



**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest
April 8, 2024**

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Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Sign Up to Canvass in East Chapel Precinct, April 20, 1 – 3:30 p.m.!

This will be a door-to-door canvass to greet new voters in the East Chapel precinct, assess their loyalty to the Democratic Party, and to ask Democrats and friendly Unaffiliated voters to volunteer.

We will meet at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 20th, in Briar Chapel at the intersection of Tobacco Farm Way and Grovewood Lane. We will go out in teams of 2 or 3 and canvass for a couple of hours. Each team will be assigned around 25 doors to canvass.

Sign up [here](#).

CCDP Volunteer Trainings

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

[Canvassing Orientation and Training](#), April 17, @Zoom

[Volunteer Orientation](#), April 12, 19 & 26, @Zoom

[Events Team Orientation](#), April 19, @Zoom

[Join Our Office Crew](#), April 13 & 20, Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

[Staffing Tent Events](#), April 13, Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

[Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education](#), April 13 & 20, Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

Event Hosts are needed for those trainings held at the CEC. To sign up, go to: [CEC Event Host](#) .

Volunteer for a Shift at [Pittsboro First Sunday](#), May 5, Downtown Pittsboro

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Other Upcoming Events

Board of Elections Absentee Business Meeting, April 9, 5 p.m., Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson St, Suite D, Pittsboro

The public may view the meeting online at <https://meet.goto.com/628998885>.

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.

Board of Elections Absentee/Regular Meeting, April 16, 5 p.m., Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson St., Suite D, Pittsboro

The public may view the meeting online at <https://meet.goto.com/932367677>.

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.

How to Defeat Maga Extremists, April 18, 5 – 6 p.m., (Virtual Event Sponsored by the North Carolina Democratic Party)

As you know, Republicans have put a slate of far-right MAGA extremists on the ballot for this fall, from gubernatorial nominee Mark Robinson to state superintendent nominee Michele Morrow. The stakes for this election couldn't be higher, as these candidates threaten to cripple our public schools, run businesses out of our state, scapegoat the LGBTQ community, and strip away our rights and freedoms.

We'll be joined by the Democratic nominee for governor, Attorney General Josh Stein. Josh has a long history of fighting and delivering for North Carolina families. As Attorney General, he has helped hold opioid manufacturers and corporate polluters accountable, brought justice for sexual assault victims, and defended our rights to reproductive healthcare and quality public education. A coalition-builder, AG Stein is determined to build a stronger state with better public schools, a thriving economy, and safe communities for every North Carolinian.

After AG Stein's remarks, we will cover in-state research that demonstrates how North Carolina voters move away from these extreme candidates when they learn about their policies on core issues like reproductive rights and public education, as well as their derogatory and delusional rhetoric. Come learn from Progress North Carolina PAC about the most effective messaging against this extreme slate of candidates.

Sign up at: [Defeating MAGA in North Carolina](#)

###

Events Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue

Why Electing LGBTQ+ Candidates Really Matters, April 16, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation has hit an all-time high in our country. Extremist policymakers are trying to ban everything from drag shows to gender-affirming healthcare to marriage equality. To defeat these bans, it is essential to have LGBTQ+ voices in the halls of power. Join us to hear from Mayor Annise Parker, President and CEO of the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund and the first openly LGBTQ+ mayor of a major American city. She will share why these elections matter and how we can support LGBTQ+ candidates from school board to Congress.

Sign up at: [Why Electing LGBTQ+ Candidates Really Matters](#)

NC TroubleMaven & TroubleNation Strategy/Training, April 22, 7 - 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

The 2024 election cycle is on and poppin! Join the RWB NC team for this virtual event to hear our strategy to get 40K people to the polls in November, and how TroubleMavens and NC TroubleNation groups fit into this strategy. We'll also be training on tactics that will educate and mobilize diverse women across the political spectrum to ensure they vote for candidates that are aligned with our values and will fight for them.

Sign up at: [NC TroubleMaven & TroubleNation Strategy/Training](#)

Troublemaker Training: Let's Talk About Sex Ed!, April 23, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Are you starting to see attacks on sex education in your newsfeeds? Do you believe sex ed is important but you have questions about what your kids should learn and when? Do you want to be prepared to handle discussions around sex ed within your school district and with friends? We got you covered!

Sex ed provides critical knowledge and skills kids need to make healthy choices. Join us to learn why sex ed is important and how to talk about it and fight back against extremists.

Sign up at: [Troublemaker Training: Let's Talk About Sex Ed!](#)

Influencing Legislators: How to Run an Advocacy Day, April 25, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Have a cause that is near and dear to you? Are you part of a group that wants to make sure your voice is heard by your legislators? Then it's time to turn up the volume on your advocacy efforts! Join us to learn the ins and outs of planning an advocacy day to

get face time with your elected officials. Our friends at Safe Communities Coalition will share their tips and tricks for planning and executing successful advocacy days.

Sign up at: [Influencing Legislators: How to Run an Advocacy Day](#)

NC Virtual Salon with Dr. Ellen Gaddy on Abortion Rights, IVF and the Right to Contraception, April 29, 7-8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Regardless of what the pundits say, abortion rights WILL be on the ballot this fall! RWB NC and Dr. Ellen Gaddy, granddaughter of the late Sen. Jesse Helms, will continue our RWB national conversation about attacks on abortion rights, IVF, and the right to contraception. You'll learn how you can join our national campaign to protect IVF and birth control.

Sign up at: [NC Virtual Salon with Dr. Ellen Gaddy on Abortion Rights, IVF and the Right to Contraception](#)

Banned Book Club: Milk and Honey, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Sign up at: [Banned Book Club: milk and honey](#)

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

Biden Campaign Opening 10 Field Offices in North Carolina. Trump has Zero Offices in Our State

- President Biden's North Carolina campaign is ramping up efforts to mobilize Democratic voters and reach out to suburban swing voters by opening 10 new field offices across the state.
- The Biden campaign has named North Carolina as one of its key battleground investments for the 2024 election. The president has already visited the state twice this year.
- In addition to its headquarters in Raleigh, the Biden campaign is opening field offices in Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Cumberland, Johnston, Orange, New Hanover, Buncombe, Cabarrus and Alamance counties.
- The locations highlight the campaign's belief that the state could be flipped by getting better turnout in larger cities like Charlotte and Greensboro.
- But it's also focusing on reaching out to Republican and unaffiliated voters in suburban counties, like Cabarrus (northeast of Charlotte), Johnston (southeast of Raleigh) and Alamance (wedged between Durham and Greensboro).
- It also comes as the Republican National Committee struggles to boost staffing levels in battleground states.
- North Carolina has been elusive for Democrats since 2008, but it's one of the few states where the presidential campaign is playing offense, [NBC News reported](#).

- The campaign this month has opened 44 offices in Wisconsin, 12 to 14 offices in Pennsylvania and 20 offices in Michigan.
- It also comes as the Republican National Committee struggles to boost staffing levels in battleground states, [Axios reported](#).
- The Trump Campaign has yet to open a field office in North Carolina.

NC Democratic Party Outpaces NCGOP in Fundraising

- The North Carolina Democratic Party is leading its Republican counterpart in fundraising. Both parties have new leaders but Democrats enter election season with triple what the GOP has in the bank to fund campaign efforts.
- NCDP has raised \$5.26 million for its state and federal campaign accounts. The state Republican Party, meanwhile, has raised over \$3.34 million across its accounts.
- As of the latest campaign finance reports in February, the N.C. Democratic Party had \$2.44 million on hand, while the NCGOP had \$871,000.
- The N.C. Democratic Party has raised more than \$1.5 million from individual donors. The NCGOP has only raised about \$170,000 from individual donors, with the bulk of its fundraising coming from campaign committees and PACs.
- This represents the momentum Democrats in North Carolina have going into the final stretch of the election year. All eyes are on our state and we are going to win this November.

Statement from NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton

"We are outreasing 2020 numbers right now as a state party, and we're really excited to be able to go into this year with the resources that we need. And we're expecting more of them to come, obviously, from a very strongly coordinated campaign, and also the most competitive governor's race in the entire country."

Press Release, April 4, 2024

ICYMI: [WUNC](#): NC Democratic Party outpaces NCGOP in fundraising

"The North Carolina Democratic Party is leading its Republican counterpart in fundraising. Both parties have new leaders but Democrats enter election season with triple what the GOP has in the bank to fund campaign efforts."

[WUNC's article](#), released yesterday, highlights the stunning contrast between our party's fundraising efforts compared to NCGOP.

"So far this election cycle, the state Democratic party has raised \$5.26 million for its state and federal campaign accounts. The state Republican Party, meanwhile, has raised over \$3.34 million across its accounts. As of the latest campaign finance reports in February, the N.C. Democratic Party had \$2.44 million on hand, while the NCGOP had \$871,000."

“All eyes are on North Carolina. We have momentum and the rest of the country is taking notice of our efforts,” said NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton. “We have beaten the Republicans in fundraising, in candidate recruitment, and this November we’re going to beat them at the polls. North Carolinians are ready to vote to return the power back to the people.”

The N.C. Democratic Party has raised more than \$1.5 million from individual donors. The NCGOP has only raised about \$170,000 from individual donors, with the bulk of its fundraising coming from campaign committees and PACs.

Press Release, April 4, 2024

North Carolina Democratic Party Welcomes Vice President Harris Back to North Carolina

Ahead of Vice President Harris’ visit to Charlotte, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement:

“On behalf of North Carolina Democrats, I’m thrilled to welcome Vice President Harris back to our state. The Biden-Harris Administration continues to make the Tar Heel state a priority with 10 field offices opening across North Carolina. This is the Vice President’s 12th trip down to North Carolina, and her third visit in the past month, signaling that this Administration knows our state is a top battleground this cycle. We are so lucky to have the Vice President as a partner in this fight and we’re going to show the country that North Carolina is Biden-Harris country.”

###

News from Neighbors on Call

NoC Spring Happy Hours With Special Guests

Let us treat you and a NoC-curious friend to a drink at one (or all!) of our NoC Spring Happy Hours!

Find community, optimism, and a way to help pave the way to victory with Neighbors on Call and our special guests (with more to come!):

Wed 5/1 @ 5:30pm in Wake Forest with:

NC Sen. Sydney Batch
NC Rep. Terence Everitt (for SD 18)
Evonne Hopkins (for HD 35)

Sun 5/19 @ 4pm in Hillsborough with:

NC Rep. Terence Everitt (for SD 18)
NC Rep. Renée Price

Commissioner Bryan Cohn (for HD 32)

Thurs 5/23 @ 5:30pm in Pittsboro with:

NC House Dem Leader Robert Reives

NC Sen. Lisa Grafstein (SD 13)

NC Sen. Natalie Murdock

Safiyah Jackson (for HD 37)

We're looking to grow our circle of committed activists who can help us break the supermajority, and we need your help. Please bring your friends! We can't wait to meet them. Our special guests are coming to meet you!

###

News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson, April 5, 2024

A Conversation with Astronauts

Let me tell you how I wound up on the Space subcommittee as a freshman member of Congress. I was assigned to the Science committee early last year. When I showed up to the first meeting, they said, "Jeff, what subcommittee would you like to serve on?" I said, "Space." They said, "Why?" I said, "Because I think that stuff is cool." And they said, "Great - welcome to the Space subcommittee."

It's been fantastic. One of the highlights has been meeting with astronauts. Last week was a good example. I met with a crew that just got back from the International Space Station after a six-month mission. My job was simple: to welcome them home, and to ask every question I could think of. So, I dove right in. "Do you have duct tape in the space station?" "Yep - and they use it all the time." "Do you have the internet?" Yes - but it's spotty. "Do you bring water with you or do you recycle it?" They bring some water, and then recycle 96% of their urine and sweat through an advanced filtration system. "What's the first step to becoming an astronaut?" Surprisingly, you apply online through the regular federal jobs portal by clicking a link that says, "Astronaut Candidate."

I've also had the chance to meet with some of the leadership at NASA. We've had some long discussions about upcoming missions. Going back to the Moon, Mars, Europa - there's so much planned. Those conversations are always the best part of my day. They leave me with two very different feelings. The first is that, in many ways, space exploration is one of the best things we do. It brings together excellence and determination and hope and collaboration all at the highest possible levels to achieve something singular and remarkable, a pinnacle of human existence.

The second is that it doesn't get much media coverage because those kinds of stories would make you feel good. It's certainly newsworthy. And it's also open to debate. Maybe we should focus more on the Moon versus Mars, maybe the overall timeline is

too aggressive or too slow, or - heck - maybe there are other funding priorities and we should focus on those instead. All fair questions!

But the whole topic of space exploration is missing the essential element for so much of our national political coverage: it just isn't upsetting enough. That's why, when I give a speech back in my district, I try to start by talking about the Space subcommittee. It's my little example of a way in which you would actually feel better about Congress if you could see certain pieces of it operate up close.

For a lot of folks, their only sense of Congress is a building fully engulfed in partisan flame. And there are moments when it feels like that to me, too. But not all the time. Even in this environment, I've seen much more cooperation and seriousness than you've been led to believe exists - all because broadcasting that would work against the prevailing business model of inducing outrage. And to everyone at NASA - and all the companies that work with NASA - you folks rock. Thank you for what you do.

Ukraine defense package

And now for the other end of the partisanship spectrum. We're exiting the realm of good feelings and civic-mindedness and entering crass, brutal politics. Here we go. Here's what's going on with congressional support for Ukraine.

For the last several weeks, the Speaker has privately told people that he wants to find a way to pass a bill to support Ukraine. He started saying this more publicly a few days ago. His challenge isn't policy - it's politics. He's trying to figure out a way to pass it without getting fired by his right-flank, virtually all of whom oppose Ukraine support.

He's got two basic options: First, he could take the Ukraine bill that already passed the Senate and try to pass that. But that doesn't solve his political problem because that bill was passed by a Senate that is controlled by the other party, so it would lead to a perception that he was doing their bidding. Second, he can create his own Ukraine bill and make it as right-flank-friendly as possible. This is where he's at right now, and I think we could see his version within the next week or so.

BUT even that approach wouldn't actually earn support from the right-flank. He's just trying to minimize his odds of getting fired by basically saying, "You're not going to like this, but I hope you'll give me enough credit for at least trying to make it more acceptable to you that you won't come after me."

But Jeff, what if the minority party agrees to provide the votes to save the Speaker if he allows a vote on Ukraine? The main issue there is whether the Speaker would be willing to strike that deal, given what a devastating political defeat it would mean for him personally. Remember - the previous Speaker didn't get fired because the other party refused to support him. He got fired, in part, because he knew that if he accepted support from the minority party, his goose was cooked. He might still hold the title of Speaker, but his life would become a living nightmare as the entire partisan media

ecosystem went to work on him 24/7 for being in debt to the other side. He never asked for help because he couldn't imagine paying the price for accepting it.

The new Speaker is in an identical situation. If he 1) holds a vote on Ukraine, and 2) faces a revolt within his party, and then 3) is saved solely by virtue of support from the minority party, he will never, ever return to the level of influence that he currently holds. He may survive as Speaker for some amount of time, but he'll take an enormous hit that will define him politically going forward. He's trying to avoid that, with very little time left on the clock.

###

Selected News and Opinion Stories

AP News: [Medicaid expansion coverage enrollment in North Carolina now above 400,000](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Biden administration announces \\$20 billion in clean energy grants](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Growing EV industry could boost opportunities in rural NC](#)

Carolina Forward: [The GOP's Metro Implosion](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Ballots rejected in NC primary election total 1,647](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Can NC Trust Our Hospitals To Be Transparent About Prices?](#)

Chapelboro: [Chatham County Roundup: Commissioner Karen Howard Discusses County Business and Events](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Another Great Jobs Report - The Economy Is Strong, Joe Biden Is A Successful President](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [The Biden Campaign Is Raising Lots Of Money, The Democratic Party Is Strong](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Rs Running Really Scared on Abortion, 18 Polls Now w/Biden Leads, Kennedy is a MAGA Op](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Hopium In The NYTimes, 16 Polls Show Biden Leads, Do More Worry Less](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [14 Polls Now With Biden Leads, Trump Is The Ugliest Thing Any Of Us Has Ever Seen](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Abortion Center Stage Now, More Encouraging Biden Polling, Bibi Should Resign - Today](#)

Indy Week: [Congresswoman Valerie Foushee traveled to Israel last week](#)

Lucid: [Video March 31 Q&A - by Ruth Ben-Ghiat](#)

Lucid: [Judges and Prosecutors, Targeted by Trump, Will Not Be Intimidated](#)

Lucid: [The MAGA Hat and the Gun](#)

NC Health News: [Confidence high for July launch of delayed Medicaid plans](#)

NC Health News: [Where is \\$835 million mental health being spent?](#)

NC Newsline: [North Carolina District Attorneys Call for a Pause of Multi-Million Dollar eCourts System](#)

NC Newsline: [State treasurer declines to endorse fellow Republican for governor](#)

NC Newsline: [Panel discusses 'the capacity crisis' facing many in NC jails](#)

NC Newsline: [Parents and child care providers face hard choices as NC slides toward a financial cliff](#)

News & Observer: [Donald Trump makes endorsement in NC's 13th District election](#)

News & Observer: [E2 report estimates NC clean energy jobs boosted by feds IRA](#)

News & Observer: [North Carolina teacher turnover rises 47% in public schools](#)

News & Observer: [Record demand for NC private school vouchers exceeds funding](#)

News & Observer: [Constitution Party could gain recognition in North Carolina](#)

News & Observer: [Millions of acres of NC wetlands could be at risk due to law](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [How 'All in the Family' Explains Biden's Strength Among Seniors](#)

NY Times: [Biden Waves His First-Term Résumé at a Skeptical America](#)

NY Times: [A New Strategy to Persuade Voters: Listen Carefully. And Don't Hurry.](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Trump Says Abortion Restrictions Should Be Left to the States](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [What to Know About RFK. Jr. and His Threat to Biden and Trump](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Trump to Sue Judge in Last-Ditch Attempt to Avert Manhattan Trial](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [U.S. Employers Added 303,000 Jobs in 39th Straight Month of Growth](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: When food, war and politics collide](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Biden Will Try Again to Wipe Out Student Loan Debt for Millions of Borrowers](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Terrified Parents, New Age Health Nuts, MAGA Exiles. Meet the R.F.K. Jr. Faithful.](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: Abortion and the Florida fakeout](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Many Democrats Are Worried Trump Will Beat Biden. This One Isn't.](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Trump's Backers Are Determined Not to Blow It This Time Around](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [China's Advancing Efforts to Influence the U.S. Election Raise Alarms](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Why Civil Cases Have Been More Successful Against Donald Trump](#)

NY Times: [The Church of Trump: How He's Infusing Christianity Into His Movement](#)

The Assembly NC: [Mark Robinson's Wife to Close Family Nonprofit After Scrutiny](#)

The Assembly NC: [UNC's \\$97 Million Online Education Gambit Hits Headwinds](#)

The Assembly NC: [When the State Comes for Your Estate](#)

Washington Post (May require subscription): [Republican wins in North Carolina may scare away big businesses again](#)

Washington Post (May require subscription): [The Campaign Moment](#)

WRAL: [NC teacher turnover hits highest mark in decades. New report shows changes in who is leading classrooms](#)

WRAL: [RFK Jr. has necessary signatures to get on NC ballot, campaign says](#)

WUNC: [NC Democratic Party outpaces NCGOP in fundraising](#)