

## 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*

The Governor's appointed committees are meeting throughout the state.

*Joyce Waddell*

## Employee Raises

Raises for tens of thousands of state employees and teachers continue to be delayed as summer drags on and budget negotiations in the North Carolina General Assembly simmer at an impasse. And Medicaid expansion is on hold, too.

The raises will likely be between what each chamber has already pitched. For the Senate, that's 5% raises over two years for most state employees, with 4.5% over two years for teachers, though that percentage varies by teacher. The House wanted 10.2% average raises for teachers, with 7.5% for state employees and higher for some employees in harder-to-fill positions.

Other items at play in the budget could include legalizing more casinos in the state, which has been floated by some senators.

That bill would take away some more power from the governor, and is now in the conference process, meaning leaders in both chambers will work out what the final bill will be before another vote.

## Teacher Licensure

To become fully licensed in North Carolina, most teachers must take and pass content tests specific to the grades or subjects they teach — typically within three years of getting their initial license. That requirement can be reassuring for parents, but state department of instruction leaders have been discovering in recent years that there’s a disconnect. Some teachers have proven themselves as effective teachers with how their students' scores on state exams, but cannot pass their own required licensure tests, even with multiple attempts. One of the biggest tripwires has been the math test for elementary classroom teachers.

Currently, the only option for teachers who do not pass their tests in three years is to get the school board that employs them to apply for a non-renewable “limited” license for them. That allows them to continue to teach — but only in their current district — for up to another three years.

I believe that this needs to die, because this test is preventing some good and competent teachers ways from continuing in the profession. It seems that there are alternative ways.

The NC Department of Public Instruction included the recommendation for alternate ways for teachers to demonstrate competency for licensure as part of a much broader package of reforms it has pitched to the General Assembly.



### **Legislative Update**

*Senator Waddell gives a legislative update to constituents with the Mint Hill community in attendance.*



## Aging Plan

During the Governor’s final full year in office, his administration will make a first-time, major push to benefit North Carolina’s fast-growing older population through new funding and changes in state operations according to interviews with principals and state documents.

His legislative initiative will emerge during 2024 as the result of a public-nonprofit-business collaboration called “All Ages, All Stages NC: A Roadmap for Aging and Living Well,” which is set forth in an executive order on the topic.

Support from North Carolina’s Republican-led General Assembly will be required to fulfill any of the new plan’s far-reaching approaches, including increasing the state’s supply of direct-care workers and improving older people’s access to transportation, housing and such services as senior centers and respite care.

## Vaccinations

*Vaccinations for COVID and other health anomalies are still available at most health-care facilities. Please check your list of vaccines that are not updated. Call your health-care provider to determine if you are due to receive a vaccine.*

*We are still having warnings about COVID, but because many still do not believe that COVID exists, and is continuing to be contagious, we ignore what could be signs.*

*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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