

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



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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Date 2023-01-06 16:21

Natasha
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NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

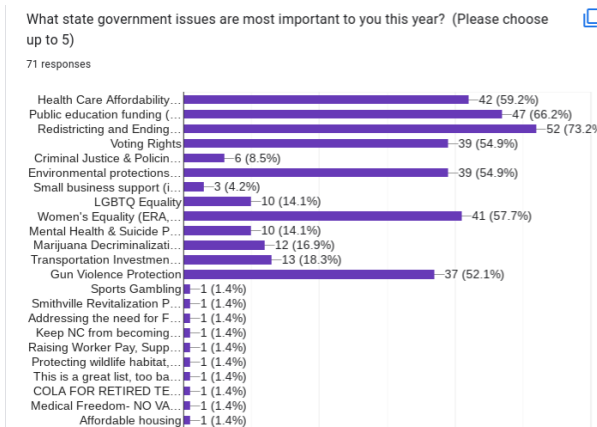
January 6, 2023



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

I will be back in Raleigh for my inauguration on January 11. The swearing-in ceremony will be broadcast live at noon. [PBS-NC](#) will be live streaming the event, and I will post the direct link on my social media once I receive it. We anticipate votes and committee meetings to begin by the end of the month.

Constituent Survey Update

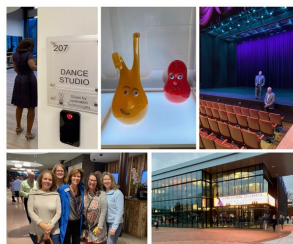


Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete my **constituent survey to help me prepare for the 2023 Long Session**. If you haven't filled out the survey yet, **please do so before January 11**, when we will close the survey. [Here](#) is the link.

Here are some results from the survey so far:

- The top most important issues: redistricting/ending gerrymandering, public education funding, healthcare affordability/access, women's equality, environmental protections, and voting rights
- Other important topics included gun violence prevention, transportation investments, marijuana decriminalization, and mental health/suicide prevention.
- 48% of respondents support the [Charlotte Moves Task Force](#) transportation plan and the proposed 1% sales tax to support it. 35% did not support the plan and 16% were undecided.

Cain Center for the Arts Grand Opening



I had a great time attending the opening of the new [Cain Center for the Arts](#) on Tuesday evening in Cornelius. I appreciated the opportunity to see so many community members who helped make this happen and look forward to the opportunities the new center will bring to the area. You can read about their upcoming events [here](#).

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>

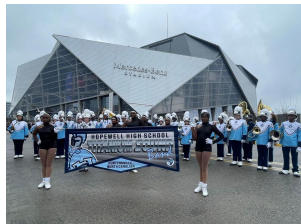
Senator Natasha Marcus

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 five Pages for the Long Session and preference is given to students who live in the district. 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](#).

Hopewell High School Marching Band Peach Bowl Performance



Congratulations to Hopewell High School's Titanium Sound Marching Band. Seven awards at the Peach Bowl is outstanding! I was heartened to see our community quickly come together to support these students to ensure they could afford the trip. You can read more about the story [here](#).

NCGA-Funded Study on Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19

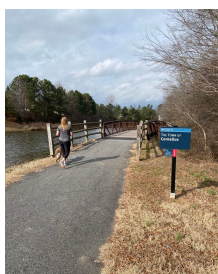
UNC SCHOOL of MEDICINE

Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases

COVID-19 Clinical Research

The NCGA recently **funded a study through UNC's School of Medicine on people's experiences with COVID-19**. They hope to recruit 7,500 recently diagnosed COVID-19 patients. Participants just have to complete a series of questionnaires online over 2 years, and for their time they will be paid more than \$100 following the completion of the research. You can read more about the study [here](#) and you can sign up to participate [here](#).

2023 is the Year of the Trail



This is the [NC Year of the Trail](#). To kick it off, I walked with a friend (and her dog, Luna) the entire McDowell Creek Greenway from Birkdale in Huntersville to the Publix in Cornelius - a total of almost 6 miles round-trip. I appreciate the coordination of the towns, county, and state to provide these healthy outdoor options. I hope you will find a wooded or urban trail to enjoy too. Find one [here](#).

Huntersville Police Department Wants to Hear From You



The Huntersville Police Department is asking residents to complete their **community survey on public safety and law enforcement**. Participation will assist the department to improve services, processes, and reputation. You can complete the survey [here](#), or you can get a copy in person at the Huntersville Police Department (9630 Julian Clark Avenue) or Huntersville Town Hall (101 Huntersville-Concord Road).

MECK Pre-K Enrollment Applications are Open



MECK Pre-K is a Mecklenburg County funded Pre-K program that is **free to eligible 4-year-olds**. They are currently accepting applications for interested families. Please note that funding is limited, so if you are interested please apply promptly to ensure that your family is considered for program participation. More information [here](#).

Racial Equity in Criminal Justice 2022 Annual Report



The [North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice](#) (TREC), co-chaired by Attorney General Josh Stein and NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, recently delivered an update to Governor Cooper on the Task Force’s work to implement its [2020 recommendations](#) to improve criminal justice in our state. The 2022 report is available [here](#), and an overview on the status of the recommendations is available [here](#).


As part of this progress report, TREC has created maps to display programs and policies recommended by TREC that are in practice in local communities across the state. The maps display various programs and policies so community members and leaders can explore the resources in place in their community and their neighbor’s. Explore the maps page [here](#).

South Prong West Branch Rocky River and Tributary Stream Restoration



Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services is working to evaluate how to reduce stream bank erosion in the South Prong West Branch Rocky River. You can take a virtual tour of the stream [here](#). You can read more about the full implementation of the plan [here](#).

January is National Radon Awareness Month



JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON AWARENESS MONTH

What is Radon? Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas that might be in your home. You can't see, smell or taste it.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

TEST YOUR HOME FOR RADON TODAY! [Radon-Lung-Cancer-Factsheet.pdf](#)



January is National Radon Awareness Month, which is the **second leading cause of lung cancer**. NC DHHS is hosting a webinar on January 11th at 11:30 on radon exposure in homes. Register for the webinar [here](#).

You can also request a free radon test kit [here](#).

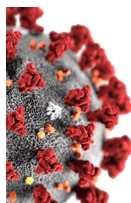
Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, December 23	10,713,710,710.87
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	694,163,841.05
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	280,798,689.02
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	45,758,941.58
State Aid	4,621,464.22
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	63,856,359.50
Tax Refunds/Distributions	0.00
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	154,590,541.52
Ending Cash, Friday, December 30	11,419,845,934.12
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	862,649,910.78
Other Reserves	20,963,384.45
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	39,300,936.33
Carry Forward Reserve	379,641,237.43
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	652,650,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	95,328,642.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	68,610,283.10
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	13,988,151.73
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, December 30	3,589,395,829.08

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, December 30, 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 \$3.589 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



COVID-19
INFORMATION
AND UPDATES

Most children 6 months to 4 years are [now eligible for their updated COVID-19 vaccine](#), which protects against COVID-19 variants. These vaccine doses are becoming available in North Carolina this week following the Food and Drug Administration’s emergency use authorization and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendation](#).

Children 6 months and older may be able to get this updated COVID-19 dose along with other routine vaccines at the same visit. Parents should talk with a health care provider to make sure their child is up to date on COVID-19 and other vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe to take alongside the annual flu shot.

You can see updates on the key data boards (wastewater testing, hospitalization, vaccine rates, etc.) on the [DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

You can request free at-home COVID tests from the federal government at [this link](#).

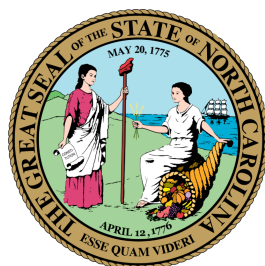
For more information about how vaccines for children work and where you can find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](#). Project ACT is also providing free COVID-19 at-home tests for certain zip codes in SD41, you can check if your home zip code is eligible [here](#).

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

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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