

Latest Updates from the NCGA



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NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

August 5, 2022

The General Assembly did not convene for session over the past 2 weeks. So there are no votes or committee meetings to report.

Medicaid Expansion Stalls at the NCGA



Earlier this summer the State Senate passed [House Bill 149](#) to close the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina. I was excited to vote yes and see this huge step forward for healthcare access in our state. **Unfortunately, the bill stalled** in the House.

Per NCDHHS, the state would **reap more than \$500 million per month in federal funding if state legislators come together to expand Medicaid**. Unfortunately, the momentum we had has stalled. Republican leadership in the House is refusing to take up the Senate's bill and the House is not passing its own version either. It's unclear whether Republican leaders will be able to agree on the next steps forward.

I remain hopeful that we will come back for a special session to pass this important piece of legislation which will save lives, rescue rural hospitals, and inject billions of dollars of federal dollars into our state's economy. You can read more about these updates [here](#).

Article on New Pipeline Spill Developments



A national media company published an [article](#) highlighting the most recent updates on the Colonial Pipeline spill. While Colonial's early estimate was that 63,000 gallons of gasoline had leaked in the Oehler Nature Preserve, their updated filing says **is was actually 2 million gallons of gasoline and 25 percent of that volume is still present.** Additionally, the **company determined that the pipeline had been leaking for 18 days before it was discovered by young men riding ATVs in the area.**

NC Policy Watch also published an article **about Colonial Pipeline's claims to be "holding itself accountable" for the environmental disaster.** You can read that article [here](#).

I send out regular emails to folks in the district who have been impacted by the pipeline and to local environmental advocates who want to stay up to date on what's happening with clean-up efforts. If you would like to join that listserv, please email me at natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov and I will be sure to add you to the list.

NC Health News Highlights Maternal Health



CATEGORY:
Gender health



NC Health News has a "[gender health](#)" [section of their website](#) that highlights articles focusing on women's health and maternal health. A recent article discusses how in 2020, about 1 in 13 infants were born to a woman receiving late or no prenatal care in North Carolina. Based on the latest data available, North Carolina has the eighth highest infant mortality rate among all states in the U.S. at 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. Black infants are 2.5 times more likely to die than white infants.

I am proud to have supported many bills related to women's health and maternal health, including the [NC Momnibus Act](#) and the [Healthy Pregnancy Act](#).

Cutbacks to CATS Routes in Senate District 41



The Charlotte Area Transit system (CATS) is implementing **cutbacks to several routes that will impact Senate District 41**, including routes along Beatties Ford Road and express bus services for North Mecklenburg. CATS has a bus driver shortage and is forced to make cuts.

CATS held public meetings throughout the week, and you can watch recordings of these meetings [here](#). You can read more about the changes to our transit system [here](#) and [here](#).

Golden LEAF Foundation SITE Program Applications



The next round of the [SITE Program with The Golden LEAF Foundation](#) is now open. This program is available to government entities and 501(c)(3) nonprofits for funding to support identification, due diligence, and development of sites to attract new businesses and create opportunities for existing businesses to expand. If potential applicants have questions about the program contact SITE@GoldenLEAF.org.

Applications are due on September 19 at noon for consideration by the Golden LEAF Board in December 2022. They will announce another round later this year for consideration in June 2023.

Presentation on PFAS Impacts in NC



Center for Environmental and Health Effects of PFAS

This afternoon my legislative assistant and I attended a presentation from leading scientists and local activists about PFAS contamination in North Carolina hosted by the [NC State Superfund Research Center](#). I appreciated them taking the time to share their research priorities with legislators and the moving testimony from advocates who have been personally impacted by PFAS exposure. I am proud to have co-sponsored numerous pieces of legislation related to PFAS, including [creating a PFAS Taskforce](#), [banning the manufacturing of PFAS](#), and [replacing PFAS firefighting foam](#). As Rep. Butler and Rep. Harrison said during the meeting, "We know we're being poisoned. We know who's doing it. We ought to be able to stop it." This is an issue that impacts voters of all political persuasion and we must work together on a bipartisan basis to address these "forever chemicals" in our state.

I want to share some resources that these experts shared during the presentation. You can read more about the economic impacts of PFAS [here](#) and about how to order PFAS exposure test [here](#) and [here](#).

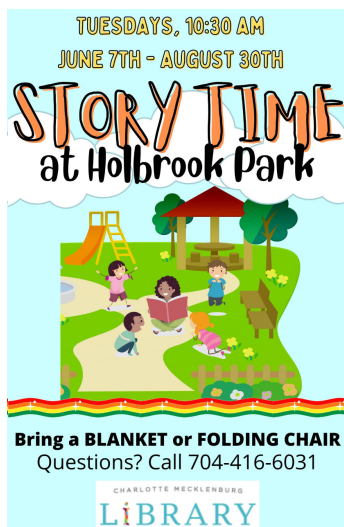
Electronics Takeback with Mecklenburg County and Goodwill



In North Carolina, it is **illegal to dispose of a TV or computer in a landfill**. Your curbside collector will not pick up TVs or computers with trash.

Instead, please bring your items to Mecklenburg County's electronics takeback event with Goodwill Industries on **August 19th at the North Mecklenburg Recycling Center (12300 N. Statesville Road) from 9am - 12pm.**

Storytime at Holbrook Park



Charlotte Mecklenburg Library will be hosting story time on Tuesdays at 10:30am through August 30th at Holbrook Park (100 Sherwood Drive, Huntersville). These events are **geared towards children up to age 3 to support early literacy skill development and help foster a love of books and reading.** This is a rain or shine event and no registration is required. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate. More information can be found at [this link](#).

Historic Investments in Electric Vehicle Industry



VinFast, an electric vehicle company, is building a \$4 billion factory in Chatham County, considered the largest single foreign direct investment in the North Carolina history. [This article](#) puts that investment into a global perspective and gives me hope that we can transition to electric vehicles at a faster pace. Do you plan to switch to an EV? What will it take to get you to switch?

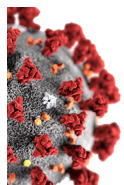
North Carolina Named #1 State for Business



In case you missed it, CNBC recently named [North Carolina as the #1 state for business in the country for 2022!](#) In the past year there have been more than 24,000 new jobs in the state and over \$10 billion in investments from innovative companies.

There are many reasons our state has risen to the top, including our decision to avoid passing HB2-style bills in recent years. While this is good news, I am aware that many working families do not yet feel the positive impacts of our state's strong economy and will continue to fight for good public policy for people, not just businesses.

COVID-19 & Monkeypox Updates



COVID-19 INFORMATION AND UPDATES

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

- Wastewater testing has shown an **increase** to 23.2m particles, compared to 20.5m last week.
- COVID-like illness in hospital emergency departments **have decreased slightly**, at 7.1% this week compared to 7.5% last week.
- COVID-19 reported cases for the week **decreased**, from 33,159 to 31,848.
- COVID-19 hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients this week **increased** to 1,350, compared to last week which was at 1,289.
- Booster rates are 59% for the total population. We have 77% of adults with at least one dose and 29% of children and teens ages 5-17 with at least one dose.
- The Omicron variant continues to represent the vast majority of COVID diagnoses. BA.5 represents 58% of cases, BA.4 16%, BA.2.12.1 13%, BA.2 8%, and B.1.1.529 5%.

For more information about how vaccines for children work and where you can find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](#). The North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center can also help you make an appointment by calling **888-675-4567**. The help center is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekends.

The White House has officially [declared that Monkeypox is a public health emergency](#). Declaring a public health emergency will assist greatly in attempting to slow the spread and work to avoid it becoming an endemic infection.

Monkeypox vaccines are free and available in Mecklenburg County, but currently in limited quantities. If you are experiencing symptoms or believe you have been exposed, contact your doctor or local health department. In Mecklenburg, that number is 980-314-9400. More information about monkeypox is available on the [CDC website](#).

The majority of cases in North Carolina have been reported in Mecklenburg County. In order to make sure the state is getting resources where they are most needed, NCDHHS Secretary Kinsley and NCDHHS officials will be visiting a Mecklenburg County Public Health Monkeypox vaccine clinic and will be discussing the county's operations and response to the outbreak early next week. I will be briefed on those plans and will share them in my next newsletter.

Contact Our Office

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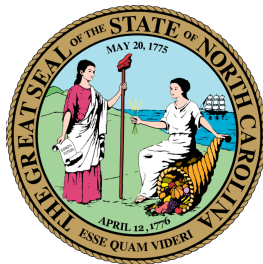
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

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