



Chatham County Democratic Party  
News You Can Use  
March 24, 2025

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## **CCDP Events**

### **Precinct Meetings**

It's that time of year again—time to get our precincts organized. Precinct meetings have already started and they run through March 29th. Check [here](#) to find out the date and time of your precinct meeting and sign up to attend.

We have 18 precincts in Chatham County. If you are not sure which precinct you are in, you can find a map of the precincts [here](#). Still not sure, you can use the [Voter Look-Up tool](#) to search for your voting record. It lists your precinct.

Two of our precincts (New Hope and Bonlee) are not organized and have no meeting scheduled. If you live in New Hope or Bonlee and would like to help with precinct organization, please contact CCDP Chair, Sue Blalock, at [chair@ccdpnc.org](mailto:chair@ccdpnc.org)

### **Training – Staffing Tent Events, March 30, 3 - 4 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

Volunteer at a CCDP Tent at one of the many community events we participate in during the year. We cover everything you need to know to feel comfortable and competent staffing our tent at one of the many fun community events we participate in each year. This is a one-hour training on Zoom. Even if you've been a tent event volunteer in the past, come see what's new this year.

Sign up at: [Training - Staffing Tent Events](#)

### **Training – Voter Education, April 12, 1 – 12:30 p.m. and May 10, 1 – 2:30 p.m., Community Engagement Center, 628 East St. Suite A, Pittsboro**

Get ready to help voters understand and participate successfully in the election process! This ninety-minute training will cover the Voter Registration form, Photo ID and Exceptions, how to vote in person and by mail, and Provisional ballots.

This is a great way to prepare for volunteering in the CCDP Community Engagement Center, educating voters at CCDP events around the county, and sharing election information with friends and family.

Sign up at: [Training – Voter Education](#)

### **Training – Join Our Office Crew, April 17, 2 – 3:30 p.m.; May 3, 3 – 4:30 p.m., Community Engagement Center, 628 East St. Suite A, Pittsboro**

Volunteer at CCDP's Community Engagement Center! This training covers everything you need to know to feel comfortable and competent staffing the office along with an experienced volunteer. After this one-time training session, you will be a CEC Associate Office Staff Member and you will be paired with a Senior Office Staff Member. We will work with your availability and preferences and get you on the Staffing Calendar.

Sign up at: [Training - Join Our Office Crew](#)

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### **Other Local Events**

#### **Celebrate Our Newly Re-elected NCDP Officers, March 25, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Raleigh**

You're invited to the 2025 New Officers' Reception. Sign up [here](#). This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow Democrats, hear from our leadership, and rally together as we continue the work for a stronger North Carolina. We invite you to join Chair Anderson Clayton, First Vice Chair Jonah Garson, Second Vice Chair Dr. Kim

Hardy, Third Vice Chair Elijah King, and Secretary Melvin Williams at the 2025 New Officers' Reception! Grab your tickets or make a donation [here!](#)

**“Democracy North Carolina: Protecting Our Democracy in 2025 and Beyond,”  
March 25, 7 p.m. (Zoom Event), Sponsored by Fearington Democratic Club**

The Fearington Democratic Club's March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. and will be available via Zoom. The speaker will be Katelin Kaiser on the topic **“Democracy North Carolina: Protecting Our Democracy in 2025 and Beyond.”** Katelin is an attorney with extensive voting-rights litigation experience, and she is the Policy Director for Democracy North Carolina, a nonpartisan organization that uses research, organizing, and advocacy to strengthen democratic structures, build power among disenfranchised communities, and inspire confidence in a transformed political process that works for all. To request the Zoom link, please use the form on the Club's website: [FearingtonDems.org](https://FearingtonDems.org). Contact Us by 5 p.m. on the day of the event (sooner is better).

**Pack the Gallery, March 26, 12 – 2 p.m., Raleigh**

Join the North Carolina Democrats as we pack the gallery of the North Carolina General Assembly. Let's show our legislators that their constituents are engaged, informed, and ready to hold them accountable. This is our opportunity to send a strong message: We're watching. We care. And we expect action on the issues that matter most to North Carolinians. Let's fill every seat in the gallery and remind our elected officials who they serve!

**Hands Off! Pittsboro Fights Back, April 5, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Pittsboro Court House**

Donald Trump and Elon Musk think this country belongs to them. Pittsboro is fighting back! They're taking everything they can get their hands on—our health care, our data, our jobs, our services—and daring the world to stop them. This is a crisis, and the time to act is now. On Saturday, April 5th, we're taking to the streets to fight back with a clear message: Hands off!

This mass mobilization day is our message to the world that we do not consent to the destruction of our government and our economy for the benefit of Trump and his billionaire allies. Alongside Americans across the country, we are marching, rallying, and protesting to demand a stop the chaos and build an opposition movement against the looting of our country.

A core principle behind all Hands Off! events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values.

Check out [handsoff2025.com](https://handsoff2025.com) for more information. Sign up at: [Hands Off! Pittsboro Fights Back](#)

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## **News from the North Carolina Democratic Party**

### **Governor Stein proposes new budget for North Carolina**

The big idea: Gov. Stein proposes a balanced budget that prioritizes investments in our workforce, public education, public safety, public health, and lowering costs for working families.

Toplines:

- Free community college for students entering high-demand fields
- Targeted tax cuts for working families
- Building more homes to lower housing costs
- Expanding access to high-quality child care/early education
- Raising teacher pay to the highest in the Southeast
- Free school breakfasts for students, increasing the number of school support staff
- Expanding “Science of Reading” program to middle school
- Offering a \$4 billion school bond to modernize school buildings
- Raising law enforcement and first responder pay
- Body cameras for all state law enforcement officers
- Combating the fentanyl crisis
- Expanding access to affordable primary care, OB/GYN care, and rural clinics
- Investing in behavioral health
- Maintaining the current individual and corporate tax rates
- Eliminating private school vouchers

### **NCDP Chair Statement on Governor Stein’s Budget**

*Following the release of Governor Stein’s budget proposal, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement:*

“They say ‘put your money where your mouth is.’ Well, Governor Stein’s budget does just that by making investments that follow North Carolina kids as they grow up - from the affordable house their parents buy, to the affordable child care their parents use, to the affordable insurance card they show to the doctor, to the well-funded public schools with the well-paid public school teachers they love, to the apprenticeship they get, to the workforce they enter. We can support our future at every step of the way. **His priorities are North Carolina’s priorities.**”

### **Press Release: NCGOP Chair Admits that 65,000 Voters Griffin Is Disenfranchising “Did Nothing Wrong,” March 20, 2025**

*Simmons: “With this particular set of individuals, I’m very sympathetic to them because, again, they did nothing wrong.”*

Raleigh, N.C. – Even Republicans are saying that the voters Jefferson Griffin is trying to disenfranchise “did nothing wrong.” Today, the News & Observer published an interview with North Carolina GOP Chair Jason Simmons in which he admitted that the 65,000 voters’ voices Jefferson Griffin is seeking to silence “had every right to register to vote.”

This comes on the heels of [more than 200 North Carolina](#) jurists, government officials, attorneys, and other legal practitioners from across the political spectrum calling Griffin to stop his baseless efforts to overturn an election.

*Read excerpts from the interview below:*

N&O: [Interview: NC GOP chair defends challenge of 65,000 votes in Supreme Court election](#)

[...] N&O: There’s over 65,000 voters whose ballots are being challenged. What do you say to these voters who say, ‘Why should you be able to throw my ballot out if I didn’t do anything wrong — if you’re just saying the State Board of Elections did something wrong?’

[...] Simmons: We want to make sure that those individuals that are on the voter rolls are allowed to vote, and in many cases, as you’ve seen, those individuals had every right to public-school register to vote.

[...] N&O: If President Trump had lost North Carolina by a small margin, would you have brought a similar case to challenge the election results?

Simmons: It’s tough to get into the hypothetical game. We can only deal with what was in front of us.

[...] N&O: The largest group of challenged voters are those who didn’t have a Social Security number or driver’s license number in the state’s voter registration database. [...] If that’s the case, why have you not been able to identify a single ineligible person on that list over the last four months?

Simmons: It goes back to making sure that the data was consistent and complete.

With this particular set of individuals, I’m very sympathetic to them because, again, they did nothing wrong.

**Press Release, NCDP Chair Issues Statement After Court of Appeals Oral Arguments, March 21, 2025**

*Following Oral Arguments in the Court of Appeals on Judge Jefferson Griffin’s attempt to disenfranchise over 65,000 voters, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement:*

"Judge Jefferson Griffin's legal arguments are as weak as his commitment to democracy. You can't change the rules after an election just because you don't like the results. That's basic," **said Chair Anderson Clayton.** "Voters did everything right - they followed the rules that were in place by the State Board of Elections and duly cast their ballot. Throwing out their votes would be antithetical to the founding principle of this country."

**Over 650 concerned Americans joined Chair Anderson Clayton and North Carolina Democrats to watch together in community the Court of Appeals oral arguments. Here are some of their live reactions:**

- "I spent 3 years overseas in the military and voted absentee, not in NC, and actually military DO NOT have to carry their passport with them everywhere they go." - *Eleanor Smith, Grandy*
- "This means election results could be voided every time Republicans don't like the results." - *Hart (Harry) Edmonds, Hillsborough*
- "Obstruction of an election. How does this affect every other candidate on the 60k plus ballots in question?" - *Christine Foote, Pinehurst*
- "I'm a targeted voter who first registered in my county in 2020. So, I question his response that only voters who registered in 2024 were targeted and I'm sure this is true of many others." - *Connie Nelson*
- "I've been registered since 2007, why is my vote being challenged? Griffin is a fraud and should be held accountable...." - *Kimberly Peppers*
- "A state board attorney recently said that at least half of the voters that Griffin challenged over driver's license or Social Security numbers actually did provide one. They're just not in the database." - *Tom Sullivan, Asheville*
- "This is RIDICULOUS!!! [Justice] Riggs clearly WON this election." - *Carol Perkins, Apex*
- "How can you throw out 60K plus votes for just one race and have them count as well in all the 2024 election?" - *Ana Rozzi*
- "My family member voted [by an] overseas ballot. We asked SEVERAL TIMES for [the] portal to submit ID. It is NOT the law...and now they want to throw them out." - *Christina Vellucci, Charlotte*
- "The [letter this week](#) signed by 200 jurists in the state telling Griffin to drop his challenge was good to see. I would be embarrassed at this point." - *Hannah Lynch, Roanoke Rapids*
- "Of course, this is about more than sore losers. This is about long-term, years-long planning by not only NC Republicans but also the national GOP to capture our state courts." - *Elaine Maisner, Chapel Hill*
- "I wish someone would point out that the majority of these 60K+ voters still don't know that their votes are in question. Griffin did NOT satisfy the notification requirement." - *Gina Taramasso, Cary*
- "I feel like this should be reality TV. I cannot believe this is actually happening." - *Eva Vetter, Holly Springs*

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## **Links to Events, Trainings, and Actions by Affiliate Organizations**

[ACLU of North Carolina](#)

[Chatham Voices for Justice](#)

[Common Cause North Carolina](#) and [Common Cause](#)

[Community Organizing for Racial Equity \(CORE\)](#)

[County-to-County; Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Petitions Near Me](#)

[Democracy North Carolina](#)

[Democracy Out Loud](#)

[Indivisible](#)

[MegaphoneNC](#)

[NC Counts Coalition](#)

[Neighbors on Call; Upcoming Events, Canvasses, NC Policy Update.](#)

[New North Carolina Project](#)

[North Carolina Poor Peoples Campaign](#)

[Poder NC](#)

[Red, Wine, and Blue; <https://redwine.blue/events/>](#)

[Swing Left Durham/Chapel Hill/Chatham](#)

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## **Selected News and Opinion Stories**

**North Carolina**

ABC11: [Hundreds show up for self-described 'empty chair' town hall for Sen. Thom Tillis](#)

Axios Raleigh: [How a FEMA transformation could impact North Carolina](#)

Carolina Forward: [Vouchers Fuel Private School Tuition Hikes](#)

Carolina Public Press: (1) [Rural hospitals in NC face pressures to cut women's services](#), (2) [Rural women's health care services need policy solutions](#), (3) [Griffin, attorneys retread familiar ground in latest court hearing](#), (4) [Purple Reign: NC's History of Split-Ticket Voting is 'Democracy Working'](#)

Chop Wood, Carry North Carolina: [3/17](#), [3/19](#)

Common Cause: [For PDF Legal Community Open Letter to Griffin 3.18.2025](#)

NC Newsline: (1) [NC House bill takes aim at insurance company prior authorization practices](#), (2) [NC governor's budget request: What he's asking lawmakers to fund](#), (3) [NC Senate committee approves permitless carry of concealed firearms for residents 18 and older](#), (4) [Appeals court to hear Judge Griffin's request Friday to throw out votes in Supreme Court race](#), (5) [Angry Voters Demand an Audience in Raleigh as Thom Tillis Kicks Off Senate Reelection Bid](#), (6) [When a Hurricane Washes Away a Region's Child Care System](#)

News & Observer: [Trump administration seeks to end a major EPA division in RTP](#)

NOTUS: [Democrats Are Putting Pressure On Roy Cooper to Run For Senate in North Carolina](#)

The Assembly NC: (1) [The Politics of Defining DEI](#), (2) [Griffin Takes His Case to His Court of Appeals Colleagues](#), (3) [Run, Roy, Run?](#)

WUNC: (1) [Disputed NC Supreme Court race raises questions about why judicial races are partisan](#), (2) [NC Senate looks to end permits for carrying concealed guns](#), (3) [NC's expensive health care system prompts legislation](#)

## **U.S./International**

Axios: [Seniors won't complain if they miss a Social Security check, Lutnick says](#)

Cardinal & Pine: ['Some people work their butts off and other people get rich': Gwen Frisbie-Fulton's view from rural America](#)

Civil Discourse: (1) [Deportations: It's not where it starts, it's where it ends.](#), (2) [John Roberts Weighs In](#), (3) [Education: Project 2025 Comes True](#), (4) [Contempt](#)

CNN: (1) [CNN Poll: Democratic Party's favorability drops to a record low](#) (2) [Gravity may be finally catching up to Elon Musk as Tesla stock tumbles](#), (3) [Small Business Administration will take over Department of Education's student loan portfolio, Trump says](#),



Forbes: [Do Boycotts Work? As Target's Traffic Declines, Tesla and Others See Consumer Shifts](#)

FrameLab: [Harnessing Collective Power to Overcome Trump's Fear Tactics](#)

Gallup: [Support for Greater U.S. Role in Ukraine Climbs to 46% High](#)

Gizmodo: ['Inferior' Starlink Will Leave Rural Americans Worse Off, Says Ousted Federal Official](#)

Heather Cox Richardson: Letters From An American: [March 16](#), [March 17](#), [March 18](#), [March 19](#), [March 20](#), [March 21](#), [March 22](#)

Hopium Chronicles: (1) [Trump Is A Loser, A Failure, A Coward And An Appeaser](#), (2) [This Trump Thing Is Failing, Badly](#), (3) [America Is Not Winning Under Trump](#), (4) [My Discussion With Rep. Derek Tran](#), (5) [Casey Michel On Government By Thieves](#), (6) [Our Opposition Movement Took A Big Step Forward This Week.](#), (7) [Trump is Acting Illegitimately, Opening Up a Second Front, Supporting Susan Crawford in Wisconsin](#)

Let's Address This: (1) [Here's Why Dems Have 21% Approval—The Lowest In History](#), (2) [Debunking LA Times Fascism With Facts](#), (3) [The Fight to Protect Medicaid Is Existential—And It Needs Your Voice](#), (4) [NEW REPORT: MAGA Media Is Dominating—We Need All Hands On Deck To Push Back](#)

MSNBC: [Republicans want to pretend their tax cuts are free. A new report says otherwise.](#)

Newsweek: [Donald Trump's Approval Rating Enters Uncharted Territory](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [Opinion | Trump Voters Love Him More Than Before. Four Conservative Columnists Pinpoint Why.](#)

NY Times: On Politics: (1) [Democrats borrow a Trump attack](#), (2) [On Politics: 'You wouldn't show it to a businessman'](#)

NY Times: The Evening: (1) [Chief justice offers a rare rebuke](#), (2) ['Uncertainty is remarkably high'](#), (3) [Trump orders an end to the Education Department](#), (4) [Columbia makes concessions to Trump](#)

NY Times: The Morning: (1) [The deportation rationale](#), (2) [The judiciary's role](#), (3) [A Trump recession?](#), (4) [The size of the tax cut](#), (5) [Do Immigrants Have Freedom of Speech?](#)

**NOTUS:** (1) [Why House Republicans Say These Trump Midterms Won't Be Like Those Trump Midterms](#), (2) [Some Republicans Doubt Congress Will Vote to End the Department of Education](#), (3) [States Are Waiting to Hear What Abolishing the Education Department Means for Them](#), (4) [Inside Democrats' Reshuffling on Trans Issues](#), (5) [Trump's Cuts to Government Could Upend the Entire Contracting Industry](#)

**Politico:** (1) [Trump, already on a collision course with the courts, hits the gas](#), (2) [Judge blocks Trump's effort to ban transgender troops](#), (3) [Hill Republicans already hated the 'idiotic' call to impeach judges. Then Trump jumped in.](#), (4) [If Trump Defies the Courts, Here's What a Judge Can Do](#), (5) [Universities are caving to Trump with a stunning speed and scope.](#) (6) [We Dug Into the Polls. Democrats in Congress Should Be Very Afraid.](#), (7) [It's not just impeachments. Republicans are eyeing other ways to rein in federal judges.](#), (8) [Opinion | The 'Free World' Is Gone and There's No Turning Back](#)

**Popular Information:** (1) [EXCLUSIVE: Memo details Trump plan to sabotage the Social Security Administration](#), (2) [Trump promised to protect access to abortion pills. Things have changed.](#), (3) [Are the people who Trump sent to a Salvadoran prison actually gang members?](#), (4) [EXCLUSIVE: Secret policy shift could overwhelm Social Security offices with millions of people](#)

**ProPublica:** (1) [Push to Amend the Constitution Could Expand Trump's Power](#), (2) [Trump Cuts Signal End to Federal Work on Terrorism Prevention](#)

**Reuters:** (1) [Exclusive: US suspends some efforts to counter Russian sabotage as Trump moves closer to Putin](#), (2) [Elon Musk holds unprecedented Pentagon talks, wants leakers prosecuted](#)

**The Art Newspaper:** [Trump signs executive order to 'eliminate' agency that funds museums and libraries](#)

**The Bulwark:** (1) [Veterans Group Wants to Make Elon the Supervillain of the Midterms](#), (2) [Democrats Face a Joe Biden Litmus Test](#)

**The Contrarian:** (1) [What Now?](#), (2) [The Constitutional Crisis May be Upon Us](#), (3) [The cost of \\$880 billion in Medicaid cuts](#)

**The Democracy Labs:** [Cut Social Security to pay for tax cuts for billionaires!](#)

**The Freedom Academy:** [Why the Alien Enemies Act Is So Dangerous in Trump's Hands](#)

**The Message Box:** [Trump's Politically Insane Decision to Shut Down the Dept. of Education](#)

The New Yorker: (1) [The Battle for the Bros](#), (2) [Inside Trump and Musk's Takeover of NASA](#)

The Status Kuo: (1) [Crossing the Line](#), (2) [Stand Down, Elon Musk](#), (3) [Targeting the Judges](#), (4) [On a Musk-Know Basis](#)

Time: (1) [On Deportations, White House Messaging Is a Mess](#), (2) [Amid Schumer Backlash, Here's Who's Vying to Lead Democrats](#), (3) [For Veterans Fired by Trump, Sense of Betrayal Runs Deep](#), (4) [Rep. Jake Auchincloss on Why Democrats Need New Big Ideas](#)

Washington Monthly: [The Filibuster is Working. You Just Can't See It](#)