

*****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:**

General Assembly scheduled meetings have been limited due to the preparation of the upcoming Short Session. We will be discussing legislation related to the budget passed during the long session. I am looking forward to coming back to Raleigh next week. As always, my Raleigh office is open.

Joyce Waddell

Teacher Pay

North Carolina has improved this school year in the National Education Association's annual teacher salary report. Last week, the NEA initially estimated that North Carolina's new average teacher salary was \$53,644 — dropping the state from 38th place last year to a projected ranking of 40th this school year. Citing new data, NEA officials said Monday that the report will be revised to list an average salary at \$54,863 — moving North Carolina to 34th out

of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Still, North Carolina is well below the estimated national average teacher salary of \$66,397. Some are doubting the validity of the NEA ranking report. Although there are doubts, the numbers remain the same.

In North Carolina, the state pays the base salary for most teachers and this year added a new salary supplement for teachers in 95 of the state's 100 counties, also school districts often supplement the state pay. The State Board of Education will consider a new model being developed by a committee that calls for paying teachers based on their performance as opposed to their years of experience.

The state reached as high as 20th on the NEA list in 2001 but, following the recession, dropped to 47th in 2013.

Community Giveaway



Senator Waddell participates in a community activity sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of Las Amigas. Free clothing and other household items were given away.

Death Certificate Reporting

The Department of Health and Human Services has reported Electronic access to death certificate data is helping the state identify and report COVID-19 related deaths more quickly. Since the electronic

reporting, COVID-19 deaths reported to the state came solely from paper death certificates sent by physicians, hospitals or local health departments. By using a new electronic reporting system, NCDHHS was able to identify 1,146 additional COVID-19 related deaths between Jan. 1 and March 31, the state announced Tuesday.

The additional deaths will be added to the state’s dashboard, bringing North Carolina’s pandemic death toll to more than 24,000 people. According to the state, even with the increased total, N.C. has the lowest per capita rates of COVID-19 deaths in the Southeast and ranks among the lowest in the nation.

I believe it is important to be able to accurately report these COVID related deaths. It allows the federal government to provide funding to assist our state in developing resources to mitigate the concerns of the pandemic.



Senator Waddell congratulates Police attendees during the 42nd Annual Police Community Relations Awards. The program recognizes members of the Police department for their great work in the community.

Mental Health and the Community

Senator Waddell discusses issues around mental health in the community around possible legislation and needed resources.



COVID Treatment

The Governor and state health officials are encouraging North Carolinians to seek treatment quickly if they get sick with COVID-19. The Governor's administration said that FDA authorized treatments that can lower the risk of hospitalization and death are widely available in the state. The treatments must be administered early, some within 5 days, and can only be prescribed by a medical professional.

Treatments are available for people who are high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. About two thirds of adult North Carolinians are considered high risk, including older adults, pregnant people and people with certain medical conditions such as obesity, asthma, diabetes or depression. Learn more about the factors that may put you at risk.

It has been proven that taking these early treatments and utilizing vaccines, can significantly reduces serious illness or even death. This is a proactive method to reduce fatalities in North Carolina.



Meet the Candidate

Senator Waddell participates in a "Meet the Candidate" community activity. She emphasizes to the attendees the importance of voting.

Mecklenburg County Primary Voting Schedule

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 \$_____**

Please get out and vote. It is one of our most important civic duties.

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