

SPAM Latest Updates from the NCGA



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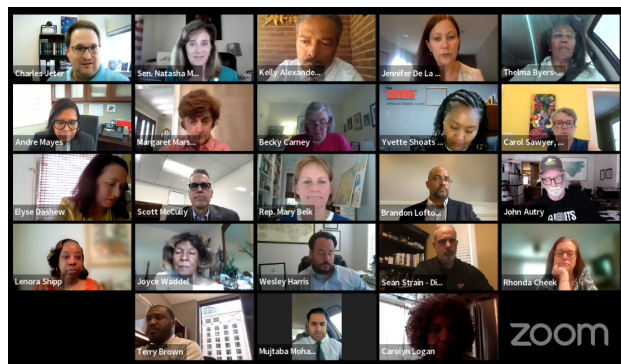


NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

May 13, 2022

The General Assembly is not in session, so there are no updates on committee meetings or votes. We plan to go back to Raleigh for the start of the short session in mid-May. Keep an eye on my social media for more updates.

Preparing for Short Session



Presentation from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



Governor Cooper presenting his budget priorities

Short Session at the General Assembly begins in mid-May. In preparation, I have chaired

the Mecklenburg Delegation in **various meetings with county and city local leaders to hear about their legislative priorities**. Last week we met with CMS to discuss school calendar flexibility, testing requirements, and more. You can watch a recording of the meeting [here](#).

The state has an unappropriated balance of approximately \$36 billion, even after historic amounts are set aside in reserves and the "Rainy Day Fund." I believe that we should find ways to use this money to a) help families that are struggling due to inflation and the continued impact of the pandemic, and b) invest in public education, road and transit projects, renewable energy initiatives and other things that will set us up for continued growth and prosperity. There are also several projects to support public safety, affordable housing, and sustainability in Senate District 41 that I want to see funded during the short session. I'll be fighting for those things.

Governor Cooper recently announced his budget priorities for the upcoming short session. North Carolina continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than ever with major economic development announcements and meaningful investments in our clean energy future, but we must do more to make sure everyone in our state has a chance to succeed. I agree with the Governor's budget priorities, which include:

- **Investing in our schools** through reinstating masters pay, supporting teacher raises, and advocating for greater mental health resources in schools
- **Supporting affordable housing initiatives**, including adding \$20M to the [Housing Trust Fund](#)
- Protecting our communities and bolstering law enforcement to keep North Carolina families safe
- Fighting climate change and guiding our **transition to clean energy** to protect our planet for generations to come and power our economy into a new era
- Expanding access to **affordable and high-quality child care** to support families with young children so their parents can go to work or school with the peace of mind that their children are getting high-quality learning and care that helps set them up for a lifetime of success
- Strengthening **workforce training** and creating more programs to **support small businesses** to continue to grow our booming economy
- **Expanding Medicaid** to provide access to affordable health insurance to more than 600,000 additional North Carolinians, bolster rural hospitals, and address inequities in care statewide.

You can read more about Governor Cooper's budget priorities [here](#).

Meeting on Pedestrian Safety Initiatives



Last week I met with [BikeWalkNC](#) to discuss the status of pedestrian safety initiatives across the state. Unfortunately, under current law funds from the Strategic Transportation Investments Act cannot be used for independent bicycle and pedestrian improvements. There was a strong effort [to repeal this outdated statute](#) during budget negotiations last year, but unfortunately it did not make it into the final budget. I am hopeful that we can repeal this law during Short Session and have flagged the issue to the Governor's team.

The Future of Roe v. Wade



The [recent leaked draft SCOTUS opinion](#) reveals that the Supreme Court is more than willing to take away women's constitutional rights to control our own bodies and reproductive decisions. This means that the **battle for bodily autonomy will shift to the state legislatures** -- with North Carolina in a precarious position due to the political makeup of the General Assembly. **I am proud to be a staunch pro-choice legislator** and will continue to advocate for reproductive freedom and the right to privacy. I am working with Senate and House colleagues on **legislation to codify the protections of Roe v. Wade in the State of North Carolina.**

Four Towns Dinner with Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, and Mooresville

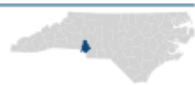


Last week I attended the Four Towns Dinner -- an opportunity for elected officials and town staff from Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, and Mooresville to come together to discuss various local issues. I appreciated the opportunity to speak with so many local leaders and to make plans to work collectively for the benefit of our region.

Mecklenburg County Fact Sheet on the UNC System

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

Mecklenburg County
2022 FACT SHEET



Residents at UNC Institutions

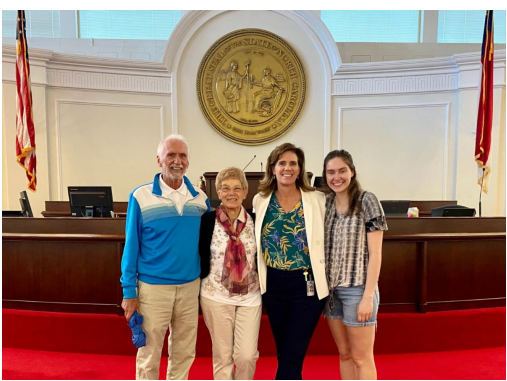
	<p>Undergraduate students enrolled 19,001 Graduate students enrolled 4,159 Public high school students who applied 8,543 Public high school students accepted 6,974</p>	<p>64% Undergraduate & graduate students receiving financial aid</p>
	<p>2,551 UNC System employees residing in your county</p>	
	<p>922 Military-affiliated students enrolled in a UNC System institution</p>	<p>\$283,748 Dollars in economic impact through N.C. Cooperative Extension</p>
		<p>4,843 Number of work hours contributed by Cooperative Extension volunteers</p>

County institutional enrollment (undergraduate & graduate)

Appalachian State University	2,032	UNC-Chapel Hill	2,461
East Carolina University	1,484	UNC Charlotte	8,202
Elizabeth City State University	86	UNC Greensboro	1,243
Fayetteville State University	258	UNC Pembroke	403
NC A&T State University	1,295	UNC Wilmington	1,195
North Carolina Central University	502	UNC School of the Arts	57
NC State University	2,314	Western Carolina University	589
UNC Asheville	226	Winston-Salem State University	733

The UNC System recently released County Connections face sheets, which provide detailed information about **how each county is connected to the UNC System**. The sheets include interesting information about the number of UNC System employees and students, the number of military-affiliated students, and more. The factsheet above is for Mecklenburg County. You can read the other county fact sheets [here](#).

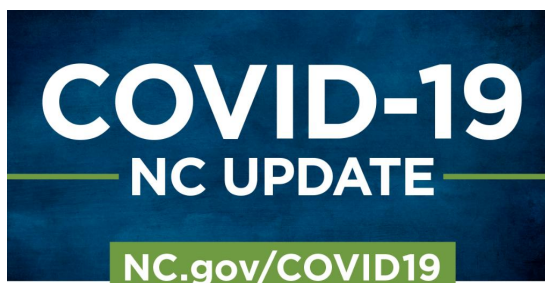
Mother's Day Weekend Visit to the NCGA





On Mother's Day weekend, I had the opportunity to show my parents (who live in Florida during the winter and New York in the summer) and my my oldest daughter (who lives in Virginia) where I work. We visited the Senate Chamber and my office in the Legislative Office Building. My Dad is a former legislator himself, so it was especially meaningful to get to show him around the NCGA. They were impressed by the red-carpeted chamber, my office view of the green Halifax Mall, and the beauty of our capital city. I hope you got to spend the weekend celebrating the Moms in your life.

COVID-19 Updates: Infection Numbers Are Rising



The [DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard](#), which is updated weekly every Wednesday, shows the following data points:

- Wastewater testing has shown an increase to 14.4m particles from 12.2m particles.
- COVID-like illness in hospital emergency departments remains steady at 3%.
- **COVID-19 reported cases for the week are up to 17,095 from 12,591.**
- COVID-19 hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients this week are down to 431, compared to last week which was at 374.
- Booster rates are 54% for the total population. We have 77% of adults with at least

one dose and 38% of children and teens ages 5-17 with at least one dose.

- 0.84% of the cases are Omicron BA.1, 0.21% are BA.1.5, and 98.95% are Omicron BA.2

More information on COVID-19 in North Carolina, including how to schedule a vaccine appointment or where to find a COVID-19 test, can be found [here](#).

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 and let me know you want to subscribe to the biweekly newsletter.

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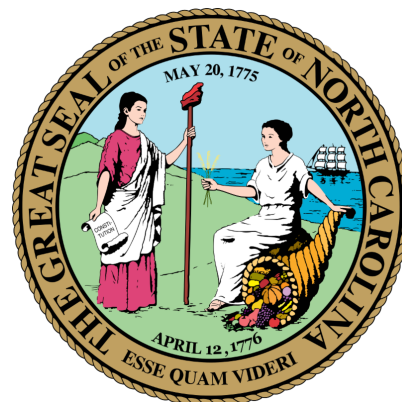
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

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