

CCDP Weekly News Digest
March 5, 2023

Important Dates to Remember

Through March 11 – Annual Precinct Meetings. Info and Sign-Up Links at: <https://www.ccdpnc.org/precinct-meetings-2023>
March 20 – Chatham County Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 15 – Annual CCDP County Convention

For more upcoming events and details, visit: <https://www.ccdpnc.org/calendar-of-events>

###

Governor Cooper's State of the State Address Monday Night!

Governor Cooper will deliver his [State of the State address](#) on Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. You can watch live on PBS NC or livestream on [pbsnc.org](#) or [YouTube](#).

###

March 7 and March 30, 6 p.m.
Chatham Education Foundation Events
Pollard Middle School; Northwood High School

Come see and hear what is being done to educate the current and future school age children of Chatham. It is a story of tremendous and growing success.

Did you ever wonder about how Chatham County Schools (CCS) are preparing for the coming student growth? Do you wonder how our school buildings are funded in NC, or how our local public schools get their funds? Do you ever wonder how you can partner with the schools to add resources for our students? Come and hear about this and so much more.

Dr. Jackson, Superintendent of Chatham County Schools, will address as many pre-submitted questions as possible, while also making sure to cover current opportunities available to students across the CCS district.

Ms. Detzi, Executive Director of Chatham Education Foundation, will present an overview of how public schools are funded in NC and share ways the community can partner with Chatham County Schools.

March 7, 6 p.m.
Pollard Middle School
Registration
<https://forms.gle/wsDP8vBZAq8zeJKQ9>

March 30, 6 p.m.
Northwood High School - Media Center
Registration
<https://forms.gle/ReAqTwrzJ964Znyb8>

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

This week's news releases:

Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson Calls for So-Called Heartbeat Bill & Reiterates Support for Complete Abortion Ban

In a radio interview, Lieutenant Governor and North Carolina Senate President Mark Robinson called on the legislature to pass a so-called "heartbeat" bill, but said if he were governor, he would sign a complete ban on abortion:

"If I had all the power right now, let's say I was the governor that had a willing legislature, we could pass a bill that says you can't have an abortion in North Carolina for any reason."

"I'd love to pass a law that restricts abortion. I'd love to pass a law a heartbeat right now love to see a heartbeat bill proposed, you know, in our legislature."

Robinson's comments put even more pressure on Phil Berger and his colleagues in the Senate as ["dueling factions of the party"](#) can't come to a consensus on the issue. Republican Speaker of the House Tim Moore has also ["publicly backed"](#) a six-week abortion ban, but Berger has previously stopped short.

"Mark Robinson has made clear he doesn't trust women to make their own health care decisions and is now pushing the Senate chamber toward one of the most extreme restrictions possible," said NCDP spokesperson Kate Frauenfelder. "While Democrats are united in protecting reproductive freedom in North Carolina, Robinson and Republicans in Raleigh have their sights set on taking it away."

Robinson [supports](#) banning abortion "in all cases" and called for imposing "dire consequences" on abortion providers. He said that when a woman becomes pregnant ["it's not \(her\) body anymore."](#)

NCDP Celebrates Women's History Month

To mark the start of Women's History Month, NCDP Chairwoman Anderson Clayton released the following statement:

"During Women's History Month, we honor and celebrate the women who have led North Carolina and the nation in the fight for equality and justice, and continue to shape its future. From Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, to Eva Clayton, Bev Purdue, Kay Hagan, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, and countless others, we must continue to walk down the path they paved and work to ensure future generations of women and girls can thrive. North Carolina Democrats stand on the shoulders of all the Tar Heel women who have made sacrifices in pursuit of change and boundless opportunity for all people. May we know them. May we love them. May we elect more of them."

REMINDER: North Carolina Republicans Voted Against Capping Insulin Costs

Eli Lilly, a major pharmaceutical company, announced today that it will follow President Joe Biden and Democrats' lead and [cap the cost of its insulin](#) at \$35 a month, no thanks to a single North Carolina Republican in Congress.

Every single North Carolina Republican in Congress voted AGAINST the Inflation Reduction Act — historic legislation that caps the cost of insulin for seniors on Medicare at \$35 a month.

- [Rolling Stone](#): "House Democrats Pass Historic Climate, Healthcare Bill over Republican Opposition"

Let's not forget: GOP senators actually went out of their way to strip out a provision from the Inflation Reduction Act that also would have capped the cost of insulin at \$35 for Americans on private insurance.

- [Washington Post](#): "GOP senators move to strip a \$35 price cap on insulin under private insurance from the Inflation Reduction Act"
- [NBC](#): "Republicans block cap on insulin costs for many Americans from Democratic deal"

House Republicans even pledged to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act — an action that would raise prescription drug costs on millions of Americans.

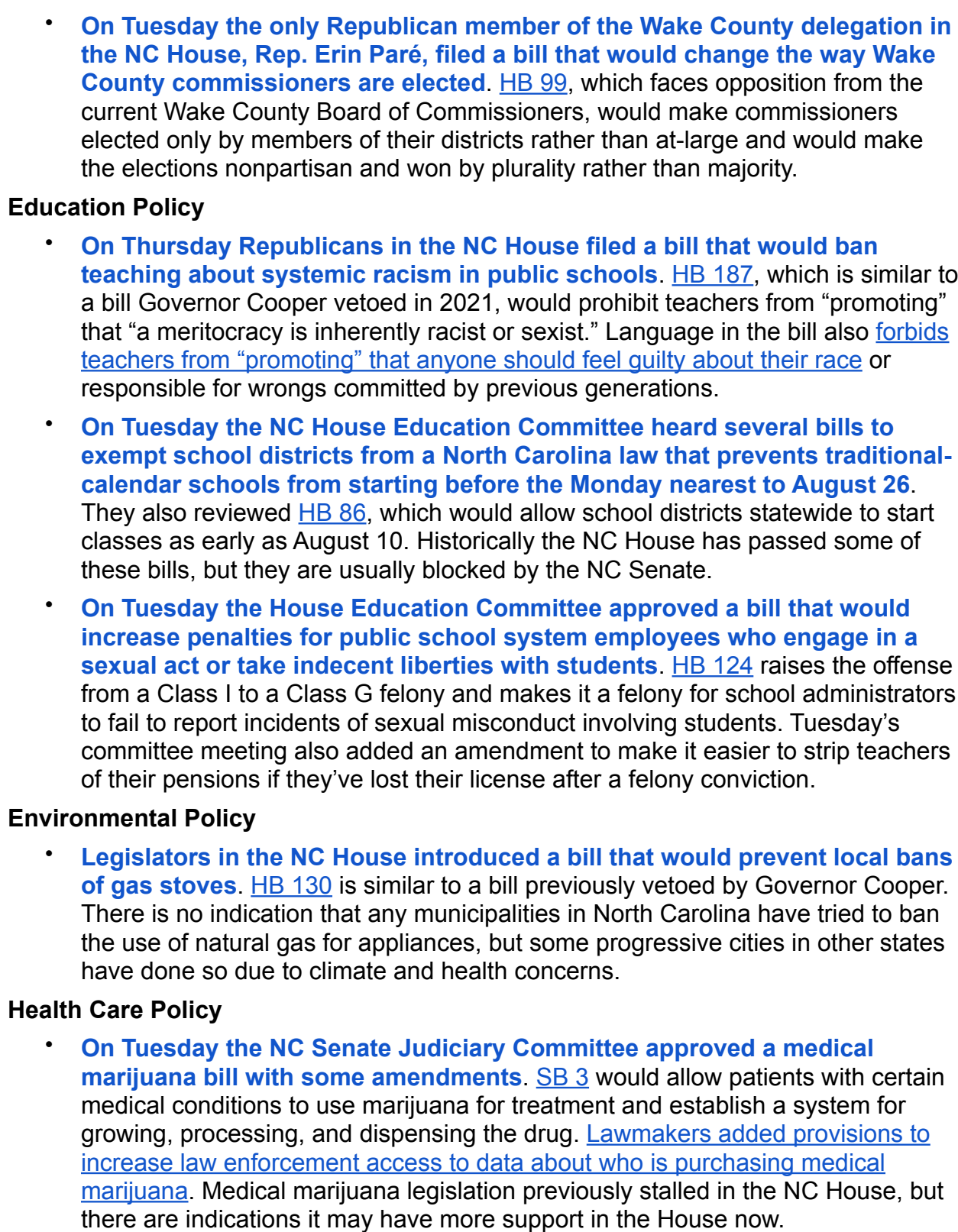
- [Axios](#): "Some key House Republicans are calling for the repeal of Democrats' newly-passed drug pricing measure if the GOP flips control of one or both chambers of Congress next year."
- [Rep. Carter](#): "With the prescription drug pricing, that's something I'm very interested in as a pharmacist. And I've been asking my colleagues 'how are we going to undo that when we get into the majority?'" As president, Donald Trump repeatedly promised to bring down the cost of insulin — and failed.
- [CNBC](#): "Eli Lilly CEO rebuffs Trump's attack on drug prices"
- [Washington Post](#): "Trump boasted he made insulin so cheap 'it's like water.' Americans with diabetes beg to differ."

ICYMI: NCDP Chair Joins Morning Joe

"The Democratic Party is helping, and we need to make sure that we have Democratic messengers in all our communities to make sure they hear that message loud and clear."

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton joined MSNBC's Morning Joe to discuss the future of North Carolina Democrats headed into the critical 2023 and 2024 elections.

[WATCH](#):



Chair Clayton highlighted the work that Democrats are doing to fight for working families and North Carolina Democrats' plan to organize communities across the state and empower young voters, voters of color, and rural North Carolina to get involved in the change they want to see in their own backyard.

NCDP Chair on Medicaid Expansion

Following news that a deal to expand Medicaid has been reached, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released this statement:

"Expanding Medicaid is the difference between being able to afford to go to the doctor and putting off life-saving care, between throwing our rural hospitals a financial lifeline and throwing away health care access for small towns across North Carolina. Thanks to Governor Cooper and Democrats' relentless fight to make Medicaid expansion a reality, hundreds of thousands of working people across the Tar Heel State will finally be able to access the affordable care they deserve. Let's get it done."

This Week's Point/Counterpoint:

POINT:

North Carolina Schools don't need more resources

COUNTERPOINT:

In a recent study, North Carolina schools have been shown to be critically understaffed and underfunded. There has been an exodus of teachers because of low pay, Covid-19, and the politicization of the classroom. NC has also [ranked last](#) in funding effort and support for schools as the smallest share of our state's budget goes to education compared to the rest of the U.S.

With teacher and staff shortages, there can be no money spared in educating and fostering the future of NC and America.

###

News from Neighbors on Call

Governance

- [On Tuesday the only Republican member of the Wake County delegation in the NC House, Rep. Erin Paré, filed a bill that would change the way Wake County commissioners are elected.](#) [HB 99](#), which faces opposition from the current Wake County Board of Commissioners, would make commissioners elected only by members of their districts rather than at-large and would make the elections nonpartisan and won by plurality rather than majority.

Education Policy

- [On Thursday Republicans in the NC House filed a bill that would ban teaching about systemic racism in public schools.](#) [HB 187](#), which is similar to a bill Governor Cooper vetoed in 2021, would prohibit teachers from "promoting" that "a meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist." Language in the bill also [forbids teachers from "promoting" that anyone should feel guilty about their race](#) or responsible for wrongs committed by previous generations.
- [On Tuesday the NC House Education Committee heard several bills to exempt school districts from a North Carolina law that prevents traditional-calendar schools from starting before the Monday nearest to August 26.](#) They also reviewed [HB 86](#), which would allow school districts statewide to start classes as early as August 10. Historically the NC House has passed some of these bills, but they are usually blocked by the NC Senate.
- [On Tuesday the House Education Committee approved a bill that would increase penalties for public school system employees who engage in a sexual act or take indecent liberties with students.](#) [HB 124](#) raises the offense from a Class I to a Class G felony and makes it a felony for school administrators to fail to report incidents of sexual misconduct involving students. Tuesday's committee meeting also added an amendment to make it easier to strip teachers of their pensions if they've lost their license after a felony conviction.

Environmental Policy

- [Legislators in the NC House introduced a bill that would prevent local bans of gas stoves.](#) [HB 130](#) is similar to a bill previously vetoed by Governor Cooper. There is no indication that any municipalities in North Carolina have tried to ban the use of natural gas for appliances, but some progressive cities in other states have done so due to climate and health concerns.

Health Care Policy

- [On Tuesday the NC Senate Judiciary Committee approved a medical marijuana bill with some amendments.](#) [SB 3](#) would allow patients with certain medical conditions to use marijuana for treatment and establish a system for growing, processing, and dispensing the drug. [Lawmakers added provisions to increase law enforcement access to data about who is purchasing medical marijuana.](#) Medical marijuana legislation previously stalled in the NC House, but there are indications it may have more support in the House now.

Gun Violence Prevention

- [On Wednesday the NC House passed a bill that would repeal the state's pistol permit regulations.](#) A repeal of the pistol permit requirement, which already passed the NC Senate, would mean that prospective handgun buyers no longer need to seek a permit from their local sheriff. A previous pistol permit repeal was vetoed by Governor Cooper, and so far, Republicans do not have the one Democratic vote needed to override a veto.
- [On Thursday Republicans in the NC House filed a bill that would scrap North Carolina's concealed carry regulations.](#) Under current state law, gun owners need to complete safety training and pass an accuracy test and a written test covering gun laws, but [HB 189](#) would allow anyone who can legally possess a firearm to carry it concealed.

Immigration

- [On Wednesday the NC House Judiciary Committee 2 discussed a bill that would force sheriffs to work with federal immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\).](#) [HB 10](#) would require sheriffs to honor ICE detainees and report the immigration status of detainees, including those charged with a misdemeanor offense or violating a protective order. Two similar bills have previously been vetoed by Governor Cooper.

Criminal Justice

- [On Friday a federal appeals court ruled that North Carolina's "ag-gag" law, which criminalizes undercover investigations of agricultural facilities, is unconstitutional.](#) The three-judge panel issued a 2-1 split decision, finding that the law violates First Amendment protections of free speech. The ruling was celebrated by advocacy groups who support agriculture industry whistleblowers.
- [On Thursday North Carolina lawmakers proposed a bill that would require police associations to have seats on the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, an important law enforcement oversight body.](#) Currently the 35-member commission must have at least eight sworn officers, three police chiefs, and four members of the state prison system, but the bill would require that two large police associations (the Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Benevolent Association) also have guaranteed seats on the board.

###

Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note

[WRAL](#): Top Republican Lawmakers Reach Deal on NC Medicaid Expansion

[Washington Post](#): North Carolina Just Took a Big Step Forward on Medicaid Expansion

[Carolina Public Press](#): Teen Girls 'Engulfed in a Growing Wave of Sadness, Violence, and Trauma,' Latest Youth Survey Shows

[Chatham News + Record](#): CCHA Director Pleads Not Guilty to Wire Fraud, Identity Theft Charges

[WWAY](#): NC House Republicans Talking Privately on Abortion

[WFAE](#): Duke Energy Starts Work on a Carbon Plan 2.0 in North Carolina

[Chatham News + Record](#): Chatham Gets \$29 Million for Water Projects

[Chatham News + Record](#): Pittsboro to Hold Hearing on System Development Fee Increase

[Chatham News + Record](#): Local Officials Discuss Legislative Priorities for New Year

[Chatham News + Record](#): Faison Brings Breadth of Municipal Experience

[Chatham News + Record](#): Chatham's '6 Over 60 Award' – Inaugural Class Recognized by Council on Aging, News + Record

[Chapelboro](#): North Carolina Senate Backs Legalizing Pot for Medical Use

[Chapelboro](#): Chatham Park Check-In: Green Streets