

Latest Updates from the NCGA



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

December 2, 2022

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

Preparing for the Upcoming Legislative Session



I was in Raleigh this week for a Caucus meeting to make plans for the upcoming biennium. We re-elected Senator Dan Blue as Minority Leader and Senator Jay Chaudhuri as Minority Whip. We welcomed **seven new members** to the Senate Democratic Caucus. I also started making plans for what bills I will file for the 2023 Session. Stay tuned for updates about that.

I will be sworn-in for my third term in Raleigh on January 11, 2023. While we are still not sure when the Long Session will formally begin or what bills will move forward, I anticipate debate and/or legislation on the following topics this session:

- Medicaid expansion (read more [here](#))
- Redistricting (read more [here](#))
- Revision of educator pay and *Leandro* education funding (read more [here](#))
- Abortion restrictions
- LGBTQ rights
- Sports gambling
- Changes to transportation funding

As I prepare for the upcoming Long Session, I'd like to have your input. Please complete [this survey](#) so I will know your thoughts on what my legislative priorities should be.

Celebrating NC Year of the Trail



Photographed with Mecklenburg County Commissioner Elaine Powell and NC Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Reid Wilson

Yesterday I attended the [NC Year of the Trail](#) event in Mooresville. I was happy to support the [bipartisan legislation](#) to designate 2023 as the "North Carolina Year of the Trail." This groundbreaking designation encourages all residents "to use their local and regional trail networks, to further enhance the State's trail networks, and to pay tribute to those who maintain these public amenities." Our state has so many great trails and they are great for physical, mental and spiritual health. I encourage you to get involved and learn more by following on social media -- [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [website](#).

Senator Marcus in the Community



On November 11, I was a guest speaker in the discrete mathematics class at Woodlawn School, where teacher Amanda Miller **used the real-life challenge of drawing Congressional election maps to demonstrate various mathematical concepts** to her senior students. We had an engaging conversation about redistricting, legislative processes, and good government.



This morning I toured LKQ Corporation in Charlotte with NC House Reps. Logan and Majeed. LKQ is "the most important business you've never heard of," with a major hub off of Tuckaseegee Rd (in SD41). **LKQ is an international supplier of automotive parts, both salvage/recycled and alternative aftermarket.** Their hub in Charlotte is the size of six football fields with 117 full-time employees. With worldwide supply chain issues restricting new car inventory, repair parts are in high demand. We also discussed possible solutions to the problem of catalytic converter theft.

RIP Devin Chandler



I was heartbroken that Devin Chandler was one of the victims of the recent shooting at UVA. Devin was a **graduate of Hough High School**. My thoughts are with his loved ones, his classmates, coaches, teachers and teammates in the wake of [this horrible tragedy](#). I am proud to be a strong advocate for common sense gun reform at the NCGA and will continue to push for change when we come back for session in 2023.

Charlotte Expands Electric Vehicle Sharing Service at Affordable Housing Sites



Charlotte has been selected as one of 10 cities nationwide to participate in the Affordable Mobility Platform (AMP) to bring EVs to affordable housing communities. The program is an effort to promote a shift to electric vehicles among all income groups. The shared electric vehicles (EVs) will be available in June 2023 -- there will be a total of 10 cars in 5 neighborhoods, but the exact locations have not been selected yet. Rates have also not been determined, but it will likely be an hourly or daily fee. You can read more about this new project [here](#).

I am proud to have supported various clean energy initiatives at the NCGA, and am happy that Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are leaders in clean energy including an EV charging station along Beatties Ford Road.

Senate Page Program Accepting Applications

PAGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ARE LIVE

The NCGA Page Program is open to NC high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to learn about and participate in the legislative process for a 1-week period during the 2023 Long Session.

The program will be offered from Feb. 6 to June 29, 2023. Each Senator can select up to 5 pages for a one-week slot within the time frame listed.

Interested applicants can email me at natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov for the application link. Learn more about the program at the link below.

<https://ncleg.gov/Senate/PageProgram>

Senator Natasha Marcus

The Page Program is returning to the NCGA for the 2023 Long Session. We will welcome high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from across the state to the NCGA. **This one-week program offers young men and women the opportunity to learn about and participate in the legislative process of our state.** Senate Pages are important to the operation of the General Assembly as they assist the members and staff of the Senate during the legislative session.

The program will be offered for one-week sessions from February 6th to June 29th, 2023. Availability of weeks is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Each Senator can select up to 5 Pages for the Long Session. No experience necessary. Parents of pages will be responsible for securing lodging during the time their child serves.

Applications are open now. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please email me at natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov for the application link. You can learn more about the application process and the Page Program [here](#).

Arts & Science Council Calling for Arts, Science, or History Teacher Nominations



Do you know an exceptional arts, science, or history teacher in the Mecklenburg County Area? Nominate him or her to be recognized by the [Arts and Science Council](#) (ASC). They are currently accepting nominations for two awards:

- **ASC's Cato Lifetime Achievement in Teaching Award:** recognizes teachers with a distinguished career of 15+ years teaching the arts, sciences or history or who have demonstrated creative infusion of the arts, sciences, or history into the core curriculum. 3 teachers will receive \$5,000 awards. Nominate a teacher [here](#).
- **ASC's Cato Excellence in Teaching Award:** recognizes teachers at any stage of their career who have distinguished themselves in teaching the arts, sciences, or history, or who have demonstrated creative infusion of arts, science, or history into the core academic curriculum. 6 teachers will receive \$1,500 awards. Nominate a teacher [here](#).

The nomination deadline is January 18th, 2023 and the winners will be announced in April 2023.

Affordable Care Act Resources



The [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#) is offering free services to folks who need assistance with open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace (AKA healthcare.gov). Open enrollment began on November 1st and will end on January 15th, 2023. You can set up an appointment with a navigator [here](#).

Free Over-The-Counter Medicine Giveaway



Saturday, December 17, 2022
9 am - 2 pm
Renaissance West STEAM Academy
3241 New Renaissance Way
Charlotte, NC 28208



STOCK YOUR MEDICINE CABINET FOR FREE!

Free OTC medicine items include cold, cough, flu medicine, pain relief, vitamins, children's medicine, etc.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Stop by from 9 AM - 2 PM for FREE OTC products.
- If you want to request specific medications, you can pre-order online: www.medassist.org/mobile or scan the QR Code.
*ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS - 11/17/2022 @12:00 AM
*ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSSES - 12/9/2022 @1:00 PM
- You may pick up your pre-order during our event.
- Pick up items for a friend or family member.



NO APPOINTMENT OR PRE-REGISTERING REQUIRED.

If you do not pre-register, you can come by and pick up a pre-packaged bag of medication while supplies last.

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE

All NC residents are welcome. No income requirements to receive products. No ID required. Must be 18 years or older. This event is rain or shine.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
Dr. Brad & Mrs. Sherri Bissell

NC MedAssist is a nonprofit pharmacy providing access to prescription medications to qualified uninsured North Carolina residents. We also provide over-the-counter (OTC) medications at no charge to all through Mobile Free Pharmacy events or at our store location in Charlotte.
[Learn how to receive free prescription medication at www.medassist.org.](http://www.medassist.org)

A huge thank you to Dr. Brad and Mrs. Sherri Bissell and NC MedAssist for sponsoring a **mobile free OTC pharmacy in Charlotte at Renaissance West STEAM Academy on Saturday, December 17th from 9AM to 2PM**. As inflation takes a toll on local residents, they are striving to increase the accessibility of adult and children's OTC medicines in order to keep our community healthy and avoid costly ER visits.

Mecklenburg County residents can pre-order their meds or they can show up and receive a "generic" bag of 7-10 FREE meds. They will have COVID boosters and other community resources available as well. They have enough medication to serve around 1,000 people.

Pre-order meds here:

- [English form](#)
- [Spanish form](#)

They aim to serve as many homebound individuals as possible. Fill out the online order form listed above & have a designated person pickup on their behalf, or fill out the attached homebound form and scan and email it back to Anita Boswell-Russell at aboswellrussell@medassist.org by December 12th.

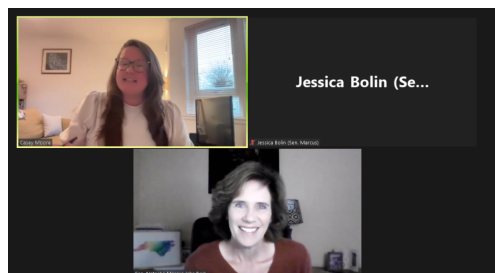
Event organizers are also looking for volunteers: there are shifts on Friday, Dec 16 for setup, as well as on Saturday, Dec 17th 8-2:30pm. Children 12 and older can volunteer with parental supervision. Volunteers will be provided with snacks, water, and lunch. Volunteers can sign up for shifts at this [link](#).

Affordable Housing Resources



Many thanks to WSOC-TV for creating a resources guide on their website for affordable housing. This section of the website has information on rental assistance, utility assistance, Section 8 housing, and more. You can access the resource guide [here](#).

UNC Charlotte Graduate's Research about Gun Violence



I met with Casey Moore, a UNC Charlotte alumna and current PhD student at the University of Glasgow, to discuss the 2019 UNC Charlotte mass shooting. She is an oral historian and part of her research is on the shooting and how the campus and community reacted to the tragedy and its impact on activism and social policy change. I appreciate her dedicating her time to such an important topic, was happy to assist with her research, and look forward to reading her dissertation once it's complete.

Local School Awarded GO Grant



Congratulations to Jackson Day School (formerly Mountain Island Day School) in Charlotte and teacher Kelly Hodson for receiving a Go Outside "GO Grant" of \$2,000 for a project to expand hands-on learning opportunities for students through a trip to the Ft. Caswell and Ft. Fisher Aquarium. GO Grants are funded by The Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council and Trust Fund and are awarded to applicants across the state to encourage taking students outdoors.

Drop Off Gently Used Socks for Local Shelters



Did you know there is a local charity that can **put your gently used and new socks to good use**? It's called the **Odd Sock** and there are drop off locations around the North Mecklenburg area, like this one I used to donate at Ben & Jerry's on Main Street in Davidson. More information [here](#) or email info@theoddssock@gmail.com.

Mecklenburg County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee



The Mecklenburg County Clerk's Office encourages residents to apply to serve on the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. The Committee promotes the interests and well-being of the residents in adult care homes and only requires members to commit an average of eight hours a month.

Applicants must reside in Mecklenburg County and be able to travel to various facilities to complete scheduled visits. Once appointed, members must attend a minimum of 65% of all scheduled meetings in a calendar year and cannot miss three consecutive sessions.

Residents interested in serving on the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee can apply by visiting [this link](#) or contacting the County Clerk's Office at 980-314-2939 or clerk@mecknc.gov.

Made in NC Holiday Gift Guide



The **NC Chamber of Commerce** created a **NC Holiday Gift Guide**, highlighting **products made in North Carolina**. This is a great way to find unique gifts while supporting local businesses.

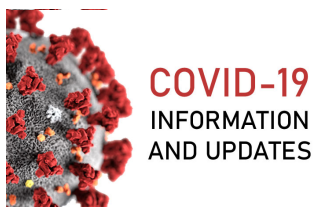
Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, November 18	10,844,416,583.15
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	1,390,645,347.72
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	310,013,937.69
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	278,063,337.19
State Aid	134,769,743.57
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	172,169,005.38
Tax Refunds/Distributions	52,352,432.98
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	221,578,229.68
Ending Cash, Friday, November 25	11,686,143,119.76
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	880,378,120.85
Other Reserves	20,963,384.45
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	39,300,936.33
Carry Forward Reserve	383,584,233.20
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	793,250,000.00
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	3,983,805.00
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	227,442,395.24
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 25	3,697,415,368.94

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, November 25, 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 \$3.697 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 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](#).

The Biden Administration recently announced a 6-week campaign to urge Americans to get their updated COVID-19 vaccine. The campaign focuses on reaching seniors and the communities that were hardest hit by COVID-19 by making it even more convenient to get vaccinated and increasing awareness through paid media. You can read more about the initiative [here](#).

Contact Our Office

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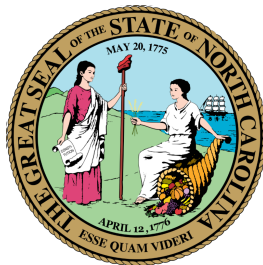
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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