

Latest Updates from the NCGA



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <sarah.e.reynolds@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <sarah.e.reynolds@ncleg.gov>
Date 2024-11-15 16:50



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

November 15, 2024

Out of Session Until Next Week



The next legislative session is scheduled to start on November 19, 2024. The calendar has not yet been made public, but we expect the main reason for this session is so the Republican supermajority can override the Governor's veto of [House Bill 10](#), the bill to provide an additional \$248 million for private school vouchers for our state's wealthiest families.

Hurricane Helene Update: Mountain Island Lake



Hurricane Helene created conditions that ended in significant flood damage in the Mount Island Lake area of SD14. Mecklenburg County commissioners recently approved a plan to offer buyouts to the owners of damaged homes in the disaster area. Storm Water Services has appropriated \$8.5 million for this plan, in order for the county to purchase and potentially retrofit some of the homes. Only single-family homes that were significantly damaged within a designated flood hazard area will be eligible for the program, and the size of the buyout will vary dependent on how damaged the home was, whether flood insurance had been purchased prior to the damage, and whether the property owners have already received federal funding. Homeowners interested in the voluntary buyout should email Jonathan.beller@mecknc.gov, and those interested in retrofitting can apply for a grant online [here](#). More information [here](#).

Free Pediatric Mobile Dental Unit in Mecklenburg County



Earlier this week, Mecklenburg County launched a **mobile dental program to provide free oral health screenings to preschoolers**. MeckDental will operate Monday - Thursday, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM and is currently located at 1801 Rozzelles Ferry Road, Charlotte. To make an appointment, call 980-314-9600.

Many dental services are available for uninsured and underinsured residents of Mecklenburg County age 0-17 who are able to show proof of address and income verification during the registration process. New patient forms and health release forms can be found [here](#). For questions, email Dental@MeckNC.gov. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Senator Marcus in the Community: Visit to Davidson College



This week, I was the **guest speaker in Professor Graham Bullock's class on US State Politics at Davidson College**. We discussed my work and experiences in the NC Senate and as a candidate for a statewide office, the impact of campaign funding and gerrymandering on the democratic process, and how the three branches of state government interact. The students had already toured the Legislative Building in Raleigh and met with other elected leaders and state agencies. They raised good questions and represented seven different states/countries.

Free Books for Children



Smart Start of Mecklenburg County has partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide parents of children ages 0-5 with a free book once a month. 30,552 children are covered by Mecklenburg's Smart Start. You can register for the program by validating your address [here](#). If you have any questions about the program, please contact Alyssa Wood at **704-943-9496** or by emailing dpil@smartstartofmeck.org.

The Innovate And Educate Teacher's Grant



The Coastal Credit Union Foundation is awarding \$2,500 grants to support teachers with lesson plans centered on financial literacy. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2025. The program is open to all credentialed teachers in North Carolina public and private schools, regardless of their affiliation with Coastal Credit Union. Employees and family members of the Foundation or Coastal Credit Union are not eligible. Recipients of the grants will be selected and announced by March 1, 2025. More information and the application can be found [here](#).

The Learning Happens Here Field Trip Fund



Governor Cooper has announced \$1 million in funding for the Learning Happens Here Field Trip Fund. Any K-12 public school in North Carolina is eligible to receive a grant from the program, but priority is given to Title I eligible schools. The fund will offer reimbursements to public schools that visit sites managed by DNCR, including state parks, historic sites, museums, aquariums and the zoo. Learn more about the program and apply [here](#).

Mecklenburg County Homes Program Now Available for Homeowners in Charlotte and Davidson



The Helping Out Mecklenburg Homeowners with Economic Support (HOMES) Program has returned for another season. From **July 1 – Nov. 22, 2024**, Mecklenburg County is partnering with the City of Charlotte and the Town of Davidson to provide **grant funding to qualifying residential homeowners to help address the rising costs of retaining their homes**. Program recipients must apply for consideration annually.

Grant funds will be paid to the Mecklenburg County Tax Collector, **who will reduce the total amount of taxes due for qualifying recipients' primary residence**. The amount granted will equal 35% of the Mecklenburg County tax amount on the last available tax bill, rounded to the nearest dollar, not to exceed \$648.

Applicants must not be participants in any of the following programs:

- North Carolina Homestead Exclusion
- North Carolina Property Tax Homestead Circuit Breaker
- North Carolina Disabled Veterans Exclusion
- North Carolina Present Use Value (PUV) Program

To be eligible:

- The property must be located within Mecklenburg County, NC.
- The property must be the owner's legal primary residence at the time of application and consistently for the past three consecutive years, as verified by recorded legal documents.
- The resident grant recipient's name(s) must be on the recorded deed, title, or life estate.

Paper applications can also be obtained from:

- Department of Community Resources (**3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 1000, Charlotte, NC 28208**)
- County Assessor's Office (**3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 3500, Charlotte NC 28208**)
- Ella B. Scarborough Community Resource Center (**430 Stitt Road, Charlotte, NC 28213**)

Learn more about the program and complete the application [here](#). Contact the HOMES Program at **980-314-4663** or 4homes@mecknc.gov for help with the application process.

Get Free COVID-19 Home Tests



Free COVID tests are available again. [Here is the link to order yours](#). You may also find free tests available for pickup [here](#). Be safe!

Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, November 01	11,364,226,490.32
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	701,086,243.00
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	1,945,099,532.71
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	213,673,514.25
State Aid	28,168,257.14
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	1,830,595,550.97
Tax Refunds/Distributions	59,627,543.03
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	655,844,962.80
Ending Cash, Friday, November 08	11,222,502,437.84
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	925,481,866.14
Other Reserves	34,562,060.78
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	34,063,161.12
Carry Forward Reserve	242,611,457.87
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	703,182,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	95,676,125.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	26,875,209.65
Information Technology Reserve	341,292,868.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	726,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	0.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
NC Innovation Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	46,076,773.43
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	0.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	0.00
Savings Reserve	4,477,001,113.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	1,000,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	721,467,129.70
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, November 08	1,563,899,936.17

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, November 8. 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 \$1.563 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.

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](#).

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](#).

Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

Email:

Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.gov

Sarah.E.Reynolds@ncleg.gov

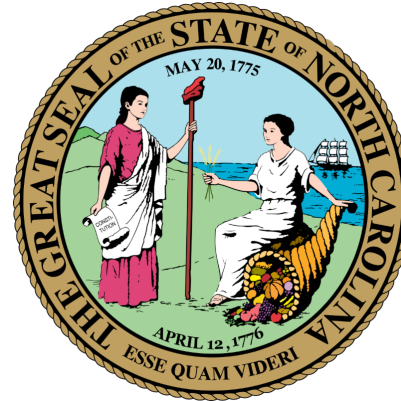
Sara

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 US

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