

## For Immediate Release



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**Date** 2023-07-31 20:49



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, July 31, 2023  
Chapter V  
Volume 31

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## Greetings:

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

The Governor's appointed committees are continuing to meet throughout the state.

*Joyce Waddell*

## Medicaid Expansion

Nearly 35,100 North Carolinians have lost their Medicaid coverage — at least temporarily — as part of the ending of the national COVID-19 public-health emergency in May. On April 1, the state Medicaid program began a mandated recertification for an estimated 2.59 million Medicaid beneficiaries, or 23.9% of the state's 10.83 million residents. The process of recertifications is scheduled to end on March 31, 2024.

The number of potential ineligible beneficiaries in N.C. and nationwide was reduced after the USDHHS approved “new flexibilities” to help keep Americans covered as states resume Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) renewals. “Nobody who is eligible for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program should lose coverage simply because they changed addresses, didn’t receive a form, or didn’t have enough information about the renewal process,” U.S. Health Secretary said in a June 12 statement.

Many affected individuals are expected to regain eligibility when Medicaid expands in the state. North Carolinians who would likely be eligible under an expanded program are those between the ages of 18 and 64 who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid coverage, but not enough to purchase coverage on the private insurance marketplace.

Even though the Governor signed the bipartisan Medicaid expansion bill into law on March 27, much of the funding only becomes available when the 2023-24 state budget bill goes into effect. Without a signed state budget, the legislation in HB76 would expire on July 1, 2024, meaning North Carolina will not become the 40th expansion state. With a signed budget, NCDHHS will submit a State Plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



## Mecklenburg Delegation

Members of the NC delegation participated in a 2-day workshop. Some Mecklenburg County legislators participated at a conference in Charlotte. Many participants throughout the region attended.

## DMV Kiosks

In addition to a plethora of online services, the state has opened up additional offices in some areas, drivers can make appointments, and this spring it extended walk-in availability. Now as part of its ongoing effort to improve the Division of Motor Vehicle experience, NCDMV is planning to roll out kiosks in grocery stores. The specific stores have not been named yet, but a spokesperson for DMV said they will have a handful of them out in the fall and more by the end of the year.

The kiosk plan was part of House Bill 199, which was filed in April. DMV said it hopes to add this portion back to the bill. The services would mirror many online services, according to DMV. Not all services will be available right away and some will be phased in later.

## Matthews Democrats

*Matthews Democrats held an Ice Cream Social at Squirrel Lake Park. Senator Waddell participated in the social to meet and greet neighbors and other interested friends.*



## Voter ID

A federal judge on Wednesday heard procedural requests in a five-year-old lawsuit challenging North Carolina's voter ID law. Plaintiffs, led by the NAACP, argue the law will disproportionately harm Black and Latino voters.

Because of a landmark decision from the Supreme Court's new Republican majority earlier this year, voters will now be required to show ID at the polls. With this in mind, the plaintiffs asked for an update on their case, hoping to set a trial before the 2024 general election.

No decision was made on a trial date, but the judge said he would consider allowing plaintiffs to request more information from the State Board of Elections as part of discovery.

With the current timeline set by the judge, it will likely be about three weeks before further court action could take place.

## Vaccinations

Getting vaccinated for COVID, Influenza, or other infectious viruses or diseases are a matter of contacting your healthcare provider. Many are up to date with vaccines, but there are some that need to receive a booster or the next phase of vaccine.

Please do not hesitate to contact your healthcare provider to inquire about those vaccines. It could be a matter of life or death for you or someone you might pass the disease or virus on to.



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