

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



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
Date 2022-10-28 14:30

Natasha MARCUS

NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

October 28, 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 safe and Happy Halloween. I'm looking forward to welcoming costumed kids at my home and participating in a Safe Trick or Treat event over the weekend.

Senator Marcus in the Community



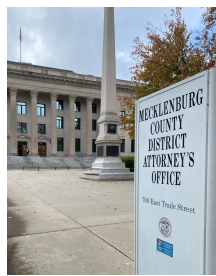
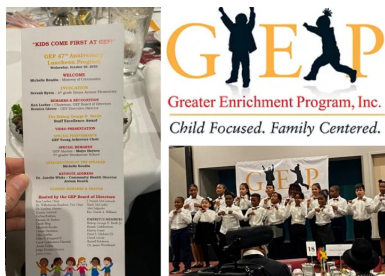
I attended the ACC Welcome Ceremony in Charlotte with members of the Mecklenburg Delegation and lots of sports fans. I'm excited to welcome this dynamic organization to the county!



I visited the newest Habitat for Humanity neighborhood in Charlotte, at the site of the old Plato Price school. Construction is about to begin. The lack of affordable housing is a significant problem in our region and I am grateful to Habitat for creating solutions.



I attended the Mecklenburg Farm Bureau's annual meeting at the new Northern Regional Recreation Center in Cornelius. Agriculture is a critical and major part of our state's economy, having an impact of \$91.8 billion. As a member of the [Senate Appropriations on Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources Committee](#), I appreciated the opportunity to meet the local people who support our region's agricultural economy.



I attended the luncheon to support the [Greater Enrichment Program](#) after-school program. GEP was founded by Bishop George Battle in 1975 and has served more than 10,000 at-risk elementary-aged kids with quality after-school enrichment programs. I especially enjoyed the songs the students performed. After-school enrichment programs serve the important goal of closing the achievement gap.

On Wednesday, I met with Mecklenburg District Attorney Spencer Merriweather to learn about his office's updated services and systems, the challenges he faces due to the pandemic backlog and being down several ADAs. We also discussed ideas to discourage gun violence, specifically mass shootings.

Updates on the Biden-Harris Administration's Student Debt Relief Plan



The Biden-Harris Administration's student debt relief portal has officially launched. Millions of working and middle class borrowers can apply for student debt relief at [this link](#). The application takes less than 5 minutes. It's available in English and Spanish on desktop and mobile devices.

The plan will provide up to \$10,000 in relief to borrowers with federal student loans and up to \$20,000 in relief to borrowers who were Pell Grant recipients. Borrowers must meet income requirements to be eligible for relief.

Unfortunately, NCGA leaders have stated that they intend to collect state income tax on the forgiven loans. I disagree with this policy and **will advocate for student loans to be treated the same way we treated forgiven PPP loans (non-taxable)**. You can watch the full interview I did with Queen City News on this topic [here](#).

Constituent Services Highlight: Litter Clean-Up



My office is available to assist constituents with various concerns. As an example, residents in the WT Harris Blvd area of SD41 alerted me to issues with excessive trash, deteriorating pavement and insufficient lighting along the state-maintained portion of the road. We were able to get DOT out the next day to remove the trash, got the road in the queue for repaving, and are working with DOT and the city to see if the lighting can be improved. If you need help concerning state agencies or services, let us know.

Mecklenburg County Accepting Proposals for ARPA Funds



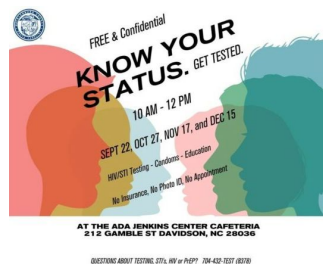
Mecklenburg County has announced that **proposal applications for Round Two of funding to address the impacts of COVID-19 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) will be accepted through November 27.** The minimum amount for which an second application can request is \$250,000 and Round One recipients should visit the [information link](#) for details. For more information on ARPA and to access the application portal visit [this link](#).

Local School Awarded GO Grant



Congratulations to Pioneer Springs Community School and teacher Sandra Dixon for receiving a Go Outside "GO Grant" of \$3,500 for a project to provide an outdoor garden experiences to students and explore hands-on learning environments. GO Grants are funded by The Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council and Trust Funds. I was honored to be the one to share this good news with Ms. Dixon and wish her and her students lots of educational fun with their garden project.

Free HIV/STI Testing in Davidson



Mecklenburg County Health Department is offering free and confidential HIV and STI testing on November 27th and December 15th at the Ada Jenkins Center in Davidson. No appointment needed. If you have any questions, [email](#) Georgia Ringle or call her at 704-650-6813.

You can read more about these free services [here](#).

Affordable Housing in Mecklenburg County



The need for affordable housing is one of the most common issues constituents mention to me. I spoke to an Axios reporter recently about why it's such a hard nut to crack. You can read the full article [here](#).

The Charlotte Observer published an article on the topic as well, reporting that "Mecklenburg County received \$108 million this month in a new round of ARPA funding designated for affordable housing and homelessness projects." You can read the article [here](#).

The Town of Davidson offers affordable housing initiatives [here](#). If you live anywhere in Mecklenburg County, you can seek assistance for housing repairs from Habitat for Humanity. More information [here](#). Mecklenburg County also offers a variety of housing related resources, including mortgage, rental, and utility assistance. You can read more about these resources [here](#).

Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order on Zero-Emission Vehicles



This week Governor Cooper signed [Executive Order 271](#), focused on **supporting the transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)**, particularly medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) vehicles. The order will position North Carolina to benefit from the global market technologies zero-emission vans, buses, and trucks by ensuring that new vehicle technologies will be available to businesses across the state and directing Cabinet agencies to pursue strategies and investments that will support the affordable, equitable, and reliable growth of the MHD ZEV market.

Local Projects Receive Funding from American Rescue Plan Act



Legislators recently received an update from the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources on various organizations that received federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. I am happy to report that **multiple Mecklenburg County organizations received funding**, including Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and UNC Charlotte. Both groups received \$25,000 for EZ Adapts, which will assist with library databases.

Alert About Pediatric Illness in Mecklenburg Area



This week I was informed that there are "minimal to no pediatric intensive care beds in North or South Carolina." Hospitals are in crisis mode due to a "triple threat surge" in pediatric respiratory illnesses -- RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), the flu, and COVID (and some increase in enterovirus). Behavioral health is ongoing and makes the crisis even harder. This past Sunday, one of our healthcare systems had 32 patients in the pediatric emergency room waiting for care, all suffering from flu and/or RSV, and will likely need to use its mobile unit to assist with bed space.

So, please do all you can to stay healthy and keep your kids healthy. **Get your family boosted for COVID, get your flu shot, wash hands, cover sneezes, stay home if you have symptoms.** More information [here](#).

North Carolina Teaching Fellows' Application is Live



North Carolina needs teachers! The Teaching Fellows Program is a great incentive. The **Teaching Fellows 2022 application is live** and posted on the Teaching Fellows website [here](#).

Program benefits include studying at one of eight educator preparation programs, receiving up to \$4,125 per semester in financial aid, and benefiting from unique enrichment experiences at your chosen institution.

The deadline to apply is Monday, January 9, 2023.

If you know a high school student who is open to the idea of becoming a teacher, please share this information. It's a great program.

[Apply Here](#)

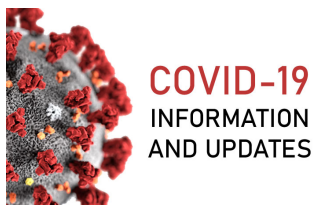
Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, October 14	10,939,019,532.29
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	1,451,618,835.46
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	590,178,239.85
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	139,651,969.59
State Aid	22,779,434.09
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	225,670,517.66
Tax Refunds/Distributions	39,684,080.13
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	265,741,682.79
Ending Cash, Friday, October 21	12,287,288,923.34
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	634,326,284.21
Other Reserves	32,175,171.25
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	39,300,936.33
Carry Forward Reserve	414,457,875.20
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	1,043,250,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	95,328,642.00
Housing Reserve	35,000,000.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	69,412,696.11
Information Technology Reserve	108,943,174.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	326,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	226,642,170.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	9,306,230.02
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	28,573,899.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	250,000,000.00
Savings Reserve	4,115,993,278.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	200,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	227,986,189.29
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	2,055,237.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	25,000,000.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, October 21	4,119,224,403.95

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, October 21, 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 \$4.119 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.

COVID-19 & Monkeypox Updates



COVID-19 Updates:

An updated COVID-19 booster is available now for people 5 and older, two months after they finish their primary series or any booster dose. The booster used to be only for folks 12 and older, but recently boosters were approved for children as young as 5. You can read about this new change [here](#). 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](#). You can see updates on the key data points (wastewater testing, hospitalization, vaccine rates, etc.) on the [DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

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](#).

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.

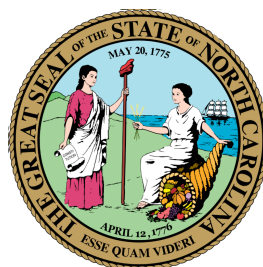
Monkeypox vaccines are free and available in Mecklenburg County. If you are experiencing symptoms or believe you have been exposed, contact your doctor or local health department to get tested. In Mecklenburg, that number is 980-314-9400.

Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

Email:
Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov
Jessica.Bolin@ncleg.gov

Mailing Address:
 300 N. Salisbury Street,
 Rm. 519
 Raleigh, NC 27603



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

Senator **Natasha Marcus** | [Website](#)



Sen. Natasha Marcus, District 41 | 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov powered by

