

Latest Updates from the NCGA



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

January 26, 2023

Proposed Homeowner Insurance Rate Hike



On Monday, I attended the public comment session about the proposed homeowners' insurance rate hike hosted by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The current Commissioner of Insurance, Mike Causey, was not present. People came from all over the state to give their perspective on what a 42% average increase would mean for their families, and many were from the North Carolina Coast, where the rate increase is proposed to be 99%. Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas would see a rate increase of 41.3%. This proposed rate would strain already struggling families and harm low-income North Carolinians, retirees, and residents who live on fixed incomes.

During my remarks, I called on the Insurance Commissioner to 1) reject the excessive rate hike, 2) hold a full public hearing, with evidence under oath about corporate profits, salaries, claims, etc., and to cross-examination of the insurance companies' evidence per the NC law, and 3) to preside over the hearing himself, as the people's elected Insurance Commissioner. Residents deserve transparency, fair rates, and a robust marketplace so consumers have insurance options.

You may view the full list of proposed homeowner insurance rate increases [here](#). You can still make your comments on the record. Public comments must be received by February 2 by [email](#) or by mail to Kimberly W. Pearce, Paralegal III, 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1201. Read more [here](#).

NC General Assembly Is Out of Session



The NCGA ended our long session in October, following passage of the budget and the completion of redistricting. As a result, there have been no committee meetings or votes over the last two weeks. I'll keep you posted about any special sessions that may arise. The 2024 short session is expected to begin in late April.

Public Records Request



In mid-October of last year, the News & Observer and their Mecklenburg sister organization, the Charlotte Observer, made a public records request to all 170 North Carolina legislators to provide our email communications from September 19, 2023. Only 38 legislators agreed to comply, including me. My office was among those who ensured reporters had access to all emails I sent and received on the specified day. Even though state law was changed to shield legislators from having to make our communications public, I am committed to transparency in my role working for the people of District 41. Read more [here](#).

Medical Cost Containment Reports



As a member of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, I received three quarterly reports from North Carolina's Division of Juvenile Justice in the Department of Public Safety. These reports are pursuant to the new statutory authority found in [G.S. 143B-802\(c\)](#). Some of the most salient details are below:

- The number of juveniles with billing claims for treatment or diagnosis decreased each quarter. The first quarter saw 33 juveniles treated, the second 31, and the third 23.
- In the first two quarters, the volume of patient services conducted by non-contract hospitals was just over 60%, but the third quarter saw an increase to 96% of patient services conducted by non-contract hospitals.
- In the first and third quarters, one juvenile received inpatient hospital services. No juveniles received inpatient hospital services in the second quarter.
- All hospitals comply with the mandated rates of two times Medicaid rate or seventy percent of prevailing rates.

These three reports are available to the public [here](#). Not only do the reports provide additional data regarding the billing claims submitted, but they also include a full list of contracted providers across the state as well as the rate of each provider's billed charges.

Senator Marcus in the Community



Unity in Community hosted a fantastic tribute honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and Nannie Houston Potts, the first and only Black female mayor of Cornelius. They share the same birthday, their lifelong dedication to improving their communities, and a belief in the equality of all people. Among the highlights: The Strollers singers were amazingly joyful, Reverend Norma Carr Mumford, the keynote speaker, was on fire and made her Smithville neighbors proud, and the Education Committee was proud to present one of its impressive college graduates. The Houston and Potts families were all there to celebrate Nannie too.



I attended a Martin Luther King Jr. Day event hosted by the Town of Davidson at the new Town Hall Auditorium. The speeches and performances were fantastic and the turnout was impressive.

West Charlotte High School's Cosmetology Academy Now Open for Salon Business on Saturdays

West Charlotte Cosmetology Academy

- NO CASH PLEASE- A link will be provided
- Saturday School: January 13th 9am- 2pm
February 10th 9am- 2pm
March 9th 9am-2pm
April 13th 9am-2pm
May 11th 9am-2pm
- Open from 11:15am- 2:05 pm Monday - Friday
- After school hours Monday and Friday 2:15-4pm
- deborahd.ayers@cms.k12.nc.us 980-343-6060 x 4020516

West Charlotte High School's Cosmetology Academy (4900 Old Pineville Road, Charlotte, NC 28217) is now providing salon services on select Saturdays between the hours of 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM. This helps your budget and helps the students' learn their craft. The services offered are based on student availability. If you have any questions, you may [email](mailto:deborahd.ayers@cms.k12.nc.us) or reach the department at **980-343-6060 (ext. 4020516)**.

"Beauty and Indulgence to Infinity"
 All prices subject to increase based on length.

All Services Are Provided By Supervised Students.

West Charlotte Cosmetology Academy

Hair Care & Styling:

- Hair & Scalp Treatment \$15
- Shampoo & Cut \$35
- Shampoo & Set \$25
- Blowout \$25 & up
- Shampoo \$10
- Male Haircut \$10
- Men Shape Up \$5
- Women's Haircut \$15

Hair Color

- Permanent Color \$30+
- Demi-Permanent \$20+
- Semi-Permanent \$15+
- Color Gloss \$10
- Highlights \$45+
- Additional Color \$7 & up

Chemical services

- Basic Perm Wrap \$35 & up
- Soft Curl Perm \$30 & up
- Relaxer \$30 & up
- *depending on availability

Skin care:

- Basic Facial \$15
- Eyebrow Wax \$7
- Lip Wax \$6
- Chin Wax \$6
- Eyebrow, Lip, & Chin Wax \$20
- Lash ext. \$25 & up
- Eye Lashes \$5
- Mink Lashes \$6
- Make Up \$10

Nail Care Services:

- Full Set tips \$20*
- Full Set sculpt \$30
- Fill in \$10
- Nail Design per nail \$3
- Manicure \$10
- Pedicure \$15
- *depending on availability

Artificial Hair Services
 (ALL HAIR MUST BE PROVIDED):

- Full Sew In \$50
- Ponytail \$30
- Braids start @ \$50
- Loc Re-twist \$35

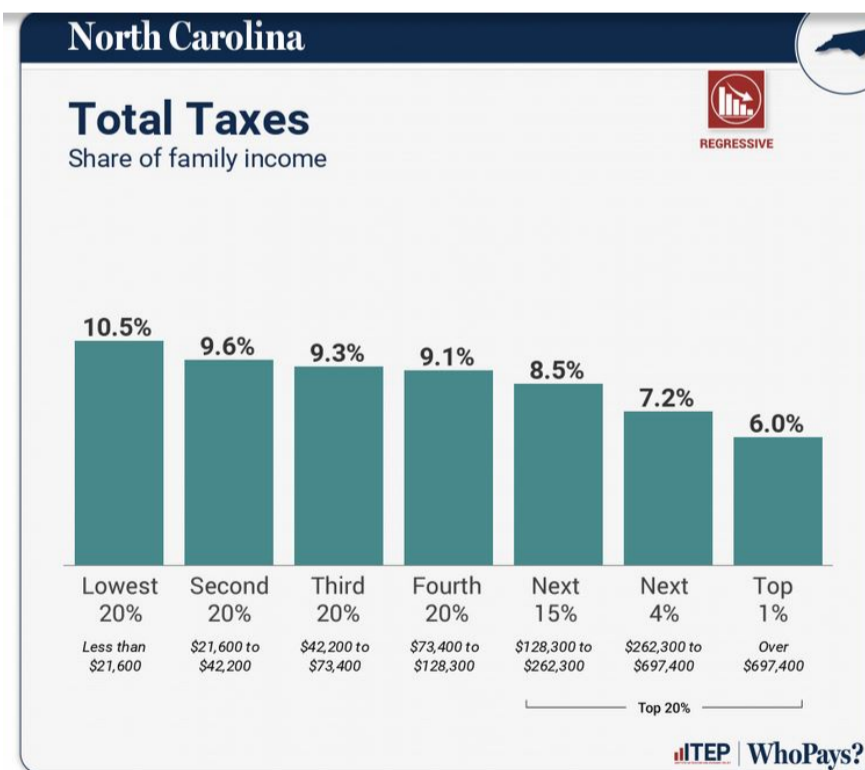
Deborahd.Ayers@cms.k12.nc.us
 980-343-6060 x4020516

**FAFSA Day:
 Exploring Student Aid Opportunities January 27**



On January 27, the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA), along with the UNC System, the Community College System, and the College Foundation of NC (CFNC) will host FAFSA Day events in universities and community colleges across the state. From 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, counselors will be available to help students and families complete the FAFSA application, as well as answer any questions you may have. Completing FAFSA allows a student to determine eligibility for a significant amount of financial aid one may receive, including eligibility for Pell Grants and the [Next NC Scholarship](#). Through the Next NC Scholarship, an eligible student attending a North Carolina community college can receive at least \$3,000 and at least \$5,000 to attend a UNC institution, reducing the need for student loans. Read more [here](#).

North Carolina Tax Information: Who Pays?



As the tax filing deadline approaches, you may be thinking about NC's tax policy. [Here](#) is some interesting information about who pays taxes in NC from the non-profit, non-partisan organization, the [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy](#). The data above is only a fraction of what is available on their website.

COVID Updates and Information



Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order an additional four free at-home tests. If you did not order tests last Fall, you may place two orders for a total of eight tests. Your order of COVID tests is completely free, including shipping. Order your free at-home tests [here](#), or call 1-800-232-0233 for help.

Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, January 12	13,919,830,748.24
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	1,082,446,411.33
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	309,466,341.59
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	384,617,868.23
State Aid	37,895,381.76
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	161,092,060.65
Tax Refunds/Distributions	25,864,435.67
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	550,161,978.30
Ending Cash, Friday, January 19	14,152,111,776.55
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	654,208,422.08
Other Reserves	37,639,722.17
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	166,531,366.28
Carry Forward Reserve	256,300,095.32
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	100,000,000.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	266,200,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	121,758,723.00
Housing Reserve	45,000,000.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	58,384,671.73
Information Technology Reserve	108,961,174.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	326,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	160,642,170.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
NC Innovation Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	9,257,779.43
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Reg Economic Dev Reserve	0.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	145,600,000.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	0.00
Savings Reserve	4,750,001,113.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	1,000,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	947,178,438.53
Transportation Reserve	0.00
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	10,000,000.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	0.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, January 19	4,704,135,364.03

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, January 19. OSC provides a weekly update on the State's General Fund cash position which can be found at osc.nc.gov. **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$4.704 billion.**

The State Controller is North Carolina's chief fiscal officer and serves as an independent resource to ensure the financial integrity of the State.

Links to Helpful Information

Domestic Violence Hotline: If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, please call [Safe Alliance](#) at **704-332-2513** and they can help you.

Mecklenburg's County Bar [website](#) provides a list of pro bono resources for those unable to afford legal counsel.

Mecklenburg's Department of Community Resources provides individuals and families with [immediate access](#) to a diverse range of Mecklenburg County Health and Human Services programs and community partner services in Community Resources Centers throughout the County.

Mecklenburg's Energy Assistance Programs: Do you need help paying your heating or cooling bills? Mecklenburg offers [two different programs](#) to help eligible low-income households with their energy needs.

Property Tax values and histories in Mecklenburg County can be searched on [this site](#) that includes links to Polaris and information about past assessments. You can find more detailed information on real estate values on the [Mecklenburg](#) site.

Suicide Prevention: If you have thoughts of harming yourself, **please call or text 988**, the Suicide Prevention Hotline for help.

Unclaimed Cash! Visit [NCCash.com](#) today to see if you have unclaimed property under the supervision of the NC Treasurer's office. More info [here](#).

Voter Information: You can find your current information on the [NC Voter Lookup page](#).

Free Property Tax Assistance Services



Do you need help with your property taxes? The [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#) is providing free assistance to help homeowners prepare their NC property tax relief applications. Call **980-256-7952** or visit their website to learn more [here](#).

Contact Our Office

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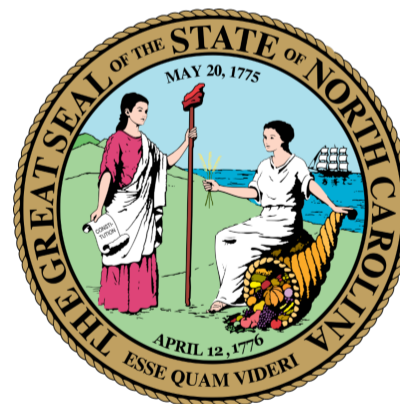
Sara

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Rm. 519

Raleigh, NC 27603



How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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