April 9, 2023

Important Dates to Remember

April 15, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Annual CCDP County Convention (Zoom Event)

Join Chatham County Democrats at our annual county convention. This year we will be electing new officers: Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, 3rd Vice Chair, Secretary, and three open positions for State Executive Committee representatives.

The convention is on Zoom beginning at 10 a.m. Everyone is then welcome to join us at the CCDP Community Engagement Center (628 East Street, Pittsboro) for a reception from 1 to 3 p.m. We're celebrating the newly elected officers and saying farewell to the prior officer team. We also have some SURPRISES up our sleeve that you do NOT want to miss!

Appetizers and cake will be served. Bring a friend!!! But, please sign up so we know how to plan for food and drinks.

Sign up to attend the Convention [here](#).

Sign up for the after party [here](#).

April 23, 5 – 7 p.m. – NCDP Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Committee Listening Session

Please join the Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Committee for a public listening session on the NCDP's Delegate Selection Plan for the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

Sign up at: https://events.democrats.org/event/556905/?force_banner=true&share_context=event_details&share_medium=copy_link

April 30, 4 – 6 p.m. – NCDP Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Committee Meeting

This meeting is for final adoption of the NCDP's Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan for the 2024 Democratic National Convention. The public is invited to observe the meeting and the Committee's deliberations.

Sign up at: https://events.democrats.org/event/556906/?force_banner=true&share_context=event_details&share_medium=copy_link

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.ccdpnc.org/calendar-of-events**

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News from Neighbors on Call

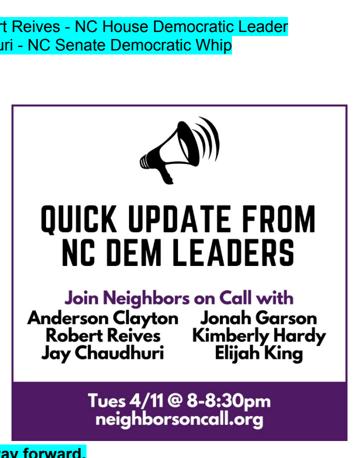
Dear friends,

Major news from Raleigh last week. No time for hand-wringing - *it's time to roll up our sleeves.*

Join us for a quick huddle this Tuesday, April 11, at 8 p.m. with:

NCDP leaders
Anderson Clayton - Chair
Jonah Garson - 1st Vice Chair
Dr. Kimberly Hardy - 2nd Vice Chair
Elijah King - 3rd Vice Chair

NCGA leaders
Rep. Robert Reives - NC House Democratic Leader
Sen. Jay Chaudhuri - NC Senate Democratic Whip



They know the way forward.

RSVP [HERE](#).

URGENT Call to action from Progress NC: Tell 3 Dem lawmakers to prioritize the safety of our kids

From Progress NC:

[Last week], three Democratic lawmakers let down their constituents, their communities, and the children they are supposed to protect. Instead of doing their job and upholding Governor Cooper's veto of the dangerous pistol permit repeal, Representatives Cecil Brockman, Michael Wray, and Tricia Cotham walked away.

We must let these representatives know that we are watching them and that we are disappointed, frustrated, and angry. The blood is now on their hands.

See more information and take action [here](#).

Governance

- **Republican leaders in the NC House released their budget plan on Wednesday**. The plan includes a minimum 7.5% raise for state employees over the next two years, an average 10.2% raise for teachers over both years, and a permanent 1% increase in pensions for retired state employees. Also included are Republican-supported policy measures such as cap-and-trade, "academic transparency" provisions that would require teachers to post all course materials on school websites, and funding to establish new public defenders offices in eight NC counties. (See WUNC for more details about implications of the budget for education policy.)

Education Policy

- **A bill filed in the NC House Monday would establish a pilot program to subsidize child care for preschool-aged children of full-time child care teachers**. HB 483 would allocate $10 million each year for two years of the pilot program, with counties chosen for the pilot program based on how many child care workers they have lost over the past decade.
- **On Tuesday the NC House Education Committee approved a bill that would loosen requirements for school nurses**. HB 382, which would remove the requirement that nurses must be nationally certified within three years of working in schools, is designed to address a shortage of school nurses. The committee also approved HB 172, which would require schools to form "medical condition action plans" for students diagnosed with disorders that could lead to emergencies, and HB 253, which would require schools to provide "character education" and resources and information about abuse and suicide prevention.
- **On Tuesday a committee in the NC House approved a bill that would increase penalties for teachers who engage in sex with students or take indecent liberties with them**. HB 142 would increase these offenses from a Class I to a Class G felony (punishable by up to 47 months in prison), and would class superintendent or school leaders' failure to report such incidents as a Class I felony.
- **On Wednesday NC Senate Republicans filed a bill that – at an increase of $1.3 billion over 7 years – would represent the largest-ever expansion of North Carolina's private school voucher system**. SB 406 would remove any income cap for receiving a voucher and would increase voucher amounts for families making less money, with awards offered on a sliding scale and tied to the state's per-pupil spending on public schools. Democrats have criticized the voucher program for taking money away from the state's public school system.
- **On Thursday a group of Republicans in the NC Senate filed a bill that would ban participation trophies in youth sports leagues**. SB 430 would instead require trophies to be awarded "based on identified performance achievements."

Economic

- **On Tuesday the NC House approved a bill legalizing sports betting**. HB 347, which would allow electronic betting on college and professional sports, passed in a 66-45 vote. Democrats tried to include amendments to slow or soften the bill, but all eight proposed amendments were rejected. The bill is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law by Governor Cooper.
- **On Tuesday the NC Senate Insurance Committee approved three bills changing state insurance laws**. SB 134 would require insurance companies to finish underwriting investigations in 90 days, protecting homeowners from surprise claim denials. SB 123 would close a loophole that has allowed some contractors to refuse to pay their subcontractors. SB 319 would cut taxes for a type of insurance company called a risk retention group from 5% to 1.85%, even lower than the 2% tax the industry had asked for.

Environmental Policy

- **On Tuesday a bill was introduced in the NC House that would freeze building codes until 2031**. HB 488 would prevent the Building Code Council from adopting the International Energy Conservation Code, a set of energy efficiency standards developed by the International Code Council that – if adopted – would increase energy efficiency in NC homes by around 18%. Both the Building Code Council and the NC Department of Insurance raised concerns about the bill.

Health Care Policy

- **On Monday Governor Cooper officially signed Medicaid expansion into law**. Medicaid expansion, which is tied to adoption of the state budget, would extend health coverage to around 600,000 North Carolinians.
- **On Tuesday the NC House Health Committee declined to vote on a bill that would allow Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina to restructure**. HB 346 would allow the company to create a nonprofit parent holding company that would not fall under the same regulations as the insurance company, and which they could use for investing assets. Commissioner of Insurance Mike Causey criticized the bill in the committee hearing, and members of the committee remained skeptical.
- **"Proposed NC abortion ban is unlikely to become law but worries advocates, doctors"** - The News and Observer

"Three House Republicans filed a bill this week that would make abortion illegal in North Carolina at any stage of pregnancy, except if it risks the life of the mother. Without the support of Republican leaders — who have said this legislation does not reflect the group's consensus — the bill is unlikely to get very far."

Gun Violence Prevention

- **On Wednesday the NC House voted 71-46 to override Governor Cooper's veto of the bill repealing the state's pistol permitting regulation**. The vote to override the governor's veto broke along party lines, and it was successful because the absence of two Democratic representatives gave Republicans a three-fifths majority. The law now allows people to purchase pistols without receiving a permit from a sheriff, opening up a loophole for pistol sales at gun shows or online.

Immigration

- **On Tuesday the NC House approved a bill that would require sheriffs to cooperate with ICE**. HB 10, which would require sheriffs to report immigration status of any person charged with a felony or violent crime, is similar to bills Governor Cooper vetoed in 2019 and 2022. Civil liberties advocates and immigration groups have advocated against the bill

Criminal Justice

- **On Tuesday the NC Senate voted unanimously to pass a bill that would allow victims of domestic violence to testify remotely in criminal proceedings**. SB 51, called "Kayla's Act" in honor of Kayla Hammonds, who was fatally stabbed by an ex-boyfriend, would also expand the statute of limitations for misdemeanor domestic violence crimes from two to 10 years.
- **On Thursday a group of NC House Republicans introduced a series of bills to crack down on drunk driving**. HB 148 would lower the allowed blood alcohol content from .08 to .05, and four other bills would change fee structures, sentencing, and license restoration procedures for drunk driving.

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More Opportunities to Take Action!

DEMOCRACY NC: Tell Your NC Legislators to Reject Anti-Voter Jim Crow 2.0 Legislation (SB 88, SB 89, HB 304).

https://secure.everyaction.com/dxAjjGqJ6kebk7Y9cpO2yw2?emci=4d2e09c5-7fca-ed11-a8e0-00224832e811&emdi=24628457-4957-49d2-ed11-a8e0-00224832e811&ceid=86741.

Take a Chatham County Climate Action Survey

The Haw River Assembly is conducting a survey on climate actions. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions regarding Chatham County. They raise some really important issues.

We have created a Climate Action survey, thanks to our amazing UNC Chapel Hill intern, Kaitlin Peck and our Climate Action Committee. *Please take this survey and share it with others!* The more participants, the more accurate our results will be!

Here's the link: **https://forms.gle/wT1teTgD44fckpmR**

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News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

This week's news releases:

NCDP Statement on Rep. Tricia Cotham

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton and Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Chair Jane Whitley released the following statement:

"This is deceit of the highest order. Rep. Cotham's decision is a betrayal to the people of HD-112 with repercussions not only for the people of her district, but for the entire state of North Carolina. If she can no longer represent the values her constituents trusted her to champion, she should resign immediately."

Ways to take action:

Add your name to our petition: https://ncdp.org/resign

Call her office: 919-733-5749

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Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note

Washington Post (Video and Op-ed): How to Rig an Election – With Deadly, Racist Consequences

Washington Post: North Carolina Offers a Recipe for Holdout States to Expand Medicaid

WRAL: NC GOP Files Bills Targeting Transgender Youth

The Assembly NC: Dale Fowell's Uphill Campaign for Governor

Carolina Public Press: Home Mortgage Demand Declines in Rural America, Mirroring National Market

Chapelboro: NC Budget Provisions Take New Import With Medicaid Expansion

Popular Information: Right-Wing Pundits, With Musk's Encouragement, Respond to Mass Shooting With Anti-Trans Propaganda

North Carolina League of Conservation Voters: NC House Draft Budget Contains Destructive Provisions on Climate and Air Pollution

WBTV: Rep. Trisha Cotham Announces Change in Party

Chatham News + Record: Chatham Officials Reflect on Biden Visit

USA Today: Stacey Abrams Voter Efforts Worked in Georgia. Why North Carolina Struggles to Register People of Color.

Chapelboro: Party Switch Gives GOP Veto-Proof Control in North Carolina

Chapelboro: Report: 'Increasing Inequity' in North Carolina's Local Education Spending

The Assembly NC: Two Paths to Power

Carolina Public Press: NC Talks: A Call for Common Language on Mass Shootings

Chatham News + Record: As COVID Relief Funds Approach End, Here's How Chatham County Schools Is Dealing With It

Chatham News + Record: Why a Sanford Wastewater Permit Renewal Matters

Fox News: North Carolina GOP Goes on Offensive, Pushing Ambitious Agenda With New Supermajority in State House

Hopium Chronicles (Column): Not Obeying in Advance

In a week that saw the Republicans gain a supermajority in the NC Legislature with a deceitful and undemocratic act by Rep. Trisha Cotham, we should remember that We the People have the power to ACT:

> "For not obeying in advance is not a passive step, it is an active one. It is a choice, an action, a postcard written, a protest joined, a candidate contribution given, a tweet tweeted, a Substack read, a call made to Wisconsin to turn out more voters for Judge Judy. It is about going on offense, telling our story, and getting to the point that we don't feel that our politics is solely about responding to the daily torrent of horseshit they pump into our discourse every day. It is about getting loud. And there seems to be a lot of it going around these days….."

Click on the link above to read the full column.