

Latest Updates from the NCGA



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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Reply-To <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

September 2, 2022

The General Assembly did not convene for session over the past 2 weeks. So there are no votes or committee meetings to report. I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday weekend.



Sen. Marcus's WFAE Podcast Interview



Last week, I joined the WFAE Inside Politics podcast team for an interview about abortion rights in North Carolina. We also discussed inflation and the FBI search of former President Trump's residence. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss these issues and my bill, [SB888](#), **Codify Roe and Casey Protections**. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

Charlotte is First NC City to Pass Protections Against Income Discrimination



I commend Charlotte City Council for enacting a policy to **protect people who pay for housing with vouchers**. Charlotte is showing leadership in addressing the need for access to affordable housing, a key component of upward mobility. This change will help a lot of people. You can read more about this new city policy [here](#).

CMS Plans to Defy NC School Calendar Law



CMS Interim Superintendent Hugh Hattabaugh has announced that CMS will start school year early next year. Since 2004 the **NCGA has set a mandatory late August start date for schools statewide** to ensure the tourism industry has a uniform schedule for summer travel.

I have been against this mandated start date since I became a Senator and am proud to have introduced legislation that would grant CMS calendar flexibility (**SB189**, School Calendar Flexibility/Mecklenburg County and **SB899**, SCHOOLS Act). **I believe that calendars should be set according to what is best for student learning.** Unfortunately, Senate leaders remain opposed to even debating these proposals. As a result, some school districts have opted to defy state law. You can read more about this proposed CMS change [here](#).

UNC Charlotte Survey on Reproductive/Sexual/Maternal Health in North Carolina



Researchers at UNC Charlotte are conducting an online survey to explore access to and perceptions of maternal healthcare in North Carolina. Study results will help researchers better understand barriers to maternal healthcare in our state. **All residents of NC with a need, either currently or in the past, for maternal, sexual, reproductive and/or family planning healthcare are eligible to participate in the survey.**

If you have questions about the research, please contact Sarah Haley (shaley5@uncc.edu) or Robert Pinka (rpinka@uncc.edu).

[Complete the Survey Here](#)

2022 Disability:IN North Carolina Fall Conference



Would your company like to learn how to be more inclusive for employees with disabilities? The statewide **Disability IN North Carolina** conference is being held in Davidson this year at **Trane Headquarters on October 6th from 9am-4pm**.

The fall conference will encompass a retrospective of valuable work that DI-NC has done during its first 10 years and look at the **latest innovations in workplace inclusion that will set us on course for even greater cultural transformation and inclusion** for people with disabilities in North Carolina's workforce over the decade ahead. The agenda features roundtable discussions from business leaders at the helm of the most inclusive companies throughout the state, in depth learning around technology and accommodations, and motivating keynotes that will synthesize their experience of disability inclusion with valuable insights on building inclusive cultures within any organization.

Rates are \$129 per person or \$600 for a table of six. A discounted rate of \$35 for self-advocates and job seekers with disabilities. Student discounts also apply. [Click here](#) to register.

Golden LEAF Foundation SITE Program Applications



The next round of the **SITE Program with The Golden LEAF Foundation** is open. This program is available to governmental 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.

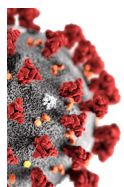
Applications are due on September 19 at noon for consideration by the Golden LEAF Board in December 2022. They will announce another round later this year for consideration in June 2023.

HOMES Program



Home ownership is the single most important investment that many people make. One effect of a robust real estate market is that affordable housing becomes scarce and the rising costs to retain residences can outpace income growth. The county has established the **HOMES Program**, a grant program designed to assist qualified residential homeowners with low to moderate income within Mecklenburg County to retain their homes by reducing their financial burden. Please view the [FAQs](#) for additional information. **Applications are due on November 18, 2022.**

COVID-19 & Monkeypox Updates



COVID-19
INFORMATION
AND UPDATES

COVID-19 Updates:

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

- Wastewater testing has shown an **decrease** to 20m particles, compared to 20.4m last week.
- COVID-like illness in hospital emergency departments **have decreased**, at 5.3% this week compared to 6.2% last week.
- COVID-19 reported cases for the week **decreased**, from 22,041 to 20,855.
- COVID-19 hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients this week **decreased** to 1,120, compared to last week which was at 1,259.
- Booster rates are 60% for the total population. We have 77% of adults with at least one dose and 30% 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 81% of cases, BA.4.6 11%, BA.4 6%, BA.2.12.1, 1%, and BA.2 less than 1%.

For more information about how vaccines for children work and where you can find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](#). Project ACT is also providing free COVID-19 at-home tests for certain zip codes in SD41, you can check if your home zip code is eligible [here](#). You can also place an order for free vaccines via USPS [here](#).

Monkeypox Updates:

DHHS has established a [monkeypox website](#), which serves as an informational resource hub. Updates are made to this site frequently, included case counts and demographic data.

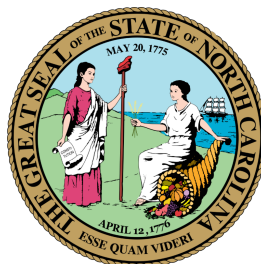
Monkeypox vaccines are free and available in Mecklenburg County, but currently in limited quantities. If you are experiencing symptoms or believe you have been exposed, contact your doctor or local health department to get tested. In Mecklenburg, that number is 980-314-9400.

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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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