



**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest
March 4, 2024**

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2024 Democratic Primary Election Day is this Tuesday, March 5th!

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/> , visit <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-and-elections/precincts-and-polling-places>, or call the Chatham County Board of Elections at 919-545-8500.

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/candidate-profiles>

You can track Chatham County Primary Turnout Statistics at:

[JohnLocke Carolina Elections](#)

10 Tips for 2024 Primary Election Day Voters from the NC State Board of Elections

- 1) Know the rules for a primary election. There are Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian primaries in our state this year. An unaffiliated voter may choose to participate in one of these party primaries, while a voter who is registered as a Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian will receive their party's ballot.
- 2) Go to your assigned polling place on Election Day. Statewide, nearly 2,600 polling places will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Voters in line at 7:30 p.m. will be able to cast a ballot. To find your polling place, use the Voter Search tool on the State Board's website, NCSBE.gov.
- 3) Find your sample ballot. Voters can use the State Board's Voter Search tool to locate their sample ballot. The ballot shows the contests that you'll be voting on. Using Voter Search, pull up your voter record, then scroll down to the "Your Sample Ballot" section.
- 4) Bring your photo ID. You will be asked to show photo ID at your polling place when you check in to vote. Most voters will simply show their driver's license, but there are many other acceptable photo IDs. For more information, including the full list of acceptable IDs, visit BringItNC.com. Voters who do not have photo ID when they vote can make sure their vote counts by either (1) filling out a form explaining why they are unable to show ID, or (2) showing their ID at their county board of elections office by 5 p.m. March 14, the ninth day after the election.

5) Voters may not register on Election Day in North Carolina. While that is the general rule, voters who become eligible after the regular voter registration deadline, either due to becoming a U.S. citizen or having their rights restored following a felony conviction, are still permitted to register on Election Day.

6) If you need assistance, request it at your polling place. Curbside voting is available for voters who are unable to enter the voting place without assistance due to age or disability. Once inside the polling place, voters who experience difficulties should request help from an election worker. For more information, see the NCSBE Help for Voters with Disabilities page.

7) State and federal laws forbid intimidation or interference with voters. This includes hindering access to the voting place, whether inside or outside the voting site. It is also a crime to interfere with election officials carrying out their duties. Penalties for violations include prison time, a fine, or both. The State Board takes these incidents very seriously. When they occur, we will work with our law enforcement partners to respond. Voters who are harassed or intimidated should notify an election official immediately.

8) Election results will be posted at the State Board's Election Results Dashboard. See also the Election Night Reporting Timeline for information on when the public can expect unofficial results on election night.

9) If you still plan to vote an absentee ballot, act fast. The deadline to have your ballot delivered to the county board of elections is 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Election Day. If you are unsure that the postal service or another delivery service will deliver your ballot by Tuesday, you can instead drop it off at your county board of elections office during business hours, or at an early voting site through 3 p.m. Saturday, when early voting ends. Or you can decide to vote in person on Election Day, and discard your absentee ballot.

10) If you're participating in the election – as a voter, poll worker, observer, or campaigner – please treat others with dignity and respect. We know the political climate in our country is tense. But let's make North Carolina a model for accessible, safe, secure, and accurate elections.

###

Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Sign Up To Be a Poll Greeter on Primary Election Day, March 5!

We still need poll greeters for Election Day. Here is the list of the polling places for all precincts where we expect to set up a poll greeting table and tent, with a link to the Mobilize sign-up for each location:

Albright - Silk Hope Ruritan Club:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608488/>

Bynum - Bynum Methodist Community Center (Former Bynum Ruritan Club):

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608489/>

Goldston - Goldston Town Hall:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608490/>

Hadley - Brown's Chapel Church Fellowship Hall:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608491/>

Crossroads - Harpers Crossroads Community Center:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608492/>

Hickory Mountain - Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608493/>

East Chapel (formerly part of Mann's Chapel) - CCC Health Science Building:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/607622/>

West Chapel (formerly part of Mann's Chapel) - Perry Harrison School Gym:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608494/>

East Pittsboro - Northwood High School:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608496/>

West Pittsboro - Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608495/>

East Siler City - National Guard Armory:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608497/>

West Siler City - West Chatham Senior Center:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608498/>

East Williams - Mount Pisgah Church:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608499/>

North Williams - North Chatham Elementary School:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608500/>

West Williams - The Gathering Place:

<https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/608501/>

We are offering one more poll greeting training, on Monday, March 4th mid-day, for those who have not been poll greeters before or would like a refresher – here is the link: <https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/600366/>

CCDP Volunteer Trainings

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

March 8, 15 & 22, [Volunteer Orientation](#) @Zoom

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](#) .

Attend the Chatham County Democratic Party County Convention, March 16!

Sign up to attend the CCDP County Convention on March 16 in Pittsboro. Details on the location will be provided after your register to attend.

This will be our first in-person convention since 2019, so we are really looking forward to seeing everyone there. ***Note that there will be no virtual option to attend, and all attendees must pre-register to attend.***

While the Convention is open to all, only delegates who were previously elected by their precincts and attending the meeting in person can vote on behalf of their precincts.

NC House Minority Leader Robert Reives will be our keynote speaker.

Doors will open at 9 a.m. We will provide coffee and bagels before the convention is called to order at 10 a.m. **We ask that elected delegates arrive no later than 9:30 to facilitate an orderly check-in process.** To facilitate voting, each precinct will have designated seating for their delegates and each delegate will receive a set of ballots when they check in.

The business of the Convention generally is to elect delegates to the District Conventions for the two Congressional Districts that include our county; to elect certain NCDP committee members; to vote on proposed resolutions adopted by the precincts or through the Resolutions Committee; and to conduct any other business properly brought before the meeting. A link to a detailed agenda and a notice about open NCDP committee positions will be added to this announcement and circulated to registered attendees when it becomes available.

An important item of business at our convention is to elect our county party's representatives to three state district executive committees: one committee for each of the Senate, House and state prosecutors. In the event that the state senator or representative representing Chatham County becomes unable to serve, those committees would play a major role in designating his or her successor. In the case of state prosecutors, the role of that committee is less clear, but we assume that it would be consulted by a Democratic governor in choosing any interim successor. We are soliciting nominations (which may include self nominations) to those committees from all Chatham County Democrats. At our convention we will elect two members of each committee. In addition to the nominations that have already been received, we will take nominations from the floor at the convention.

The individuals currently holding these positions are:

Senate District Executive Committee: Rhesa Versola and Travis Patterson

House District Executive Committee: Del Turner and Randy Voller

Prosecutorial District Executive Committee: Steve Maynor and Esther Coleman

To sign up to attend: <https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/event/607348/>

Want to Be a Delegate to the 2024 Democratic National Convention?

Registered Democrats wishing to represent North Carolina as delegates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention, to be held in Chicago on August 19-22, should visit <https://www.ncdp.org/delegate-selection-plan/>.

###

Other Upcoming Events

Board of Elections Absentee Board Meeting, March 4, 5 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its absentee meeting on March 4, 2024, at 5 p.m. The public may view the meeting online at: <https://meet.goto.com/622963989>.

Board of Elections Absentee Board Meeting, March 5, 2 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its absentee meeting on March 5, 2024, at 2 p.m. The public may view the meeting online at: <https://meet.goto.com/875613245>.

Board of Elections Sample Audit, March 7, 10 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its sample audit on March 7, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

The public may view the meeting online at: <https://meet.goto.com/354593077>.

Information about the Chatham County Board of Elections can be found online at www.chathamcountync.gov/elections. Questions may be directed to the Board of Elections office at 919-545-8500.

CORE Racial Equity Fundamentals Workshop, 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.*

Registration closes on March 5th. Register [here](#).

NC Counts Redistricting Roundtable - March Meeting / Reunión de marzo de redistribución de distritos, March 12, 2 p.m. (Virtual Event)

We hope you can join us as we continue to keep the light shining on redistricting. And for those who missed it - the notes and recording from our February Roundtable Meeting, (which includes great information from YouCanVote and VoteRiders) is at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c--orTb6fkHeeZZkJ6oj0ldZNmmtn7oR?usp=drive_link.

Register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoduGrrj4oE9M0Bpnrls0_ofkiZnouT8XN.

CORE presents Community Conversation: Climate Justice and Chatham County, March 12, 6 - 8 p.m., Chatham Community Library, 197 NC-87, Pittsboro

Climate change is an environmental justice issue. Disadvantaged communities are often most affected by its many impacts (heat waves, droughts, flooding, etc.) while lacking the resources to recover from, adapt, and overcome these extreme conditions/events.

The climate justice movement aims to address these disparities by creating climate solutions that also address racial, economic, and social inequities.

Please join us for a "Community Conversation on Climate Justice" to learn more about how we can promote climate justice in Chatham County. Denzel Burnside, Executive Director of Wake Up, Wake County, will share his experiences working on several climate justice projects. We will hear about local projects and perspectives from: Kevin Lindley (Environmental Quality Director of Chatham County), Emily Sutton (Haw Riverkeeper, Haw River Assembly), Vickie Atkinson (Vice-Chair of the Chatham Climate Advisory Council), and El Vinculo Hispano's OLP Youth (Shawn, Anthony and Aiden). There will be an opportunity for discussion about how to get more involved with projects in Chatham County.

Register at: [CORE presents Community Conversation: Climate Justice and Chatham County](#)

CORE Restoration Village, March 19, 6 - 7:30 p.m., Chatham Community Library, 197 NC-87, Pittsboro

Monthly Restorative Village gathering that includes breakout space for personal and group work on race, identity, and healing. We share our stories, participate in reflection, and build trusting relationships. Restoration Villages are a part of our building blocks.

Sign up at: [Restoration Village](#)

C2C Candidate Panel, March 25, 7 – 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Get to know some of the candidates County-to-County will partner with in 2024! We are so pleased to feature Sen. Lisa Grafstein (SD 13, Wake County), Ms. Safiyah Jackson (HD 37, Wake County), Ms. Woodson Bradley (SD 42, Mecklenburg County), and perhaps an additional face or two!

Join C2C and moderator Senator Sydney Batch for this exciting hour. We'll find out why these candidates are running for office, where they stand on some important issues, how they hope to make NC better, and what is happening in their districts.

Sign up at: [C2C Candidate Panel, March 25](#)

Women's March – Bigger Than Roe, March 26, Washington, D.C.

The Supreme Court announced it will begin hearing oral arguments on the abortion pill (Mifepristone) on March 26th. This will be the Court's first serious return to the issue of abortion since overturning Roe v. Wade in 2022. If successful, this case can impact

healthcare access for millions of women across the US — including in states where abortions are legal. Women's March is mobilizing a targeted action in Washington, DC to support women's rights to Mifepristone, reproductive choices, and healthcare.

If you are interested in participating, go to: [Will you take action on March 26th?](#)

###

Events Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue

What State Legislatures Do and Why You Should Really Care, March 5, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

State legislative bodies are incredibly powerful. When it comes to the property or sales taxes we pay, our health care, the quality of the schools our children attend, or even how many electric vehicle charging stations we have access to, our state legislatures are the ones who make those decisions. That's why it's so important that you learn how your state legislature works and what power you have with your representatives!

We will be joined by Gaby Goldstein of Sister District, Carolyn Fiddler, writer for This Week In Statehouse Action and Georgia State Rep. (and amazing RWB podcast host) Jasmine Clark for an inside peek at these legislatures. We'll see you soon!

Sign up at: [What State Legislatures Do And Why You Should Really Care](#)

Trouble Maven Academy Class 5, March 6, 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.

Register at: [TroubleMaven Academy Class 5](#)

Banned Book Club: Caste, March 6, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Join us for our March Banned Book Club as we read and explore Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. Wilkerson draws parallels between caste systems in America, India, and Nazi Germany, identifying eight pillars that underlie such systems. Wilkerson also delves into the health and cultural implications of caste, ultimately suggesting ways for America to move beyond divisive human divisions towards a more hopeful shared humanity.

Sign up [here](#).

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

Press Release, March 2, 2024

NCDP Chair on Trump Endorsing Mark Robinson For North Carolina Governor

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement after reports confirmed former President Trump endorsed Mark Robinson for North Carolina governor at a rally in Greensboro:

“It’s no surprise that the Lieutenant Governor, who seeks a total ban on abortion with no exceptions would receive the endorsement of Donald Trump, who brags about appointing the justices that overturned Roe v. Wade. Since he was elected, Mark Robinson has used hate to divide us and made clear that he is all-in on restricting reproductive freedoms in North Carolina. Our state needs a leader who will bring people together and do the hard work of governing, not prioritize job-killing culture wars that take our state backward. North Carolina Democrats are ready to fight back against these extremists who undermine our rights and threaten our state’s future.”

Press Release, March 1, 2024

North Carolina Democratic Party Statement on Public Schools Week

As Public Schools Week 2024 comes to a close in the face of continued attacks from North Carolina Republicans on public education, North Carolina Democratic Party Spokesperson Tommy Mattocks released the following statement:

“Every day, North Carolina’s strong public schools prepare the next generation of teachers, doctors and leaders who will serve our state and beyond. Instead of making meaningful investments to fully fund public education and pay teachers what they deserve, North Carolina Republicans continue doing everything they can to defund and dismantle our public schools while sending billions to unaccountable private schools. North Carolina Democrats up and down the ballot and across the state will continue fighting for public education so every child has a chance to succeed and thrive.”

Public Schools Week is an annual week-long celebration led by the [Learning First Alliance](#) to honor the contributions and achievements of educators and advocates in public schools. This year, Public Schools Week is celebrated nationally from February 26 to March 1, 2024.

North Carolina’s public schools provide students with excellent preparation and skills to set them up for success from cradle to career. The NC Pre-K program has been recognized as one of the best early childhood programs in the country and North Carolina public school students earn nearly 250,000 workforce credentials each year while in high school. Nearly one-third of public school graduates take at least one course for college credit while in high school. North Carolina also has the most National

Board-certified teachers in the nation – one of the highest recognitions teachers can earn.

Instead of celebrating and investing in North Carolina's strong public schools, North Carolina Republicans have waged a decades-long campaign to destroy public education by funneling up to [\\$4 billion](#) into their unaccountable and unregulated private school voucher program.

Governor Cooper has proclaimed 2024 as the "[Year of Public Schools](#)" and is traveling across the state to spotlight our strong public schools. North Carolina Democrats will continue to call out the GOP for their coordinated effort to attack our public school teachers, families and students.

Press Release, February 26, 2024

Under GOP Voucher Scheme, Over \$1.8 Million in Taxpayer Money Sent to School Started by Monroe Pastor Who Made Vile Remarks Blaming Women for Being Raped

Rev. Bobby Leonard: "If you dress like that and you get raped and I'm on the jury, he's going to go free .. because you know, a man is a man. A man is a man."

After despicable comments blaming women for rape made by Reverend Bobby Leonard of Bible Baptist Tabernacle Church in Monroe were exposed, new analysis reveals the private school he started on the same property received over \$1.8 million in taxpayer money through the Republican voucher scheme in the last two school years alone.

"While Reverend Leonard and his unaccountable private school are getting hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to tell young girls they deserve to be raped, Union County public schools are poised to lose \$5 million in education funding thanks to the Republican voucher scheme," said North Carolina Communications Director Tommy Mattocks. "Republican leaders should be ashamed of themselves for subsidizing this disgusting rhetoric through the disastrous voucher expansion at the cost of Union County's high-quality public schools."

As WSOC [reported](#) earlier this week, Rev. Leonard made disgusting remarks during a sermon last summer that blamed women for being raped if they wore shorts and testified that he would allow a man charged with rape in a similar case to go free.

The pulpit isn't the only platform Rev. Leonard has used to spread these gross and immoral beliefs – he also started the Tabernacle Christian School of Monroe in the same compound where "[family church attendance is a vital part of a child's education](#)" and "[faithful cooperation](#)" from parents is all but mandated.

Under the disastrous Republican voucher scheme, the Tabernacle Christian School of Monroe received over \$1.8 million in the 2023-24 school year alone while public schools

in Union County [could lose over \\$5 million](#) in state education funding just in the first year of the expanded program.

North Carolina's strong public schools provide a high-quality education to children across the state thanks to the dedicated and well-trained principals, teachers and staff who work tirelessly every day to support our children. Republican legislators choose to funnel billions into expanding the unaccountable and disastrous private school voucher program while continuing to consistently underfund North Carolina's public schools, fail to pay teachers like the professionals they are or adequately fund early childhood education.

Press Release, February 26, 2024

ICYMI: Chair Clayton [MSNBC Op-Ed](#): "I've seen the dangers of Michael Whatley's 'leadership.' It's clear why Trump chose him."

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton penned the following [Op-Ed for MSNBC](#):

"Recently, Donald Trump announced his pick to succeed Ronna McDaniel as chair of the Republican National Committee: Michael Whatley, the current head of the North Carolina Republican Party. Whatley is far less well known nationally than Trump's choice for co-chair, his daughter-in-law Lara Trump. But for those of us in North Carolina, the choice of Whatley for the top spot makes a twisted sort of sense.

It's clear that Trump is looking for an RNC leader who won't hesitate to disenfranchise voters, rig elections or dismantle our democracy. And Whatley certainly fits that bill. As chair of the North Carolina Republican Party, he has helped lead efforts to defy the will of the people and infringe on North Carolinians' rights. I would know because I'm the 26-year-old chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, and I've seen the dangers of Whatley's version of leadership up close.

For years, the Republican-led Legislature and Supreme Court have focused their agenda on taking away North Carolinians' rights and hurting our economy. To protect their power, Republicans in North Carolina have worked repeatedly to take away the right to vote, and schemed to create rigged maps so that elected officials pick their voters — not the other way around. And when they've faced opposition, including from our twice-elected Gov. Roy Cooper, they've taken outrageous steps to expand their power.

As part of these efforts, Whatley has led the North Carolina GOP from extreme to even more extreme. He's made banning abortion a priority for the state party, despite the majority of North Carolinians supporting access to abortion. He's a proud and unapologetic election denier who repeatedly parroted debunked claims of "[massive fraud](#)" and "[focused heavily on disproven claims of widespread voter fraud](#)" in the

2020 election. He even tried to [push the State Board of Elections to call races](#) in 2020 before all the votes had been counted.

The silver lining for Trump's foes is that, amid Whatley's efforts to undermine democracy, he's done a very bad job of running a state party. After North Carolina Democrats elected me chair, we've outraised him and outnumbered him in candidate recruitment this cycle. In this latest round of fundraising, we easily outraised the North Carolina GOP, and [Whatley's operation spent \\$500,000](#) more than it took in. As Democrats build momentum in the Tar Heel State, voters just aren't buying what the Whatley-led NCGOP are selling.

But you don't need to take my word for it. As soon as Trump announced his support for Whatley, folks across the political spectrum, including conservatives, criticized the choice. Newsweek reported that Trump faced a "[rebellion](#)" for choosing Whatley. Former RNC spokesperson and veteran Republican operative [Doug Heye](#) [suggested](#) that to get Whatley appointed RNC chair, "there may be some work that has to be done on that. ... It may not be a unanimous vote."

The reviews from Tar Heel Republicans were even worse. Former Republican Gov. Pat McCrory [said](#), "I'd been advised early on by people I respect to never trust him, and it turns out they were right." A regional GOP chair told The Washington Post that "the grass roots in North Carolina has completely walked away from the GOP and Michael Whatley's leadership." After spreading lies about the existence of fraud due to electronic voting software, Whatley was [sued by members](#) of his own party for claims he rigged his re-election as chair using — you guessed it — a voting app.

So, why would Whatley be Trump's choice? Because he is an unflinchingly loyal MAGA extremist who will stop at nothing to stay in Trump's good graces. Not facts or evidence. Not the rule of law. Not our Constitution. Not what voters want. Nothing will stop him from doing what Trump wants, even if it's at the expense of the people.

With Whatley helming today's Republican Party, voters won't see any focus on an agenda to deliver results for the American people. His day-one priority will be delivering for Donald Trump. With Michael Whatley as RNC chair, the stakes of this election are about to rise even higher."

###

News from Natalie Murdock, NC Senate District 20, March 1, 2024

Elementary School Visits

I spent part of HBCU Appreciation Day with a wonderful young group of students at Burton Elementary Magnet School! I loved reading to them about civil rights champion Ruby Bridges, and talking to them about our local HBCU, North Carolina Central University!

I was so incredibly honored to join Pearisontown Elementary School to celebrate Black History Month, and honor their amazing Principal Asia Cunningham. Cunningham is a dedicated and amazing educator, it is no surprise why she is the first person in the history of Durham County to receive the North Carolina Milken Educator Award!

I had the opportunity to join R.N. Harris Elementary School for their Black History Month student celebration. I am not exaggerating when I say I couldn't have been more delighted by the wonderful, energetic performance these students put on. I'll have to make sure I reserve my seat for next year's performance. There are few things as adorable as watching children dance to a song that came out when you yourself were a child.

Duke University Black Policy Conference

It was great to participate in the Domestic Policy Panel at the Black Policy Conference. We discussed various topics including taking steps that further equity in health care, addressing the affordable housing crisis, improving funding and access to quality education, and ways to further climate justice efforts. My fellow panelists were Paul Brathwaite, Chief Strategist at Federal Street Strategies, and former Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus; Lindsay Robinson, the Senior Director of state (health) policy and government affairs at GE Healthcare; and Yelberton Watkins, Chief of Staff at the Office of the Majority Whip.

Pauli Murray Awards

I was honored to be selected as the keynote speaker for this year's Pauli Murray Awards. Every year, the Pauli Murray Award is presented by the Orange County Human Relations Commission to an orange county youth, adult, and business that has served their community in the pursuit of human rights, equality, and justice.

AKA Day at the Capitol

This week, I joined Representative Reives and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to discuss the importance of voting, issues that are front and center for the upcoming election, and addressing voter apathy.

Meetings with Pittsboro Leaders

Earlier this week, I visited Pittsboro to meet with Mayor Kyle Shipp, the town manager Jonathan Franklin, and the public information officer Colby Sawyer. We took some time to sit down and discuss the budget priorities of Pittsboro as we're approaching the start of short session. Next stop, Siler City!

Agriculture and Funding Resources

The federal government has several opportunities for farmers and ranchers to apply for federal funding. Programs range from loans to grants. To learn more about the different available options, please visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

Contact Me: I cannot achieve anything without the support of my constituents. Thank you very much for your continued support! Please contact my Legislative Assistant for constituent requests. We are happy to serve you! natalie.murdock@ncleg.gov

###

News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson, March 1, 2024

Three Options for Ukraine

Yesterday afternoon — just before we passed our fourth budget extension in the last five months — I spent about 20 minutes talking with three other members of Congress. We were in between votes, and we were standing just off the House floor in the aisle that wraps around the back of the room. This was our topic: *Is there any way a Ukraine bill can pass?*

We figured there are three ways it could still happen. First, the Speaker could just bring it to a vote, either as a standalone bill or (more likely) coupled with a southern border bill. The problem with that is that he'd probably get fired. As I've mentioned before, his right-flank simply isn't going to accept any major bipartisan legislation — and certainly not with respect to Ukraine, for which they are now staunchly opposed to any more defense funding. Making matters worse, the Speaker is about to use a lot of his remaining political capital with his right-flank by passing a bipartisan budget that they're going to strongly oppose. If he follows that up by calling for a vote on Ukraine/southern border, I honestly think his right-flank would move to fire him immediately.

"Well Jeff, maybe this time the minority party could provide the votes to save him."

Ok, let's game that out. The right-flank tries to fire the Speaker, but this time a handful of votes from the other party save him. Now we've got a very conservative Speaker who only has his job by virtue of Democratic votes. Imagine what life is like for him. Absolute rage within his ranks, the entire conservative media ecosystem dedicated to attacking him, and a serious risk of being primaried and ending his whole political career. Maybe you'd tell him to do it anyway, but I'm just saying, that's what he's picturing in his head when you tell him that. He's picturing political doom.

So, let's call that possibility unlikely. Up next is the super-rare discharge petition. This is a procedural tool designed to go around the Speaker and force a vote on a bill. The catch here is that it takes a majority of members of Congress to agree, which would mean at least a handful of members of the majority party would have to openly side against the rest of their party. Once again, think about what life for those members would become as they are instantly branded as villains within their party's media

ecosystem. It's possible that a handful of members of the majority could go to the Speaker and tell him they're going to join the discharge petition unless he brings the matter to a vote as a way to motivate him — but then again, maybe the Speaker would prefer that they go around him. That would let the vote move forward while letting him claim that he was opposed all along.

The third path we discussed involves tacking Ukraine funding onto another budget bill. I think this has all the problems mentioned above, but it might dilute them a bit because the Speaker could at least claim that it was necessary to accomplish something else that most of them want, like passing a defense budget.

The easy way to think about all this is just: My sense is the Speaker would like to support Ukraine, but hasn't figured out a way to do that without his political career smashing against the rocks. I believe he's trying, and part of trying means being publicly wishy-washy so as to keep his right-flank at bay until the moment he makes a decision.

One last point: I think we'd be in the roughly same situation even if the old Speaker hadn't been fired. Maybe worse. He'd probably have less room to maneuver than the new Speaker because he was perceived to be less conservative. None of this is the direct result of the old Speaker being fired - rather, this is what happens when the right-flank is big enough (and motivated enough) to use its veto on virtually every bipartisan bill. It's been the defining political feature of this Congress, and it just keeps getting applied to different scenarios.

###

News from Neighbors on Call

Thank you to those of you who joined us last week for Get to Know Neighbors on Call! It was wonderful to meet new folks! Please share [the recording \(only 15 minutes!\)](#) with that special person in your life who would love to take action with us but just doesn't know it yet.

Neighbors on Call's NC Policy Update for February 26, 2024

Elections

- [Secretive conservative groups spending big to influence NC Democratic primaries:](#) *A controversial dark-money group and a new political action committee with GOP ties are among the biggest players in some of North Carolina's 2024 Democratic primaries.* – Will Doran WRAL News

Education Policy

- [A lawsuit that seeks to radically change NC education is back before the state Supreme Court. Here's what you need to know:](#) *The long-running Leandro case has the potential to significantly change education in North Carolina. The court will decide to make way for statewide changes or to send back the case down for further litigation.* – Emily Walkenhorst, WRAL News

Health Care Policy

- [N.C. lawmakers look into curbing ‘gas station heroin’ and other tianeptine supplements](#): *Federal administrators issue warnings that tianeptine has been linked to ‘serious harm, overdoses, death,’ N.C. lawmakers want to remove the supplement from retail shelves and regulate the product as a controlled substance.* – Rose Hoban, NC Health News

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Call to Action from County-to-County

You’re getting two wonderful opportunities to meet our March Spotlight Candidate [Dante Pittman \(HD 24\)](#) — via Zoom [Thursday, March 7](#), or in person in Wilson County [Saturday, March 23](#), where you can join him and other volunteers to knock on doors, talk to voters, and then enjoy chatting and eating with Dante at the famous Parker’s Barbecue, home of Eastern (natch) barbecue, delicious fried chicken, and scrumptious corn sticks.

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Selected News and Opinion Stories

The Assembly NC: [Mike Causey Under Fire](#)

The Assembly NC: [NC Governor Race | Josh Stein and His Challenge with Black Voters](#)

The Assembly NC: [Andrew Yang Comes to North Carolina](#)

Border Belt Independent: [‘Feel more pain’: southeastern NC is at the heart of a 30-year public education fight](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [More than 50,000 NC students will get healthy school breakfasts thanks to new funding](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [We asked North Carolinians if child tax credit payments helped them. Here’s what they said.](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Rural NC communities get grant funding to address healthcare, infrastructure issues](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Stories from North Carolina’s Trail of Tears](#) _____ om)

Carolina Forward: [The Carolina Forward February Poll](#)

Carolina Public Press: [What to Expect After the Polls Close in NC Primary Election](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Poll watcher rule changes likely effect on NC primary voting unclear](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Early voters in NC 2024 primary say it's convenient](#)

Chapelboro: [Chatham County Roundup: Pittsboro Mayor Kyle Shipp](#)

Chapelboro: [Engrossed in Education Funding Dispute, North Carolina Revisits Milestone 2022 Ruling](#)

County-to-County: [How democrats break the NCGA supermajority in 2024](#)

County-to-County: [IMMIGRATION](#)

County-to-County: [Style isn't everything ... sometimes content matters](#)

Democracy NC: [2023-Impact-Report-Final-v2-ENGLISH.pdf](#)

Democracy NC: [2023-Impact-Report-Final-v2-SPANISH.pdf](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [State of the Union – “All of Us Have a Role to Play,” VP Harris Calls for an Immediate Cease Fire, Do More/Worry Less](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Can You Make Calls for Rudy Salas This Weekend? Notes On The NYT Poll, Why I Am Optimistic](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Let's Thank Joe Biden, Dems Fighting Hard For The Senate, Moving On From The Trump Trials](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Democrats Really Like Their President, The Republican Party Is Splintering, Mitch's Dark Legacy](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Biden Breaks 80% in Michigan, Trump Continues To Struggle](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Biden's Successful Presidency Is Leaving Rs With Nothing To Run On, More On Trump's 2024 Performance Problems, Do More/Worry Less](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Joe Biden Is Good President, Trump Is Weak, Fighting For Ukraine, On Michigan Tonight](#)

The Independent: [How young Democrats and young Republicans feel about the oldest presidential fight in history](#)

Lucid: [What Happens to Language When Authoritarianism Takes Hold](#)

MSNBC: [Trump choosing Michael Whatley to be RNC chair should raise alarm bells](#)

NPR: [Biden and Trump face off on the border in Texas](#)

NPR: [Trump immunity case goes to Supreme Court in April, putting Jan. 6 case on hold](#)

NPR: [Where the big Trump cases stand in the months leading to the election](#)

NPR: [Mitch McConnell to step down as GOP Senate leader in November](#)

News & Observer: [What NC Republican leaders say on candidate with Nazi ties](#)

NY Times: [Live Updates: Supreme Court Rules Trump Can Remain on Colorado Ballot](#)

NY Times: [North Carolina's Race for Governor: Expensive, Closely Watched and Probably Tight](#)

NY Times: [Opinion | 'Fix the Damn Roads': How Democrats in Purple and Red States Win](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Biden vs. Trump: The Looming Rematch Hits a 'Kickoff' Moment](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [McConnell to Step Down as Senate Republican Leader at the End of the Year](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | How Gretchen Whitmer Met the Moment](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Senate Republican Blocks Bill to Protect I.V.F. Treatment](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Supreme Court to Hear Trump's Immunity Claim, With Arguments Set for April](#)

NY Times: [In Taking Up Trump's Immunity Claim, Supreme Court Bolstered His Delay Strategy](#)

NY Times: [Opinion | Trump's Allies Don't Want to Destroy the 'Deep State.' They Want to Seize It.](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Michigan Primary Takeaways: 'Uncommitted' Sends Biden a Message](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Judge Orders Trump Removed From Illinois Primary Ballot](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Conversations and insights about the moment](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Fear the Economic Impact of Donald Trump 2.0](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Young Voters Say Their Discontent Goes Deeper Than Israel and Gaza](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Trump Gave Evangelicals Dobbs. They Don't Seem Satisfied](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | The Mystery of White Rural Rage](#)

NC Health News: [Fentanyl Deaths Rising Among NC Children](#)

NC Health News: [Gun access, rural residency are risk factors in suicide crisis](#)

NC Health News: [Dentists lobby for better Medicaid reimbursement](#)

NC Health News: [Minority Health Conference focuses on societal stresses that harm marginalized populations](#)

NC Health News: [Some lawmakers want to review laws governing Atrium Health](#)

NC Newsline: [In the NC Governor's Race, a Fierce Fight for a Weak Office](#)

NC Newsline: [Gov. Roy Cooper releases \\$1.3M in federal money to support school breakfast programs](#)

Washington Post (May require subscription): [N.C. candidate Mark Robinson's offensive comments stand out even in Trump's GOP](#)

Washington Post (May require subscription): [Will anti-Trump Republicans vote for Biden?](#)

Washington Post (May require subscription): [Immigration powered the economy, job market amid border negotiations](#)

WECT: ['Election night will look very different': Primary election results to be delayed due to law change](#)

WUNC: [Race, money, mystery: Democratic primary for North Carolina attorney general heats up](#)