



Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest February 26, 2024

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Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities

The 2024 Democratic Primary Election is Here!

Want to vote by mail? The deadline to request your absentee ballot for the March 5 Primary Election is 5 p.m., February 27. Request it at <https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov> .

- You can request an absentee ballot [online or by mail](#).
- Your request must be **received** by your board of elections by February 27th at 5 p.m. (a postmark will not count).
- You must now include a photocopy of an [acceptable ID](#) inside the “photo envelope” that will come with your ballot.
- You need TWO witnesses and signatures again this year.
- Your entire absentee ballot process is trackable on [ballottrax](#).
- ***Returning Your Completed Absentee Ballot -- Whether you are mailing in your completed absentee ballot or returning it in person at your county board of elections office or to an early voting site, it must be received by your county board of elections by no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, March 5.*** You may not return your absentee ballot to a polling place on Election Day. ***There is no grace period*** for mailed ballots received after 7:30 p.m. on March 5. Remember to include correct postage (\$1.63) on your ballot return envelope -- three Forever stamps (66 cents apiece) would cover that amount.

The Early Voting Period runs from February 15 to March 2. Early Voting Polling places are listed on page 3 of this digest. During Early Voting, polls are open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on Early Voting Polling sites, checking your voter registration, and photo ID requirements, visit: [Primary Election Calendar | CCDP-NC \(ccdpsc.org\)](#) . **As a reminder, the previously announced Early Voting Polling Site at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Cary has been replaced by Holland Chapel AME Zion Church in Apex.**

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-a-h/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.ccdpsc.org/2024-sample-primary-ballot> .

For information on your 2024 Democratic candidates, visit:
<https://www.ccdpnc.org/candidate-profiles> .

Call for Poll Observers

We are still recruiting volunteers to serve as POLL OBSERVERS. **You must be a resident of Chatham County to be a poll observer in Chatham County.** This year more than ever CCDP Poll Observers watch for any missteps in the election processes inside each polling place. They've been in use for at least a hundred years as a way to promote election integrity, with the idea that if both parties are watching, it's much harder for either to tamper with the votes. If someone goes amiss, poll observers contact a central incident reporting operation.

Poll Observers typically sign up for a 4-hour shift at a specific polling location. In addition to these shifts, we would like to have a list of at-large Poll Observers and a small team of Hot Line volunteers. In general, at-large observers are allowed to observe at any polling site in the county for any length of time. Hot Line volunteers can work from anywhere and enter issues reported by observers into a central easy-to-use system.

If you would like to learn more about these opportunities or Poll Observing in general, please join one of a no obligation informal info session. The hope is that we can start to build these teams during the primaries and have this early experience carry over into this year's all important general election in the fall. Sign up at: [Poll Observer info session](#).

If you already know that you would like to serve as a Poll Observer, you can sign up for a shift (or several) at: [Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Petitions Near Me](#)

Thank you for helping us protect democracy in 2024!

Sign Up To Be a Primary Election Early Voting Poll Greeter!

Sign up at the links below to be a Primary Election poll greeter at one of the five early voting sites in Chatham County!

[CCCC Health Science Building, 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro 27312](#)

[Chatham County Agricultural Center, 1192 US Highway 64, Pittsboro 27312](#)

[Goldston Town Hall, Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston 27252](#)

[National Guard Armory, 801 Alston Bridge Rd, Siler City 27344](#)

[Holland Chapel AME Zion Church, 360 Burgess Rd., Apex, NC 27523](#)

Please [download CCDP's Poll Greeting Guidelines](#) and read them before your first poll greeting shift.

CCDP is also offering optional (but highly recommended) [Poll Greeting Training](#). There are training sessions scheduled for **March 2, 8 - 10 a.m.** and for **March 4, Noon-2 p.m.**

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

Check out the link below to sign up to be a poll greeter on Primary Election Day, March 5:

https://www.mobilize.us/chathamcountydems/?tag_ids=749

Join Our Texting Team!

We are launching a very targeted texting program aimed at making sure our supporters have all the information they need to vote in 2024. We plan to begin texting shortly before early voting begins on February 15th and we will wrap up on March 5th, Primary Election Day. Then, we will gear up to do it again next fall for the November election.

If you are shy around people, but not around computers.....this is the volunteer opportunity you have been looking for!

Volunteer [here](#).

CCDP Volunteer Trainings

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

February 27, 1:30 - 3 p.m. [Training - Staffing Tent Events](#), CCDP Community Engagement Center (CEC), 628 East Street, Pittsboro

March 1, 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](#) .

###

Other Upcoming Events

Chatham County Board of Elections Absentee Board Meeting, February 27, 5 p.m. (Virtual Event)

The public may view the meeting online at <https://meet.goto.com/297407909> .

Information about the Chatham County Board of Elections can be found online at [Board of Elections Office](#). Questions may be directed to the Board of Elections office at 919-545-8500.

Public Education and Public Money,” February 27, 7 – 8:15 p.m., Sponsored by Fearington Democratic Club (Virtual Event)

Vouchers? Charter schools? Teacher Pay? Parents’ Bill of Rights? The Fearington Democratic Club’s February topic will be “Public Education and Public Money.” Our speaker will be Dr. Charles Coble, an experienced and powerful advocate for public schools and their teachers.

Dr. Coble, a former science teacher, was the Dean of the School of Education at East Carolina University, then served as liaison with the fifteen Schools of Education in the UNC system. He led the development of the University School Teacher Education Partnerships and organized the UNC Center for School Leadership Development.

The meeting will be live-streamed on **Tuesday, February 27 from 7 - 8:15 p.m.** and recorded for later viewing on the Club website (FearingtonDems.org). Click [here](#) for the link to register for Zoom (by 5 p.m. of the day of the event, please, and sooner is better).

All On The Line: 10 Year Plan with Special Guest Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., February 27, 7 - 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

This election year, and the next few years leading up to the 2030 census, are of the utmost importance for our work as we fight for fair maps and democracy. We are committed to playing the long game, and that’s why we’re excited to talk through our next steps.

Please join the All On The Line and our special guest Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. for a volunteer briefing covering our 10-year plan on February 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm ET. This strategic plan details not just how we plan to work to protect the democratic systems already in place, but also how we intend to expand them and bring fair maps to every American over the course of a 10-year cycle.

Go to: [All On The Line: 10 Year Plan with Special Guest Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr](#)

Canvass Monitoring Training, February 28, 6 - 7 p.m. (Virtual Event sponsored by Common Cause NC, Democracy NC, and Southern Coalition for Social Justice)

We invite you to learn how to monitor county canvass for the 2024 elections and other opportunities to defend voting rights in this critical year. The goal of this training is to empower you as an Elections Advocate and provide you with tools to join our movement of nonpartisan elections monitors. This training will ensure you are confident in canvass monitoring during the 2024 primary elections and ready to join the movement to protect North Carolina's democracy.

Please register here to receive the Zoom link: [2024 NC County Board of Elections Advocacy Training](#)

Mass Poor People's and Low Wage Workers' State House Assembly and Moral March on Raleigh and to the Polls, March 2, Gather at 10 a.m., March begins at 11 a.m., NC State Capitol, 1 E. Morgan Street, Raleigh

After another year of devastating legislative attacks on poor people and low-wage workers by the NC General Assembly, it's time for North Carolinians from across the state to take back the mic from the extremists and tell our elected leaders that we refuse to do anything but go Forward Together, Not One Step Back.

The Forward-Together Moral Monday movement last held a mass People's Assembly in February 2020 before Covid, and it's time now for the same coalition of North Carolinians with new and old friends to come together to show the General Assembly that our votes are our demands! North Carolina is joining thirty states across the nation holding simultaneous assemblies and marches at their state capitals on March 2nd, as a part of 40 weeks of action beginning February 5 and leading to the November elections.

RSVP at: [Mass Poor People's and Low Wage Workers' State House Assembly and Moral March on Raleigh and to the Polls](#)

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.*

Register [here](#).

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](#)

###

Events Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue

North Carolina Rally Bank, February 26, 7 - 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Hello Rally Users! Join our "Rally Bank" on Monday, Feb 26th, 7-8pm. Keep going through the tasks in your Rally profile to provide your contacts all the info they need to vote smart. During the Rally Bank, we'll all be together for a fun night as we make a HUGE push during the last week of early voting! For those who have yet to set up your profiles and add your contacts, here's the link again and be sure to join the fun on Feb 26th: [Rally](#)

Sign up for the Rally Bank at: [North Carolina Rally Bank!](#)

What Is Christian Nationalism and Why Is It a Threat To Democracy?, February 27, 7:30 -8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Are you hearing the term Christian Nationalism and not sure what it means? What is this movement all about and what policies are they trying to implement? Join us to learn all you need to know! We are being joined by Katherine Stewart, author of “The Power Worshipers” – the new Rob Reiner documentary, “God & Country,” is based on her book! We will also be joined by Rev Karla, the viral Reverend helping people “Discover the Spiritual-but-not-Religious Path”, and three journalists reporting on Christian Nationalism in government: Jenny Cohn, Cyril Mychalejko, and Kira Resistance.

Sign up at: [What Is Christian Nationalism and Why Is It A Threat To Democracy?](#)

TroubleMaven Academy Class 4, February 28, 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.

Sign up at: [TroubleMaven Academy Class 4](#)

What Is Social Emotional Learning and Why Is It Under Attack?, February 29, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

We know that extremists are attacking public education – and their latest target is social and emotional learning (SEL). What is SEL, why is it an integral part of a student’s education, and how can we protect it? Get answers to these questions by joining us to hear from Justina Schlund, Vice-President of Communications with CASEL. Her organization is leading the way to ensure that SEL is part of a quality and equitable education for all students.

Sign up at: [What Is Social Emotional Learning And Why Is It Under Attack?](#)

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

Black History Month Celebration, February 28, 5 - 7 p.m., Goodwin House
220 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC

Join us for a celebration of Black History Month at Goodwin House honoring State Auditor Jessica Holmes, with special guests Cheri Beasley and Sen. Howard Lee.

RSVP at: [Black History Month Celebration](#)

Monthly Donor Call, February 29, 7 - 8 p.m.

NCDP is launching a new initiative to foster deeper engagement and transparency within our community: a monthly donor call with Chair Clayton and our other State Officers. These calls offer a unique opportunity to gain insights directly from Chair Clayton and other state officers about the progress and investments we're making to advance our shared values in North Carolina. Join the Blue Crew at [North Carolina Democratic Party](#) and automatically get your spot reserved!

Justice Berger Jr. refuses to recuse himself in Leandro case; Majority conservative state supreme court to determine the course of public education in North Carolina

Nearly 30 years after the initial decision on Leandro, the case will go back before the state's highest court. According to Judicial Canon 3-C, "A judge should disqualify himself/herself in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality may reasonably be questioned." Despite this clear language and precedent, and a clear and obvious conflict of interest involving state Supreme Court Justice Phil Berger Jr. and the most powerful Republican in the state, Sen. Phil Berger Sr, the Republican majority state Supreme Court ruled that Justice Berger Jr. did not have to recuse himself from the Leandro hearing. Under the majority of Conservative Republican justices, the court will reverse its previous holding and rule that it has no constitutional authority to order the legislature to adequately fund the state's K-12 schools.

WRAL [published an editorial](#) slamming the North Carolina Supreme Court's decision to allow Justice Phil Berger Jr. to hear the case. As [the editorial notes](#), "The Leandro case has high stakes for the state, the future of public education and even the essential separation of powers clause in our state Constitution and the independence of the executive and judicial branches of government."

"Justice Berger Jr.'s refusal to recuse himself from hearing the Leandro case, to which his father is a party, is just the latest example of Raleigh Republicans' corrupt and

coordinated effort to dismantle our democracy and defund our public schools,” **said NCDP Spokesperson Tommy Mattocks**. “With a conservative Supreme Court in their pocket, and in their family, General Assembly Republicans are hellbent on taking taxpayer money from our public schools and putting it in the pockets of wealthy people so they can send their kids to private schools. North Carolinians are witnessing the dismantling of public education. The stakes couldn’t be higher in this election and we must elect Democrats down ballot who will stand up for our right to a sound, basic education as enshrined in our constitution.”

Statement from North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton Statement, February 22, 2024

“Our public schools are about to face a devastating blow thanks to the power-hungry duo, Tim Moore and Phil Berger, and their coordination with the state Supreme Court that they have in their pocket, and in their family. Our state constitution requires that all students have the opportunity for a sound basic education but now it’s on the chopping block due to the rehearing of the Leandro case. This ruling will have a devastating impact on our state, our schools, and most importantly, our students. We have public servants actively dismantling public education to embolden private schools. This is not what the people of our state want and this is why we must elect Democrats down ballot who will fight for access to quality education for all.”

###

News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson

The budget, Ukraine, and the border, February 24, 2024

I’ve only been in Congress for one year, which means this is my first time through the budget process. I still feel like a bit of an outsider because I’m new, but the truth is, this last year has been so wild that even folks who have served for decades don’t have much to compare it to. We now have three very different issues - the budget, Ukraine, and the southern border - all impacting each other because of an internal political fight that is largely out of view.

Here’s my sense of where things stand: We’ve given ourselves three budget extensions in the last six months. The current extension runs out very soon and the budget still isn’t done. BUT we are making progress. Pieces are being put together.

However, two big questions remain: First, will we finish in time to avoid another extension? It’s possible, but only if the Speaker breaks his pledge to only vote on “single-issue” bills. The budget is technically 12 separate bills and to beat the deadline he’s going to have to combine a bunch of them. He promised the majority party he would never do that, but it sounds like he’s considering it. Second, given that his right-flank has already stated their objection to any budget that can actually pass, when the

Speaker ultimately has to go around them to get the votes he needs, what will their level of rage be?

The answer to that question has *profound implications* for Ukraine and the southern border. Here's why: The budget, Ukraine, and the southern border are three issues the Speaker can't address without provoking a fight with his right-flank, simply because doing anything on any of those issues will require some degree of bipartisan compromise and his right-flank has made it clear that they won't allow that. Of those three issues, the Speaker definitely values passing a budget the most because that failure would have the greatest political cost for his majority. So that's the issue where he's most likely to spend his political capital with his right-flank. That doesn't mean they'll vote for it - they won't - but he's hoping it at least means they won't try to fire him when he lets it come to a vote.

But they're still going to fly into a rage. If we pass a budget and the rage from the right-flank is a full 10 out of 10, the Speaker could conclude that he doesn't have enough political capital left to do Ukraine or the border. His right-flank knows this, so my sense is they will be as performative as possible with their rage when we actually pass a budget. They'll want to scare the Speaker into thinking he's got no more margin for error with them and essentially halt the legislative process for everything else. Setting that aside, my genuine sense is there is still a strong bipartisan majority that is ready to pass legislation for Ukraine and the southern border.

Over the next few weeks, I'll report back to you on how those bills are coming along. But the real question won't be whether those bills have bipartisan support - that's actually the easier part. The question is going to be whether the Speaker is willing to pick more fights with his right-flank. Last week - behind closed doors - he was pressed on all this by members of his right-flank. He did his absolute best not to say anything confrontational. He knows he simply cannot afford open warfare with those folks. His strategy is to be maximally accommodating... right up to the point where he decides to call a vote.

More soon.

###

NCDP Hispanic Caucus Elects New Officers

The NCDP Hispanic Caucus met on February 25 to elect new officers.

The following people were elected:

State Chair: Albaro Reyes-Martinez
1st Vice Chair: Adrian Maldonado
2nd Vice Chair: Charlie Hatch
3rd Vice Chair: Nicole Aguero

Secretary: Rafael Toro
Treasurer: Kyle Sanchez

###

Selected News and Opinion Stories

The Heritage Foundation: [Project 2025 Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise \(PDF\)](#) – Project 2025 is a policy playbook from the right-wing organization The Heritage Foundation to reshape the Executive Branch of the U.S. federal government should the GOP win the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election.

The Assembly NC: [Trump, Trumpier, Trumpiest](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Racial Justice Act Goes Back to Court](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Biden blasts Trump's support of a nationwide abortion ban](#)

Carolina Forward: [Righting Wrongs: Reckoning with North Carolina's History](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Transformer shortage nationwide drives Siemens expansion in NC](#)

Chapelboro: [Steady Ascent or Sudden Splash? North Carolina Governor's Race Features Men Who Took Different Paths](#)

Chapelboro: [While Highlighting Pittsboro's Leadership, State and Local Leaders Call for Better Water Quality](#)

Chapelboro: [Congresswoman Valerie Foushee Named to New Artificial Intelligence Task Force](#)

Chapelboro: [The Evolution of the Leandro Case, 3 Decades Later](#)

Chapelboro: [Chatham County Roundup: County Commissioner Karen Howard](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Lawrence O'Donnell Makes The Case for President Biden, With Democrats Things Get Better, Do More/Worry Less](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [America The Prosperous/Biden The Successful, Gallego Leads in 2 New Polls, MAGA Descends Deeper Into Madness](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Trump Is Not Strong, Or Winning - No Red Waving 2024 Please](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Joe Biden Is A Good President, Muscular Grassroots = Big Dem Wins, Coming To Terms With Russia's Historic Penetration Of The Republican Party](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Why I Am Optimistic About 2024, Enormous Victory in Wisconsin, Do More/Worry Less](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [More Performance Problems for Trump and MAGA in South Carolina](#)

Lucid: ["A Thieving Little Man in His Bunker": Lessons of Navalny for Resisting Autocracy](#)

NY Times: [Opinion | Bidenomics Is Still Working Very Well](#)

NY Times: [Opinion | There Is Much More at Stake in Trump's Manhattan Case Than Just Hush Money](#)

NY Times: [Opinion | On Tom Suozzi and the Long Island Special Election](#)

NY Times: [Opinion | Trump's G.O.P. Is a Confederacy of Fakers](#)

NY Times: [Opinion | What is Christian Nationalism, Exactly?](#)

NC Health News: [Chatham Maternity Care Center bucks trend of rural maternity closures](#)

NC Health News: [Public health officials say sports betting legalization will lead to uptick in gambling addiction](#)

NC Health News: [NC lawmakers discuss how to curb tianeptine sales in the state](#)

NC Newsline: [NC Supreme Court to revisit landmark school funding case](#)

NC Newsline: [The grim future for K-12 education in a post-Leandro North Carolina](#)

NC Newsline: [Pittsboro suing Apollo Chemical over toxic 1,4-Dioxane in drinking water](#)

NC Newsline: [Tensions exposed as conservative group wades into Democratic primary](#)

WBTV: ['A lot of frustration': North Carolina lawmakers considering privatizing DMV](#)

WNCN: [NC governor honors African American educators](#)

WRAL: [Secretive conservative groups spending big to influence NC Democratic primaries](#)

WRAL: [Editorial: State court's integrity diminished by Justice Berger Jr.'s refusal to recuse in Leandro case](#)

WUNC: [3 things to know about this week's Leandro hearing in the NC Supreme Court](#)