

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:

This past week, the General Assembly voted to confirm three cabinet member confirmations.

Joyce Waddell



**NC Democratic
Party Convention**

Senator Waddell provides legislative updates to attendees of the 12th Congressional District NC Democratic Party Convention.

Democratic Press Conference

Democratic lawmakers held a symbolic “bill funeral” to highlight the 707 bills—361 from the House and 346 from the Senate—that never advanced to a committee hearing this session. They criticized the Republican majority for not allowing debate or votes on these proposals, which included measures to raise teacher pay, reduce health care costs, and reform elections. Democrats expressed frustration that their ideas are routinely dismissed without consideration, despite representing a broad cross-section of North Carolinians. Some lawmakers acknowledged small improvements in communication with Republican leadership in the House, but noted no Democratic-sponsored Senate bills had moved forward. They argued that the lack of action on key issues is a deliberate choice that undermines public confidence in government.

School Enrollment

A recent analysis by Carolina Demography at UNC-Chapel Hill projects a potential decline in North Carolina public school enrollment over the next five years, influenced by demographic trends and the expansion of school choice programs. These projections highlight the need for policymakers and education leaders to consider the potential impacts of school choice programs on public school enrollment and funding. Adjustments in budgeting and resource allocation may be necessary to address these shifts.

Key Findings:

- **Impact of Opportunity Scholarships:** The expansion of these vouchers is expected to contribute to declining public school enrollment, as they provide families with financial assistance to attend private institutions.
- **District-Level Projections:** While some districts like Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are projected to see enrollment growth, others may experience declines, particularly in areas where private school enrollment increases.

I wholeheartedly support increased investment in public education. Our schools are the cornerstone of our communities, nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and citizens. By allocating additional resources to public education, we can ensure that every child—regardless of their background—has access to quality teachers, modern classrooms, and the support services they need to thrive.

Senate Confirmations

SJR 763 Confirm Don Van Der Vaart - Utilities Commission
SJR 764 Confirm Chris Ayers - Executive Director of Utilities Commission
SJR 765 Confirm Regina Adams- Board Of Review

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.

You can view bills in full by visiting www.ncleg.gov.

Please don't forget to consider getting vaccinated. There are viruses and other illnesses plaguing our community that can be prevented by vaccines and proper handwashing.



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