queen City Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Legislative Day Forum



I was honored to participate in the Queen City Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women legislative day forum last week. I was joined by three of my colleagues from the NC House, Rep. Belk, Rep. Carney and Rep. Cunningham. You



can watch a recording of our conversation [here](#).

## Mecklenburg County Mortgage Assistance Program



**Mecklenburg County is accepting applications for its [Mortgage Assistance Payment Program](#).** The program is designed to provide financial assistance to homeowners located in the six towns and unincorporated areas of the County who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The Mortgage Assistance Payment Program is available thanks to CARES Act funding provided through the Community Block Development Grant.

**Low to moderate income residents located in the 6 towns and unincorporated areas of the County who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 are invited to apply. Eligible homeowners can receive up to 6 months of consecutive payments** to use toward their mortgage payments including principal, interest, taxes, and insurance.

To be eligible, homeowners must:

- Reside in the towns and/or unincorporated areas of the County
- Have a household income of up to 80% Area Median Income (AMI) at the time of application
- Homeowners must have been current on mortgage prior to the COVID-19 hardship
- Homeowners must have a COVID-19 related loss of income or other qualifying criteria

Homeowners must also prove income loss or increased costs-related to childcare due to COVID-19 including:

- Reduction of work hours
- Job loss or furlough
- COVID-19 illness of self or immediate family member

**Applications will be accepted until funds are depleted. To apply for the Mortgage Payment Assistance Program or to review eligibility requirements, visit [RampCharMeck.com](#).** Homeowners with questions about the application process may call the Mortgage Payment Assistance Hotline at 704-343-4692.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Davidson



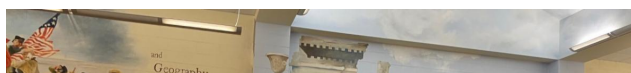
Mecklenburg County Public Health and its community partners will host a COVID-19 booster vaccine clinic at Davidson Town Hall on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 from 12 - 2pm.

The vaccines are free, and no photo ID or insurance is needed. Everyone meeting the age requirement of 5 years or older can receive a COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of immigration status.

The April 20 vaccine clinic will be open to Davidson residents and the surrounding community and will provide first and second doses of Pfizer or Moderna to those wishing to be vaccinated as well as booster shots for those eligible. Those receiving a booster dose are asked to bring their immunization card with them. Pediatric doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be available as well.

The clinic will accept both registered participants and walk-ins. To register, please use [this link](#).

## School Safety Forum at Hopewell High School





I recently attended a **school safety community forum led by CMS at Hopewell High School**. There were about 20 parents in attendance to address the question of "How do we create safe schools?" Parents were asked to describe aspects of an ideal, safe school, drawing on our memories from when we were students, and to share ideas to foster safe environments for our children. Things mentioned included an avenue for students to release their emotions and stress, mutual respect, the absence of weapons and bullying, engaged families, and **teachers who form strong, trusting relationships with students**. A representative of the [Jamie Kimbel Foundation for Courage](#) was there to share their work to identify the signs of and reduce teen dating violence, and a representative of the Charlotte Community Relations Dept to discuss human rights and conflict resolution in schools.

## NCGA Page Program Applications

A poster for the NCGA Page Program. It has a light green background with a dark blue and green geometric design on the right side. The text is in bold, dark blue font.

**PAGE PROGRAM  
APPLICATIONS  
OPEN ON APRIL 4TH**

The NCGA Page Program is open to NC high school juniors and seniors to learn about and participate in the legislative process in our state for a 1-week period during the summer.

**The program will be offered the following weeks:  
May 23-26, May 31 - June 2, June 6-9, June 13-16,  
June 20-23, June 27-30**

Interested applicants can email me at [natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov](mailto:natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov) for the application link. Learn more about the program at the link below.  
**<https://ncleg.gov/Senate/PageProgram>**

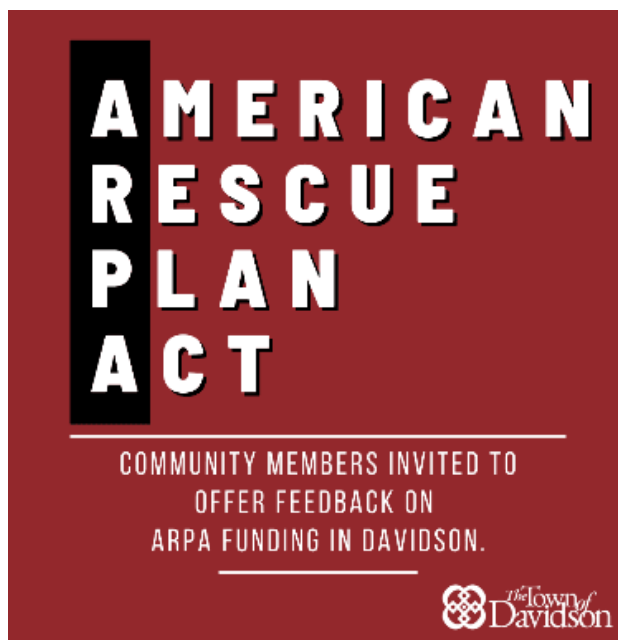
**Senator Natasha Marcus**

The Page Program is returning to the NCGA after a hiatus due to the pandemic. We will welcome high school juniors and seniors from across the state to the NCGA this summer for this great program. **This one-week program offers young men and women the opportunity to learn about and participate in the legislative process of our state.** Senate Pages are important to the operation of the General Assembly as they assist the members and staff of the Senate during the legislative session.

The program will be offered the following weeks: May 23 - 26, May 31 – June 2, June 6 – June 9, June 13 – 16, June 20 – 23, and June 27 – 30. Availability of weeks is based on a first-come, first-served basis. No experience necessary. Parents of pages will be responsible for securing lodging during the time their child serves.

The application for the Page Program is currently live. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please email me at [natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov](mailto:natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov) for the application link. You can learn more about the application process and the Page Program [here](#).

## Survey for Davidson Residents on American Rescue Plan Funds



The Town of Davidson invites residents and other community members to attend one of several **upcoming public input sessions and offer their input on American Rescue Plan Act funding**. These events are dispersed geographically throughout town, and the town will also be offering a virtual and outdoor option for those who may not be able to return to indoor in-person meetings just yet.

- Virtual (Zoom) – Tuesday, April 19 at 6pm
  - Registration required. Please register in advance [here](#).
- Davidson East Clubhouse – Wednesday, April 20 at 6pm
  - 16922 Setter Point Lane, Davidson, NC
- Ada Jenkins Center – Monday, April 25 at 6pm
  - 212 Gamble Street, Davidson, NC
- Hopewell Baptist Church – Thursday, April 28 at 6pm
  - 18841 Davidson-Concord Road, Davidson, NC
- Davidson Town Hall – Wednesday, May 4 at 6pm
  - 216 S. Main Street, Davidson, NC
- ARPA Booth at Town Day on Town Green – Saturday, May 7 from 10am-3pm
  - 119 S. Main Street, Davidson, NC

There is also online survey to collect feedback from residents about how they would like to see the town allocate its ARPA funding. To complete the survey, please click on the link [here](#).

If you would like more information about the American Rescue Plan Act and the Town of Davidson’s approach on this effort, please visit [www.townofdavidson.org/ARPA](http://www.townofdavidson.org/ARPA). For specific questions, please email [ARPA@townofdavidson.org](mailto:ARPA@townofdavidson.org).

## This is Black Maternal Health Week



This is Black Maternal Health Week, an initiative dedicated to **deepening the national conversation about Black maternal health in the US and amplifying policy, research, and care solutions**. I am proud to have supported legislation in support of Black maternal health in North Carolina, including a bill to expand access to Doula Support Services ([SB393](#)), a bill to address Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities ([SB461](#)), the NC Omnibus Act to improve Maternal Health ([SB632](#)), and the NC Healthy Pregnancy Act to protect pregnant workers ([SB633](#)).

In related news, the YWCA of the Central Carolinas will be hosting a discussion on May 3 at 6pm about the historical importance of doulas and midwives in relation to social justice and advocacy. You can register for the event [here](#).

## Housing Trust Fund Projects

<b>HOUSING TRUST FUND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
	Development	Type	Affordable Units	HTF Request
1	Forest Park Apartments	4%	200	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL 4% PROPOSALS</b>			<b>200</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
2	Northlake Center Apartments	9%*	78	\$500,000
3	Evoke Living at Eastland	9%	78	\$2,496,000
4	Mallard Creek Seniors	9%	102	\$2,950,000
5	Marvin Road Apartments	9%	70	\$2,240,000
6	Parkside at Long Creek	9%	57	\$1,487,700
<b>TOTAL 9% PROPOSALS</b>			<b>385</b>	<b>\$9,673,700</b>
7	East Lane Townhomes	Homeownership	17	\$230,000
<b>HOMEOWNERSHIP PROPOSALS</b>			<b>17</b>	<b>\$230,000</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS</b>			<b>602</b>	<b>\$12,403,700</b>

\* Awarded 9% LIHTC in 2020



The City of Charlotte recently released their recommended [Housing Trust Fund](#) Projects. Unfortunately only a few of the proposals will receive the necessary funding from the state. This is yet another example of important projects that could receive greater funding if the NCGA used surplus funds to support them.

## Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order Establishing Joint Cybersecurity Task Force



Governor Cooper recently signed [Executive Order No. 254](#), which establishes the State of North Carolina Joint Cybersecurity Task Force. NCDIT, N.C. Emergency Management, the N.C. National Guard and the N.C. Local Government Information Systems Association Cybersecurity Strike Team will make up the Task Force.

The Order comes as **cybersecurity threats are increasing in volume and sophistication**, requiring a need to understand the threat landscape to prevent attacks and to protect the state's information technology networks and critical infrastructure.

## Organized Retail Crime Impacting Local Home Depots



I recently met with The Home Depot's Government Relations team to discuss the impacts of organized retail crime (ORC) in the Mecklenburg area. They have been [working with local law enforcement](#) to address this issue. I was grateful to have the opportunity to learn more about this task force and am glad to see its been successful thus far.

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](mailto:Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov) and let me know you want to subscribe to the biweekly newsletter.

## Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

Email:

[Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov](mailto:Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov)

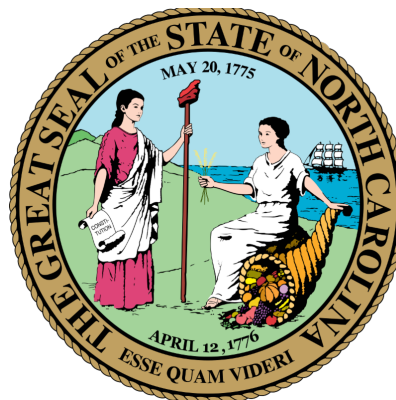
[Jessica.Bolin@ncleg.gov](mailto:Jessica.Bolin@ncleg.gov)

Mailing Address:

300 N. Salisbury Street,

Rm. 519

Raleigh, NC 27603



How can we help you? Let us know and **reach out** to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



Sen. Natasha Marcus, District 41 | 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

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