

## For Immediate Release



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Greetings:**

At the General Assembly  
*For the Week*

The North Carolina General Assembly started the Short Session on  
Wednesday, April 24th at 12:00 Noon.

*Joyce Waddell*

**Felony Voters**

A federal judge has issued a temporary halt on the enforcement of a North Carolina law that previously criminalized voting while still on probation or parole for a felony conviction, even if done mistakenly. The ruling, welcomed by advocacy groups representing marginalized communities, specifically addresses allegations of illegal voting occurring prior to 2024.

The state constitution mandates that individuals convicted of felonies cannot vote until their citizenship rights are reinstated "as prescribed by law." North Carolina law, coupled with recent court rulings, stipulates that felons can regain their voting rights upon completion of their sentences, including incarceration and probation, with automatic restoration of rights upon fulfillment. However, re-registration to vote is necessary.

The judge's decision aims to protect voters who may mistakenly believe they are eligible to vote, ensuring they are not penalized for attempting to participate in the democratic process. An attorney from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice representing the plaintiffs hailed the ruling as a safeguard for individuals seeking to exercise their civic duty without fear of criminalization.

I believe that providing information to those who have completed their incarceration or probation is how we can prevent any violations of this law. Communicating with people prevents these kinds of issues, which means we should train prisons, jails, and probation to provide this kind of information.

**UNCC Building Naming Honor**

*UNC Charlotte Honors Senator Joyce Waddell by naming a  
health center in her name.*

*Senator Waddell is the first African American female to have a  
building named in her honor.*



## Aging Population

Between 2021 and 2041, North Carolina's older demographic is anticipated to surge from 1.8 million to 2.7 million individuals.

This demographic shift has prompted extensive strategizing and planning over the past year as advocates for older North Carolinians finalize "All Ages, All Stages NC: A Roadmap to Aging and Living Well." This initiative was catalyzed by an executive order from the Governor in May 2023, urging a comprehensive, cross-governmental approach to accommodate the state's increasingly aging populace.

The roadmap, slated for completion in the coming weeks, encompasses findings and over 150 recommendations across various domains, including:

- Addressing confusion and awareness regarding available resources.
- Meeting transportation needs for older adults.
- Overcoming barriers to aging in place.
- Tackling concerns related to the affordability and accessibility of caregivers, long-term care facilities, and support services.
- Promoting social connectivity among older adults.
- Addressing anxieties surrounding financial longevity and planning for retirement.

It seems that the aging population is growing for our great state. My goal for my time in the North Carolina Senate is to continue to push for increases in resources so that they are not left out.

## Health

*I am always considering the health of my constituents, so I want to make sure I am providing encouragement for you. Vaccines and health screenings are very important.*



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