

**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest  
October 2, 2023**

**CALL TO ACTION: SPEAK OUT NOW ON REDISTRICTING!**

The NC House Redistricting Committee and Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee are accepting public comments on House, Senate, and Congressional district redistricting plans. Make your voice heard now, before the comment period is over. To comment, go to: [Request For Comments - North Carolina General Assembly](#)

**###**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Help Staff CCDP's Tent at Goldston Old Fashioned Days**

Goldston Old Fashioned Days will be taking place in the town of Goldston on Saturday, October 14th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

I am reaching out to anyone who might be willing to volunteer for a shift. Shifts are only two hours as follows:

9 -11 a.m. and set up  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
1 - 3 p.m.  
3 - 4 p.m. and clean up

If you have nothing to do that Saturday, why not help out at Old Fashioned Days? I hear it's a large event and lots of fun.

If you have other plans, I certainly understand, but if you are interested, you can sign up on Mobilize or email me.

Thank you again for everything you have done for the CCDP. We couldn't do it without you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Pearman  
CCDP Coordinator for Tent Events  
[barbarajpearman@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajpearman@gmail.com)  
(919) 345-7961

**###**

## Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events

**October 14, 2023, 1 – 2 p.m. – Training - Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education, Chatham County Engagement Center, 628 East St, Pittsboro**

Get ready to register people to vote! This one-hour training will cover how to help people fill out a voter registration form and give you answers to questions newly registered voters are likely to ask. This is a great way to prepare for working in the CCDP Community Engagement Center, greeting people at CCDP events, canvassing, and a variety of other volunteer activities.

To sign up, go to: [Training - Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education](#)

**October 28, 2023, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (rain or shine)  
Volunteer at CCDP's tent, Pittsboro Street Fair, 100 E. Salisbury St, Pittsboro**

The fair is hosted by the Rotary Club, and in 2022 there were over 100 vendors and an estimate of about 5,000 people at the fair enjoying arts, crafts, food and family entertainment. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for more than one of these time slots.

The time slots are:

- 9 -10 a.m. Equipment Carry and Set Up\*
- 10 a.m. - Noon Shift 1
- Noon -2 p.m. Shift 2
- 2 - 4 p.m. Shift 3
- 4 – 5 p.m. Clean Up and Equipment Carry\*

To sign up, go to: [Volunteer to Help - CCDP Tent @ Pittsboro Street Fair](#)

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## Other Upcoming Events

**MONDAYS, 1 - 2 p.m. – Office Hours with NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton**

Have questions for the Chair? Join NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton for office hours every Monday at 1 p.m. **Same time EVERY Monday.**

To sign up, go to: [Office Hours with Chair Anderson Clayton](#)

**October 3, 2023, 5 - 6 p.m. – Chatham County Board of Elections Business/  
Absentee Meeting, Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson St, Suite D, Pittsboro**

The Board of Elections has been meeting each Tuesday, beginning September 12th, prior to the Election on October 10th, 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/135181013>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 135-181-013

(872) 240-3212

**October 3, 2023, 7:30 p.m. – Behind the Scenes of 9 to 5 (Virtual Event),  
Sponsored by Red, Wine, & Blue**

Did you know there was an organization fighting for women’s workplace rights called 9 to 5? Ellen Cassedy was a founder and also the author of Working 9 to 5. She will provide a firsthand account of what building this movement was like and how it ended up on the big screen.

Sign up [here](#).

**October 4, 2023, 6:30 p.m. – Rally Your Squad to Stop Abortion Bans (Virtual Event), Sponsored by Red, Wine, & Blue**

School boards, state legislatures, judges and reproductive rights are all on the line. If you live there or have friends in those states, it’s time to get involved. Join our Rally Your Squad training to learn how you can become part of this badass team of suburban women who are getting it done!

Sign up [here](#).

**October 4, 7:30 p.m. – Inaugural Little Banned Book Club (Virtual Event),  
Sponsored by Red, Wine, & Blue**

Our first discussion will be about And Tango Makes Three by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, a book about an adorable penguin couple, Roy and Silo, who live in the Central Park Zoo and decide to start a family. Together, we will read the book and talk about why some folks are up in arms about it. We are excited to partner with Simon & Schuster!

Sign up [here](#).

**October 5, 2023, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. – Troublemaker Training, Anti-Racist Education: Why Extremists Fear It and We All Need It (Sponsored by Red Wine & Blue)**

Extremists want to limit race in education and push disinformation to scare parents about school curriculums. But what exactly is an anti-racist education and why is it impactful for ALL students? Join us at this virtual training to hear from Lucretia Berry, founder of Brownicity and a curriculum specialist for Community School of Davidson (NC) where she designed and teaches Antiracism 101. Learn why anti-racist education empowers everyone and how it develops critical thinking and solution-oriented skills.

Sign up at: [Anti-Racist Education: Why Extremists Fear It and We All Need It](#)

**October 8, 3 – 5 p.m. – Join Us to Celebrate NC House Democratic Leader Robert Reives' Birthday, Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center, Pittsboro**

Please join us on October 8th for the annual Rep. Robert Reives Birthday Fundraiser!

The event will be held at the Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center in Pittsboro on Sunday, October 8th from 3 to 5 p.m. Our special guest that evening will be Roger Perry, Founder and President of East West Partners Management in Chapel Hill.

Co-Hosts and Hosts will be invited to a VIP reception prior to the start of the event at 2:30 p.m.

*If you would prefer to pay by check or have any questions, please contact Cora Martin at [cora@reivesforhouse.com](mailto:cora@reivesforhouse.com)!*

Sign up [here](#).

**October 12 - October 22, 2023 (multiple times available) –Volunteer at the NC State Fair with NC Democrats, 4285 Trinity Rd, Raleigh, NC**

Come volunteer at the NCDP booth at the NC State Fair! It's great fun to spend time with your fellow Democrats talking to voters, handing out free merch and enjoying the fair! You'll receive a ticket to get in free! Sign up at: [Volunteer at the NC State Fair](#)

**October 21, 2023, 6 p.m. – 2023 Building Blue Block Party, NCDP Headquarters, 220 Hillsborough St, Raleigh**

Back by popular demand! Come hang out with North Carolina Democrats as we share an evening of special speakers, and music!

For more info and tickets, go to: [North Carolina Democratic Party](#)

**October 19, 2023, 6 - 7 p.m. – All On the Line North Carolina Statewide Meeting (virtual event)**

Join All On The Line North Carolina for our monthly Statewide Meeting Thursday, October 19 at 6PM. We will share information and discuss what you can do right now to

fight for Fair Maps in North Carolina. To join, go to: [AOTL NC October 2023 Statewide Meeting](#)

## October 27-28, 2023 – Democratic Leaders Summit, Sponsored by Governor Roy Cooper

I am excited to announce that on October 27th and 28th, I am hosting in Raleigh some of our state and nation's most influential Democrats from my first annual Democratic Leaders Summit. A number of my friends, including Pete Buttigieg, Stacey Abrams, Attorney General Josh Stein, and many more will attend. Over two days, we will have thoughtful discussions about democracy, winning elections, voting rights, and more.

You don't want to miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity! **Capacity is limited, so please register as soon as possible.** I hope you will join us for the inaugural Democratic Leader's Summit. You can RSVP [here](#).

Hope to see you there!

Roy Cooper



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL

# DEMOCRATIC LEADERS SUMMIT

HOSTED BY

## Governor Roy Cooper

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

Hon. Pete Buttigieg  
Stacey Abrams

AND FEATURING

Attorney General Josh Stein

US Representative Alma Adams | US Representative GK Butterfield (Ret.)  
US Representative Jeff Jackson | US Representative Kathy Manning  
US Representative Deborah Ross | Secretary of State Elaine Marshall  
NC Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton  
Senate Democratic Leader Dan Blue | House Democratic Leader Robert Reives  
Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls | Appeals Court Judge Allison Riggs  
and Democratic Members of the Legislature

*\*additional guests to be announced\**

**OCTOBER 27th – OCTOBER 28th**  
**Raleigh, NC**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$350 PER ATTENDEE**  
Register at [actblue.com/page/demsummit](https://actblue.com/page/demsummit)  
Questions? Contact [demsummit@roycooper.com](mailto:demsummit@roycooper.com)

**Capacity is limited!**

**DEMOCRATIC LEADERS SUMMIT**  
HOSTED BY GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

Paid for by Cooper for North Carolina

###

## News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

### Far Right Republicans, Including Dan Bishop, Spearheading Efforts to Shut Down the Government

House Republicans on the far right, including Rep. Dan Bishop, want to ram through their extreme agenda, **and they have the support of Donald Trump**. If their requirements aren't met, they will force an Extreme Republican Shutdown that would have devastating consequences for our communities, economy, and national security.

- Service members wouldn't get their paychecks.
- Food safety inspections could be delayed,
- Critical research on diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's would be stalled,
- Nutrition assistance for nearly 7 million women and children who rely on WIC will be in jeopardy.

Dan Bishop, who is a part of the group seeking to shut the government down, is currently running to be the Attorney General of North Carolina.

Chair Clayton's statement on Dan Bishop's efforts to shut the government down:

"Dan Bishop has a track record of costing North Carolinians money as the Co-author of the anti-trans HB2, and now he wants to prevent people from getting their paychecks with his efforts to shut down the government. Dan Bishop is once again showing the voters that he is the wrong choice to be our state's Attorney General. From targeting vulnerable communities, to amplifying conspiracy theories, and now shutting down the government and preventing critical services from operating, Dan Bishop has more experience embarrassing our state than he does getting results."

### Governor Cooper Announces Medicaid Expansion in December

- On December 1, 2023, 600,000 North Carolinians will receive lifesaving healthcare, Governor Cooper and Secretary Kinsley announced.
- This comes after a decade of delay after delay by the GOP.
- Republicans attempted a corrupt casinos-for-Medicaid deal to hold lifesaving healthcare for 600,000 people hostage in order to get their casinos. In the end, casinos were taken out and Medicaid was put back into the budget. Now Phil Berger is considered to be vulnerable in his next primary due to putting his allegiance to casino lobbyists over the interests of his own constituents.

Statement from President Biden on the Medicaid announcement:

"Every American deserves high-quality affordable health care. Period. So, I applaud

## Mark Robinson: Bidenomics' New Biggest Fan

New reporting from the [American Independent](#) shows that Mark Robinson continues to disparage 'Bidenomics' – while aligning himself with some of its strongest supporters.

Earlier this week, Mark Robinson [posted a picture](#) speaking to a group of LeeBoy employees under the banner of I Make America, the grassroots arm of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers. Robinson criticized "Bidenomics" in his post, but according to *American Independent*, Mark Robinson may have been a little confused about his audience. Both LeeBoy and the Association of Equipment of Manufactures have advocated for Biden's infrastructure packages, [encouraging](#) their members to take action to show their support.

To be clear – neither LeeBoy nor the Association of Equipment Manufacturers is a partisan organization. They just know a good deal for workers when they see one. Meanwhile, Robinson can't keep his message straight. While he's [tweeted](#) about the importance of infrastructure investments – and now has [posted photos](#) with pro-Bidenomics organizations – he can't seem to place credit for these investments where it's due.

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## News from Neighbors on Call

### NC Policy Update for 9/25/23

#### Governance

- [On Friday the Republican majority in the NCGA gave final approval to the state budget](#), which includes several provisions that Democrats find highly problematic. [Governor Cooper said he would allow the budget to become law without his signature](#). The passage of the budget means Medicaid expansion in North Carolina will now be able to go into effect. See each section below for other notable budget provisions.
- [Multiple governance provisions were included in the budget. A state oversight committee, called GovOps, was given sweeping powers to investigate state and local governments and private companies and charities](#), allowing them to charge "uncooperative" people with crimes. Critics decried the provision, noting that the broad powers assigned the committee would be ripe for abuse. The budget also includes provisions to [allow lawmakers to refuse public records requests at will](#), changes appointment powers for the Judicial Standards Division, and allocates more power to the Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court. Finally, the budget includes [raises for state employees](#) and raises for the governor and the Council of State.
- [On Thursday Representative Terrence Everitt \(D-Wake\) received notice from NC House Speaker Tim Moore that his legislative office had been moved to a basement supply closet](#). While he was waiting to vote on the new

budget, someone boxed up his things in his old office. Everitt said the sudden forced move was likely a retaliation from Moore for Everitt's request to the Wake County District Attorney to investigate Moore over a salary increase given to a state employee with whom he was having an affair.

### Fair Representation

- [The state budget repeals the law requiring draft maps and other redistricting records to be made public after districts are approved.](#) Along with a broader provision exempting lawmakers from public records requests, this change means all redistricting records can be hidden, something Democrats say there is no reason to do.
- [Redistricting is about to start again in NC. Here's how the public can comment](#) – Will Doran, WRAL

### Voting Rights

- [On Tuesday the NC House voted along party lines to approve a Republican bill to transfer election board appointment power from the governor to the state legislature.](#) SB 749 would allow the legislature to select all members of state and local elections boards, with selection split evenly between Democrats and Republicans. In the case of an evenly split decision by the state board on picking a chairman or executive director, legislative leaders would have the power to break the tie. [Governor Cooper is expected to veto the bill,](#) but with the Republican supermajority, it is likely his veto will be overturned and the issue will end up in the courts. In 2017 a similar proposal was struck down as unconstitutional in a court case.
- [The NC House passed another elections bill Tuesday that would make people's ballots a public record.](#) HB 770 would allow outside groups to request access to all of the state's ballots to conduct their own audits. The bill was originally introduced by far-right representatives in response to false claims of election fraud in the 2020 presidential election, but the final version passed with bipartisan support after significant revisions.

### Education Policy

- [The new state budget includes many education provisions.](#) These include [an increase of \\$100 million each year for private school vouchers,](#) an average raise of 7% over two years for teachers, a transfer of power over the community college system to the state legislature, an increase in free lunch eligibility for students, increased pay for school bus drivers, [an extension of the deadline for schools to implement the so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights,"](#) and a ban on school or college COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

### Economic Policy

- [The budget speeds up planned personal income tax cuts,](#) bringing rates down year by year to 3.99% in 2026. Notably, the final budget did not include multiple gambling provisions that had stalled negotiations in recent weeks, including the licensing of four new casinos and legalizing of video gambling.



## Environmental Policy

- [The budget includes several environmental provisions](#). These include limitations on emissions regulations, including preventing the state from requiring cap-and-trade offsets for utilities, an exemption for all counties except Mecklenburg for emissions tests in annual auto inspections, and a ban on emissions requirements for new vehicles. In addition, the budget bans municipalities from restricting plastic bag use, [provides funding for PFAS cleanup, and increases licensing fees for electric vehicles](#) to offset gas tax losses.
- [On Friday the NCGA passed its near-annual regulatory reform bill, HB 600](#). Critics of the bill said it would harm water quality by allowing water quality permits to be issued without considering federal water quality regulations. In addition, the bill approves a pipeline to transport natural gas into Alamance County and allows poultry farmers to compost dead animals without Department of Environmental Quality oversight.

## Health Care Policy

- [In addition to Medicaid expansion, the new budget includes \\$320 million for a new children's hospital and \\$210 million for rural health clinics](#). The budget also includes [expanded eligibility for prison medical release](#), funding for digitization of birth records, and changes in classifications for UNC and ECU health care workers.

## Criminal Justice

- [Legal Aid lawyers carved out of tuition assistance program in latest budget](#) – Kelan Lyons, NC Newsline
- [NC lawmakers vote to require age verification on pornographic websites](#) – Travis Fain, WRAL

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## News from NC House Democratic Leader Robert Reives' Office

Finally, the General Assembly has a budget. After months of back and forth between House and Senate Republicans, an agreement was reached last week and both Chambers passed the conference report, sending it to Governor Cooper.

I voted against the budget for a number of reasons, many of which were outlined in an interview with WCHL yesterday (*and are detailed below*). The budget process was secretive -- legislators had only 24 hours to review more than 600 pages and cast a vote. There were bad provisions included, like taking appointment powers away from the Governor and creating a secretive "police" force in the General Assembly. Raises for state employees and teachers were lower than needed, and money was funneled away from public schools and into unaccountable private institutions. The state budget should not be a vehicle for major policy changes.

Governor Cooper allowed the budget to become law without his signature despite these bad policies because Medicaid expansion was contingent on its passage. Medicaid expansion is a huge win for the people of North Carolina -- people who have waited a decade for life-saving health care access will soon have it. I am disappointed it has taken this long for it to happen, but am proud to see it finally here.

***More on the budget:*** The most important job of the General Assembly is to pass a State Budget. It is a \$30 billion, two-year spending plan with enormous consequences for our public schools, our health care, public safety, clean air/water enforcement, and all of the public services our state offers. The State Budget shows what is truly important and what policy makers' real priorities are. [You can read it here.](#)

This week the General Assembly passed a State Budget on a largely party-line vote. The passage of a State Budget means that the Medicaid Expansion law approved earlier this year after over a decade of Democrats pushing for its implementation finally goes into effect. Governor Cooper issued a statement shortly after passage of the State Budget to say that he would allow it become law without his signature stating, "Make no mistake, overall this is a bad budget that seriously shortchanges our schools, prioritizes power grabs, keeps shady backroom deals secret and blatantly violates the constitution, and many of its provisions will face legal action... Health insurance for 600,000 more North Carolinians that brings more mental health and substance use disorder treatment, help for desperate rural hospitals and billions of dollars into our economy is a life-saving, monumental decision for our state."

Below is a description of what is in or not the new State Budget law and how it came to be passed.

**Secretive Process Dominated by Special Interests:** Legislators had less than 24 hours to review a 625-page budget. It contained many provisions never seen by the public or debated before by legislators. Republican leaders crafted the budget in secret, only unveiling it to the public less than 24 hours before it would be voted on. It was also months late, holding up raises and Medicaid expansion while casino lobbyists and GOP donors worked with Republican leadership behind closed doors.

The key reason for the delay was Republican leadership pushing in secret to give one anti-labor casino company a monopoly over expansion in four sites across North Carolina. No bill was ever publicly filed or publicly discussed in committee. Instead, for weeks, there was fierce fighting over the proposal behind closed doors amongst Republican legislators. Ultimately, Democrats and many Republican legislators succeeded in blocking the Republican leadership's push for casinos.

Because of this secretive and delayed process, important budget items were held up. The fiscal year began on July 1st, at which point state employees and teachers expected to receive raises. Medicaid expansion was also left in limbo, a policy agreed to with bipartisan support back in the Spring. Because of the delays, thousands of people were removed from Medicaid who would have otherwise been able to stay on it, and

about 600,000 North Carolinians who previously did not qualify were left waiting for health care coverage. Medicaid expansion could be implemented by December at the earliest, but may have to wait until early next year.

**New Expansion of Private School Vouchers:** The budget gives half a billion dollars to private school vouchers. That is a half a billion dollars diverted from public schools to private schools. There is little accountability on how private schools will spend public money. The only stipulation passed in the budget is that a school must issue one nationally standardized test in 3rd, 8th, and 11th grades. Private schools can deny admission and discriminate against students with disabilities or students of different faiths. The budget lifted the income cap for vouchers, so now wealthy families will get taxpayer money to send their kids to private schools.

If legislators had taken every dollar on private school vouchers and used that money instead on educator pay raises, there would be enough money to double the educator pay raise in the Budget.

**A Crisis in Public Education:** Schools across North Carolina are struggling to find educators, nurses, counselors, bus drivers, and many other positions and this budget does far too little to address this crisis. The budget raises teacher salaries by 7% over the next two years, a raise smaller than inflation. The 7% is an average – some receive more and some receive less. And it is 7% stretched across two years (4% and 3%), not 7% each year. There are no retention bonuses or pay supplements for teachers with master's degrees. Governor Cooper and legislative Democrats had proposed 18% raises over two years with reinstated master's pay, funded by eliminating corporate tax cuts and voucher spending.

The budget does not fund the Leandro case's recommendations to provide students a sound, basic education. The Leandro case outlined eight key investments needed to fulfill the state's constitutional requirements. The budget did not meet the critical needs, such as revising the state funding model, expanding high-quality early childhood programs, or directing adequate resources to economically disadvantaged students.

There is no new funding for statewide pre-K, childcare wages, or childcare subsidy investments/rate updates. The budget moves nurses, social workers, and counselors from current funding allotment to psychologist allotment and renames this combined allotment to "School Health Personnel." The appropriation adds \$20M over 2 years to this newly combined allotment. In contrast, Governor Cooper's budget proposal set aside \$513.8M for nurses, counselors, psychologists, and social workers.

**A Crisis in Public Safety, Clean Water/Air Programs, and Public Services:** Most state agency employees will receive a 4% raise this year and 3% next year. Like with the educator pay raise discussed above, that is less than the rate of inflation. Meanwhile, statewide politicians get pay raises ranging from 15% to 22% - more than double what state workers receive.

There is no COLA for retired public workers. Instead, they will receive a one-time 4% bonus in 2023 and nothing in 2024.

The lack of better pay raises or retention bonuses for state employees comes at a crisis point for public safety, clean water/air enforcement and other public services. There are more vacant public worker jobs than ever before. That's in part because of the casino-fueled budget delay and in part because public pay is not enough to attract workers. The result is public workers who are overworked, compensating for vacant positions, affecting the quality of service they can provide to North Carolinians.

**Tax Cuts for the Wealthy and Corporations:** Tax cuts for wealthy individuals and corporations remain a top priority for legislative budget writers. The budget lowers income tax rates, disproportionately helping wealthy North Carolinians and corporations. The tax cuts are tied to certain triggers, becoming effective only when certain revenue amounts are reached. Ultimately, the cuts will reduce the individual tax rate to 2.49% assuming the triggers are met. This will lead to an estimated loss of \$2.1 billion to the state by 2028, leaving less money to fund schools and state agencies that are already starved for resources.

Additional taxes will go into effect for rideshare services like Uber and Lyft: 1.5% for exclusive-ride services and 1% for shared-ride services. There are also new taxes for electric vehicles.

The budget does not include tax cuts that specifically benefit working and middle-class families in North Carolina, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Care Tax Credit.

**Power Grab by Legislative Leaders:** A State Budget is supposed to be only a spending plan, but it never is just that. This year was particularly bad as the Budget bill became bloated with policy changes that should be debated through the committee process and separate from appropriations. Policy is included in the budget because it becomes more difficult to have substantive debate over it and because it comes in its final form as a conference report, it cannot be amended.

Some of the worst policy provisions included in this budget transfer even more power away from the other branches of government and into the General Assembly, particularly from the Governor. More judges will be appointed by legislative leaders instead of elected by the people. The Judicial Standards Commission is a body that reviews the conduct of judges and is engaged in an unfounded investigation of Democratic Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls; this budget allows Republican leaders to pack the commission with their allies.

It also gives unprecedented powers to some partisan legislative staff to enter any premises and seize records from businesses or entities that receive any state funding. This will only make it harder for state employees to do their jobs. Finally, it gives one person at the General Assembly the ability to draft the language that voters see on their

ballot describing proposed constitutional amendments which could lead to misleading or biased language written to tilt the outcome of constitutional amendments put before the voters.

**Missed Opportunities:** Most Democratic legislators and the public were shut out of the months-long, behind-closed-doors budget process. It is no surprise then that Democratic priorities to expand child care subsidies, provide small business assistance, invest in early childhood education, expand affordable housing options, and provide paid family leave did not make it into the final State Budget bill. North Carolina House and Senate Democrats had introduced [such legislation](#) in April to support working families and to make a North Carolina where everyone can afford to live, work, and thrive.

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Let Senator Thom Tillis know where you stand on important issues by going to: [Survey \(senate.gov\)](#)

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**Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note**

American Independent: [NC Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson uses photo of pro-'Bidenomics' company to attack 'Bidenomics'](#)

Associated Press: [Ending reign as speaker, North Carolina Rep. Tim Moore won't run for House seat in '24, either](#)

Associated Press: [North Carolina to Launch Medicaid Expansion on Dec. 1](#)

Axios Raleigh: [North Carolina is expanding Medicaid eligibility on December 1](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [NC Budget Gives \\$20 million to 'Clinics' That Lie to Women About Abortion](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Good News Friday: NC Students Talk Gun Reform with President Biden](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [NC Teacher Raises Don't Keep Up With the Cost of Pencils](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Biden Announces First-Ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#)

Carolina Forward: [A Budget Unworthy of North Carolina](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Garbage In, Toxics Out: They promised “advanced recycling” for plastics and delivered toxic waste](#)

Chapelboro: [North Carolina Legislature Cracks Down on Pornography Sites with New Age Verification Requirements](#)

CNN: [Federal Judge Blocks Two Provisions of North Carolina Near-Total Ban on Abortions After 12 Weeks, Ruling in Favor of Advocacy Groups](#)

EdNC: [Research about impact of state budget on schools](#)

Hickory Daily Record: [NC residents blast gerrymandering in Hickory session](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [My September Hopium Political Briefing and Discussion \(Video\) - I Would Much Rather Be Us Than Them](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [President Biden's Speech On Democracy, And America](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Biden Up 45-40 in New Poll, Big Biden Democracy Speech Today, Virginia Event Tue 10/3](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Encouraging Inflation Data, Republicans Hug Putin Again, Gen Milley - Defender of Democracy](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Encouraging Hispanic Poll, Biden Heads To The Picket Line, Early Vote Has Begun In VA](#)

Indy Week: [Budget Sets Tight Timeline, New Specifics for Controversial UNC School](#)

Lucid: [Violence is Trump's Brand - by Ruth Ben-Ghiat](#)

NC Newslines: [NC Gov. Cooper vetoes bill giving legislators all appointments to state and local elections boards](#)

NC Newslines: [NC voters demand an end to gerrymandering at hearing on new election districts](#)

NC Newslines: [Out of legislators' sight, North Carolinians watched and waited for Medicaid expansion](#)

New York Times: [Why Democrats Keep Winning Elections Despite Biden's Negative Polling](#) (may require subscription)

News & Observer: [GOP led investigative committee granted power in NC budget](#)

News & Observer: [Speaker Moore moves Democratic Rep Everitt to basement office](#)

North Carolina Health News: [Medicaid expansion finally going into effect](#)

North Carolina Health News: [State budget provision stymies local plastic reduction efforts in NC.](#)

NPR: [Who is affected by a government shutdown?](#)

NPR: [What turnover of election officials means for the 2024 cycle](#)

NPR: [How the Biden impeachment inquiry compares to those of Trump, Clinton and Nixon](#)

The Assembly: [How State Vacancies Are Hurting Businesses](#)

The Messenger: [Jan. 6 and Trump Legal Woes Provide Opening for Biden Campaign With Latinos, Univision Poll Finds](#)

WFAE: [Mark Walker doesn't hold back on Mark Robinson as he tries to catch up in NC governor Republican primary](#)

WFAE: [CMS rescinds its ban on 'Banned Book Week' activities](#)

WGHP: [Phil Berger 'vulnerable' in primary amid North Carolina casino debate, pollster says](#)

WRAL: ['Most significant budget' in NC to become law after Senate vote, Cooper decision](#)

WRAL: [NC redistricting gets underway with voter feedback, less transparency](#)

WRAL: [With Medicaid set to expand, here's what you need to know](#)

WRAL: [Fire safety concerns in new budget? NC's top fire marshal slams fellow Republicans over secretive changes](#)

WRAL: [New NC budget likely headed to court over separation of powers](#)

WUNC: [NC budget to expand private school vouchers and strip power from State Board of Education](#)

WUNC: [North Carolina budget has \\$2 billion for water and sewer, but not everyone gets a share](#)