CCDP Weekly News Digest
August 8, 2022

Tickets Still Available for Our Chatham Dems Together Fundraiser Sept. 9!

Have a great evening AND help us raise the funds needed to elect Democratic candidates!

Begin your evening by bopping to **Mel Melton & The Wicked Mojo's Louisiana dance hall** music. During the break **uplifting speeches will inspire** us to move forward toward November. After that jolt of inspiration, **finish up the evening by "cutting a rug"** as Mel's band closes out the night.

Speakers will be NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, NC House Democratic Leader Robert Reives, and Rhonda Bullock, PhD, a local anti-racist educational specialist.

An event ticket is required to attend. *If you just want an event ticket - or a ticket with dessert - scroll past the event ticket/dinner options and you can just choose to come to experience the music and speakers.*

However, do you want to miss this deliciousness? *Mel Melton is also a respected Cajun chef.* He and Main 401 will be providing the dinner for the evening. Desserts will come from **Pittsboro's Phoenix Bakery.**

Gumbo is at the heart of the dinner. The combination of many diverse ingredients in this dish reflects our blended and diverse Democratic party!

Each meal will come with either a water, coke or diet coke. There are also dessert options to purchase separately.

Purchase tickets here.

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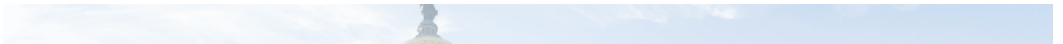
Events

Saturday, August 27, 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.
Candidate Meet and Greets with Senator Ben Clark
Pittsboro (see below for locations and RSVP info)



Tuesday, August 23, 7 p.m.
Fearrington Democratic Club Candidate Forum: Chatham County Board of Education
Zoom Event

Boards of Education have become a significant focus of political and cultural polarization in our country. The Fearrington Democratic Club will present a forum with the five candidates for three seats on the Chatham County Board of Education on **Tuesday, August 23 at 7 p.m**. We are pleased to provide voters in our community with the opportunity to learn about these candidates and their values and policy ideas.

The forum will live streamed and recorded on Zoom. To request the Zoom link, please use the contact form on the Club's website (FearringtonDems.org).

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News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

North Carolina Democratic Party to Intervene in Green Party Fraud Case

State Board of Elections: "The matter remains an active criminal investigation."

As the North Carolina Green Party faces an ongoing criminal investigation by the North Carolina State Board of Elections into their fraudulent signature gathering practices, today the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) is announcing it will file a lawsuit in Wake County Superior Court to protect the integrity of the North Carolina political process.

From NCDP Executive Director Meredith Cuomo: "Given the North Carolina State Board of Elections' own investigation finding widespread fraud in the North Carolina Green Party petitions and the ongoing criminal investigation, the NCDP is pursuing legal action to ensure North Carolina voters have not been deceived."

The NCSBE's vote today represents a sharp departure from how the board has treated past fraud cases, most notably in the 2018 election fraud scandal in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District, in which the board ordered a completely new election after finding evidence of ballot tampering.

Background on fraud investigations into the North Carolina Green Party:

- In legal filings, the NCSBE makes clear there is an "active criminal investigation" into the Green Party's activities, and the number of questionable signatures exceeds the 2,088-signature buffer they had as of June 30th.
- DEFENDANT'S RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION:

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In summation, Director Bell expressly informed the State Board members, and all participants and listeners at the June 30 meeting, that the "number of known questionable signatures exceed[ed] the 2,088-signature threshold." *Id.*, 1:20:18-1:21:00; *see also* Ex. A, p. 17. Director Bell also informed the State Board members that further investigation was required and stated that the formal recommendation of staff was to table consideration of the certification of the Green Party to a future date. *Id.*

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for large volumes of the signatures validated. *Id.* On July 11, State Board legal staff emailed all county boards and instructed them to conduct signature comparisons, if they had not done so already, and to have it completed by July 29. *Id.*, ¶ 27, see also Ex. 10. This review included larger counties preparing for an election on July 26, including Wake, Guilford, and Mecklenburg counties. *Id.* The matter remains an active criminal investigation. Martucci Decl., ¶ 30.

- The NCSBE's investigation found the Green Party, who refused to cooperate with the investigation, contracted with at least two petition gathering consultants who have a documented record of committing fraud, and a review of the petitions showed "Numerous fraudulent signatures" which "indicate organized effort to falsify petition."
- In addition to the blatant signature fraud, the Board has acknowledged that it spoke to multiple people who were misled as to the purpose and intent of the petitions.

ICYMI: CNN: Top economists say Democrats' health care and climate package will put 'downward pressure on inflation'

- **Key Point:** "'This historic legislation makes crucial investments in energy, health care, and in shoring up the nation's tax system. These investments will fight inflation and lower costs for American families while setting the stage for strong, stable, and broadly-shared long-term economic growth,' 126 economists said in a letter sent to congressional leadership Tuesday, which was first obtained by CNN."
- **CNN: Top economists say Democrats' health care and climate package will put 'downward pressure on inflation'**

- Congressional Democrats' climate and health care package is getting a boost from a group of top economists, who wrote in a new letter that the so-called Inflation Reduction Act will lower prices for American consumers amid high inflation.
- "This historic legislation makes crucial investments in energy, health care, and in shoring up the nation's tax system. These investments will fight inflation and lower costs for American families while setting the stage for strong, stable, and broadly-shared long-term economic growth," 126 economists said in a letter sent to congressional leadership Tuesday, which was first obtained by CNN.
- The letter was signed by key economists including former Clinton Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Obama Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, Obama Labor Department chief economist Betsey Stevenson, Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, former Congressional Budget Office Director Doug Elmendorf, and Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, among others.
- "This started to come together late last week with some of the signatories connecting with each other to discuss how they could highlight the economic value of the bill and push back on some of the economic disinformation surrounding it," a source familiar said of the letter.
- The economists touted the bill's historic $369 billion investments in combating the climate crisis and, they wrote, it will "quickly and noticeably bring down health care costs for families" by allowing Medicare to negotiate certain prescription drug prices, along with extensions to expanded Affordable Care Act subsidies.
- Those investments, the group wrote, "would be more than fully paid for," pointing to its provision to impose a 15% minimum tax on certain corporations.
- "This proposal addresses some of the country's biggest challenges at a significant scale. And because it is deficit-reducing, it does so while putting downward pressure on inflation," the economists said.

ICYMI: NCDP Continues "Too Extreme GOP" Tour in Asheville

- Today, the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) continued its "Too Extreme GOP" Tour. The tour is part of a national "Too Extreme GOP" push by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) following July 31st – which marked 100 days out from Election Day.
- The "Too Extreme GOP" Tour is highlighting the contrast between Republicans in North Carolina and across the country's extreme agenda of banning abortion with no exceptions for rape and incest and cutting Americans' Medicare and Social Security benefits, versus Democrats' agenda of lowering costs for working people and protecting reproductive freedom. Congressman Ted Budd has also said he "agreed with the major points" of Republicans' extreme agenda, including supporting a national abortion ban with no exceptions for rape, incest, or to save the mother's life.
- In addition to Asheville, the statewide tour kicked off in Greenville last week and will continue throughout August across North Carolina.
- **Click here for a recording of the event.**
- "Last night in Kansas, a state that Trump won by almost 15 points, a ballot initiative to make abortion illegal was resoundingly defeated by almost 20 points. What we are seeing is a clear rejection of the dangerous extremism that has been trafficked by Mark Meadows, Madison Cawthorn and now my Republican opponent Chuck Edwards. People want a bridge builder who will help us heal and move forward. People want someone who shows up to find solutions, and will stay at the table, even when there's disagreement. Someone who understands first-hand the pressures that families in our district are under, and someone who will represent everyone, not just the people who voted for her. That's what I offer and that's why we will win in November," said NC-11 congressional candidate Jasmine Beach-Ferrara.

- "In our state's U.S. Senate race, Congressman Ted Budd has said he 'agreed with the major points' of Republicans' extreme agenda. In North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District, running against Jasmine Beach-Ferrara this November is Chuck Edwards, who is sure to be a rubber stamp on the Republicans' extreme agenda. In November, it's more important than ever that we roll up our sleeves to elect leaders like Cheri Beasley to the U.S. Senate and Jasmine Beach-Ferrara to Congress," said NCDP's NC-11 District Chair Matt Ballance**.**
- "In late June, the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade, a direct result of Republicans' decades-long war on the right to choose. Protecting abortion access in North Carolina isn't the only issue on the ballot this November. As a senior, the plan to cut Social Security and Medicare put forth by Republicans in Congress is alarming to me. This is why it's so important to elect Democrats up and down the ballot this November like Cheri Beasley to the U.S. Senate and Jasmine Beach-Ferrara to Congress," said NC-11 Senior Susan Presson**.**
- "Republicans are proposing significant changes in Medicare and Social Security. If you carefully read Senator Rick Scott's plan, the Chair of the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, you will see he advocates for sunsetting Medicare and Social Security. There are over two million seniors who rely on the Medicare benefits that they spent their lives paying into and over 1.5 million seniors rely on Social Security. We can't afford Republican control," said NC-11 Senior John Presson**.**

Governor Cooper Announces $23.7M American Rescue Plan Grant to Bolster Clean Energy Workforce in NC

Thanks to Democrats, the American Rescue Plan is continuing to deliver for North Carolina. Yesterday, in a press conference at North Carolina A&T University, Governor Roy Cooper was joined by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo to announce the university as a recipient of the Economic Development Administration's American Rescue Plan Good Jobs Challenge Grant - totaling $23.7 million.

A&T University will use this grant to fund a new clean energy workforce training program, STEPs4GROWTH, which will work toward providing early career-training opportunities for high schoolers seeking to enter the clean energy sector and continue through college. The program will primarily benefit economically distressed counties across North Carolina - including Wilson, Nash, Edgecombe, Northampton and Halifax - and establish regional training centers at Halifax Community College, Martin County Community College, Guilford Community College and UNC Charlotte and Olympic High School in Charlotte.

Read more about the transformational investment:

- **NC A&T: N.C. A&T Celebrates N.C. Clean Energy Program Participants with State Agency, Industry Leaders**
- **WRAL: Gov. Cooper announces $23M grant to implement clean energy jobs in NC**
- **N&O: NC A&T to receive $23.7 million federal grant for clean energy workforce program**

ICYMI: Kansas Voters Send Clear Message to GOP On Abortion

- In a resounding vote on Tuesday night, Kansas voters took a stand on women's reproductive freedom and sent a clear message to members of the GOP across the country - if this is the platform you're running on this November, be prepared to lose big.
- North Carolina Democrats are feeling energized by the victory in Kansas – they know this vote truly highlights what's at stake to voters – and coverage is taking note, citing "new hope" and "confidence" for Democrats moving into the fall.

- Yesterday, Attorney General Josh Stein, alongside Congresswoman Deborah Ross and State Senator Rosa Gill, held a press conference to once again pledge to protect reproductive rights, while Republicans "declined to comment." *It's a good thing voters already know their plan to put reproductive freedoms on the chopping block.*
- "Kansans sent an important reminder to the country this week that voters won't just sit back while Republicans roll back their freedoms," said NCDP spokesperson Julia Walker**.** "This November, North Carolinians will reject extreme politicians who don't share their values at the ballot box."

Ted Budd Celebrates National Friendship Day With Extreme Buddies

In case you didn't know, the first Sunday in August marks National Friendship Day, a holiday celebrated around the world in the name of friendship. So, we decided to take a look at who Congressman Budd is likely celebrating with today.

With friends like these, who needs enemies?

Congressman Budd's best buddy Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, best known for spouting off hateful rhetoric putting down women and the LGBTQ+ community.

What a gracious friend Lara Trump was – stepping aside despite being the candidate Republicans actually wanted to run for Senate. That's what friends are for, right?!

Must be the "Big Lies & Black Ties" banquet! Nothing like bonding with your friend Mark by voting to overturn the election results and refusing to hold Trump accountable for inciting an insurrection.

This may be Budd's best buddy ever. Club for Growth gave Budd the gift of millions of dollars to boost his U.S. Senate campaign.

Last but not least – the friend who dragged Budd over the finish line in his primary and the boat to his barnacle.

"We're Great With It:" Budd Campaign Proud To Fundraise With Election Deniers While Hiding From NC Voters

Congressman Budd, who has spent the last few months hiding from the campaign trail and dodging press, is now emerging to host a fundraiser with Cleta Mitchell, "a woman integral in scheming with former President Donald Trump to try to overturn the 2020 election results."

It's no surprise that someone who called insurrectionists "just patriots standing up" feels "great" about standing alongside someone "who was on the phone with Trump in January when he urged Georgia's secretary of state to 'find' the votes Trump needed to win the 2020 presidential election."

Read more:

News & Observer: ICYMI: Trump adviser who tried to overturn election hosts NC fundraiser for US Senate candidate

- A woman integral in scheming with former President Donald Trump to try to overturn the 2020 election results is now hosting a fundraiser for a U.S. Senate candidate in North Carolina.
- Trump adviser Cleta Mitchell, a resident of Pinehurst who has been repeatedly mentioned throughout Jan. 6, 2021, news coverage and committee hearings in Congress, is hosting a fundraiser on Aug. 15 for Rep. Ted Budd. Budd is running to replace retiring Sen. Richard Burr.
- "We're great with it," said Jonathan Felts, senior adviser to Budd.
- Dory MacMillan, a spokeswoman for Budd's Democratic opponent, Cheri Beasley, said she wasn't surprised.
- "Given Congressman Budd's record of siding with special interests and wealthy donors over North Carolinians, it's unsurprising that Congressman Budd is more focused on spending time with out-of-touch mega donors pushing the Big Lie than hard working North Carolinians," MacMillan said.
- Budd's fundraiser includes one other tie to the former president: Trump's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump. At one point, Lara Trump, who grew up in Wilmington, considered running against Budd for Burr's seat.
- But last summer, Lara Trump decided against running and at the GOP state Convention in Greenville, the former president announced his endorsement of Budd.

REMINDER: Burr and Tillis Voted Against Lowering Insulin Costs

North Carolina's Republican Senators blocked a cap on out-of-pocket costs for insulin, making clear they're siding with Big Pharma over North Carolinians

Yesterday, North Carolina's Republican Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis voted against the Inflation Reduction Act, which includes significant measures to lower health care costs for Americans forced to shoulder high prices for life-saving medicine.

"While President Biden and Democrats are working day in and day out to lower the cost of prescription drugs, reduce the deficit, and fight rising costs without raising taxes a single penny on middle class families, Burr and Tillis' vote underscores the GOP's commitment to protecting Big Pharma and special interests over easing costs for North Carolina families," said NCDP Spokesperson Ellie Dougherty**.**

Washington Post: Republicans block cap on insulin costs for millions of patients

- **KEY POINT:** "Republican lawmakers on Sunday successfully stripped a $35 price cap on the cost of insulin for many patients from the ambitious legislative package Democrats are moving through Congress this weekend, invoking arcane Senate rules to jettison the measure."

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News from Congressman David Price's Office

I am excited to share that the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (Honoring Our PACT Act) passed the Senate last night and is headed to President Biden's desk. This comprehensive bipartisan package is a historic and life-saving victory for our veterans, addressing the potential toxic exposure they may have faced while in service and opens access to VA health care for those affected.

This has particular significance for North Carolina, where soldiers were exposed to contaminated water while stationed at Camp Lejeune. I am proud that this package includes legislation I coauthored, the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, which will provide service members and their families who suffered from exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina the opportunity to seek judicial relief and have their long overdue day in court.

Following the tireless advocacy by veterans and their families, the Honoring Our PACT Act overcame the Senate Republican blockade and now heads to President Biden's desk to become law. I firmly believe that the federal government has an obligation to care for our veterans, service members, and their families. Exposure to contaminated tap water and other toxins is a grave oversight, and those affected deserve justice. Our veterans and their families have waited decades for this opportunity and necessary care, and this legislation is a crucial step towards remedying long-term injustices. This is the most comprehensive legislation to date to treat toxic exposure as a cost of war, and I am proud to play a role in the authoring and passage of this legislation.

The bill text of the Honoring Our PACT Act can be found here. Information on the Camp Lejeune Justice Act can be found starting on page 76 of the Honoring Our PACT Act Rules text.

As always, please stay in touch with me on issues of concerns.

Sincerely,

David Price
Member of Congress

This is the final week for undergraduate students to submit an application to intern in my Washington, D.C. office for the Fall 2022 semester. If you know an undergraduate student who is interested in learning about government or the legislative process in our nation's capital, please encourage them to apply. The application deadline for the Fall 2022 DC Internship Program is next **Monday, August 15th at 11:59 pm EST.**

This program will allow undergraduate students to learn first-hand about the workings of the House of Representatives and constituent services. Interns will have the opportunity to experience the legislative process, develop research skills, interact with constituents, and assist with administrative responsibilities.

Interested individuals can find the Internship Program description, eligibility requirements, and an application form on my website. Click here to download a PDF of the Internship Program description.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Aldridge, Operations Manager & Legislative Aide, at NC04.Intern@mail.house.gov or by calling 202-225-1784.

Sincerely,

David Price
Member of Congress

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News from Neighbors on Call

Sunday, Sept. 11 @ 3:30pm (doors at 3pm)
NoC Election Skills Fair with NC Sen. Jeff Jackson and honored guests
East Chapel Hill High School

RSVP now for quicker check-in. Please plan to arrive at 3pm.

Join us for a fun, free, action-packed afternoon. You'll hear from key legislators about how you can help protect the governor's veto. Let's KNoCk the Vote!

Masks are required at this event.

3pm "Meet and Greet" with elected state officials and candidates

3:30-5:15pm Election Skills Fair Program

Opening remarks

Breakout sessions with elected officials and other campaigning experts who will get you primed to get out the vote! We'll cover:

- Leveraging your volunteer time for greatest impact
- Getting to know the districts and candidates we're fighting for
- Talking to voters (and Ring doorbells!) made easy
- Voter registration update
- Making a plan for action - bring your calendar!
- NC Sen. Jeff Jackson's closing words

5:15-6pm "Meet and Greet", Cookies and Help Stations (see website)

See up-to-the-minute details at neighborsoncall.org/events

Voting Rights

- **On Friday a Court of Appeals decision from earlier this year went into effect, allowing North Carolinians with felony convictions who are on parole, probation, or another form of state supervision to register to vote**. The voting rights of these groups are still under litigation, but for now felony disenfranchisement has ended for all but people who are currently serving prison sentences for felonies in North Carolina, and many state residents with a felony conviction who have previously been barred from voting will be able to vote in November's elections.

Reproductive Rights

- **Republican leaders in the NC General Assembly asked a federal court to lift an injunction blocking the state's 20-week abortion ban**. Federal Judge William Osteen Jr. had blocked enforcement of the law in 2019, but Republicans argue that given the Supreme Court's recent overturning of Roe v. Wade, the law should be reinstated. Last week North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein had said that he would not ask the court to lift the injunction. The law bans abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy with no exceptions for rape or incest.

Criminal Justice

- **On Monday a federal judge sided with NC Attorney General Josh Stein in a suit brought by his campaign claiming that an NC law banning the publication of "derogatory" falsehoods about politicians is unconstitutional**. Stein's campaign is under criminal investigation for potentially violating the law in a 2020 campaign ad criticizing his Republican opponent for a backlog of rape kits in his home county, but as long as the temporary restraining order issued by the judge on Monday stands, the Wake County District Attorney's office will not be able to bring charges against Stein under the law.

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Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note

Carolina Public Press: CPP Research: Serving NC Across the Digital Divide

Carolina Public Press: NC Connection: Closing the News Gap Portal Launched

Carolina Public Press: NC Connection Survey: The Linchpin of the Project. Here's How to Take It

Carolina Pubic Press: NC Connection: Your Voice, Participation Makes a Difference

Carolina Public Press: NC Connection: What We Know So Far

Chapelboro.com: Exploring Vingroup's Vast Reach in Vietnam, and What It Means for Chatham County

Chapelboro.com: Pittsboro, Greensboro Officials Hold First In-Person Meeting to Discuss Water Quality

The Assembly NC: Schism in the Body

Axios: Rising Prices Hit Triangle's Surging Economy

EDNC.org: Thomas Stith's Resignation Sparks Another Transition for the NCCCS System

NCLCV.org: Cooper Appoints New Clean Energy Director

Chatham News + Record: Chatham County Receives State Funding for Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements

Chatham News + Record: Superintendent Jackson Gets Contract Extension Through 2026

Chatham News + Record: Love Chatham Combats Homelessness, Financial Insecurity Within Chatham County