

*****SPAM*** For Immediate Release**



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

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Greetings:

Senator Waddell participated and engaged in community meetings throughout the district. There were no legislative meetings in Raleigh this past week. Senator Waddell attended and participated at a NCSL conference last week.

The National Conference of State Legislators is a conference whose mission is to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among legislatures.

Joyce Waddell

Paid Signatures

A practice that has been the topic of conversation is gearing up to become a high-profile legal battle involving the state elections board. Concerns over a practice used by long-shot candidates to get on the ballot in North Carolina: paying people to collect signatures. Independent candidates and smaller parties, such as the liberal Green Party or the conservative Constitution Party, are required to collect thousands of signatures to get their candidates on the ballot in general elections in the state. They regularly pay for consultants and individuals to collect them, often on a per-signature basis.

The practice is legal, but critics say it raises the risk of fraud—in large part because of the financial incentive. The risk of fraud only increases in a shaky economy. This is a practice the North Carolina State Board of Elections itself wants to change.

The elections board voted along party lines last month to deny the Green Party's request to add candidates to the ballot, citing an investigation into potentially fraudulent signatures. Some of those signatures were collected by people who were paid per signature.

It might also be unconstitutional to outlaw per-signature payments. Seven states have bans, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, and five states have had their bans struck down by the courts.

NCSL Summit 2022

Senator Waddell participated in the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) event held in Denver Colorado. The NCSL's mission is to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among legislatures.



Senator Waddell participates in one of the largest attended NCSL events in its history.



Senator Waddell congratulates the outgoing President of the NCSL women's group.



Senator Waddell participates in break-out information sessions and exhibits.

Mask Wearing

Over half of North Carolinians are being advised to wear masks in public, according to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the new BA.5 sub-variant surges through the state, nine counties transitioned from a medium- to a high-risk classification last week, bringing the total number of high-risk counties to 50. In those areas, the CDC recommends that people wear a well-fitting mask in indoor, public places, regardless of vaccination status.

The CDC calculates these risk categories by compiling data about COVID transmission, hospital admissions and hospital capacity. The Governor echoed this guidance in a press release on Tuesday, encouraging North Carolinians to prepare for an onslaught of positive cases. He said residents should stock up on at-home rapid tests, create a plan for seeking medications if they fall ill, and wear a mask in crowded indoor places.

BA.5 is undoubtedly more contagious than the variants that dominated earlier this summer — one study estimated it is 1.4 times more transmissible than the sub-variant that dominated before it. Thanks to spike protein mutations, this sub-variant is also particularly adept at evading immunity from both vaccinations and past infections, even if the infection was recent.

Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Many of her precincts have changed which makes the election much more competitive. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

[CLICK HERE TO](#)

**DONATE \$25; \$50; \$100; \$250
OTHER AMOUNT \$_____**

Not only are North Carolinians battling the rise of COVID in our state, but we now have to be on the lookout for Monkeypox.

The state of our health and wellbeing is under attack, so we all must be careful and watch out for one another. Be safe out there!

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