

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
Date 2025-12-22 22:28



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 22, 2025
Chapter VI
Issue 51

CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net
<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



Greetings:

Senator Waddell has been busy attending meetings and events in District 40.

The holidays are upon us and I want to encourage you to connect with your neighbor, friends, and family to ensure they are well, warm and have adequate food.

Happy holidays and I wish you a safe and joyous time!

Joyce Waddell



**Democrat
Party Holiday
Celebration**

Senator Waddell and other members of the Mecklenburg Delegation spoke to constituents concerning legislation at the holiday celebration.

Community Listening Session

Senator Waddell and other Mecklenburg Legislators participated in a listening session held at Steele Creek AME Zion church that allowed the community to ask questions and make comments about recent or upcoming legislation.



Cell Phones in Public Schools

School Phones

The State Board of Education made plans to review student cellphone use at the December planning meeting. The outgoing state superintendent has asked the board to discourage a statewide ban, arguing that enforcement works best at the local level. Because a couple of senators requested a study of phone use in schools, both were invited to the planning session. The superintendent noted that a statewide ban would be difficult for state agencies and districts to enforce because decisions about storage and use are highly local. An Education Week review reports that at least 18 states have adopted statewide restrictions or encouraged districts to enact their own limits. A new superintendent will begin in January and has said the issue warrants broad stakeholder input before policy decisions are made.

Recent discussions among educators and researchers identified that misuse of phones can hinder learning and contribute to distraction and social disconnection, while surveys indicate many parents still want students to have access to a device at school, with restrictions during class time. Some schools have implemented practical solutions such as secure holders for phones during instruction.

State Guidance and Local Implementation

A state law taking effect in January 2026 directs public school units to adopt and implement policies restricting the use of personal communication devices during instruction. A best-practices handbook was issued in June 2025 to help districts design and roll out local policies. According to the advisory council, all public school units now have plans in place or updated policies to manage student cellphone use. The council's mission is to promote safe, welcoming, and inclusive schools by developing recommendations, sharing guidance with state agencies and communities, and disseminating best practices.

I spoke at the planning meeting that each school develop its individual policy.

I believe there is a happy median for both the parents and school administrators. One helpful idea could be that students only have cell phones active during breaks and lunch time.



Democratic Women Holiday Celebration

Senator Waddell along with other members of the Mecklenburg Delegation participate in a holiday celebration.

Please don't forget to consider getting vaccinated. COVID are not just making a comeback, but there have been new strains found, and there are viruses and other illnesses plaguing our community that can be prevented by vaccines and proper handwashing.



Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1106 Legislative Building | Raleigh, NC 27601 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!