

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:

I participated in several community events last week, but there were no interim committee meetings that I am assigned to scheduled at the General Assembly. I have continued to meet with my constituents in the District, my Raleigh office remains open. If I can be of any assistance, please contact my office.

Joyce Waddell

Education Panel

A bipartisan panel of North Carolina lawmakers, educators and business people Monday released a report on changes they say could help students succeed in school. The recommendations start with more child care support for infants and toddlers and run through plans to help more young adults afford college.

The Hunt-Lee commission is named for the co-chairs: Former Gov.

Jim Hunt and former state Sen. Howard Lee, both Democrats, and Republican state Sen. Michael Lee, who chairs the Senate education committee. The 32–person panel includes state officials, business and philanthropic leaders and representatives of K-12 and higher education.

The group released 20 pages of findings at a news conference. Among some of the proposals:

- Expand child care subsidies to ensure that families can afford high-quality care.
- Spend more on the NC Pre-K program, which currently provides free prekindergarten for 4-year-olds.
- Provide higher salaries for top teachers to work in high-needs schools.
- Create bridge programs that help students make the transition from middle to high school, where academic achievement often drops and behavior problems can rise.

I believe helping students succeed is important to the competitiveness of our students. Implementing many of these recommendations can do that, as well as, providing teachers adequate supplies.

Senator Waddell attends the International Minority Coalition Meeting



Senator Waddell is pictured with members of the International Minority Coalition.



Senator Waddell stresses to the Coalition the importance

*of voting and encouraging
all to work with helping
neighbors to vote.*

Counseling Grant

North Carolina has been awarded a \$3.3 million grant to expand support for people in mental health crises. On July 16, 2022, the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number replaces the 10-digit 1-800-273-TALK number currently in use.

NCDHHS has indicated that one of their top priorities is increasing access to behavioral health services. Choosing 988 is easy to remember and people can access from wherever they are and get the help they need. The 988 call center is staffed 24 hours a day, year-round with people trained to provide crisis counseling and information about community resources available.

Fan Distribution

With the summer months coming the heat could become unbearable. State officials say they will distribute the fans to eligible people beginning Sunday and running through Halloween as part of Operation Fan Heat Relief. The program is run by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Adult Services, in partnership with the N.C. Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers. People who are 60 and older, and adults with disabilities, are eligible to sign up for the program at local aging agencies across the state.

Since 1986, the program has bought fans for older adults and those with disabilities to make them more comfortable and lower the risk of heat-related illness.

It is important to take care of our aging population any way we can. Many of our elderly citizens would not be able to afford purchasing a fan, so programs like these are very helpful.

Mecklenburg International Fashion Week





*Senator Waddell
congratulates the coordinator
on a wonderful fashion week.
The event celebrates minority
fashions.*

Mecklenburg County Primary Voting Schedule

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 \$_____**

*Make sure you get out and vote. It appears that turnout is low and
the current races are just as important as the big races. Before you
go to the polls, make sure you visit each candidates website.*

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