

Latest Updates from the NCGA



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

February 23, 2024

Senate Page Program Applications Open for 2024



The Senate page program is open to students in tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade during the 2023-24 school year. If you are interested in applying to be a page in my office, please reach out to my Legislative Assistant, [Sarah Reynolds](#), via email. **The program will likely be offered April 29 - June 27, though these dates are subject to change.** Each Senator may appoint up to two pages. Availability of weeks is based on a first-come, first-served basis, so I encourage the students who are eligible to apply early if they are interested in a specific week. Parents/guardians of pages will be responsible for securing lodging during the time their child serves.

The [Senate Page website](#) is a great resource for learning more about the page program. The site includes general information about the application process, weekly schedule, and many other frequently asked questions. Available weeks and closed weeks will also be updated on the site.

Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order Setting Statewide Conservation Goals



Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 305 is blazing the trail for conservation and restoration goals in North Carolina. The Order set the following statewide goals to achieve by 2040:

- Permanently conserve one million new acres of forests and wetlands.
- Restore one million new acres of forests and wetlands.
- Plant one million new trees in urban areas.

In addition, the Order expands native plant policy, directs the state to avoid projects that would negatively affect wetlands, and directs state agencies to seek federal funding to benefit wetlands. Read more [here](#).

The State Board of Elections Launches Public Education Campaign on Voter ID

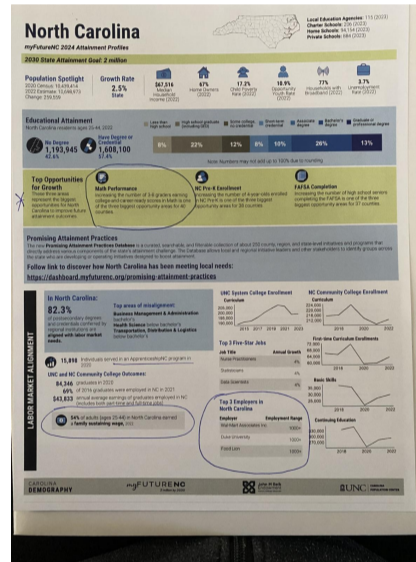


The State Board of Elections has launched a multifaceted public education campaign designed to ensure the state’s 7.5 million registered voters know that they will be asked for photo identification when voting in 2024. The campaign slogan is: “Bring It! Your ID. Your Vote.”

“This slogan was chosen because it reminds voters to bring their ID when voting, and we hope it motivates North Carolinians to exercise their right to vote in this important election year,” said Karen Brinson Bell, State Board executive director. “Voters can go to [BringItNC.com](https://bringitnc.com) to learn more about the photo ID requirement, view the list of acceptable IDs, and learn how to get a free ID if they need one.”

The campaign is designed to reach every corner of North Carolina, including rural and urban areas, in as many ways as possible. Ads will be purchased on broadcast television and cable, radio, digital video, social media, digital billboards, websites, and in newspapers through the N.C. Press Association.

2024 State of Educational Attainment



I attended one of eight simultaneous regional convenings across the state regarding [myFutureNC's](https://myfuturenc.org) report on the 2024 State of Educational Attainment in NC. While we are making some progress toward the goal of two million 25- to 44-year-olds with a high-quality credential or post-secondary degree by 2030, we are not going to meet it without some changes. Right now, **only 30% of high school students earn a degree or credential**. To learn more about the report and how to meet the goal, read more [here](https://myfuturenc.org).

March 16: Monteith Park First Annual 5K and Kids' K

MONTEITH PARK 1ST ANNUAL 5K & KIDS K RUN/WALK

JOIN US FOR MONTEITH PARK'S FIRST ANNUAL 5K! OUR 5K IS MORE THAN A RUN - IT'S A COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT A COURAGEOUS POLICE OFFICER BATTLING CANCER, OFFICER BILL BROADWAY. EVERY STEP, EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE. LACE UP AND BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EFFORT TO UPLIFT AND STAND STRONG WITH OUR LOCAL HERO.



8:30AM KIDS 1K BEGINS- PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY
9:00AM 5K BEGINS - PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY
FRIENDLY DOGS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!



SATURDAY MARCH 16TH



MONTEITH PARK CLUBHOUSE

QUESTIONS? CONTACT LAUREN FOX 704-252-4442

On March 16, Monteith Park (15245 Waterfront Drive, Huntersville, NC 28078) will host a 5K fundraising event for Huntersville Police Department's Officer Bill Broadway, who is fighting cancer. This event is for everyone! Friendly dogs are welcome. **The Kids' 1K event begins at 8:30 AM, and the 5K begins at 9:00 AM.** Register [here](#).

Strengthening Community With Cornelius Police

March 7th
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Starbucks
20300 W CATAWBA AVE

SAT, MARCH 16TH
1 PM - 2 PM
*Building Relationships.
One Cone at a Time.*
HANDEL'S
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SINCE 1945
20545 TORRENCE CHAPEL RD., CORNELIUS, NC 28031

The Cornelius Police Department will host Coffee with a Cop on **Thursday, March 7, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM** at the Starbucks located on Catawba Avenue (20300 W Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, NC 28031). This event is designed to help residents build positive relationships with local law enforcement and strengthen community ties.

For those who prefer ice cream, the Cornelius Police Department will host a second event, Cone with a Cop, on **Saturday, March 16, from 1:00 - 2:00 PM** at Handel's Homemade Ice Cream (20545 Torrence Chapel Road, Cornelius, NC 28031). Join the Cornelius Police Department for an afternoon get-together and use this opportunity to say hello or to ask any questions you may have for local law enforcement.

Medicaid Innovations Waiver Comment Period Open

The NC Innovations Waiver is a Federally approved 1915 C Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver (HCBS Waiver) designed to meet the needs of Individuals with Intellectual or Development Disabilities (I/DD) who prefer to get long-term care services and supports in their home or community, rather than in an institutional setting.

The Medicaid Innovations Waiver supports Individuals with I/DD to live the life they choose. Waiver services are administered by a [local management entity/managed care organization \(LME/MCO\)](#), which facilitates services and oversees a network of community-based service providers. Individuals who receive waiver funding work with their team to develop a Person Centered Plan of Care and request the services and supports they need.

The NC 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Innovations Waiver current five-year cycle period will expire on June 30, 2024. NC Medicaid's goal is to renew the waiver with an effective date of July 1. The draft application for the waiver has been posted to allow the public the opportunity to submit comments. **The public comment period will end on March 12, 2024.** The draft can be found [here](#). Comments may be submitted via email [here](#). Written comments may be sent to the following address:

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
NC Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) Innovations Waiver Team
1950 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1950

Please be sure to include "NC Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) Innovations Waiver" in the written message. Learn more about the NC Innovations Waiver [here](#).

The Ada Jenkins Center Offers Help With Your Taxes



The [Ada Jenkins Center](#) is hosting three sites for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE). These three sites will be hosted in Davidson, Cornelius, and Huntersville. **Tax preparation is available and provided for free for individuals who made \$60,000 or less in 2023. Appointments are required.** The schedule for the tax season is listed below:

Saturdays from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- [Ada Jenkins Center Appointment Link](#) (212 Gamble Street, Davidson, NC 28036)
- [Charlotte Mecklenburg North County Regional Library Appointment Link](#) (16500 Holly Crest Lane, Huntersville, NC 28078)

Thursdays from 5:00 - 7:00 PM

- [First Baptist Church of Cornelius Appointment Link](#) (21017 Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, NC 28031)

If you have questions, email the [VITA Program](#) or call/text **(704) 765-6195**. Read more [here](#).

Charlotte Douglas Airport Receives \$27 Million From President Biden's Infrastructure Bill



President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has given four North Carolina airports a total of nearly \$1 billion for use in upgrades. \$18 million will go to each of the Triangle, Wilmington, and Spruce Pine airports in North Carolina, and \$27 million will go to Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT), which is located in Senate District 41. Last year, CLT was named the most efficient airport in America. The grant will be used to replace passenger board bridges at CLT, among other projects. Read more [here](#).

NPR's Student Podcast Challenge is Back with Additional Contest for Fourth-Grade Students



NPR's sixth annual Student Podcast Challenge opened for entries starting February 2 and will remain open until May 3, 2024. In response to popular demand, the contest is now open for entries from fourth-grade students. Judges will choose winners in three categories: grade four, grades five through eight, and grades nine through twelve. **Entries must be submitted by a teacher, educator, or mentor who is 18 years or older. The maximum length of any entry is eight minutes.** Students are encouraged to create a podcast about any topic they may be interested in exploring. Read more about the contest and its rules [here](#). Apply [here](#).

2024 North Carolina Awards Nominations Open Until April 1



Nominations are being accepted for the 2024 North Carolina Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the state, now through April 1. The 2024 North Carolina Award recipients will be honored at an event later this year. Past award recipients have included distinguished artists, poets, writers, performers, journalists, scientists, and public servants.

Administered by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the award recognizes "notable accomplishments by North Carolina citizens" in the fields of literature, science, fine arts and public service.

Award nominations may be submitted by anyone. The [nomination form](#) is available online. To receive forms by mail or e-mail, contact [Jennifer Fontes](#) or call **(919) 814-6756**. After reviewing the initial nominations, the North Carolina Awards Committee will request additional information from nominators as needed. The committee will make its final selections this summer. Learn more [here](#).

Town of Davidson's April is for Arts Program Applications Available



The Town of Davidson will hold the April is for Arts Celebration from Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28. Applications are available online. Hard copy applications for both artists and businesses will be made available for pickup during normal business hours at the Davidson Town Hall & Community Center (**251 South St, Davidson, NC 28036**). **Those interested in participating in the weekend's events must apply by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 1.** Apply for the Gallery Crawl [here](#), and for the Art on the Green event [here](#).

If you have questions or are interested in becoming a sponsor of April is for Arts and/or Concerts on the Green, please contact Kim, the Economic Development Director by [email](#) or by calling **(704) 940-9622**. Learn more [here](#).

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.

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

Phone: (919) 715-3050

Email:

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Sarah.E.Reynolds@ncleg.gov

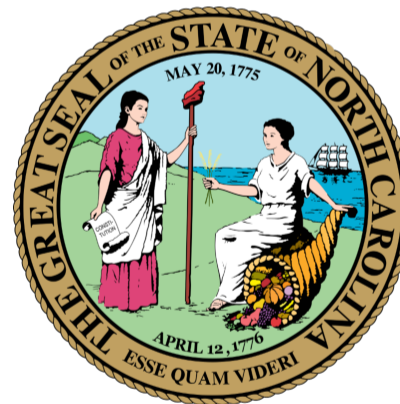
Sara

Mailing Address:

300 N. Salisbury Street,

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](#)



Sen. Natasha Marcus, District 41 | 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

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