

## NC House Updates



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**Date** 2025-05-03 11:54

**May 1, 2025**



**Representative Nasif Majeed  
District 99 - Mecklenburg County**



**Budget Update and Crossover**

Peace. The North Carolina Senate passed their budget plan last month, cutting hundreds of vacant positions and eliminating the Innocence Inquiry Commission, among other priorities. One of the primary focuses of the Senate budget is a further reduction on taxes, both personal income and corporate income. The corporate income tax is on schedule to be zeroed out by 2030. The proposed cuts would put North Carolina on the path to a fiscal cliff, something nonpartisan economists and the governor [warned](#) about in February. Their projections show that the state could face a significant decline in revenue by the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Senate Democrats criticized the budget for its misplaced priorities and a focus on tax cuts that would disproportionately benefit corporations and the wealthiest North Carolinians, all at the expense of working families and the services they rely on.

The House is set to take up a budget proposal in the coming weeks, as early as the week of May 19th. The House budget proposal will likely differ significantly from the Senate version, with conference committees appointed to iron out differences. It is hard to guess at when an agreement might be struck, and the final, agreed upon version will have to be voted on and sent to Governor Stein for his signature. He will be able to sign the bill into law, veto it, or let it become law without his signature.

The General Assembly is coming up on a major deadline for legislation to pass one of the two chambers. The “crossover” deadline is a self-imposed date by which most legislation must pass either the House or Senate to stay alive for further consideration this Session. The two weeks leading up to the crossover deadline are extremely busy, with long dockets of legislation both for committees and floor votes.

## **NC House Democrats Unite to Reduce Gun Violence Across the State**



House Democrats, along with constituents from across the state, held a press conference to discuss all of our proactive, strategic bills to reduce the number of gun violence incidents in North Carolina.

- In an average year, 1,714 people die and 4,197 are wounded by guns in NC.
- NC has the 13th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.
- Gun violence costs NC \$19.5 billion each year, of which \$471 million is paid by taxpayers.
- NC Democratic House Representatives are determined to reduce gun violence across our state to prevent the tragic loss endured by so many loved ones and, as an added bonus, reduce the gun violence tax burden for all NC taxpayers.

## **Audubon in North Carolina**



*I met with members from the Mecklenburg Audubon Society during their advocacy day. They shared the conservation challenges facing birds, with the ultimate goal of stopping and reversing population declines. Audubon in NC is focused on protecting family farms and land, wetlands, and conservation trust funds.*

## **Auditor Takes Over State Board of Elections**

North Carolina's Court of Appeals cleared the way for a major change to the State Board of Elections this week. Last year, Republicans in the General Assembly enacted a law that, in part, shifted control of the State Board of Elections to the State Auditor, newly-elected Republican Dave Boliek. A panel of Superior Court judges had previously ruled the law was unconstitutional. Governor Stein appealed the Court of Appeals ruling to the State Supreme Court but they did not act in time to block the change.

Auditor Boliek immediately appointed a new Board once the change went into effect, shifting the composition to a 3-2 Republican majority. North Carolina's governors have appointed members of the Board of Elections [since](#) 1901, and previous attempts to remove that power have been blocked in the courts.

Governor Stein warned that the change was part of an ongoing effort to overturn the election victory of Supreme Court Justice Allison Riggs, the Democrat who won her re-election campaign in November. This follows a years-long effort by the General Assembly to strip powers from duly elected officials like the governor, attorney general and more.

## **Book Ban Passes House**

With a bill passed by the North Carolina House recently, the state joins a growing trend of book banning legislation. House Democrats raised concerns that the [bill](#) would amount to a book ban, particularly of viewpoints some people might disagree with.

“All we’re really doing is inserting government and politics back into classrooms and suppressing ideas and free speech to the detriment of our entire society,” Rep. Laura Budd said.

Democrats also raised concerns about the cost of litigation when a banned book inevitably leads to lawsuits. The bill would require the State Board of Education to maintain a database of banned books. School boards at the local level would have to establish a 10-person advisory committee including five parents. Members of the communities -- not necessarily parents with kids in public schools -- could submit objections to content.

Particularly in light of efforts to roll back [recognition](#) of diverse figures in American history at the federal level, House Democrats voiced concerns about how the bill could be weaponized to remove content that tries to provide a diverse scope of viewpoints and opinions.

## **ICE Bill Passes House**

The House of Representatives passed a bill this week that drastically expanded the scope of a former law that requires sheriffs to cooperate with ICE. House Bill 318 expands the number of charges that would require a county sheriff to cooperate with ICE. It delays the start time for the required 48-hour ICE detainer hold and it also requires jails to notify ICE before releasing someone held on a detainer.

Opponents of the bill raised concerns about due process. The bill would expand upon the prior ICE bill to include any felony charge and some high level misdemeanors. Immigrant advocacy groups shared concerns that the legislation would make immigrant communities less trustful of law enforcement, leading to fear and more unreported crimes due to concerns of deportation.

The bill comes with the backdrop of a federal crackdown on immigration. There have been high profile reports of people wrongfully detained and deported. The Trump Administration has refused to heed a Supreme Court ruling that requires the government to return a man wrongfully deported to El Salvador, for example.

## **Federal Policies Impact Helene Recovery**

Policies enacted by the federal government are continuing to have an impact on Western North Carolina's efforts to recover from Helene.

New reporting from [NOTUS](#) suggests that uncertainty around the status of FEMA is affecting planning for recovery efforts. The unhappiness is bipartisan.

"We submit ideas that have to be approved at five different levels, and someone at some point decides they don't like the way the form looks and sends it back. We're in a loop of submission and denial," Republican Avery County Commissioner Dennis Aldrige said to Spectrum News.

Rep. Eric Ager told NOTUS that he and colleagues have pushed for more and quicker resources from the State, given the slow response from federal agencies.

"The continual line from the Republicans in the North Carolina legislature is, 'Well, we got to wait and see what the feds are going to do,'" Rep. Ager said. "We've been doing that for six months now, right? And it's still not completely clear what the feds are gonna pay for and what they're not."

At the same time, Attorney General Jackson has sued the Trump Administration over additional cuts made to the AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps has hundreds of positions that were cut in North Carolina, many of whom were supporting various relief efforts related to Hurricane Helene. Governor Stein urged the federal government to reverse the cuts. More than 50 positions that were focused on Helene Recovery were cut earlier this month.

Attorney General Jackson sued, saying that the congressionally approved grants were unlawfully cut.

"These funds - which Congress already appropriated for North Carolina - are creating jobs, cleaning up storm damage, and helping families rebuild," Jackson said. "AmeriCorps must follow the law so that people in western North Carolina can confidently move forward."



It was my pleasure to be able to sponsor Ms. Maryam Jawad, a junior at Vernon Malone College and Career Academy in Raleigh, as a page for this 2025 Legislative Session. Maryam was very enthusiastic about learning how laws are made. During her week here at the General Assembly, she was able to attend committee meetings, as well as sit on the chamber floor during session. She learned how a bill becomes law and how the process is different in the House and in the Senate.

Information regarding our 2026 Page Program will be posted next fall on the General Assembly's website - <https://www.ncleg.gov/House>

## ADDITIONAL NEWS

**NC Health News:** [Federal cuts threaten to derail NC public health lab upgrades](#)

**WRAL:** [NC bills would allow concealed handguns for teachers, parents and others in private schools](#)

**WFAE:** [Despite changes, State Employees Association still concerned about Auditor's Office legislation](#)

**CNN:** [He was born in North Carolina. Republicans say he's a 'never resident' and want to throw out his vote](#)

**EdNC:** [Stein, Hunt, and Green urge Congress to maintain funding for Head Start](#)

**Border Belt Independent:** [Possible cuts to Medicaid and food stamps raise concerns in rural southeastern NC](#)

**N&O:** [NC faces a housing crisis. What are lawmakers doing about it? And will it make a dent?](#)

**N&O:** ['No shortage of challenges.' The North Carolina DMV has a new leader](#)

**WFAE:** [Some Charlotte retailers are feeling the tariff heat](#)

**Center Square:** ['Crypto-friendly legislation' clears North Carolina House](#)

**CBS17:** [NC Republicans look to bring back death penalty with electric chair and firing squad](#)

Enjoy your weekend! Peace!

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