

## For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Greetings:**

At the General Assembly  
***For the Week***

*Senator Waddell's calendar was full with meetings at the General Assembly this week.*

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

*Rules and Operations of the Senate  
Appropriations/Base Budget  
Finance  
Pensions and Retirement and Aging*

***Joyce Waddell***

**Senate State Budget Meeting**



*Senator Waddell offered an amendment on the Senate floor, during the Senate version of the budget discussion, that would increase the cost of living for retirees.*

*The amendment was tabled.*

## Senate Budget

The North Carolina Senate passed its two-year spending plan with raises, tax cuts, new regulations and projects. The passage of Medicaid expansion also depends on the budget becoming law. With veto-proof Republican supermajorities in both the Senate and House, the final budget will hinge on negotiations between the two chambers.

The Senate passed its budget 37-12 on Thursday with bipartisan support, after a preliminary 36-13 vote a day earlier.

Democrats tried to run several amendments ranging from higher raises to military veterans' benefits to child-care subsidies — but those failed, were withdrawn or replaced by a Republican amendment.

The budget now moves into the conference process, in which the Senate and House work out a compromise budget, which will likely take a few weeks, followed by a vote to pass the final budget to send to the governor.



### ***Building Carolina***

*Senator Waddell tours the facility that houses Building Carolina.*

*Building Carolina used an open house event to educate the community on the opportunity to learn the construction industry.*

## Pay Raises

The North Carolina Senate budget proposal would give single-digit raises to state employees and teachers, but a substantial hike to the governor and other top elected officials.

The minimum salary for a state employee is \$15 per hour, which is \$31,200 a year. The Senate wants to give 5% raises over the next two years to state employees, and an average of 4.5% to teachers.

Council of State members would also get hefty raises. In the Senate's proposal, those Council of State members — lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, labor commissioner, insurance commissioner, agriculture commissioner, superintendent of public instruction and auditor — would see their salaries rise to \$168,384 over two years. They would see an increase to \$157,403 starting July 1, before the rest of the raise in the 2024-25 fiscal year.



### ***Mary McLeod Bethune Achievement Award***

*Senator Waddell receives an award for her outstanding service by NCNW president Olivia Burch.*

**Opportunities for Senate Pages are available!**

## Vaccinations

*Since March of 2020 we have been talking about COVID, but because many still do not believe that COVID exists, and is continuing to be contagious, we ignore what could be signs.*

*The state claims that COVID is reducing, it may be, but that does not mean that we should not still continue safety precautions. Hand washing and staying away from crowds are still good methods to use to diminish your chances of getting the virus.*



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