

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week

Happy New Year!

A new year, new goals, new opportunities! I pray for great things and good health for all. The new year will bring many opportunities. I am looking forward to my constituents experiencing great opportunities.

Joyce Waddell

New Laws

The NC General Assembly lawmakers passed many new laws this year. Several are set to take effect on Jan. 1, including changes for voters, teenagers learning to drive, people who access adult websites, and more.

Here are some of the New Year's list.

Senate Bill 157: "Limited Provisional License Modification." Starting Jan. 1, teens who obtain a limited learner permit, which allows them to drive under the supervision of a parent or guardian, will have to keep it for nine months before seeking a limited provisional license.

House Bill 8: "Various Statutory Changes." Going into effect is a section requiring age verification on pornographic websites. Websites will need to verify users in North Carolina are over the age of 18 through a commercially available database or "another commercially reasonable method for age and identity verification," according to the bill.

Senate Bill 747: "Elections Law Changes." Most provisions in these expansive new elections law will take effect in the new year, barring any injunction from the courts.

Now, all mail-in ballots will need to be received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day for them to be counted. The new law also makes several changes to same-day registration. Voters registering and voting on the same day during in-person early voting will need to show proof of residence and a photo ID and cast a retrievable ballot. One notice will then be sent to the voter's written address; if it is returned as undeliverable, then the voter will not be registered, and their ballot will be thrown out.

Partisan poll observers will also be given more power under the new law. A maximum of three observers from each party will be allowed at each voting place. These observers will be allowed to take notes, listen to conversations between voters and election workers, move about the voting enclosure and take photos before and after voting ends. They will not be allowed to take photos of voters or see their ballots. Three lawsuits are currently challenging this law, two of which are seeking a preliminary injunction to block parts of the law from taking effect.

House Bill 415: "Stop Addiction Fraud Ethics Act of 2023." The entire law goes into effect in January. It establishes new laws for advertising and marketing materials for substance use disorder treatment providers and facilities. This includes requiring people be provided with accurate information on the length of the stay at the facilities and a summary of any relationships between the treatment center and the publisher of the ads.

I am very concerned about the numerous changes in some of our laws. So many of the changes can be confusing to my constituents. I will continue to provide information regarding new laws or changes to existing laws.

Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Her precincts have changed because of redistricting. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

[CLICK HERE TO](#)

**DONATE \$25; \$50; \$100; \$250
OTHER AMOUNT \$_____**

Elections are important to communities, if you know someone who is not registered to vote, please encourage them to do so. It is also important to get our registered voters out to the polls. Please do not forget ID is now required to vote.

Vaccines

The holidays were filled with family and friends. With so many gatherings, the chances of contracting one of the 3 main spreadable viruses were great. Please pay attention to possible symptoms and get medical attention if you suspect you have contracted an illness.

Vaccines are a necessity for good health. Getting vaccinated is vital for keeping North Carolinians healthy. Get vaccinated as soon as possible.



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