

## Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest

June 19, 2023

### A Juneteenth Message from North Carolina House Democrats

Today, we honor and observe Juneteenth, the oldest day that celebrates the end of slavery in the United States.

Yet, since this day that was first marked 158 years ago, countless people have continued to fight and advocate for freedom and equality. A fight that should have come to an end in 1865, has continued to be waged over the past century to today.

While we should all celebrate and rejoice today, we must also recommit ourselves to promoting equality and justice. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 along with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are still targeted today with major examples such as the major gerrymandering of African American citizens in Alabama or even the NC GOP looking to pass more restrictive voter ID laws.

From the most basic of civic rights to education and healthcare, we at the NC House Democrats recommit ourselves to continue fighting for equal rights, justice, and opportunity for all.

As we come together and celebrate this joyous day, let us all remember that we must stand together to make this country equal and a better place for all.

Thank you for joining with us and many others on this day,

NC House Dems

### Last Chance to Make Your Voice Heard!

#### Public Comment Period on Proposed Photo ID Temporary Rules Ends on June 23

The North Carolina State Board of Elections invites the public to comment on two temporary rules proposed to implement the photo ID requirement. See the below news release for details. **The public comment period runs through June 23 and members of the public may comment on the rules in any of the following ways:**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 2, 2023

Patrick Gannon, Public Information Director

[Email](#)

#### State Board Opens Public Comment Period on Proposed Rules on Voter Photo ID

Raleigh, N.C. — The State Board of Elections invites the public to comment on two temporary rules proposed to implement the photo ID requirement for in-person and absentee-by-mail voters in North Carolina, beginning with the 2023 municipal elections.

These rules are necessary to ensure uniform implementation of the photo ID requirement by all 100 county boards of elections and in all 3,000-plus polling locations. They are similar to rules adopted by the State Board and approved by the Rules Review Commission in prior iterations of the photo ID law.

The public comment period is open and runs through June 23.

Members of the public may comment on the rules in any of the following ways:

**Online:** [Public comment portal](#)

**Email:** [rulemaking.sboe@ncsbe.gov](mailto:rulemaking.sboe@ncsbe.gov)

**Mail:** Attn: Rulemaking Coordinator, PO Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

**Information and links to the two proposed rules are below:**

- Rule 08 NCAC 17.0101 (Verification of Photo Identification During In-Person Voting):** This proposed rule describes how election officials must determine whether the photograph on the ID reasonably resembles the voter and whether the name is the same as or substantially equivalent to the voter's name in their registration record. It also defines the process if an election official determines that the photograph or name on the ID do not satisfy the rule, as well as options that must be made available to the voter in this situation.
- Rule 08 NCAC 17.0109 (Photo Identification for Absentee-By-Mail Ballots):** This proposed rule provides details about the requirement for absentee-by-mail voters to provide a copy of an acceptable photo ID with their ballot return envelope, or to complete a photo ID exception form. It also describes the process county boards of elections must follow in reviewing copies of IDs or exception forms returned with absentee ballots.

The Board also proposes to repeal [four previous photo ID rules](#) adopted under a different law, which is now obsolete, to avoid any misunderstanding about what rules should be followed by election officials and the public.

Submitted comments will be compiled and provided to the State Board before its final consideration of the proposed temporary rules, which will likely take place at a public meeting on June 27. The Rules Review Commission would then consider the proposed rules.

For more information about the rulemaking process, please visit [Rulemaking](#).

#### Background:

Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina, starting with the municipal elections this fall.

Most voters will simply show their driver's license. But there are many other acceptable photo IDs.

If a voter does not have an acceptable photo ID, they can get one for free from the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV). [Find more information under "No-Fee ID Cards" at State IDs | NCDMV](#). Soon, voters will also be able to get a free ID card from their [county board of elections](#).

For more information on the photo ID requirement, see [Voter ID](#).

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### Upcoming Events

#### June 20, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Chatham County Board of Elections Regular Meeting

The board meeting will be open to the public at the Board of Elections office; 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312 and online via GoToMeeting.

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

<https://meet.goto.com/237650893>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 237-650-893

United States: +1 (224) 501-3412

Get the app now and be ready when the meeting starts:

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

Agenda: [Agenda Draft June 20 2023](#)

#### June 20, 7 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. – Chop It Up NC

The "Chop It Up NC" virtual event series is a Men of Color focused discussion on state and national policy and politics and how it affects black and brown communities across North Carolina!

Join us for a dialogue with Rev. Dr. Paul McAllister, Chair of InterFaith Caucus-NCDP and Mr. David Webb, Regional Director for Congressman Don Davis; former Deputy Political Director for the Cheri Beasley for US Senate Campaign, Mr. Antjuan Seawright, Founder & CEO of Blueprint Strategy, LLC, a public relations, advertising, and political consulting firm based in South Carolina, Rev. Dr. Conrad Pridden, AME Church, Presiding Elder, Western District Western North Carolina Conference; Chair of the Governing Board, NC Council of Churches, and Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Hughes, Town of Hillsborough, NC; DNC Committee Member to address the important issues and concerns we face in our diverse communities.

Men of Color are critical to the Democratic coalition in North Carolina, and we must do all we can to engage their diverse concerns in an authentic way, year-round, in order to turn North Carolina blue.

To participate go to: [Chop It Up NC](#)

#### Democracy NC Statewide Advocates Call

June 22, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our Statewide Advocates Call on June 22! We'll be talking about where we currently stand after the latest moves by the NC Supreme Court and NC General Assembly and its impacts on voters across North Carolina. You'll meet our incredible Regional Managing Organizers across the state as well as our latest slate of Democracy Summer friendterns!

And most importantly, we'll be telling you how you can tap into this work in the months ahead of the municipal elections. As we often say at Democracy NC, there are no "off" years here. Given the latest law changes and their impact on how North Carolinians can or cannot cast their votes, there is important work to be doing ahead of this fall and the general election in 2024.

To RSVP go to: [action.democracync.org/a/statewide-advocates-call](https://action.democracync.org/a/statewide-advocates-call)

June 22, 2023 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

#### Red Wine & Blue Virtual Event –After Roe: How We Found Our Voice

Can you believe it's been a year since the Supreme Court took away our reproductive rights? We can't either! But you know what we can believe? How much this community has stepped up to work together on behalf of our daughters, our friends, and each other. We voted in numbers not seen before. We joined organizations like Red Wine & Blue to fight back. We spoke out in our communities. We want to celebrate this momentum, which is why we are coming together to share stories with one another of how you've found your voice since Roe. Join us as we come together to keep this momentum going and defeat extremism.

To sign up, go to: [After Roe: How We Found Our Voice - Red Wine & Blue](#)

#### June 24, 7 p.m. (VIP Reception 5:30 p.m.) – 2023 NCDP Unity Dinner

NC State Talley Student Union, State Ballroom, 2610 Cates Avenue, Raleigh

Come enjoy a three-course meal with Governor Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein, a special guest speaker, and dedicated North Carolina Democrats from across the state. For more information and tickets, go to [North Carolina Democratic Party](#)

For more upcoming events and details, visit: <https://www.ccdpnc.org/calendar-of-events>

#### August 10-11 and October 2-3 REI Phase I "In-Person" Workshops, Sponsored by Organizing Against Racism

Here are two opportunities for personal growth and understanding in the area of race and racism. Many have described these in-person workshops as "life changing."

**Thursday & Friday, August 10-11, 2023**  
8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
\*IN-PERSON\*

REI Phase I Workshop  
Durham Location TBA

[REGISTER For August 10-11](#)

**Monday & Tuesday, October 2-3, 2023**  
8:45a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
\*IN-PERSON\*

REI Phase I Workshop  
Durham Location TBA

[REGISTER for October 2-3](#)

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### Get Involved!

#### Your Board of Elections is Seeking Election Site Judges and Student Election Assistants

Want to help protect democracy while also earning a little extra cash? Consider serving as an election site judge for the Chatham County Board of Elections! The Board is currently searching for precinct election officials for the upcoming election. Learn more at this link:

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44242636942202990670000>

The Board of Elections is also looking for high school students to serve as Student Election Assistants to work in the polls on Election Day. The Board pays for time spent in training and for working on Election Day. For more information and to submit an application, visit:

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44244636942202994400000>

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### News from Neighbors on Call

#### Legislative and Policy Updates (June 12, 2023)

##### Fair Representation

- On Tuesday the NC Senate passed a Republican-sponsored bill that would change the way Wake County commissioners are elected.** HB 99 will shift the Wake County Board of Commissioners to district-based elections from county-wide elections and add two at-large seats. District-based representation makes it more likely that Republicans will be elected to the Board (currently, all 7 seats are occupied by Democrats). Since it is a local bill, HB 99 does not need Governor Cooper's signature.

##### Voting Rights

- On Tuesday Democrats in the NC Senate filed a bill that would require a state legislator who switches parties to face a special election.** The sponsors filed the bill in response to Rep. Tricia Cotham's switch to the Republican party a few months ago. Her constituents and the Democratic party saw her switch as a complete betrayal, but they had no recourse to remove her from her seat in response.

##### Economic Policy

- On Tuesday the NC Senate passed a Republican-sponsored bill that would prevent state employers, including universities, from asking job candidates about their political beliefs.** SB 364, a reaction against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, would stop practices such as asking job candidates to submit diversity statements. It now goes to Governor Cooper for his signature.
- On Wednesday the NC House passed a bipartisan bill legalizing sports betting.** HB 347, which would allow gambling on sports on mobile devices and certain in-person sports venues, is expected to be signed by Governor Cooper, and would go into effect as early as January. In the final debate over the bill, some lawmakers objected to changes added to the bill by the NC Senate, including allowing horse racing and removing a limit on college sports betting for 8 hours prior to the event.

##### Environmental Policy

- On Wednesday the NC House passed the biannual Farm Act.** SB 582 has drawn scrutiny recently because it would not allow the state to adopt more stringent wetland protections than the federal government. That provision, in combination with a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, would open millions of acres of formerly protected wetlands in North Carolina to development. Environmental advocates have objected to the bill because wetlands are crucial to flood resiliency and absorb pollution, improving water quality. The bill now goes back to the Senate.

##### Health Care Policy

- A provision included in the recent bill banning abortion after 12 weeks in North Carolina will allow nurse midwives to practice without physician supervision.** Midwives had long lobbied the state legislature to remove the physician supervision requirement, though they had not asked for the provision to be included in SB 20 and were surprised to see it slipped into the bill. North Carolina was one of only three states to require supervision of certified nurse-midwives, and advocates had called for ending the practice because that supervision sometimes required experienced midwives to pay large sums for oversight that amounted to little more than a few meetings per year.

##### Gun Violence Prevention

- On Monday Governor Cooper announced a statewide initiative to promote safe firearm storage.** The NC S.A.F.E. (Secure All Firearms Effectively) initiative includes a public awareness program and the distribution of 25,000 cable gun locks. The initiative will be funded by leftover money from the previous year's budget.

##### Criminal Justice

- On Thursday the NC Senate unanimously passed a bill that would allow cities to hire civilians to investigate minor traffic accidents** that do not involve an injury. HB 140 would require civilian traffic investigators to undergo a training program and then shadow a police officer for four weeks. They would wear a different uniform, not carry a sidearm, and not be allowed to issue citations or arrest people.

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### Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note

AP News: [Supermajorities in state capitols push controversial policies to the edge](#)

AP News: [Supreme Court won't review North Carolina's decision to nix license plates with Confederate flag](#)

AP News: [North Carolina governor signs sports, horse racing betting law; wagering could begin in early 2024](#)

Assembly NC: [The Governor Floats a Grand Bargain on Boards](#)

Carolina Forward: [Who Speaks Up for NC's Renters?](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Stacked Against, Part Three: The heavy toll of long prison terms on families](#)

Chapelboro: [Roy Cooper Just Signed N.C.'s Sports Gambling Bill. What Does That Mean?](#)

Energy News Network: [In North Carolina, housing affordability at center of debate over building codes](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [The Right-Wing Narrative About Biden is Collapsing](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [More Good News on Inflation \(revised, updated\)](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Let's Stay Focused On All The Good Economic News](#)

INDY Week: [The Miseducation of America](#)

Lucid: [Why is the GOP Still in Thrall to Trump? A Study in Authoritarian Cult Dynamics](#)

NC Health News: [Transgender athlete ban for women's sports edges closer to becoming law in NC](#)

NC Health News: [A guide to the 2023 legislative health budget](#)

NC Health News: [With Medicaid 'unwinding,' federal official warns of worrying trends](#)

NC Newsline: [NC Republican elections proposal would strip the governor of appointment power](#)

NPR: [How do voters feel about the 37 federal charges filed against Donald Trump](#)

Pro Publica: [A Grad Student Found the Largest Known Slave Auction in the U.S.](#)

Slowboring: [Can Democrats Win Back the Working Class?](#)

USA Today: [Can educators refuse to 'out' trans students despite new policies?](#)

USA Today: [Biden campaign eyes North Carolina to reshape 2024 electoral map](#)

WFAE: [Rep. Tricia Cotham contradicts 2015 speech by saying she didn't have an abortion](#)

WUNC: [Health providers challenge North Carolina abortion restrictions in federal court](#)

WUNC: [Are proposed state employee raises enough to fix government's staffing crisis?](#)

The New York Review: [The Long War on Black Studies](#)

Zocalo Public Square: [Why Did Governments Compensate Slaveholders for Abolition?](#)

National Geographic: [Juneteenth is American's Second Independence Day – Here's Why](#)

National Geographic: [How Two Centuries of Slave Revolts Shaped American History](#)

National Geographic: [The Forgotten First Emancipation Proclamation](#)

New York Times Opinion: [Lock Him Up](#) (Requires Subscription)

New York Times: [The Racial Wage Gap is Shrinking](#) (Requires Subscription)

New York Times: [How Democrats Can Win Workers](#) (Requires Subscription)

Washington Post: [DeSantis Allies Set Up a School to Train a \\$100 Million Door-Knocking Army](#) (Requires Subscription)