

**CCDP Weekly News Digest**  
**March 20, 2023**

**Call for Chatham County Democratic Party Candidates!**

Be part of shaping Chatham Dems' future! We'll be putting out a call shortly for those wanting to be part of the action. It's an internal election year, so all critical party roles are open to registered Democrats living in Chatham County.

Consider running for:

- Chair
- First Vice Chair
- Second Vice Chair
- Third Vice Chair
- Secretary
- State Executive Committee Representatives (three)
- Congressional District 9 Representative

More to come shortly! In the meantime, please direct any questions to [info@ccdpc.org](mailto:info@ccdpc.org).

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**Important Dates to Remember**

**March 20, 6 p.m. – Chatham County Board of Commissioners Meeting, Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, Pittsboro**  
View the agenda [here](#).

**March 21, 5:30 – 7 p.m. – Chatham County Board of Elections Regular Meeting, Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro**

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

To sign up to receive meeting notices click this link: <https://www.chathamnc.org/about-us/sign-up-for-e-notifier>.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
<https://meet.goto.com/788953509>

You can also dial in using your phone.  
Access Code: 788-953-509  
United States: **+1 (571) 317-3122**

**March 22, 7 p.m. – Native Plant Seminar, CCDP Community Engagement Center, 628-A East Street, Pittsboro**  
**PLEASE RSVP: <https://mobilize.us/s/0kERSs>**

**April 2, 12 – 4 p.m. – Pittsboro First Sunday, Downtown Pittsboro**

**April 15 – Annual CCDP County Convention (Zoom Event)**

**May 6, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. – Spring Chicken Festival, Downtown Siler City**

**May 7, 12 – 4 p.m. – Pittsboro First Sunday, Downtown Pittsboro**

**May 20 – Annual District Convention**

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

###

**News from the North Carolina Democratic Party**

This week's news releases:

**ICYMI: Congresswoman Ross, Congresswoman Foushee, Congressman Nickel, Senate Minority Whip Chaudhuri, & NCDP Chair Clayton Held Press Conference Following Harper v. Hall Hearing**

Congresswoman Deborah Ross, Congresswoman Valerie Foushee, Congressman Wiley Nickel, Senate Minority Whip Jay Chaudhuri, and North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton held a press conference following the North Carolina Supreme Court's rehearing of Harper v. Hall.

The new Republican court's unprecedented decision to rehear the case – which reaffirmed the court's decision to redraw election maps – came not even two months after they were handed down by the previous Democratic majority and threatens the integrity of the judicial branch. Reversing these cases would silence the voices of thousands of voters and jeopardize our democracy.

"From the local to the national level, North Carolina Democrats are standing up against this appalling display of partisanship from what is supposed to be an independent judiciary and standing strong in the fight to protect our democracy," said NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton.

"I just left the courtroom where I heard arguments presented by both sides. I remain more certain than ever that Republicans have one goal here – to enact gerrymandered maps that bolster their political interests and silence the voices of North Carolina voters," said NC-02 Congresswoman Deborah Ross.

"We cannot have a functional democracy if voters are being silenced before they arrive at the ballot box. Voting rights is the cornerstone of our democracy and we must never give up the fight to protect our right to vote and expand and ensure access to the ballot," said NC-04 Congresswoman Valerie Foushee.

"Unfortunately, what we saw today from the North Carolina Supreme Court is a continuation of what we have come to expect from this partisan court – a standard that the people of North Carolina are sick about. The decision to rehear Harper v. Hall and Holmes v. Moore is nothing more than a partisan power grab to benefit those in control," said NC-13 Congressman Wiley Nickel.

"The facts and law of these cases didn't change from three months ago. Only the court's composition changed. It's critical that our citizens view the judicial branch as independent and impartial, view our justices as not simply politicians in robes, and trust our courts," said Senate Minority Whip Jay Chaudhuri.

**NCDP Chair on Governor Cooper's Proposed Budget**

*NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement on Governor Cooper's proposed budget:*

"Governor Cooper's proposed budget recognizes the historic opportunity our state has to make significant investments in our students, workforce, and families so that every North Carolinian can thrive. This budget would ensure a sound, basic education by raising teacher pay and securing funding for critical staff like school bus drivers and counselors, prioritize healthier and stronger families including \$1 billion to address the mental health crisis, bolster our workforce from job training to quality child care, support our state employees who power essential state services, and implement tax breaks for middle class families who continue to feel the squeeze of rising costs. North Carolina has a duty to its people to address the pressing issues of our time and this budget seizes the moment to make our state First in Opportunity for generations."

**President Biden Is Working to Lower Prescription Drug Costs for North Carolina's Seniors, No Thanks to GOP**

New data is showing exactly how President Biden and Democrats are working to lower the cost of health care and prescription drugs. A [report](#) released today by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows how the Inflation Reduction Act – which every single Republican in Congress voted against – is lowering health care costs for the people of North Carolina.

"The data speaks for itself: while Republicans sided with Big Pharma and voted against cutting the cost of prescription drugs, President Biden and Democrats delivered and put money back into seniors' pockets," said North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton.

Last August, President Biden and Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which for the first time allows Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for seniors, caps the cost of insulin at \$35 for seniors on Medicare, and makes recommended vaccines free for Medicare beneficiaries. The HHS [report](#) shows:

- Seniors and people with disabilities in North Carolina are likely to save an average of **\$67.70** per year because of the legislation's provision that went into effect in January that allows Medicare beneficiaries to get recommended vaccines for free.
- The first set of Part B prescription drugs that will be subject to Medicare inflation rebates because they raised their prices faster than inflation, which will lower coinsurance for some Medicare beneficiaries beginning next month.

This new data comes after President Biden last week proposed capping the price of insulin at \$35 per month for everyone – not just seniors – as part of his budget. Meanwhile, two of the three largest producers of insulin in the country – Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk – announced they are following the president's lead and lowering insulin costs for seniors in North Carolina and across the country.

This Week's Point/Counterpoint:

**POINT:**

Republicans in the NC Supreme Court are righting a wrong done by the previous court.

**COUNTERPOINT:**

- Nothing has changed in the Harper v. Hall case except the political composition of the court.
- Rehearing this case because your political party didn't like the previous decision is a reckless abuse of power. Our constitution doesn't change when new judges are elected.

**GOVERNOR COOPER'S BUDGET: Detailed Talking Points**

Topline: With a \$3 billion surplus and historic investments in our communities and economy, North Carolina has real momentum. Now we need to invest in our students, workforce and families so that every corner of our state can thrive. North Carolina is a great place to live, work and raise a family because of smart investments by visionary leaders of the past. The Governor's budget shows that by seizing this moment and making the right investments, our state can be First in Opportunity for generations to come.

*Ensuring a Sound, Basic Education, 1st in the Southeast in Teacher Pay*

- By raising teacher pay by an average of 18% over two years, the Governor's budget raises teacher pay to 1st in the Southeast.
- Every parent knows, schools need to work. The Governor's budget provides funding for the school bus drivers, counselors and other staff that help teachers teach and students learn.
- For 30 years, courts have ruled that North Carolina is failing in its constitutional duty to provide an opportunity for a sound basic education for all students. This budget funds the plan the Supreme Court ruled will meet this obligation and give every student a chance to succeed.

*Healthier Families and Safer, Stronger Communities*

- Rising mental health and substance use crises require real action. The Governor's budget funds a \$1 billion plan to support mental health so people can get the help they need to succeed.
- By expanding Medicaid before the end of the fiscal year, the state can maximize federal funding to support our health care system and economy, including an additional \$1.75 billion incentive bonus from the federal government.
- Safe communities require well-trained law enforcement. The Governor's budget invests in school safety grants, support for local law enforcement, and community-based violence prevention programs. It also supports violence and gang prevention strategies while investing in the expansion of successful re-entry and community supervision programs.

*Bolstering our Workforce and Strengthening Economic Development*

- Growing a workforce ready for good paying jobs means prioritizing job training and funding for community colleges and universities as well as programs for training, credentialing and apprenticeships.
- Working parents require quality child care but providers are severely strained. The Governor's budget continues to fund child care stabilization grants to ensure they can continue to employ quality teachers and staff so kids can safely learn and parents can get back to work.
- Along with historic ongoing investments in infrastructure, good jobs need shovel-ready sites to build. The Governor proposes additional funding to prepare megasites to recruit new industries and employers.

*Supporting State Employees and State Services*

- State employees are the engine that power essential services for the people, but hiring and retaining the best employees has become a major challenge. The Governor's budget makes the largest investment in 50 years in state employees, increasing pay, improving benefits and providing flexibility to hire qualified people.

*Prioritizing Tax Fairness while Saving for a Rainy Day*

- The Governor's budget implements tax breaks for middle class families but maintains current tax rates for the wealthy and corporations at their recently reduced rates. To support strong communities, everyone should pay their fair share.
- While our state is growing and revenues are strong, it's important to be prepared.
- The Governor's budget keeps more than \$7 billion in reserves in case of a downturn. This is a sound, responsible budget that shows the potential to invest in people instead of unnecessary tax breaks for the wealthy and large corporations.

*Bottom Line:*

North Carolina should seize this moment to invest in opportunities for families and communities. This is a responsible, balanced plan that doesn't raise taxes, saves in case of future uncertainty while investing in the things we know are necessary to grow our economy and provide opportunity. That's a win-win for North Carolina.

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**News from NC Attorney General Josh Stein**

**Consumer Alert**

Employment Scams are on the Rise

Are you currently looking for a new job? Scammers have ramped up efforts to take advantage of job seekers to trick them out of their money or steal their identity. These employment scammers will post spoofed job postings or contact you about a new job opportunity in exchange for your personal information. The Better Business Bureau [reported](#) that the frequency of this type of scam increased 23 percent from 2021 to 2022.

Use these tips to protect yourself from employment scams:

- **Research the job offer and contact the company directly** using contact information listed on their website to verify that a job posting is legitimate.
- **Be skeptical of providing your personal information before an interview.** A legitimate business will not ask you to give your personal or financial information before hiring you.
- **Verify the business is legitimate** by checking with the [Better Business Bureau](#) and the [Secretary of State's Office](#).
- **Never pay to get the job.** If someone is asking you to pay in order for you to get a job, they're most likely a scammer. A legitimate employer will never require you to pay for employment.
- **Do not feel rushed and take your time** making a decision about a new employment opportunity. Remember, if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

If you think you may have been a victim of an employment scam, call our office at 877-5-NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at <https://ncdoj.gov/complaint>.

###

**News from Democracy North Carolina**

The right to protest is one of our country's founding principles.

Unfortunately, N.C. lawmakers just passed HB 40 – an anti-democratic bill intended to criminalize protest, deter people from exercising free speech, and discredit First Amendment rights by misrepresenting them as violent or dangerous acts.

[No one, whether they are Black, brown or white, should have to fear the government imposing harsh penalties for exercising free speech >> Tell Governor Cooper to veto HB 40](#)

When lawmakers make statements referring to protestors as "rioters" and "looters", it furthers a divisive and racially biased narrative against Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) protestors. With the passage of this bill, North Carolinians must be willing to risk the immediate and long-term loss of their freedom, health, bodily autonomy, and economic security at the broad discretion of law enforcement and prosecutors when exercising their right to assemble.

Governor Cooper now has a few days to act upon this promise and keep Black and brown communities safe from state-sanctioned violence.

[Make sure you ask him to veto HB 40 by the March 20 deadline.](#) Our right to protest is on the line.

In Solidarity,

Cheryl Carter & Adrienne Kelly  
Co-Executive Directors

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We're hiring our next pool of passionate and determined young people for the 24th year of our youth leadership program, Democracy Summer!

Do you know any impressive community college or university students who would be interested in this hands-on, paid summer internship in policy, organizing, communications, development, or operations?

If so, please forward them the message below! Or just text them the link to the program description and application: [demnc.co/demsummer](https://demnc.co/demsummer)

Onward,

Siesa  
Volunteer Program Associate

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Looking for a way to make social change and build skills to start your career? [Apply to be part of the 2023 Democracy Summer internship class!](#)

Now in its 24th year, the Democracy Summer internship program inspires advocacy, community, and social change in the face of injustice. Get paid to continue the work this summer.

Democracy Summer is a life-changing, hands-on internship experience for college students from across the state. You could be part of a legacy of hundreds of young people who spend their summer making North Carolina's government work for all. You would work for 9 weeks this summer as an Organizing, Communications, Policy, Development, or Operations intern!

All interns earn a \$5,000 stipend (taxable) while building relationships, receiving training, and working alongside us as if you were one of our staff. We prepare all of our interns to gain skills that could get them a job in movement work after graduation.

Our interns focus on:

- empowering local volunteers
- amplifying community leaders
- advocating for local and national policies that improve our democracy
- cultivating relationships with decision-makers in North Carolina's power structure
- moving the needle toward the future we all deserve

Don't delay! [Get more details and apply here](#). *Applications are due by 7 p.m. on Friday, March 31st.*

We look forward to working with you!

*Everyone should feel that their voice matters, their future matters, and that they matter. Democracy NC means so much to me because we show disenfranchised communities that they matter.* - Sydney Walker, Democracy Summer Class of 2020

In Solidarity,

Desmera Gatewood  
Organizing Program Manager  
Democracy North Carolina

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**News from All in for NC**

We've spent this winter listening to you and thinking about how to be most effective in helping turn NC blue. We are proud that we all share in the work that Democratic analyst Simon Rosenberg calls [Getting to 55%](#) and decisively defeating the MAGA Republicans.

Many of you asked us to give you more background on NC politics. So, we are starting up our monthly meetings with a series to help you learn what works, who's working effectively and what opportunities exist.

Our first program will be Monday, March 27, at 2:30 pm.

[Register](#)

Kelly Morales, executive director of Siembra NC, will interview Jessica Laurenz, executive director of Put NC First, about the political and organizational landscape of NC in 2023-2024. Kelly leads the largest Latino canvassing program in the state's history. Jessica leads the broadest group of donors who support building long-term progressive infrastructure for political organizing in the state.

In future meetings, we'll give you opportunities to meet some of the new NC Democratic Party leaders, to learn about specific areas of the state and groups where our out of state (OOS) investment of time and dollars can make the greatest impact, and to hear how NC fits into national possibilities for change. We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely, Marlene, Mark, Judith and Jeff, for All In for NC

**Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note**

[Chatham News + Record](#): VinFast: We're Delaying Vehicle Rollout

[The Assembly NC](#): Cooper's Veto Predicament

[Inside Higher Ed](#): Who's Aired of Virginia Fox?

[EJNC](#): These Rural NC School Districts are Tackling the Teacher Shortage in an Innovative Way

[U.S. News and World Report](#): With GOP Majority, North Carolina Court Revisits Voting Maps

[WHQR](#): EPA Announces 'the First-Ever National Standard for PFAS Regulations on Six Chemicals, Including GenX

[WUNC](#): Wolfsped: Siler City Plant Will Help Meet Surge in Demand for Electric Vehicles

[Carolina Public Press](#): Residents' Frustration Grows at Slow Progress to Address PFAS Pollution in Their Water

[Carolina Public Press](#): National Physician Shortage Will Hit Rural Areas Harder, Experts Say

[Chatham News + Record](#): UNC Dental Study Aims to Close Healthcare Gap in Rural N.C.

[Chatham News + Record](#): Briar Chapel Native Plant Enthusiast is Reinventing Her Neighborhood

[Chatham News + Record](#): Siler City Cited Another \$28K for Water Quality Violations

[Chatham News + Record](#): Teachers, Families Push Against Year-Round School Model, Citing Accessibility Concerns

[Chatham News + Record](#): Pittsboro Commissioners – Board Holds Public Hearing on System Development Fees

[Chatham News + Record](#): Pittsboro Hires Jonathan Franklin as Permanent Town Manager

[EdNC](#): North Carolina Schools Report Nearly \$3 Million in School Meal Debt

[WUNC](#): Near-Unanimous NC Senate Votes to Expand Medicaid

[Axios](#): Harsher Punishments Coming for Trafficking Opioids in North Carolina

[WUNC](#): Books on Race, Sexuality Among Most Targeted Across N.C. Schools