

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**

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

September 16, 2022

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

Updates on Student Loan Forgiveness



As I am sure many of you have heard, President Biden recently [announced his plan to forgive some student debt](#) to help thousands of Americans who bear exorbitant loan repayment obligations, most of whom are from low-income homes, students of color and/or are first generation college students. I spoke to Queen City News about this new policy initiative and **my disappointment that NCGA leaders have said they intend to collect state income tax on the forgiven loans amounts.** North Carolina is one of only seven states to penalize students in this way. We have a massive budget surplus of over \$6.5 billion dollars, so the state does not need to further tax struggling students. **I will advocate for student loans to be treated the same way we treated forgiven PPP loans -- non-taxable -- when we are back in session.** You can watch the full interview [here](#).

Governor Cooper has also called on the General Assembly to waive state income taxes on student loan forgiveness. As he said in his press release, the NCGA passed legislation to ensure PPP loan taxes were forgiven. Some legislators themselves benefited from this relief, and I hope that we can come together to extend this student loan relief to hardworking families. You can read the full press release [here](#).

Town of Davidson Advisory Boards Accepting Applications



The Town of Davidson is accepting applications for 2023 appointments to its **advisory boards**. Consider serving on the following: Affordable Housing & Equity Board, Design Review Board/Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, Livability Board, and the Davidson Public Art Commission. New members will serve a three-year term from January 2023 to December 2025, with the possibility of a second term.

Information on advisory boards is available at [this link](#) and the application is at [this link](#). Applications are due by October 7.

For more information, please contact Town Clerk Betsy Shores at 704-940-9614 or bshores@townofdavidson.org.

Senator Marcus in the Community



I recently volunteered at Classroom Center, a local non-profit in my Senate district that provides teachers and students the free resources they need to succeed. I got to see firsthand how excited the teachers were to receive shopping carts full of supplies for their classrooms and students. If you want to volunteer to help a great cause, learn more at [this link](#).



The Survivor Resource Center on East 5th Street in Charlotte provides many services to support victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse and related crimes all in one convenient, supportive, confidential space. Soon it will get even better, when the Umbrella Center (Family Justice Center) opens in 2023. I was happy to get an after-hours tour this week. You can get assistance and learn more about the important work this organization does [here](#).



Last week I toured the new Humane Society of Charlotte adoption center and medical clinic, located in Senate District 41. They have a Cat Cafe, programs for kids, nice visitor spaces to meet adoptable cats and dogs, a state of the art veterinary office, a vet clinic, and lots of adorable animals looking for their forever homes. If you need low-cost vet care or medications, they can help with that too. You can learn more about the animals they have for adoption, the services they offer, and how you can volunteer to help at [this link](#).

Huntersville License Plate Agency Closes



The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles has closed the license plate agency in Huntersville. The agency, located at 12101 Mount Holly-Huntersville Rd., was **closed following the discovery of several contract violations**. The NCDMV Driver License office and the License and Theft Bureau District office at the same location are not affected by this closure.

Three nearby license plate agencies offer service Monday through Friday:

- Charlotte, 3250-G Wilkinson Blvd., from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 980-237-9598
- Concord, 929-D Concord Parkway South, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 704-723-4991
- Mooresville, 125-3 North Main St., from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 704-663-5472

In addition, services such as property tax payments and registration renewals can be completed online at [MyNCDMV.gov](#).

Letter to U.S. Department of Energy Urging Action on Clean Energy Efforts



I am proud to have joined the [National Caucus of Environmental Legislators](#) and over 140 legislators from 39 states to sign on to a letter urging the U.S. Department of Energy to finalize a rule to increase the efficiency level of gas furnaces to 95% AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency). Inefficient gas furnaces generate high energy bills, emit avoidable climate-harming emissions, and degrade health. Learn more about the letter [here](#).

Mecklenburg County Waste Reduction Event Tomorrow



[Mecklenburg County Waste Reduction](#) is hosting a shredding event for sensitive papers tomorrow in Senate District 41 at Compost Central at 140 Valleydale Road in Charlotte. You can reserve a spot [here](#). Please do not bring materials in plastic bags, but plastic file boxes are acceptable (3 box limit per person).

NCGA Online Resource on Ratified Legislation



Summaries of substantive ratified legislation from 2022 are available on the General Assembly's website at [this link](#). The site contains summaries of all substantive legislation of general applicability and certain local legislation having general import from the 2022 Regular Session. Significant appropriations matters related to the subject area specified are also included.

Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, September 02	13,837,061,673.98
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	284,281,303.32
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	1,305,978,453.06
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	70,441,694.84
State Aid	8,579,092.67
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	1,207,649,812.66
Tax Refunds/Distributions	16,110,657.93
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	274,892,042.75
Ending Cash, Friday, September 09	13,849,648,129.51
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	941,722,816.03
Other Reserves	4,625,869.70
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	0.00
Carry Forward Reserve	460,883,102.28
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	203,000,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	0.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	70,846,272.32
Information Technology Reserve	0.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	175,372,673.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	21,497,810.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	4,366,383.90
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	0.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	0.00
Savings Reserve	3,115,993,278.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	0.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	20,641,887.45
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	40,000,000.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	0.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, September 09	8,506,898,035.85

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending September 9, 2022. OSC provides a weekly update on the State's General Fund cash position which can be found at osc.nc.gov. **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$8.506 billion.**

The State Controller is North Carolina's chief fiscal officer and serves as an independent resource to ensure the financial integrity of the State.

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.

Support for People with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders



There is a new way to ask for help with mental health and substance abuse emergencies. **The 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline can connect you with trained crisis counselors.** Just dial the easy to remember 988. There are also [additional helplines](#) people can use to get support for substance abuse issues:

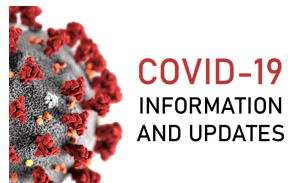
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Helpline: 1-800-662-4357
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Help Line: 1-800-950-6264
- National Drug Helpline: 1-844-289-0879

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 budget. Please view the [FAQs](#) for additional information. **Applications are due on November 18, 2022.**

COVID-19 & Monkeypox 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 12.5m particles, compared to 18.7m last week.
- COVID-like illness in hospital emergency departments **have remained constant**, at 5.4% this week reported to 5.3% last week.
- COVID-19 reported cases for the week **decreased**, from 20,597 to 19,618.
- COVID-19 hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients this week **remained relatively constant** at 1,100, compared to last week at 1,002.
- Booster rates are 60% for the total population. We have 78% of adults with at least one dose and 30% of children and teens ages 5-17 with at least one dose.

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](#).

An updated COVID-19 booster is also now available for people 12 and older, two months after they finish their primary series or any booster dose. It offers the most up-to-date protection against the latest Omicron variants. Omicron is the most common form of COVID-19. [Find a booster near you.](#)

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.

Contact Our Office

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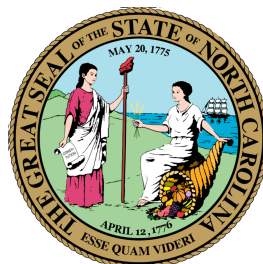
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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