

Latest Updates from the NCGA



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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Date 2022-11-11 09:00

Natasha **MARCUS**

NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

November 11, 2022

The General Assembly did not convene for session over the past two weeks. So there are no votes or committee meetings to report. Additionally, since this is not a political newsletter, I won't include commentary about election results. I will simply say that I am very grateful to have been re-elected to serve a third term in the NC Senate.

I Extend My Gratitude To Our Military



I am grateful to all our current and former servicemen and women for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our freedoms. I send special appreciation for **my son-in-law, who is currently service in the US Navy**, stationed in Norfolk, VA.

Legislative Plans for 2023



According to recent updates from Sen. Phil Berger, the **NCGA will not be called into a voting session for the rest of this year**. I am disappointed that we will not be voting to expand Medicaid. Our swearing-in ceremony for the next biennium will be in January of 2023. You can read more about the Republican's proposed priorities and plans for the General Assembly in 2023 [here](#).

Colonial Pipeline Updates



Colonial Pipeline has applied for a permit to treat contaminated water at the site of the gasoline contamination and then release it directly into the North Prong Clarke Creek in Huntersville. This would allow Colonial to stop having to truck contaminated water offsite, which is costly and requires many trucks to come and go from the site. The contaminated water cannot be treated at a municipal treatment plant because those systems do not accept water that is contaminated in this way (benzene and related chemicals are obviously present in high amounts).

While this idea to treat and release the water may be a good alternative to trucking it offsite, I have concerns about whether the permit specifies the appropriate safety standards, i.e. the water quality standards approved by the NCDEQ and the EPA. It is imperative that the water be fully treated to within safe standards before it's released into the creek.

As I flagged in a previous newsletter, NCDEQ/DWR recently has a public comment period to hear from folks about their thoughts and concerns on the permit process. I spoke to their staff today and they said, while they have not made a decision about whether to hold a public hearing yet. You can read the public comments submitted by the Yadkin Riverkeeper, me and others [here](#) and [here](#).

I will be sure to keep everyone updated via this newsletter and social media as I learn more.

Suspected Arson Case in Cornelius



The Cornelius Police Department is investigating a potential intentional fire this week in Smithville. The Department is requesting that anyone who noticed any suspicious activity in the area of Smith Circle, Nannie Potts Lane, or Statesville Road (Highway 21) around 11:45pm on Wednesday 11/9/22 to call (704) 892-7773 or North Mecklenburg Crime Stoppers at (704) 896-7867. More information [here](#).

Affordable Housing and the Dillon Rule



The [Charlotte Journalism Collaborative](#) recently published an article on Asheville's attempts to tackle the affordable housing crisis and the potential impacts it could have if Charlotte implemented a similar policy. Under North Carolina's Dillon Rule, local governments have only the powers granted to them by the state constitution and statutes. In this context, the Dillon Rule prohibits local governments from mandating affordable housing units. I am proud to have [sponsored legislation](#) to grant local municipalities the authority to enact inclusionary zoning to tackle the affordable housing crisis.

Asheville has had a temporary pause on hotel construction for the past few years, and the moratorium was recently lifted. Since it has been lifted, there are more rules and regulations in place to encourage hotel developers to revamp/reuse historic buildings, donate to affordable housing initiatives, and agree to pay their workers a livable wage. Stakeholders are debating whether a similar policy could assist Charlotte in its affordable housing crisis. You can read the full article [here](#).

Grants Available for Local Nonprofits



Mecklenburg County is offering Community Service Grants to help **fund nonprofits that meet various needs in the community (i.e. affordable housing, literacy, healthcare, career readiness, etc).** Nonprofits can apply for FY2024 Community Service Grants until December 5th. The application link and other details are available [here](#).

MyFutureNC Releases 2022 County Attainment Profiles



The [2022 County Attainment Profiles](#) highlight each of North Carolina's 100 counties' educational attainment levels and performance on key metrics. The data assists in the decision-making process regarding local priorities to increase educational attainment at the local level. There is also an overall 2022 attainment profile for the state. Read more and download any county's profile [here](#).

Lake Norman Marine Commission November Public Meeting



**Lake Norman
Marine Commission**

The [Lake Norman Marine Commission](#) is having their November meeting on the 14th at 7pm. The proposed agenda includes revising charter boat regulations and reviewing the 1st quarter report for FY22-23. The meeting will be at the Charles Mack Citizens Center in Mooresville. They will be accepting public comments at the meeting, which are limited to 3 minutes.

Juvenile Detention Center to Close



Mecklenburg County's juvenile detention facility is set to close on December 1st. I am worried about how this closure will likely require young people to be moved to facilities far from their homes and interrupt their education. I participated in discussions with the Mecklenburg Delegation, DPS, and the Sheriff's office months ago to see if there was a better option, but those efforts were unsuccessful. You can read more about this impending closure [here](#).

Local Workforce Development Grants



The [NC Department of Commerce](#) recently awarded over **\$8.45 million to local organizations across the state in support of workforce development**. I am happy to report that many Mecklenburg County organizations were recipients, including:

- [Charlotte Works](#): Awarded 2 grants totaling \$700,000 to leverage the workforce board's existing reentry partnership, alongside a new partnership with a minority and service-disabled veteran-owned business to help small businesses grow and help "non-traditional" talent secure employment.

If you know of an organization that may want to apply for a local workforce grant, there is more information [here](#).

New Charter Schools in Charlotte & Closing of North Mecklenburg Magnet School



On Monday, the [NC Charter Schools Advisory Board](#) recommended allowing the [Movement Foundation](#) to open **three new charter schools in 2024** (one in West Charlotte, one Northeast Charlotte, and one East Raleigh). The Movement Foundation was created by Charlotte-based Movement Mortgage, and opened its first charter school in 2017 in Charlotte.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools voted this week to **close Trillium Springs Montessori**, a preK-6 magnet in Huntersville, and move staff and students to a refurbished Lincoln Heights school in north Charlotte. More information about that decision [here](#).

Medication Take-Back Sites



Novant Health has placed **medication take-back containers at certain hospital lobbies**. Anyone can use the containers to dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired prescription or over-the-counter medications free of charge. There is a location in SD41 at the Huntersville Medical Center at 10030 Gilead Road. Learn more [here](#).

Foster Kittens Find Forever Home



On a personal note, I am very happy to report that all seven of my foster kittens have found their forever homes! A big thank you to the families who adopted these wonderful babies and to [Cats of Davidson](#) for all the incredible animal welfare work they do in our community. The mom of the litter, Riley, is still looking for her permanent home. If you or someone you know would be interested in adopting her or any of the other cats and kittens they are fostering, please email catsofdavidson@gmail.com.

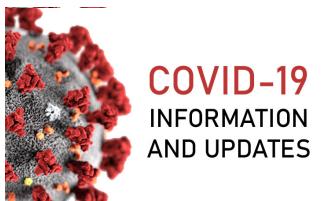
Financial Update on the State's General Fund

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Beginning Cash, Friday, October 28 | 11,792,268,755.40 |
| Add Receipts: | |
| Tax and Non-Tax Receipts | 419,589,655.37 |
| Coronavirus Relief Receipts | 0.00 |
| Other Receipts | 1,418,844,072.75 |
| Less Disbursements: | |
| Payroll | 150,701,630.54 |
| State Aid | 5,217,836.12 |
| Medicaid/Other Provider Payments | 1,012,064,438.53 |
| Tax Refunds/Distributions | 66,192,231.89 |
| Debt Service | 0.00 |
| Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out | 0.00 |
| General Operating | 802,573,254.63 |
| Ending Cash, Friday, November 04 | 11,593,953,091.81 |
| Less Reserved Cash: | |
| Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable | 928,683,383.45 |
| Other Reserves | 32,175,171.25 |
| American Recovery Plan Act Reserve | 39,300,936.33 |
| Carry Forward Reserve | 383,685,198.20 |
| 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 | 0.00 |
| Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve | 69,298,644.75 |
| 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 | 155,642,170.00 |
| 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 | 0.00 |
| 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 | 0.00 |
| Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve | 283,800,000.00 |
| World University Games Reserve | 25,000,000.00 |
| Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, November 04 | 3,299,047,337.54 |

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, November 4, 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 \$3.229 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 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. [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](#).

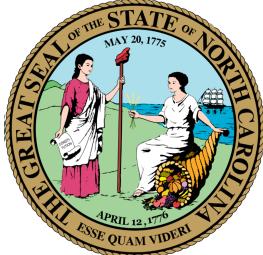
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

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