

**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest
December 11, 2023**

URGENT CALL TO ACTION: TELL THE NC STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS YOU WANT SUNDAY PRIMARY ELECTION VOTING!

Recently, the Chatham County Board of Elections voted 3-2, along party lines, to have one day of Sunday voting for the March 2024 Primary Election. Because the vote wasn't unanimous, the final decision will be made by the NC State Board of Elections during a meeting on December 19, following oral arguments from members of the Chatham County Board of Elections.

We have an opportunity to help influence the final vote by making our voices heard. In previous election years, Chatham Democrats voiced their strong support for Sunday voting by sending letters to the NC State Board of Elections. **You can help by:**

a) Sending an email to the NC State Board of Elections expressing your support for Sunday voting; and

b) Assuming NCSBE rules in our favor, turn out to vote on the designated Sunday and encourage others to do the same. This will help build the case for Sunday voting in future election cycles.

Republicans on the Chatham County Board of Elections argue that Chatham voters haven't turned out in large numbers for Sunday voting in the past, and that eliminating Sunday voting would not create a hardship for those who have taken advantage of Sunday voting in the past.

To be clear, Sunday voting is NOT a budget issue. The Chatham County Board of Elections has available funding to cover the expense.

Please make your voices heard by emailing NCSBE before December 19 to express your support for a day of Sunday voting for the March 2024 Primary Election. Send your emails to: elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov. Please use the following subject line: "Chatham County Supports Sunday Voting!"

Thanks for helping ensure that ALL voters have full access to the polls in next year's critical elections.

###

Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events

December 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m., CCDP Community Engagement Center, 628 East St, Pittsboro (via Zoom) – Let's Get Ready for 2024

CCDP wants to do LOTS of events in 2024, and we're getting ready!
Sign up below for one of our Let's Get Ready sessions and also take our:
[Events Volunteer Survey](#).

At this event, we'll review the results of this survey, describe CCDP's SEVEN event types, and describe the plan for events for 2024.

Check your email confirmation for the Zoom link.

We're looking forward to working with you!

Sign up at: [Events Team - Let's Get Ready for 2024!](#)

December 15 and December 29, 2 - 2:30 p.m., Event Team Orientation (Virtual event)

CCDP puts on LOTS of events every year, and we have SIX different events teams to do it all! Join this weekly Zoom to talk about which events team (or teams!) is right for you!

Sign up at: [Events Team Orientation](#)

After you sign up, you'll receive an email confirmation from Mobilize that will include the Zoom link.

December 17, 2 – 6 p.m., CCDP Holiday Open House, Community Engagement Center, 628 East Street, Pittsboro

Stop by any time!

Limited to 100 - RSVP to Reserve your spot [here](#) now.

Donations

- Food donations accepted for CORA

Refreshments

- Cookies - **if you bake, please bring a plate of home-made cookies and copies of the recipe to share. You can also bring a dozen cookies in a gift bag for the raffle.**
- Beverages - we'll have water, coffee, hot cocoa, and eggnog

Entertainment

- Holiday song sing-alongs
- Craft and games for kids of all ages
- Raffle

Suggest your favorite holiday song at [CCDP Holiday Party Song Suggestions](#), and we'll try to get it on the list.

Name the Donkey!

CCDP just acquired our new four-foot-tall cardboard donkey to use at events around the County, and we're super-excited for the donkey to get a name! [Submit your nomination for a name here](#). We'll vote to choose a winner during the last hour of the party.

Sign up to help with set up, check in, games and crafts organization, managing the refreshments table, and clean up.

The shifts are:

- 12:30 - 2:00 - Set Up
- 2:00 - 4:00 - Shift 1
- 4:00 - 6:00 - Shift 2
- 7:00 - 7:00 - Clean Up

Sign up at: [Help Organize the Holiday Party](#)

###

Other Upcoming Events

December 12, 2 - 4 p.m., Board of Elections Regular Scheduled Meeting, Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro

The board meeting will be open to the public at the Board of Elections office; 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312 and online via GoToMeeting.

Meeting access information will be available to citizens prior to each meeting and available at the meeting.

To sign up to receive meeting notices click this link: <https://www.chathamnc.org/about-us/sign-up-for-e-notifier> .

Meeting Information:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/773064413>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 773-064-413

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

December 12, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., First Book Study: Did You Know Diverse Books Matter, Virtual Event sponsored by Red Wine & Blue

How does reading diverse books impact kids? A major study (which Oprah even highlighted!) was just completed showing how kids benefit from reading diverse books. Who doesn't want to see increased reading time and better test scores? Join us to hear from Jules Appleton, Director of Research and Insights at First Book to learn the results of the study and how you can make a difference with the children in your life.

Sign up at: [The Real Impact of Diverse Books on Kids!](#)

December 14, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., How Grandparents Are Changing Our Lives with History, Virtual Event sponsored by Red Wine & Blue

Grandparents have the power to fight book bans – and even more when they join together. Grandparents for Truth was formed specifically to take on extremists, protect the freedom to learn and defeat censorship. Join Alana Byrd of People for the American Way to learn all about their new program and how you and your loved ones can get involved.

To sign up, go to: [How Grandparents Can Fight Book Banning!](#)

December 15, 12 - 1 p.m., TroubleNation 101 - You've Registered Your Group - Now What? Virtual Event sponsored by Red Wine & Blue

The title says it all -- you've set up your group but need help determining your next steps. We'll help you build out your group's landing page, grow your membership, and plan your first event. We'll also walk through all the features of TroubleNation so you can begin using the tools and resources to strengthen your group. If this time doesn't work for you, please sign up for 1:1 time with us by following this link: <https://calendly.com/missy-rwb/30min>.

Sign up at: [TroubleNation 101 - You've Registered Your Group - Now What?](#)

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

ICYMI: Justice Newby's Ethics Troubles Highlighted in New Article

“Since 2015, a North Carolina Supreme Court justice has heard at least six cases involving the massive utility Duke Energy, a company in which he and his wife had a direct financial stake.”

[The Center for Public Integrity](#) examined judicial ethics at state high courts and stated that the “fact that Newby’s conflict has never been reported before underscores the limited public attention to judicial ethics at state courts.”

“This is a damning report on Justice Newby and it highlights another disturbing example of corruption by Republicans at the highest level of our state government,” **said NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton**. “Justice Newby is refusing to answer for these allegations and he should resign for the violation of the trust that North Carolinians placed in him. Republicans continue to embarrass our state and the voters are ready to go to the polls next November and restore the power back to the people.”

Read More:

[The Center for Public Integrity](#): **Not just the Supreme Court: Ethics troubles plague state high courts, too**

- “This is a big deal. This does not look good,” said Gabe Roth of Fix the Court, which advocates for judicial transparency. “Owning even one share of stock brings in that doubt that the judge might be biased.”
- Newby and his wife said in a 2023 disclosure form that they owned at least \$20,000 in Duke Energy stock, and one or both owned stock while each of the six cases involving Duke and its subsidiaries was before the court.
- **It is against the law for federal judges to hear cases when they own stock in a party.** But state supreme court justices, in North Carolina and elsewhere, are not held to the same standard.

2024 DNC Delegate Selection Process Opens

On December 1, The North Carolina Democratic Party announced the opening of the [2024 DNC Delegate Selection Process](#).

To become a delegate, **voters must be a registered Democrat, submit a notice of candidacy, and engage with the party to actively seek support for their candidacy.** Any registered Democrat is eligible to apply.

North Carolina has the 9th largest delegation in the nation, with 130 voting members. All but 14 of the delegates will be pledged to a candidate and the number allocated to each candidate is based upon the results of the “Super Tuesday” March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election.

Seventy-six (76) delegates representing each congressional district will be elected at District Conventions on April 27, 2024. Twenty-five (25) At-Large Delegates, 15 Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) Delegates, and 10 alternates will be elected at the State Convention on June 1, 2024. The remaining 14 delegates are Automatic Delegates, such as DNC members, Democratic members of Congress, and the Governor.

The Delegate Selection Plan outlines a process for electing an equal number of men and women, with language to include North Carolina’s gender non-binary community, and includes representation goals for African-American, Hispanic, Native American, AAPI, LGBTQ+, young (under 35), senior (over 65) and veteran delegates, as well as delegates with disabilities.

The complete North Carolina Delegate Selection Plan is available [here](#), along with information about upcoming online information sessions on the selection process.

Interested In Running for Office?

Politics doesn't get better until better people get involved in politics. [Candidate filing](#) opens December 4, 2023 and closes on December 15, 2023. Our goal is to contest every race and we need YOU to run for office! If you are interested in running for office, fill out our [form](#) to get connected.

NCDP Is Hiring

Check out our openings at [Work with Us](#) and share with anyone you think may be interested.

###

News from Neighbors on Call

December 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. – Party With a Purpose

Join Neighbors on Call and special guests NC Sens. Lisa Grafstein and Mary Wills Bode, NC Rep. Julie von Haefen, and Bryan Cohn, Democratic candidate for the very *flippable* HD 32 (Granville and Vance Counties), at our Party with a Purpose next Thursday, December 14, at 6:30pm! Bryan Cohn will join us in person at the Wake Forest location - and at *all* of our locations via Zoom.

Pick your party venue:

- Chapel Hill (Seymour Center)
- Durham (private home near Cornwallis Rd Park*)
- Holly Springs (private home in the Wescott neighborhood*) - Sen. Grafstein, Rep. von Haefen and our surprise guest will join from this location!
- Pittsboro (downtown location*)
- Wake Forest (private home in the Heritage neighborhood*) - Sen. Bode will join from this location!
- Zoom (brief program at 7pm, all venues will join)

Then, party with a purpose:

Over snacks and chit chat, we'll write thank-you notes to wonderful NC leaders who connected with NoC volunteers this year -- and who advocate for justice every day despite all obstacles.

Having fun together is part of our mission to stay engaged in the fight for democracy. So, please join us for fun, fellowship, and special guests! Over snacks and chit chat, we'll write thank-you notes to wonderful NC leaders who connected with NoC volunteers this year -- and who advocate for justice every day.

See party details, pick your location, and RSVP at neighborsoncall.org!

###

News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson, December 8, 2023

Tuberville caves

I'm writing this at the D.C. airport where my flight was just delayed for the fourth time. I'm trying to make it to Greensboro in time for an event and we're going to cut it very close. As it turns out, a big part of campaigning statewide is just travel logistics - and learning to accept how much of it is out of your control.

In the meantime, I made a bunch of predictions in my last email. How'd I do?

I told you:

1. Kicking out Santos was "very likely." As you saw, that happened.

I kept an eye on Santos during the expulsion vote and once it became clear he was going to lose, he started shaking hands with a few members who were standing near him, then slowly walked off the floor. The Speaker announced the vote and said, "The whole number of the House is now 434." Then he banged the gavel and that was it. At that moment, Santos ceased to be a member of Congress. The locks on his office door were changed immediately.

I actually spoke to Santos for the first and only time the day before the expulsion vote. I was walking past him on the House floor when he stopped me and - with total sincerity - said, "I'm really looking forward to your video about me getting kicked out." (He was referring to [this](#) video I did a few weeks ago.) I said, "Well, we'll see how the vote goes." He quickly replied, "Oh, I'm getting kicked out." Then I put out my hand and said, "I wish you well." We shook hands, and I kept moving.

Plot twist: In the last few days, Santos has booked more than the *annual salary* of a member of Congress by doing short videos - birthday greetings, motivational messages, etc. - for \$200 a pop. That's an incredibly profitable congressional expulsion and I imagine it will be helpful in funding his legal defense against the barrage of felony charges he now faces. It's also a testament to the unique way we treat notoriety in our country, in which shame can be monetized so long as it isn't acknowledged. In other words, for well-known individuals, the monetary reward for shamelessness can outweigh the ethical reward of remorse, so we see the former more than the latter. Santos promptly making hundreds of thousands of dollars upon expulsion from Congress is an extreme example of that trend. Were he to sincerely apologize and show contrition, I don't think that financial opportunity would exist.

###

Message from U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, December 5, 2023

Friends,

Earlier today I received a call from Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg who had some great news. The U.S. Department of Transportation will be providing a \$1 billion grant for a new passenger rail route between Raleigh and Richmond, VA. This will be huge for economic development in the region and will better connect North Carolina with the Washington, D.C. metro area and the Northeast Corridor.

The \$1 billion grant was made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that I helped negotiate, write, and pass into law. It's an example of what we can accomplish when both parties work together for the good of our nation. This historic investment to rebuild our infrastructure has already delivered [more than \\$10 billion](#) for North Carolina, including funding for hundreds of infrastructure projects in communities across the state.

To see what infrastructure projects have already been approved where you live, [please visit this link and select your county](#).

I look forward to sharing more exciting news with you about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Thom Tillis

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Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note

AP: [New North Carolina congressional districts challenged in federal court on racial bias claims](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Bottom Line](#)

The Assembly NC: [McHenry Opens A New Path to Washington](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Judges temporarily block NC Republican law that would cause election gridlock](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Raleigh to NYC by high speed train? New federal funding could make it a reality.](#)

Cardinal & Pine: ["It Started With a Lie": Locals Push Back Against Moms for Liberty in NC](#)

Carolina Forward: [Which way for independent redistricting](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Habitat could open doors to more NC affordable homes, but obstacles limit reach](#)

CBS 17: [North Carolina testing out higher school dropout age](#)

Chapelboro: [Disney Announces Plans for 4,000-Home Residential Community in Chatham County](#)

Chapelboro: [New North Carolina Congressional Districts Challenged in Federal Court on Racial Bias Claims](#)

Citizen Times: [Opinion: NC gerrymandering is unfair and has statewide consequences](#)

Democracy NC: [2023 ELECTIONS CERTIFIED, CONCERNS RAISED TOWARDS REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT AFFIDAVIT ACCEPTANCE](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Some Thoughts About What We Are Going To Do Together in 2024 - It's All About Expansion, Growth, Getting to 55](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Dems Just Keep Outperforming Expectations, and A Few More Notes on The Limits Of Polling](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [48m Dem Jobs, Indictments in Nevada, Free Speech and Genocide, Christie Challenges GOP Cowardice, Fighting Gilead](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [December Jobs Report Is Another Good One - American Economy Remains Remarkably Strong](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Growth, Expansion in 2024 – Hopium Endorses Tom Keen and Tom Suozzi – Let's Do This People!!!!](#)

Lucid: [Protecting Criminals is Now the GOP's Job as an Autocratic Party](#)

Lucid: [Be Alert to What is Right/Judge Tanya Chutkan, Democracy Hero](#)

NC Newsline: [Voting rights groups find new photo ID law caused trouble for voters and county officials](#)

News & Observer: [NC Parents Bill of Rights puts pause on child abuse program](#)

NPR: [McCarthy to retire at the end of 2023](#)

NY Times: [McCarthy Says He Will Leave Congress at the End of the Year](#)

Washington Post (may require subscription): [Fewer young Americans plan to vote in 2024, Harvard youth poll finds](#)

WGHP: [5 new North Carolina laws now in effect you may have missed](#)

WRAL: [Robinson 'vengeance' remarks stir controversy within NC GOP](#)

WRAL: [Disney announces Asteria, new residential community in Chatham County](#)

WUNC: [NC students must study computer science to graduate under new law](#)

WUNC: [McHenry's surprise departure has ripple effect for NC primaries](#)