



Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest February 5, 2024

In This Issue:	Page
Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities	2
<p>(New this week: sign up for your Annual Precinct Meeting on Feb. 17, Candi-Dating on Feb. 10, info on the upcoming Primary election, be a poll observer, and new volunteer training offerings)</p>	
Other Upcoming Events	7
Virtual Events Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue (New events added!)	8
News from the North Carolina Democratic Party	8
News from NC Attorney General Josh Stein	11
Sign Up to Receive Congresswoman Valerie Foushee’s Newsletter	12
News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson	12
News from Neighbors on Call	14
News from the NC Counts Coalition	16
News from County-to-County	17
Selected News and Opinion Stories	17

Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Attend Your Annual Precinct Meeting on February 17!

Join your neighbors on Saturday, February 17 from 10 a.m. to Noon to learn how you can help us elect Democrats in November! This year, most precincts will participate in a “centralized Zoom” meeting run by the CCDP in two parts, the first of which will be common to all attendees and led by CCDP Chair Sue Blalock, and the second part will consist of separate “business” meetings for each precinct, conducted in its own break-out room. Precincts who will be holding separate, in-person meetings include Crossroads, Albright, Bynum, and East and West Pittsboro.

During the precinct business meetings, each precinct will elect their delegates to the County Convention, hold elections to fill any vacancies among precinct officers and elect officers in our newly-organized precincts, consider and vote upon any resolutions submitted by precinct members, discuss precinct goals, and conduct any other precinct business.

For all precincts participating in all or part of the centralized Zoom, **pre-registration is required for each participant**. Here is the link to register:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/600429/>.

More information on signing up for your precinct meeting can be found here:

<https://www.ccdpnc.org/precinct-meetings-2024> .

After your precinct, come party with us in Pittsboro! We are planning to have a party at the Community Engagement Center in Pittsboro in the afternoon on February 17. More details on the party will be forthcoming.

Get Ready to VOTE in the Primary Election!

The 2024 Democratic Primary Election is upon us! Mail-in ballots are available now. Early voting starts on February 15, and Primary Election Day is March 5.

Want to vote by mail? Request an absentee ballot by 5 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, at <https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov> . The Chatham County Board of Elections began mailing out absentee ballots on January 19.

The Early Voting Period runs from February 15 to March 2. Early Voting Polling places are listed on page 4 of this digest. During Early Voting, polls are open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday February 25 (only) from Noon to 3 p.m.

On Election Day, March 5, polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. On Election Day, you should vote in your precinct. To find out where you can vote on Election Day, visit:

<https://vt.ncsbe.gov/reglkup/> or call the Chatham County Board of Elections at 919-545-8500.

For more information on Early Voting Polling sites, checking your voter registration, and photo ID requirements, visit: <https://www.ccdpnc.org/2024-primary-election-calendar> .

You can view a sample Primary ballot at: <https://www.ccdpnc.org/2024-sample-primary-ballot> .

For information on your 2024 Democratic candidates, visit: <https://www.ccdpnc.org/2024-democratic-candidates> .

Join Us for Candi-Dating on February 10!

Meet the candidates who will be on the March 5 Primary ballot on Saturday, February 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at George Moses Horton Middle School, 79 Horton Road in Pittsboro.

Climate Solutions, Possibilities and Hope, February 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m., CCDP Community Engagement Center, 628 East St, Pittsboro

Are you worried about the climate crisis? Want to know more about solutions in Chatham County? We're presenting an overview in three important areas:

- Climate Justice
- Are There Natural Solutions?
- Policy Solutions (Inflation Reduction Act Energy Funds)

Join us for this program, which will be presented by Meredith Dillon, Nita Dukes and Vickie Atkinson. Additional guest speakers will present specialized information on these topics. Afterward, we'll ask whether you want more information on specific climate solutions in Chatham County.

To register, go to: [Climate Solutions, Possibilities and Hope](#)

Call for Poll Observers

It is that time of year again! Early voting for the 2024 NC Primary begins on February 15th and runs through March 2nd. We are recruiting volunteers to serve as POLL OBSERVERS.

This year more than ever CCDP Poll Observers watch for any missteps in the election processes inside each polling place. They've been in use for at least a hundred years as a way to promote election integrity, with the idea that if both parties are watching, it's much harder for either to tamper with the votes. If someone goes amiss, poll observers contact a central incident reporting operation.

You must be a resident of Chatham County to be a poll observer in Chatham County.

Poll Observers typically sign up for a 4-hour shift at a specific polling location. In addition to these shifts, we would like to have a list of at-large Poll Observers and a small team of Hot Line volunteers. In general, at-large observers are allowed to observe at any polling site in the county for any length of time. Hot Line volunteers can work from anywhere and enter issues reported by observers into a central easy-to-use system.

If you would like to learn more about these opportunities or Poll Observing in general, please join one of a no obligation informal info session. The hope is that we can start to build these teams during the primaries and have this early experience carry over into this year's all important general election in the fall.

[Sign up here to attend one of the short, informal info sessions to learn about these opportunities.](#)

If you already know that you would like to serve as a Poll Observer, you can sign up for a shift (or several) [here](#).

Thank you for helping us protect democracy in 2024!

Sign Up To Be a Primary Election Poll Greeter!

Sign up at the links below to be a Primary Election poll greeter at one of the five early voting sites in Chatham County!

[CCCC Health Science Building, 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro 27312](#)

[Chatham County Agricultural Center, 1192 US Highway 64, Pittsboro 27312](#)

[Goldston Town Hall, Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston 27252](#)

[National Guard Armory, 801 Alston Bridge Rd, Siler City 27344](#)

[Holland Chapel AME Zion Church, 360 Burgess Rd., Apex, NC 27523](#)

Please [download CCDP's Poll Greeting Guidelines](#) and read them before your first poll greeting shift.

CCDP is also offering optional (but highly recommended) [Poll Greeting Training](#). There are seven sessions to choose from, at times intended to accommodate different schedules.

Thank you for volunteering!

Join Our Texting Team!

2024 is here, and we are gearing up for the elections ahead. Early voting for the March primary begins on February 15th. Help us spread the word.

We are launching a very targeted texting program aimed at making sure our supporters have all the information they need to vote in 2024. We plan to begin texting shortly before early voting begins on February 15th and we will wrap up on March 5th, Primary Election Day. Then, we will gear up to do it again next fall for the November election.

If you are shy around people, but not around computers.....this is the volunteer opportunity you have been looking for!

Volunteer [here](#).

Submit a Resolution for Our Upcoming CCDP Precinct Meetings!

Interested in submitting a resolution to be considered for adoption at our upcoming February precinct meetings and possible incorporation into the state and national Democratic party platforms? Here's the most recent guidance document from the North Carolina Democratic Party.

NCDP Resolutions Guidance: <https://www.ncdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-NCDP-Guidelines-for-Resolutions-1.pdf>

Anyone contemplating submitting a resolution may also want to look through the Platform and the Resolution Adoption Report to see what's already there:

2022 Platform: <https://www.ncdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022-NCDP-Adopted-Platform-Adopted-June-18-2022-in-Durham-NC.docx.pdf>

2022 Resolution Adoption Report: <https://www.ncdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022-NCDP-Adopted-Resolutions-Adopted-June-18-2022-in-Durham-NC.docx.pdf>

If you have questions about the process or would like some help in submitting a resolution, please contact Tony Carroll, Chair of the CCDP Resolutions Committee, at Anthony.j.carroll@outlook.com. The Resolutions Committee will review all resolutions adopted at the precinct meetings, but it's very helpful to get comments from the committee before submitting them.

CCDP Volunteer Trainings

You're invited to sign up for any of these upcoming training sessions:

February 9, 15 & 23 and March 1, 8, 15 & 22, [Volunteer Orientation](#) @Zoom

February 6 & 20, 1:30 - 3:30, [Training - Join Our Office Crew](#) @Zoom

February 10 & February 24, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., [Training - Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education](#), CCDP Community Engagement Center (CEC), 628 East Street, Pittsboro

February 13 & February 27, 1:30 - 3 p.m. [Training - Staffing Tent Events](#), CCDP Community Engagement Center (CEC), 628 East Street, Pittsboro

February 9 & 23 and March 8 & 22, [Events Team Orientation](#) @ Zoom

Event Hosts are needed for those trainings held at the CEC. To sign up, go to: [CEC Event Host](#) .

Events Team Volunteer Opportunities

Candi-Dating

Please volunteer at CCDP's Candi-Dating event on February 10 from 1-5 p.m. There are two shifts for volunteers:

Set-up/Intake (1-3 p.m.)

Clean-up (3-5 p.m.).

All volunteers are welcome to participate in Candi-Dating program before and after shift duties - there's no need to also sign up for Candi-Dating as an attendee.

[Volunteer at Candi-Dating](#)

Stuff Envelopes

This isn't helping at an Event, but if you're available on Wednesday, January 31, we're preparing a 900-letter fundraising campaign at the CEC.

Feel free to forward this to friends!

Please sign up below so we're sure to have enough chairs for everyone.

[Volunteer to Stuff Envelopes](#)

###

Other Upcoming Events

Board of Elections Absentee Business Meeting, February 6, 5 - 6 p.m., Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson St, Suite D, Pittsboro

The Board of Elections will meet each Tuesday, beginning January 30th, prior to the Election on March 5th, to review all absentee ballots that were submitted to the Board of Elections since the previous meeting. During the Absentee Meeting the board will review the ballots and approve for final submission. The board meeting will be open to the public at the Board of Elections office and online via GoToMeeting.

Meeting access information will be available to citizens prior to each meeting and available at the meeting.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/574910421>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 574-910-421

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

CORE Racial Equity Fundamentals Workshop, Saturday, March 9, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, Pittsboro

CORE's Racial Equity Fundamentals workshop builds a foundational knowledge of equity concepts and terminology. This workshop initiates conversations about race and racism while exploring methods to drive systemic change, shift power, and promote community healing as we move towards our collective liberation.

Cost to attend:

Standard rate - \$125/person

Equity-based - \$75/person

Pay-It-Forward - \$200/person (provides scholarship)

Registration cost includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Register [here](#).

(Community groups/nonprofits registering five or more: \$100/person. Contact info@corenc.org.)

###

Events Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue

Fighting for Black Lives and Disability Rights, February 6, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Join us for a conversation with Keisha Greaves, who is a fierce advocate for Black disabled lives and is working to bring awareness and change through her organizations Girls Chronically Rock and the GCR Adaptive Project. She will share her journey and explain the value of education, accessibility and inclusivity for all bodies.

Sign up [here](#).

TroubleMaven Academy Class 1, February 7, 7 - 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

TroubleMaven Academy is an 8-session bootcamp style “Academy” where we train women across North Carolina to be more politically savvy and ready to fight for our rights! By the end of the Academy, you will: Have the information and skills you need to be an effective, confident advocate around issues that are important to you; Be able to share what you've learned with the women in your network and social groups; and be ready to mobilize “on a dime” with women across the state to push back and block extremists attempts to take away our rights.

Sign up at: [TroubleMaven Academy Class 1](#)

Little Banned Book Club: The Day You Begin, Wednesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Join us for our next Little Banned Book Club as we read “The Day You Begin” by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael Lopez. “The Day You Begin” is a wonderful book about how everyone feels like an outsider sometimes.

Sign up [here](#).

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

North Carolina Democrats Begin 2024 with over \$3.7 Million Raised, Meanwhile North Carolina GOP Owes \$72,000 in Debt

North Carolina Democrats will begin the 2024 election cycle with momentum and over \$3.7 million raised in our war chest. This was made possible thanks to over 24,000 donations from Democrats from all 50 states + Puerto Rico and DC who are inspired by the efforts of North Carolina Democrats as we take on Republicans hellbent on tearing down democracy.

North Carolina Republicans however have “accrued \$72,000 in debts, according to its latest financial disclosure,” according to a new article by [Newsweek](#).

Newsweek highlights that according to the latest filing by the Federal Election Commission (FEC), “the [North Carolina Republican] party received \$1,681,647.87, with the majority (\$1,397,524.22) coming from campaign contributions and other funds from transfers from affiliated committees and other sources. It spent \$2,194,157.61, with the bulk of its spending (\$2,118,243.34) going on operating expenditures. Without relying on its cash reserves, the party would have been left with -\$512,509.74.”

“The contrast between our parties, and our visions for the future of our state, couldn’t be made more evident than this contrast in our fundraising,” said NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton. “I am proud that our party is starting off this year with candidates in nearly 100% of our races this cycle and these fundraising numbers that were made possible because of contributions from folks who believe in our mission and see the roadmap to victory this November. The stakes couldn’t be higher in this election and the money we have managed to raise represents the hard work and excitement that Democrats have as we fight for democracy and for North Carolina.”

Reclaiming the Power of Black Voters: Building Black History for the Now

In honor of Black History Month, North Carolina Democratic Party Second Vice-Chair Dr. Kimberly Hardy released the following statement:

“As we welcome the month of February, a time when we typically honor the history and contributions of the African American community, it is important that we recognize and elevate the voices of Black North Carolinians.

Ballots not cast are voices not heard and issues not addressed. We must remember this because for far too long the African American community has been one of the most important voting blocs for the Democratic Party, yet in many communities, African Americans feel like nothing changes even when they do vote.

For the past 7 months, I have traveled to rural areas that are known as our predominantly black communities in the Eastern part of our state for a grassroots listening tour. I have heard directly from folks in these areas including small business owners, community leaders, and families who have been in these communities for generations. I am there to make sure that their voices and issues are heard, and they have told me that they feel taken for granted, overlooked, and disrespected. I am there on behalf of the North Carolina Democratic Party to let them know that they *are*

respected, that we *do* understand their unique challenges, and to give them the resources to connect them directly with legislators, school boards, and local leaders.

The folks I meet with are our neighbors, friends, family, and they feel disconnected from the process of change. I have brought candidates to these areas who are running for statewide and local offices, including candidates running for Governor, State Supreme Court, and Attorney General to create a humanizing experience for *both* sides, in hopes of the candidates seeing Black voters and their communities as more than just a voting bloc, and the communities seeing these candidates as more than just political pundits.

Public service begins with going to the public. The best ideas for how to help communities you represent come *from* the communities you represent. These ideas are not just there to highlight and elevate during the month of February or during an election season. As we celebrate Black History Month, we must never view the contributions of the African American community as being limited to 29 days.”

Our digital messages this week are:

- **Black History Month:** February 1st marks the beginning of Black History Month. This month we’re celebrating the Black community and culture that makes North Carolina—and the North Carolina Democratic Party—who we are. Join NCDP on February 8th for [Black History Month: Forward Motion](#), a discussion featuring innovative and wholesome dialogue about the history and forward movement in Black communities.
- **Health care:** Donald Trump and the GOP tried—and failed—to repeal the Affordable Care Act and defund Social Security and Medicare. We have to make sure folks know that Democrats are defending access to health care, and that Republicans are trying to take it away.
- **Upcoming election:** Keep sharing information on how to vote in the [upcoming primary](#).
- **Upcoming Trainings:** We have a new Training Director, Kristy Boer, and she has many upcoming training sessions scheduled on Mobilize! Check them out, along with other opportunities to get involved, at www.mobilize.us/ncdems.

North Carolina Democrats Begin 2024 with over \$3.7 Million Raised, Meanwhile North Carolina GOP Owes \$72,000 in Debt

- North Carolina Democrats are beginning the 2024 election cycle with momentum and **over \$3.7 million raised in our war chest**.
- This was made possible thanks to over 24,000 donations from Democrats from all 50 states + Puerto Rico and DC
- **North Carolina Republicans however have “accrued \$72,000 in debts,** according to its latest financial disclosure,” according to a new article by [Newsweek](#).

- Newsweek highlights that according to the latest filing by the Federal Election Commission (FEC), “the [North Carolina Republican] party received \$1,681,647.87, with the majority (\$1,397,524.22) coming from campaign contributions and other funds from transfers from affiliated committees and other sources. It spent \$2,194,157.61, with the bulk of its spending (\$2,118,243.34) going on operating expenditures. Without relying on its cash reserves, the party would have been left with -\$512,509.74.

> **Statement from Chair Clayton**

“The contrast between our parties, and our visions for the future of our state, couldn’t be made more evident than this contrast in our fundraising. I am proud that our party is starting off this year with candidates in nearly 100% of our races this cycle and these fundraising numbers that were made possible because of contributions from folks who believe in our mission and see the roadmap to victory this November. The stakes couldn’t be higher in this election and the money we have managed to raise represents the hard work and excitement that Democrats have as we fight for democracy and for North Carolina.”

###

News from NC Attorney General Josh Stein

Consumer Alert

The Biggest Red Flag is a Sweetheart Scammer

Valentine’s Day is approaching, and while celebrating love and finding a connection is exciting, scammers leave people heartbroken far too often. Sweetheart scammers prey on people who are looking for love or even just friendship, and often target unsuspecting seniors. The scammer will befriend a potential victim on social media or dating sites. Once they’ve earned a victim’s trust and established a connection, the scammer will start asking for money. Often, the scammer says the money is to buy tickets to come visit the victim or to help with a medical emergency. Because of the connection the victim feels, they pay up.

Unfortunately, our office hears reports of these sweetheart scammers at alarming rates. In 2023, we received 71 complaints representing more than \$2.3 million in total losses. Make sure you are protecting your heart and wallet and watch out for these red flags:

- Sweetheart scammers often claim to be a U.S. citizen traveling or working overseas.
- They may pretend to have a mutual connection. Be careful to verify this information before you start communicating.
- The scammer may wait months before they ask for money so they can build a relationship and gain your trust. Sometimes, this type of scammer will try to get you to invest in cryptocurrency.

- They may promise to come to the U.S., but need money to resolve a roadblock – loans, the cost of flights, a family issue, etc.
- If an online love interest ever asks you for money, it's usually a scam.
- If you fall prey to a sweetheart scam, there's a good chance the scammer (or different scammers) will later try to lure you into a different scam.

You can learn more about how to avoid sweetheart scams at www.ncdoj.gov/sweetheart. If anyone contacts you and you're unsure of their authenticity or if you believe you have been the victim of a scam, contact our office's Consumer Protection Division at www.ncdoj.gov/complaint or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

###

Sign Up to Receive Congresswoman Valerie Foushee's Newsletter

Sign up [here](#). Her January newsletter is out now.

###

News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson

You didn't hear from me last week because nothing interesting happened in the House.

This week, that changed - we actually passed a big bill.

Here's a conversation about it that I had with a member of the other party on the House floor:

"So, we're gonna pass this tax bill?"

"Looks like it."

"I'm a little surprised."

"Me, too."

"Is it gonna pass the Senate?"

"Eh, it's gonna get filibustered. Might collapse."

"Still though, kinda amazed it got this far, given everything."

"Agreed."

The bill gave the majority party some business-side tax cuts, it gave the minority party an expansion of a tax credit for working families, and the whole thing was paid for by nixing another tax credit from the Covid era.

Its prospects in the Senate are uncertain because it's probably going to catch a filibuster, which means it'll need 60 votes to pass. So, we'll see.

But the larger story here might be *how* it passed the House.

Normally, all you need is a simple majority to get something passed - that's 50% +1, or 218 votes.

But that assumes the usual path for a bill, which involves going through the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee is the last stop for almost all bills. It *is* possible to skip that committee and just bring a bill straight to the floor - the Speaker has that power - but there's a price to pay:

Any bill that skips the Rules Committee needs a supermajority to pass. That's two-thirds, or roughly 290 votes.

That option exists to allow non-controversial stuff to pass quickly.

BUT - during our first big Speaker fight last January, one of the key concessions McCarthy made to the right-flank was to appoint a bunch of them to the Rules Committee. That basically gave them a chokepoint on any bill they don't like, and so far, they haven't liked any bill that can pass the Senate.

As a result, for the last several months, all of our serious bills - the ones that need to pass the Senate and actually become law - *have skipped the Rules Committee*.

Which means, all of these bills have needed a supermajority vote.

Which means, they've all needed a whole bunch of votes from the minority party to pass. That's the only way to get two-thirds.

So, here's the political reality we're living in:

Not only does the threat of being fired/punished by the right-flank serve as a huge deterrent for the Speaker in bringing certain matters to a vote, but when he does bring something serious to a vote - something his right-flank will oppose - he's going to need roughly 100 votes from the other party.

That means to get something done, he has to defy a big chunk of his party *and* he has to do it in a way that appeals to a ton of folks in the other party *but* not so much that it will upset his party to the point where he'll get fired.

Those are very tough needles to thread, and it's why we were all a little surprised to actually get a serious bill passed this week.

That dynamic has never really existed in the House before. Skipping the Rules Committee was once a narrow legislative path, but now it has to become a legislative superhighway if we're going to start doing big things like passing a budget, or the border, or Ukraine.

And it's all because McCarthy made a very specific concession to his right-flank 12 months ago in order to get the last few votes he needed to become Speaker... only to be fired by the same group nine months later.

Attendance Report

Last week, a reporter published a list of the 18 members of the House who haven't missed a single vote yet.

And I was a little surprised to see my name.

We've taken roughly 700 votes. Honestly, I figured I might have missed one by now.

Also, I'm well aware that in highlighting the fact that I haven't missed a vote, I'm basically ensuring that I will. This is the epitome of tempting fate. Delayed planes, crazy traffic, family emergencies - something will come along soon, I'm sure.

But for now, it's a good list to be on!

The real credit, however, goes to my staff. They do an excellent job managing logistics and reacting to curve balls. Grateful for them.

Best,

Jeff

###

News from Neighbors on Call

NCDP's Roadmap to 2030, February 7, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Join us to hear from NC Democratic Party Chair, Anderson Clayton, Jonah Garson, 1st Vice Chair, Dr. Kimberly Hardy, 2nd Vice Chair, Elijah King, 3rd Vice Chair, and Kian Sadjadi, NCDP Executive Director (the Fab Five) about the path to flipping NC.

Need a recap of the last decade in NC politics?

Want to know how Dems are going to get the legislature and the courts back before the next decade's maps are drawn?

Feeling overwhelmed by political news, and need a shot in the arm to get back in gear?

Want to know how you can help?

After one hour with this crew, we guarantee you'll feel energized and optimistic about the path ahead.

Sign up [here](#).

Every Child NC Day of Action for Education Rights Thursday, February 22 @ 10am-2pm

Join Every Child NC advocates as they condemn the NC Supreme Court's rehearing of Leandro and demand that the state honor the Nov. 2022 ruling by immediately funding the full Leandro Plan.

RSVP to Every Child NC [here](#).

Policy Updates for January 29, 2024:

Fair Representation

- [**On Friday U.S. District Court Judge James C. Dever denied a request to redraw NC Senate maps due to racial gerrymandering in northeastern North Carolina.**](#) In his ruling, he said that the plaintiffs did not adequately prove that Black votes are being diluted according to a three-part Supreme Court test, and he said that there is not enough time to redraw maps before elections in the fall. The plaintiffs, two Black voters from the region, are appealing to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- [**On Thursday three Democratic members of Congress representing different areas of the Triangle called on Congress to pass a bill to improve transparency in the redistricting process,**](#) with the ultimate goal of limiting gerrymandering. The bill would require state legislators to hold hearings before and after new maps are chosen and to make publicly available all iterations of the maps as well as all records of public comment.
- [**On Friday an NAACP lawsuit that challenges the validity of two N.C. constitutional amendments on the basis that the gerrymandered state legislature is illegitimate began moving through the courts again.**](#) In 2022, the N.C. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the NAACP, but the court's ruling called

for the case to go back to trial to answer additional questions. The case challenges a voter ID amendment and an amendment that caps income tax rates, arguing that since these were added to ballots by a state legislature elected through racially gerrymandered maps that were subsequently deemed unconstitutional, they are not valid. Lawyers for both sides met Friday with a three-judge panel to set a schedule for the trial.

Voting Rights

- [Last weekend a federal judge struck down part of a new elections law passed by N.C. Republicans.](#) Chief Judge Thomas Schroeder of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina ruled that a provision that would throw out ballots of same-day voting registrants if a confirmation-of-address mailing to the voter is returned as undeliverable “imposes a substantial burden” on voters and makes it too likely that legitimate votes would be thrown out

Justice

- [On Wednesday a new committee to review State Bar disciplinary rules met for the first time](#) at the state legislature. The Bar is responsible for overseeing the state’s lawyers and, if necessary, disciplining them for unethical or unprofessional conduct. Some committee members, all but one of whom are Republicans, spoke about fears of “cancel culture” impacting the State Bar’s processes. Suggestions for changes to regulations included allowing disciplined members to remove their disciplinary record from public access and erasing an attorney’s disciplinary records after they die.

###

News from the NC Counts Coalition

Thank you all for joining us at our Monthly Redistricting Roundtable Meeting on the 16th. And a special thank you to attorneys Hilary Harris Klein and Jyoti Jasra Saria for the expert overview of their two cases (and as a reminder, we are following three NC redistricting lawsuits closely right now).

As you all heard from attorneys Klein and Jasrasaria - any changes to our districts based upon a successful challenge from their two lawsuits will not come before the 2024 election. However, as a quick update on breaking news - an emergency motion was filed last Friday in an action that is separate from the two lawsuits we heard about at the Roundtable. This third lawsuit, which is challenging NC Senate Districts 1 and 2 in the Black Belt, is trying to see changes in those districts this year. More details on this can be found [here](https://www.carolinajournal.com/senate-redistricting-challengers-see-appeals-court-ruling-by-feb-15/) - <https://www.carolinajournal.com/senate-redistricting-challengers-see-appeals-court-ruling-by-feb-15/>. We will be following closely and will update you as we hear more.

Links to Roundtable notes, the meeting recording, etc. is below:

- [Notes from the meeting are here](#)
- [The Slide Deck is here](#)
- [Presentation from the Elias Law Group is here](#)
- [The Recording is here](#) (note, we did not record the attorney presentation section, but we did take notes)
- [The folder that houses the notes, recording, and slidedeck \(including the slides from the Elias Law Group\) are here](#)

Our next meeting is slated for the second Tuesday of February, on February 13th at 2:00pm. The Zoom registration for that meeting is [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoduGrrj4oE9M0Bpnrls0_ofkiZnouT8XN) - https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoduGrrj4oE9M0Bpnrls0_ofkiZnouT8XN. We hope you can join us.

###

News from County-to-County

Check out C2C's Latest "On the Issues" Stories:

[The Big Power Grab](#)

[Good News About the Crime Rate!](#)

[Biden and Trump: Is Age That Important?](#)

###

Selected News and Opinion Stories

Cardinal & Pine: [10 Events, 29 Days: How to Celebrate Black History Month in NC](#)

NY Times: [Opinion: How Biden Beats Trump](#)

NC Newslines: [Federal Judge Denies Black Voters' Request To Throw Out New Senate Districts in Northeastern NC](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [The Country Is Far Better Off Today, Let's Help Tom Suozzi Flip NY-3, Desperate and Dangerous Republican Sabotage](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Majority v. Anita Earls](#)

NC Health News: [Shortage of Correctional Officers Leaves Prison Staff Stretched Thin](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Construction Industry Has Lion's Share of NC Workplace Deaths](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [North Carolina's History of Abortion Restrictions – And What Comes Next](#)

Chapelboro: [New North Carolina State Senate Districts Remain in Place As Judge Refuses To Block Their Use](#)

NC Newslines: [Cooper Issues Executive Order to Help People Leaving Prison](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [The Democratic Party is Strong and Winning Elections All Across the U.S. Republicans Continue To Have Performance Issues.](#)

NY Times: [Democrats Say Biden Hasn't 'Made the Case' On Climate Despite Achievements](#)

Chapelboro: [Pittsboro's Latest Water Quality Tests Indicate Low 1,4 Dioxane Concentration](#)

NC Newslines: [Advocates File Federal Complaint Over 'Parents' Bill of Rights' Law](#)

NC Newslines: [Cooper Joins Reproductive Freedom Alliance Amicus Brief in Mifepristone Supreme Court Case](#)

The Assembly NC: [Mark Robinson, Teflon Man](#)

The Guardian: [A North Carolina PFAS Factory Claims Its Emissions Fell by 99.99%. A Guardian Test Reveals Otherwise.](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [My Appearance on MeidasTouch, Rising Consumer Sentiment, Calling Out Republican Idiocy and Cowardice, Ding-Dong](#)

Newsweek: [North Carolina GOP Owes \\$72K in Debt After Burning Through Cash](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Teachers Hate Mark Robinson's Idea to End Science and History Classes in Elementary School](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [TIMELINE: From 1776 to Today, Here's the History of Abortion Rights in NC](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [WATCH: NC Rep. Wiley Nickel on How Gerrymandering Impacts Abortion Rights](#)

Lucid: [It Can't Happen Here: Denial, Detachment, and the Desire for Normality](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Does Election District Plan Violate NC Voters' Constitutional Rights? Heavy Hitters Back Lawsuit Claiming It Does.](#)

NC Newslite: Ballot Bites: [The Latest Fundraising Numbers in Contests for AG and Appellate Court Seats](#)

Chapelboro: [Campaign for Southern Equality Files Federal Complaint Over NC's LGBTQ Instruction Law](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Republican Performance Problems Persist, Good Biden Polling, A New Lawrence Appearance](#)

AOL: [President Biden Sanctions West Bank Settlers in a Rebuke of Israeli Violence](#)

NY Times (May Require Subscription): [U.S. Job Growth Surges](#)

CNN: [More Cancers Linked to Tainted Water at Camp Lejeune, Sweeping New Study Finds](#)

NY Times (May Require Subscription): [Turnout Data Reveals the Core of Democrats' Success in Special Elections](#)

NY Times (May Require Subscription): [Opinion: The Democratic Party Is Having an 'Identity Crisis'](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Holy Moly! Another Huge Jobs Report!!!!](#)

Ballotpedia: [North Carolina Gubernatorial Election, 2024 \(March 5 Republican Primary\)](#)

NC Newslite: [New Redistricting Lawsuit Asks NC Courts To Say Fair Elections Are a Constitutional Right, and That Gerrymandering Violates It](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Winning NY-3, Voting on Day 1, and Building the Most Powerful Democratic Machine We've Ever Had](#)

NY Times (May Require Subscription): [South Carolina Primary: Biden Wins, Sending Him on Path to Renomination](#)

CNN: [Moms for Liberty Faces New Challenges and Growing Pushback Over Its Conservative Education Agenda](#)

Washington Post (May Require Subscription): [A Taylor Swift Endorsement? It's Delicate](#)