

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



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Date 2022-10-17 20:45



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 17, 2022
Volume 43

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Greetings:

Last week several meetings were held at the General Assembly. The Legislative Joint Education Oversight met to discuss Special Education, Scholarships, and the Common Course Numbering System.

I attended meetings in the district to continue to inform the community of happenings from the General Assembly and to address the needs of the community.

Joyce Waddell

Workforce Bill

The NC Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson is looking to the long session in 2023 for solutions to workforce shortages across the state. The workforce issue is not just in the private sector but within many state agencies.

North Carolina reported a 21% vacancy rate in state government jobs this past spring. The 2022 state budget bill gave most state employees an additional 1% raise on top of the 2.5% raise they were to receive this year, but the rate of inflation has been more than 8%. The state is hemorrhaging good workers in our most hard-to-fill jobs, and needs to be addressed at the General Assembly early next year.

Briarwood Academy Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Senator Waddell toured and participated in the ribbon cutting of the school.



Loan Forgiveness

The Governor wants the General Assembly to pass legislation exempting individuals from state income tax on the student loan forgiveness announced by the President last month. The White House has said the value of that forgiveness — up to \$20,000 for some — is exempt from federal income tax, citing language in the 2021 American Rescue Plan law. But North Carolina appears to be one of a half-dozen states where amounts would be subject to state tax without a change.

The General Assembly's primary work period for the year ended July 1. Lawmakers have held monthly three-day administrative floor sessions since then. The next such meeting is next week. Lawmakers have the authority to consider substantive legislation during these sessions.

MAD HATTITUDE 2022 HAT AUCTION

Senator Waddell participates in Congresswomen Alma Adams' hat auction.



Senator Waddell is pictured with US Senator Corey Booker, US Senate Candidate Cheri Beasley, and a luncheon attendee.



Senator Waddell is pictured with House Representative Majeed showing off their hats at the hat auction.

Employment Rate

North Carolina's historically low unemployment rate rose slightly in August, the state Commerce Department reported on Friday. Last month's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.5% — ending a four-month run in which the rate stood at 3.4%.

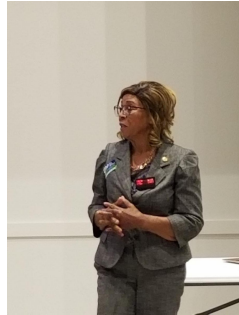
The August figures show overall employment grew by close to 1,400 workers, to well over 4.9 million. But it was outpaced by an increase of the unemployed of 7,900 to 179,560 people. Still, the number of unemployed has fallen by 57,550 over the past year. With another counting format based on monthly worksite surveys, the agency reported seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment rose by 10,100 to 4.8 million. The leisure and hospitality services industry and professional and business services sector saw sizeable numeric increases in employment, while government employment had a decline of 4,900 workers.

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?

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Democratic Women Event

Senator Waddell is pictured with members of the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County, and she discussed the importance of getting out to vote.



The North Carolina State Fair started this past Thursday. If possible, please consider supporting it to continue to help local vendors and shops from all over North Carolina.

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