

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

As we prepare to begin Short Session in a few weeks, I have been holding meetings in the district. The primaries are over and many candidates are gearing up to run in the general election.

Joyce Waddell

**Hidden Valley
Health Community
Health Clinic**

Senator Waddell alongside of other members of the Mecklenburg Delegation, participated at the tour for the new Hidden Valley Health Community Health Clinic. The clinic provides services to low-income, indigent, and uninsured patients who may not be able to afford healthcare through traditional sources.





Feminine Hygiene

According to the DPI report, there is a direct correlation between students' academic success and the availability of hygiene products in schools. When students have access to these products, they experience less anxiety and are more likely to attend school regularly during their periods, thereby facilitating better learning outcomes.

With increased funding of \$500,000 annually for the next two school years, the state is taking proactive steps to address the pressing issue of menstrual hygiene in North Carolina schools and ensure that all students have access to essential resources for their health and academic success.

Our female students should not be concerned with being able to afford feminine hygiene products. I will continue to support any legislation that provides for those less fortunate students that need access to these products.

Scavenger Hunt

Senator Waddell participates in a scavenger hunt that identifies community members impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic at the Mecklenburg County Beatties Ford Road Public Library.

The COVID-19 pandemic was unexpected and impacted the world in many ways. Each story and voice are vital and deserving of preservation. The Living Archives project spent the last three years capturing this historical moment through the eyes of those deeply impacted, with a specific focus on communities of color and those who are too rarely represented in traditional archives.



Rent Prices

Rent prices in North Carolina have experienced a drastic increase in recent years, far surpassing the annual increments observed in the past. However, authorities suspect that this surge may not be solely attributed to inflation or conventional supply and demand dynamics. Instead, they allege that one company, in collusion with property managers statewide, orchestrated a scheme aimed at maximizing rental profits, utilizing sophisticated software as a tool.

At the center of the investigation is RealPage, a software company providing services to landlords and management companies. North Carolina's Attorney General has raised concerns over RealPage's practices, suggesting that the company's operations may be unlawfully inflating rental costs for tenants.

RealPage's software, known as YieldStar, is purported to analyze real-time data from housing markets to enable property managers to determine optimal rent prices. However, the Attorney General has raised questions regarding the source of this data and whether RealPage is utilizing non-public information in violation of antitrust laws.

According to findings from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's State of Housing in Charlotte Report for 2023, the average rent price has surged by 61% since 2010, with a significant portion of this growth occurring in the last four years alone.

On top of so many other issues, North Carolina does not need any complications with housing. We have already seen many roadblocks to affordable housing. Our state continues to experience growing problems because of rising rental rates of housing North Carolinians. I will continue to fight against anything that pushes affordable housing out of the reach of people.

Democratic Women

Senator Waddell participates in the 2024 Democratic Party County Convention and discusses retirees receiving increases to keep up with the cost of living.



Vaccines

We have falsely believed that COVID is over, it is not. Please get vaccinated or at least use safe habits such as continued hand washing, not exposing yourself to large crowds. Safety is still important the best way to stay healthy.



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