

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

Tomorrow, the General Assembly will be back in session. These final sessions will wrap up the business of creating legislation for the 2023-2024 biennium.

Joyce Waddell



Community Recommendations

Senator Waddell gives recommendations to moving forward and remaining positive as we serve our county and our state.

Temporary Housing

More than six weeks after Hurricane Helene caused severe damage in western North Carolina, thousands of residents are still unable to return to their own homes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reports that over 4,500 households affected by the storm are currently staying in hotels and motels with government support.

FEMA has provided approximately \$226 million in aid to over 130,000 households and individuals. Additionally, the agency has allocated \$203 million in Public Assistance funding to aid community recovery efforts in North Carolina. Residents in western North Carolina have until January 7 to apply for disaster assistance.

The hurricane proved to be extremely damaging to the western part of the state. In our last two sessions we designated many resources to assist the residents and businesses that were affected. Our goal was to provide many resources to help over 4500 households. I am committed to continuing this assistance to those affected and will continue to do so until these families can get back on their feet.

UNCC Homecoming

Senator Waddell participates at the UNCC Homecoming and discusses upcoming legislation.



Sports Betting

In October, sports bettors in North Carolina placed over \$612 million in wagers, making it the third-highest monthly total since sports betting began in the state in mid-March, according to the latest report from the North Carolina State Lottery Commission. October also saw bettors using more of their own money than in any previous month.

The state collected over \$8.7 million in taxes from operators, who reported gross wagering revenue of \$48.6 million. North Carolina applies an 18% tax on gross wagering revenue, which is calculated as total wagering revenue minus winnings paid to bettors. In October, bettors received \$560 million in winnings, second only to March's \$590 million.

In the first four months of the current fiscal year, North Carolina has collected more than \$35 million in taxes from sports betting operators. In the previous fiscal year, from mid-March to the end of June, operators paid \$49.5 million in taxes.

A portion of the tax revenue is allocated to athletic departments at public universities within the UNC system, excluding UNC Chapel Hill and NC State. From July through the end of September, these departments received more than \$510,000 in sports betting tax revenue.

I am excited to see that HBCUs are receiving the much needed funding to assist with their financial goals.

NC General Assembly

Visit www.ncleg.gov, the official website of the North Carolina General Assembly. Use this website as a tool to track bills, find and communicate with your state representatives, as well as follow chamber activity, meetings and issues before the General Assembly.

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