

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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Date 2024-04-05 17:45



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

April 5, 2024

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety



Mecklenburg District Attorney Spencer Merriweather was in Raleigh to talk about the problems eCourts is creating for his office.

On Thursday, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety met for two and a half hours to hear presentations from the Department of Adult Correction, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Conference of Clerks of Superior Court, the Conference of District Attorneys, and several judges. While the Department of Adult Correction's presentation examined prison staffing, prison safety, and agency independence, the other presentations focused on the implementation status of eCourts, the program the state is using to move the court system to digital and cloud-based technology. Details from the committee meeting are below:

Department of Adult Corrections

- Pay in this department is the lowest of all neighboring states and below several municipal Police Departments as well. This deficit has made it difficult to recruit and retain staff, even with 620 hiring events held statewide in 2023. They are working hard to recruit staff through referrals, improved working conditions, salary improvements, and other incentives for retention.
- In addition to its other duties, this department is responsible for supervising the probation and parolee population.
- There are several programs in place focused on preparing inmates for re-entry into the general population
 - Hope University allows offenders access to tech to take classes, do research, and attain vocational/supplemental educational credit. More than 4.8 million learning content items have been completed, 367,000 courses completed, and over 1.8 million hours.
 - The DMV State ID Project ensures offenders have a valid photo ID when they leave prison, which helps remove many barriers to living on the outside.
 - The tablet program not only allows inmates to access Hope University, but also provides them with the option of guided self-help recovery for alcoholism and chemical dependency, as well as access to limited entertainment. While some activities through this program may require payment, the use of this technology prepares offenders for release, cuts down on recidivism, and helps inmates' behavior while incarcerated.
- The NCGA appropriated \$100 million for safety and security, including adding A/C at several prisons to make living and working conditions more bearable, reducing contraband phones and drugs, and adding netting over prison yards to stop people from tossing or drones from dropping contraband over the fence.
- They are using innovative ways to deliver medical care, such as telehealth, nurse triage with 24-hour availability, and other ways to reduce costs and improve health and security.

eCourts Discussion

Tyler Technologies is responsible for the eCourts software, which has been implemented in seventeen counties across North Carolina, including Mecklenburg County. On April 29, ten more counties are scheduled to join them. The system has promise and some benefits, but has also created a lot of frustration and work slow downs. In 2029, North Carolina's contract with Tyler Technologies will expire. Members of the committee asked questions about whether we should renew our contract with Tyler, and what the process would look like if we wanted to transfer to a new company. There are concerns about whether that's an option, given the challenges of changing systems.

NC Conference of Clerks of Superior Court

- Though the NC Conference of Clerks of Superior Court does not speak for all clerks of court, the organization acknowledged problems with the program's implementation, but was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic about eCourts.
- Bond forfeitures are especially frustrating under the new system, but changes to the program are focused on improving this problem.
- In order to manage the transition to eCourts, 219 positions are required to ensure adequate staffing levels. They also believe that all clerks of court should be paid the same, not based on how many staff are overseen, and that their IT staff should be full-time, permanent employees, not temporary as they are currently.

Other Clerks of Court

- Clerks of Court in Iredell and Johnston Counties spoke in support of the Odyssey eFile & Serve Cloud, one component of the eCourts system. An updated, electronic system was needed. Before Odyssey, North Carolina's courts utilized 30-40 different systems that did not communicate with each other, resulting in a significant amount of duplication. Odyssey is being improved as it's used and is better with each new rollout.
- While adopting eCourts requires a significant amount of training and change from previous programs, the new program makes the court system more accessible for people out of the area and even state who need records.
- Hospitals doing involuntary commitments are required to use Odyssey.

NC Conference of District Attorneys

- The NC Conference of District Attorneys expressed frustration with Odyssey due to its slowness and other inefficiencies. Several minutes of buffering are required to retrieve data for one case. They asked for a pause in the rollout until the software's

weaknesses are addressed, especially in multi-county districts. They also requested additional resources from the Administrative Office of the Courts be allocated to focus on the current counties and their problems.

- As a result of the new program, District Attorney staffing in each courtroom has to be altered. Instead of having the necessary time required to try cases, District Attorney spend their time entering data.
- Odyssey's data entry and filing requires too many steps, which has frustrated staff, many of whom have resigned and all of whom express sincere concern that they cannot provide efficient service to the public using this software.
- Mecklenburg County District Attorney Spencer Merriweather spoke about problems with eCourts, as Mecklenburg County is an early implementer of the program. Mecklenburg County has the largest volume of criminal cases among North Carolina counties, which exacerbates the issues other District Attorneys voiced regarding the software.
- DA Merriweather said that due to Odyssey's implementation, "it takes more people more time to accomplish less than we did before." Previously, one staff member in Mecklenburg County Court was able to handle 80 cases in three hours. Now, two staff members are needed to do fewer case. One system is used to provide a new date, and another system is used to attach a file. This process once took only 30 seconds, but now several minutes are required to complete it.
- According to DA Merriweather, there is no prompt to let DAs know if a judge has signed an order; the confirmation process is lengthy; and the programs that administer eWarrants, arrest processing, and log pretrial release do not communicate with one another. As a result of the lack of interoperability and the lengthy loading times, the rate of human error has increased considerably. Other faults in the design of the software have resulted in the disappearance of court dates. This error requires two programs to reset and resolve the issue.
- DA Merriweather voiced further problems with protecting witnesses' identities and concerns with the redaction of sensitive information. These glaring issues could chill citizens' participation in the justice system.
- Police are experiencing delays in charging DWI and other crimes when submitted through eWarrants, and other members of the justice system are likely experiencing similar problems with the software.

Judges

- Judges from Wake County and District 2 said the eCourts system has worked well in civil and family courtrooms, but hasn't worked in high-volume criminal court and magistrate offices that don't have the staff available to help.
- These judges advocated for increasing the number of positions available for clerks, magistrates, and District Attorneys. In Wake County, the court needs ten more magistrates for small claims and traffic court, and magistrates are serving as clerks for other magistrates due to problems with the software. While judges are operating as usual, DAs and clerks have experienced a marked increase in the amount of work required by their duties.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

Medicaid Expansion Coverage Enrollment In North Carolina Now Above 400,000



Since the expansion of Medicaid coverage on December 1, 2023, enrollment in the program has surpassed 400,000 North Carolinians. Nearly 273,000 people were enrolled on the first day, and enrollment has averaged approximately 1,000 people per day since then. **Expansion recipients already have benefited from over 700,000 prescriptions and generated more than \$11 million in dental service claims.** Learn more [here](#).

North Carolina Hits Electric Vehicle Registration Goal Two Years Early



In 2018, only 10,000 electric vehicles were registered in North Carolina. In November of 2023, that number increased to more than 80,000, meeting the goal set by Governor Cooper two years ahead of his 2025 goal. **Transportation makes up 36% of emissions in North Carolina, and electric vehicles are a key component of the fight against climate change.** The state aims to boost infrastructure to support a goal of 1.25 million electric vehicles on the road by 2030, and has already funded over 1,000 charging ports across the state. Learn more [here](#).

Senator Marcus in the Community



Over the last few weeks, I was invited to tour two college campuses where the focus is on providing the educated, trained, and certified workforce that North Carolina businesses need. **Central Piedmont Community College** (Harper Campus) and **ECPI** (Charlotte Campus) provide affordable, flexible, top-quality courses in nursing, computer science, welding, non-destructive examination, carpentry, electrical line work, and so much more. All the courses provide almost guaranteed employment in well-paid fields with companies that recruit students even before graduation. **A traditional four-year degree isn't for everyone and these schools are great options for lucrative, rewarding careers.** If you are looking for a career change, I encourage you to check out these opportunities.



I hiked to the top of The Pinnacle in [Crowders Mountain State Park](#), in Gaston County. From the peak, you can see the Charlotte skyline! **Thank you to the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for providing this great state park adventure!**



I was invited to attend E2D's laptop distribution event at Safe Alliance, a resource for people escaping domestic violence, located in SD41. They were celebrating Spectrum's Digital Education Grant Program which provided a \$45,000 grant to support E2D's work to bridge the digital divide. E2D is the only nonprofit to receive a Spectrum Digital Education Grant every year since the program's inception. If you are experiencing violence in your home or relationship, please call the national hotline at 800-799-7233 or [Safe Alliance](#).

CATS Hosts Public Meetings for Red Line Commuter Rail



The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) will host four public meetings with opportunities to learn about the Red Line Commuter Rail to connect downtown Charlotte with North Mecklenburg/South Iredell. This project has been discussed for more than fifteen years. In the most recent iteration of the project, five municipalities would be served by 10 stations and 25 miles of track, and the train will use an existing Norfolk Southern rail line that will be upgraded.

The first of these meetings will be held virtually on **Wednesday, April 10, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM**, and can be watched live on the [CATS YouTube Channel](#).

The remaining meetings will be hosted in person at the following dates and locations:

- Tuesday, April 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM
 - Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library Davidson Branch (119 South Main St., **Davidson**, NC 28036)
- Thursday, April 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM
 - North County Regional Library (16500 Holly Crest Ln., **Huntersville**, NC 28078)
- Saturday, April 20 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - Sugar Creek Library (4045 N. Tryon St. Suite A, **Charlotte**, NC 28206)

Learn more about the meetings [here](#) and [here](#). Learn more about the Red Line Commuter Rail Project [here](#), or by emailing [Red Line Public Input](#).

Davidson Alum Grier Martin Appointed as Secretary of NC Military and Veterans Affairs



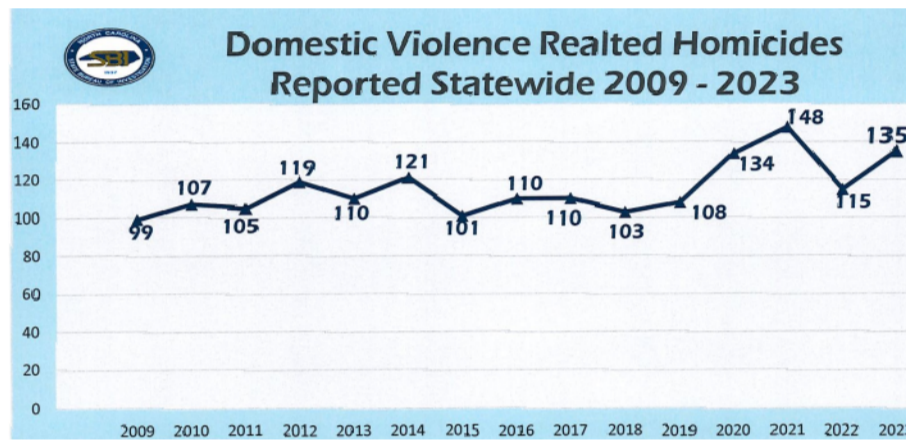
Last week, Governor Cooper announced that Lieutenant General Walter E. Gaskin would step down from his position as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on April 1. The Governor then appointed former NC House Representative and current U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower & Reserve Affairs, Grier Martin, as Secretary. This appointment was effective April 1. **Secretary Martin received a B.A. in history from Davidson College** and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and has served our state and country in a number of ways, including former service as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly and as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower & Reserve Affairs. Learn more [here](#).

At Least Six Unintentional Shootings by Children in North Carolina In 2024



As of March 17, 2024, there have been at least six unintentional shootings by children in North Carolina this year, **making up 1/7 of 42 total shootings in this category across the United States**. Four of these shootings resulted in death, and two resulted in injury. The only state to have experienced more of these tragic incidents this year is Florida. 2023 was the worst year on record for unintentional shootings by children, surpassing 400 incidents in the United States for the first time since [Everytown](#) started tracking in 2015. **In 2023, North Carolina placed sixth across all states for the most unintentional shootings by children.** This is one of the reasons why I filed the [Gun Violence Prevention Act](#), which would require safe storage and other common sense measures to save lives and avoid injury. Learn more [here](#).

State Bureau of Investigation Reports



As a member of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, I received a report from the State Bureau of Investigation regarding the data collected on Domestic Violence Related Homicides for 2023. The most salient details are below:

- There were 135 victims of domestic violence related homicide throughout 2023 -- a **17.4% increase from 2022**. There were also 13 more offenders than reported in 2022, with 128 offenders catalogued in 2023.
- Six of the 135 victims in 2023 had previously taken out protective orders. Three of those orders were active at the time of the victim's death.
- Two of the 128 offenders reported were participating in a pre-trial release program for a crime of aggravated assault when the homicide occurred.
- 58% of the victims were female, and 42% were male.
- 25% of the offenders were female, and 75% were male.
- 16% of incidents involved a victim and an offender who have a child in common.
- **10 of these incidents occurred in Mecklenburg County in 2023 -- a 100% increase from the 5 incidents that occurred in 2022.**

You may view the report [here](#).

League of Women Voters: Questions Regarding Education Legislation Answered



The [League of Women Voters'](#) Education Team reached out to me for my perspective on how they can best advocate for public education during the NCGA short session, and provided me with a series of questions. These questions and my answers are available below:

What Education Bills or Funding Will the NCGA Address This Spring?

- **School systems across North Carolina have a desire for calendar flexibility**, and House Speaker Moore has indicated some support for changes to calendar law. However, President Pro Tem Berger supports the current law, so any changes to calendar flexibility are unlikely to be taken up in the Senate.
- **State Community College leaders have requested funding for their Propel NC Project.** This project would remove distinctions between degree and non-degree workforce training courses, aligning them instead by the sectors they serve. Among other changes, it would sustain nursing degree programs, increase instructors' salaries, and create a reserve for enrollment growth.
- **News reports show that the Project Kitty Hawk program is not meeting expectations.** Enrollment is significantly lower than predicted, and adjustments to funding and/or the program may be necessary. I've included a link to EdNC's feature referencing the article [here](#), as well as the article itself [here](#).
- **Private and Charter School Vouchers.** GOP leaders have noted that they would like to increase funding for private school vouchers at all income levels. [Reports](#) indicate that roughly 72,000 students applied for the scholarships for 2024 - 2025. Even with huge increase in money allotted for the voucher expansion, roughly 40,000 students (in the top income bracket) will not be offered scholarships at the current funding level. 13,511 will. A spokesperson from Sen. Berger's office [mentioned](#) that potential funding expansion may be discussed.
- The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee met twice in the last few months to view a variety of presentations. While these may not indicate that issues will be addressed, they are important to address.
 - NCGA's Fiscal Research Division [presented on teacher compensation](#) in regard to state-funded bonuses and supplements. This presentation provided an overview of current bonus/supplement programs, the Teacher Supplement Assistance Allotment, and future program considerations.
 - The committee received a [presentation on automatic enrollment into advanced math classes](#), as well as a [Johns Hopkins study](#) on the issue. Automatic enrollment has cut down on biases within course placements against girls in advanced STEM classes and boys in advanced ELA and humanities courses, in addition to addressing biases against low-income, rural, Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous students' placement in advanced courses. The presentation noted the importance of DPI support, continued studies on automatic enrollment, and potential future expansions into automatic enrollment for ELA and science courses.
 - The committee also reviewed the [expansion of advanced courses in mathematics](#). Presented by DPI, the data demonstrates that each year shows an increase in both the number of students scoring at the highest level on mathematics assessments and the percentage of these students placed in advanced mathematics courses in the following year. The legislative goal for this expansion is to broaden accessibility to and participation in these advanced courses. Automatic enrollment is one factor that has played a part in this goal. DPI would also like to provide support to students when they are placed in an advanced class for the first time, increase staffing for mathematics, and change some factors that discourage middle school students from seeking advanced placement.
 - SparkNC is [seeking state funding](#) in order to scale up efforts and allow access to the program for every student in NC, following their incubation period in partnership with 17 school districts across North Carolina. SparkNC provides experience-based learning to students with a focus on workforce education and skill development.
 - The NC Principal Fellows Program is [seeking both additional funding and funding flexibility](#) to provide additional resources that address emerging issues around principal preparation that have yet to surface, professional development and training, and an expansion of the leadership coaching that is provided to participants and alumni of the program.

Will There Be Efforts In The Following Areas?

- **Base teacher pay.** A substantial increase is needed to allow teachers to sustain their families in the community where they teach. The salary increases in the last budget and the bonuses are only bandages. [NC teachers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate.](#)
 - Based on the presentation the Fiscal Research Division gave on teacher bonuses and supplements, it is difficult to tell whether or not base pay will be addressed, but it appears unlikely. The presenters had some trouble in discerning whether or not the Teacher Supplement Assistance allotment was helping districts to retain teachers, stating that the current data on attrition from 2022-2023 is unlikely to have captured district supplements provided due to the program's funds. While base pay increases and supplements are vastly different, it's unlikely to see changes to base pay if

the benefits of supplementary pay are still unmeasured.

- The majority seems more interested in expanding access to private school vouchers.
- **Master's degree supplement.** Reinstating the Master's pay will reward teachers for continued learning and strengthen their teaching.
 - Unknown, but unlikely.
- **Sufficient funding of support staff**, which will allow the correct number of staff and competitive salaries.
 - Unknown, but unlikely.

Is There An Awareness That Additional Funding Is Needed When Private School Or Charter School Students Return To Traditional Public Schools During The Year?

- I cannot tell whether the people who chair the education committees understand that or not. I do know that they don't offer solutions to address the problem.

April 8: Lake Norman Marine Commission Meeting



The Lake Norman Marine Commission will host a meeting on Monday, April 8, at 7:00 PM at the Charles Mack Citizens Center in Mooresville (215 N Main St). The agenda can be found [here](#). Please sign up before the meeting if you would like to make a three-minute public comment.

April 11: 2024 Black Maternal Health Conference



NC has a higher than average maternal and infant death rate and it's even higher for Black mothers and infants. On April 11, [Care Ring](#) will host an important educational conference for birthing professionals and families from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (**3400 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte, NC 28216**). The overarching theme of this inaugural conference will be "*Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Improving Black Maternal Health.*" **Online registration will close on April 9th at 12:00 PM**, and on-site registration will not be available the day of the event. This conference is free for birthing families and Mecklenburg County Health Department employees, and requires a sliding scale fee for other participants. Learn more and register [here](#). Feel free to contact my office for more information.

June 1: Sullenberger Aviation Museum Opens



The Sullenberger Aviation Museum (4108 Minuteman Way, Charlotte, NC 28208), located in SD41, will open to the public on June 1, 2024. Formerly known as the Carolinas Aviation Museum, the new building will feature several exhibits, including the Airbus A320 from US Airways Flight 1549; several historic replica planes, and one of the Skystreak planes used during sound barrier tests. The museum will be open Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Sundays from 12:00 to 4:30 PM, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. **Tickets for the grand opening are \$5 and are now available.** Regular admission will be \$24 for adults, \$20 for seniors, veterans, and educators, and \$18 for students. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

April 16: Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy Hosts Property Tax Clinic

Attention Homeowners

Need relief from high property taxes?

You may qualify to lower your property taxes. FREE help is available!



charlotte center
for legal advocacy
Justice lives here.

Who is eligible?

You have an income of \$36,700 or less, including any spouse in the household, **AND** one of the following applies to you:

- You are at least 65 years of age, or
- You are totally and permanently disabled

There is NO income restriction if:

- You are a disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran

Have a question about your eligibility? Contact us at 980-256-7952.



FREE CLINIC

CHARLOTTE CENTER
FOR LEGAL ADVOCACY
5535 Albemarle Road
April 16, 2024
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Call 980-256-7952 to schedule a FREE virtual or in-person appointment.
Visit www.charlottelegaladvocacy.org/taxrelief for more information.

If your household maintains an income of \$36,000 or less, and you are either at least 65 years old or permanently disabled, **you may qualify to lower your property taxes.** You may still qualify to lower your property taxes if you are a disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran. To help you see if you qualify, the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy will host a **Property Tax Clinic on April 16** from 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM, located at 5535 Albermarle Road Charlotte, NC 28212. To schedule virtual appointments or a one-on-one, please call **980-256-7952.**

The Ada Jenkins Center Offers Help With Your Taxes



The [Ada Jenkins Center](#)'s VITA Program is currently assisting households with incomes of \$66,000 or less with Free Tax Preparation Services every Saturday and Thursday from now until April 15th. There is limited availability for same-day or walk-in appointments at locations in Cornelius, Davidson, and Huntersville. **Appointments are required.** The schedule for the tax season is listed below:

Saturdays from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

Thursdays from 5:00 - 7:00 PM

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

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

Scholarship Opportunities from Sallie Mae and Thurgood Marshall Fund



Applications are now open for two college scholarship programs through the [Sallie Mae Fund](#) and the [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#). The [Bridge the Dream Scholarship for High School Students](#) has increased from 25 to 40 scholarships, awarding up to \$10,000 to students planning to pursue a two or four-year degree program, professional certificate, or vocational training program. The [Bridge the Dream Scholarship for Graduate Students](#) will award \$10,000 to 10 graduate students committed to using their graduate degrees to advance social justice and support their local communities. **The application window for both scholarships is open until May 17, 2024.** Apply [here](#).

The UNC Military Equivalency System Is Now Live



The UNC Military Equivalency System went live on February 29, 2024, and is designed as a resource for military service members to see how their experience may translate to earned college credit through the UNC System. This program contains thousands of equivalences between military occupations and training and academic courses conducted at the 16 universities in the University of North Carolina system. **This allows military service members to determine how experience from their Joint Services Transcript equates to credit for specific courses in the UNC System for applying for admission.**

Universities in the UNC System include:

- Appalachian State University
- East Carolina University
- Elizabeth City State University
- Fayetteville State University
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University
- University of North Carolina Asheville
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Western Carolina University
- Winston-Salem State University

Access the Military Equivalency System [here](#).

Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, March 22	11,910,871,947.43
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	1,137,241,203.58
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	1,063,902,452.17
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	730,644,707.68
State Aid	204,285,135.33
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	224,392,179.99
Tax Refunds/Distributions	121,925,417.16
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	1,346,751,351.66
Ending Cash, Friday, March 29	11,484,016,811.36
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	825,873,038.59
Other Reserves	25,560,854.34
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	10,397,748.28
Carry Forward Reserve	250,018,838.20
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	248,550,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	121,758,723.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	57,319,898.56
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	60,642,170.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
NC Innovation Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	12,910,341.72
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Reg Economic Dev Reserve	4,650,000.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	4,813,577.00
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	670,590,671.49
Transportation Reserve	0.00
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	0.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	0.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, March 29	2,721,655,926.20

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, March 29. 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 \$2.721 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](https://www.safealliance.org) 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](https://www.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

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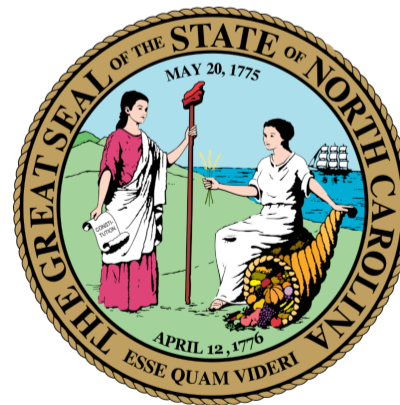
Sara

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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