

Opening Day of the North Carolina General Assembly



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**Representative Nasif Majeed
District 99 - Mecklenburg County**



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North Carolina General Assembly**



PEACE. On Wednesday, January 11, the Long Session of the NC House of Representatives began its business. All 120 Members were officially sworn in. Tim Moore, a Republican from Cleveland County, was re-elected as NC House Speaker. The House Speaker presides over the House's business and has the power to appoint committees, assign bills to committees, and has major influence on what bills are heard and not heard.

Last year's elections resulted in 71 Republicans and 49 Democrats being elected to the NC House. Our NC House Democratic Caucus selected its leadership for the next two years. Robert Reives from Chatham County is our Democratic Leader. Ashton Clemmons from Guilford County is Deputy Leader. The caucus elected Amos Quick (Guilford), Marcia Morey (Durham), and Terry Brown, Jr. (Mecklenburg) as Whips. Cynthia Ball (Wake) is our Conference Chair and Brandon Lofton (Mecklenburg) is our Legislative Chair. Our large freshman class elected Allen Buansi (Orange) and Ya Liu (Wake) as its co-chairs.

I was honored to have Imam Oliver Muhammad of Masjid As-Salaam, in Raleigh, hold my Qur'an as I took the oath of office and was officially sworn in.

Having elected officers, the NC House now adjourns for two weeks to allow the new officers to begin work and members time to get organized.

NC House New Rules Undermine Transparency and Openness for the Public

Unfortunately, the first vote we took on Opening Day was a bad one. I voted No on Temporary Rules for the NC House that would make the work we do less transparent and less open to the public. The House Rules dictate how we conduct our business in the House: how bills move through the process, how committees work, what types of motions may be made, etc.

You can [read the Rules here](#), but they are complex and not easy to understand. The bottom line is that the new rules allow one person (the Speaker) to call a bill up for a vote at any time we are in session instead of according to our normal schedule of business with no notice to the public or other members. Significantly, the Speaker also may call a vetoed bill up for a vote at any time without any advance notice to other legislators or the public.

The rules we voted on this week are temporary. With all of the Republicans in support of the rules, they passed. In a few weeks we vote on Permanent Rules that I hope my Republican colleagues will change their minds and we adopt rules that are more transparent and open to the people of North Carolina.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 16 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We celebrate this federal holiday every year to mark the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a giant in the Civil Rights Movement. We should all take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made both by him and so many others in the ongoing fight for a more perfect union.

The holiday was signed into law in 1983 and was first observed in 1986, making this the 37th celebration of his birthday as a federal holiday. Communities across North Carolina are observing the holiday in their own way.

Here is a list of [what's open and closed on MLK Day in the Charlotte area](#).

The [2023 Atrium Health Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration](#) will air at 7 p.m. Monday, January 16, 2023 on WBTV.

Enjoy this holiday weekend!

PEACE,



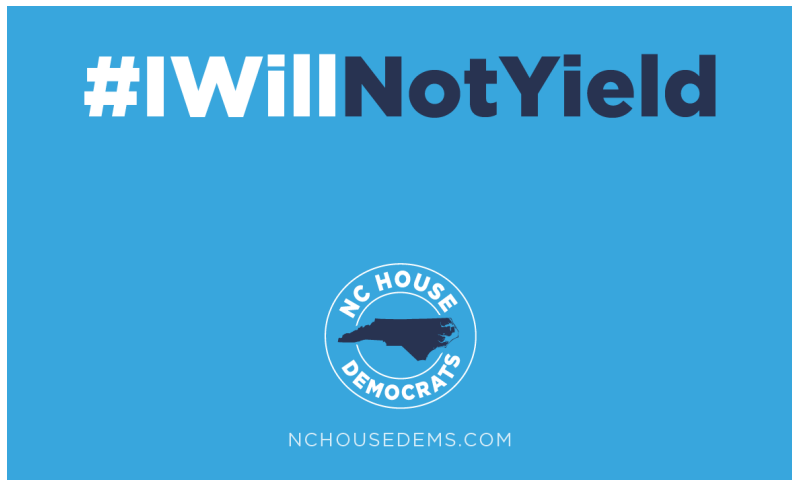
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