



**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest
April 15, 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, May 8 & May 22, @Zoom

[Volunteer Orientation](#), April 19 & 26; May 3 & 31, @Zoom

[Join Our Office Crew](#), April 30 & May 14, Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

[Staffing Tent Events](#), April 27, May 11 & May 28, Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

[Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education](#), April 20 & May 11, Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

[Chatham Young Democrats Launch Party](#), May 4, The Plant, 192 Lorax Ln, 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

###

Order Your CCDP Logo T-Shirt or Hoodie Now!

We're very pleased to offer you a chance to order tee shirts and hoodies with CCDP's beautiful logo!

[Click Here to Order](#)

The link will take you to the website for Custom Ink, the shirt producer.

The deadline for ordering is Thursday, April 25.

This is not a CCDP fundraiser! We just love that the CCDP logo will be out in the community. If you'd like to make a separate donation to CCDP, please [Donate Here](#).

Tee shirts are priced at \$16-23, hoodies are \$30-\$38, and long-sleeve tees are \$22-26. Sales tax and a small credit card handling charge will be added to each order. You'll have the choice to have your order sent to CCDP's Community Engagement Center in Pittsboro where you can pick it up for no shipping charge or directly to you if you add shipping charges.

Tell everyone you know!

###

Other Upcoming Events

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

Anti-LBGTQ+ 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 LBGTQ+ voices in the halls of power. Join us to hear from Mayor Annise Parker, President and CEO of the LBGTQ+ Victory Fund and the first openly LBGTQ+ mayor of a major American city. She will share why these elections matter and how we can support LBGTQ+ candidates from school board to Congress.

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

We are the Majority: Fight Back Against Project 2025, April 18, 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Project 2025 is the far-right extremists' vision for America that powerful supporters of Donald Trump will have him implement if he wins a second presidential term. But we won't let that happen! Join our panel of experts, including from the African American Policy Forum, to learn everything you need to know. You don't want to miss it!

Sign up [here](#).

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

NCDP, the NC Coordinated Campaign, and Biden for President are hiring for all sorts of positions right here in North Carolina. If you're interested in working in this movement, stop by ncdp.org/jobs.

Our digital messages this week are:

GOP in disarray: Y'all, it has never been more obvious how outgunned and outclassed the GOP is than right now. The Biden campaign is [breaking fundraising records](#) while the Trump campaign [struggles](#) to meet half of Biden's cash on hand. [Ten new Biden-Harris field offices](#) are opening in North Carolina to the Trump campaign's zero. The Biden team and the DNC are [staffing up entire departments](#) in battleground states like ours, while Trump and the RNC can barely get state directors on the ground. Also, ICYMI: while the NCGOP's slate is waffling over whether or not they should outwardly support their most extreme members, our statewide slate is [standing strong together](#).

Clean energy future: According to the new book "Clean Economy Now" by Bob Keefe, North Carolina has attracted more [clean energy investments](#) under the Inflation Reduction Act than any other state in the nation.

Teacher turnover: Pay stagnation, lack of support, and growing fear of GOP culture wars are pushing teachers away from their profession. Last year, the [teacher turnover rate skyrocketed by 47%](#), resulting in one in every nine teachers quitting or choosing to retire. Republicans must be held responsible for the damage they're doing to our public schools at the ballot box this November.

Black Maternal Health Week: Thursday, April 11 marks the beginning of Black Maternal Health Week to bring awareness, advocacy, and action to change the state of Black Maternal Health Care. Black women are dying due to pregnancy-related complications at a national rate of three to four times that of white women. We ask that you share the graphic and call your representatives at every level and urge them to take action on one of the greatest public health crises of our time.

President Biden announces new plans to cancel student debt for tens of millions of Americans **NEW**

- President Biden is announcing new plans to cancel student debt for tens of millions of Americans.
- President Biden and Vice President Harris have already provided student loan debt relief for 4 million borrowers — now, they are planning to provide debt relief that would bring the total to over 30 million.
- President Biden has long believed that college should be a ticket to the middle class, not a burden that weighs on families. That’s why, starting on Day One, he has taken unprecedented steps to fix the broken student loan system, make college more affordable, and bring the promise of higher education within reach for more Americans through targeted student debt relief.
- This relief not only would **create more financial stability for millions of working and middle-class families, it would address the disproportionate debt burden on communities of color.**
 - Black students are more likely to take on student loans than their white peers and end up holding nearly twice as much debt as their white peers four years after graduation.
 - Black and Latino borrowers are more likely to default on their student loans compared to white borrowers.
- **Meanwhile, Donald Trump’s long history of opposing relief makes it clear he would not only hang borrowers who have yet to receive relief out to dry, but also make the student debt crisis worse:**
 - Trump praised his Supreme Court nominees for blocking President Biden's original plan to relieve student debt for low and middle-income borrowers.
 - Trump **tried to eliminate** the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which provides relief to teachers, nurses, first responders, military officials, and others who work in public service.
 - Trump **proposed** freezing Pell Grants, which President Biden has increased to **record** levels — affecting the over **60% of Black and 50% Latino undergraduates** who rely on them.
 - The Trump administration **made it harder** for students who were lied to and misled by predatory for-profit colleges to get their loans discharged. President Biden made it a top priority to forgive debt for these students, leading to forgiveness for more than **1.3 million borrowers**.
 - Trump’s allies in Congress have **released a proposal** to end the President's SAVE Plan — the most affordable student loan repayment plan in history.

- Trump's close allies and advisors have detailed plans to outright **end** President Biden's student debt relief that is erasing debt and providing a ladder to the middle class.

Trump says "I was proudly the person responsible" for overturning Roe NEW

- Today, he bragged about it, saying "I was proudly the person responsible" for ending Roe.
- He says women should be punished for getting reproductive health care.
- If MAGA Republicans in Congress put a national abortion ban on the resolute desk, there is no question Trump would sign it into law – and his allies already have plans to rip away access through executive action.
- Trump's comments today are an endorsement of the nightmare we're seeing play out in the more than 20 states with abortion bans in effect, the majority of which have no exceptions for rape or incest.
- Because of Trump, 1 in 3 women of reproductive age now live under extreme and dangerous bans:
 - Women's lives put at risk as they're turned away from emergency rooms, forced to go to court to seek permission for the medical attention they need, and left to travel hundreds of miles for health care.
 - Doctors threatened with prosecution for doing their jobs.
 - Access to fertility treatments at risk for families who are desperately trying to get pregnant.
- It is outrageous and unacceptable that this is happening in America – but Trump wants to make it a reality in all 50 states, with or without the help of Congress.
- President Biden and Vice President Harris stand with the vast majority of Americans who support a woman's right to choose and if given a Democratic Congress, they will restore the protections of Roe in federal law once and for all.

> Statement from President Biden

"Donald Trump made it clear once again today that he is – more than anyone in America – the person responsible for ending Roe v. Wade. He is – more than anyone in America – responsible for creating the cruelty and the chaos that has enveloped America since the Dobbs decision.

"Trump once said women must be punished for seeking reproductive health care – and he's gotten his wish. Women are being turned away from emergency rooms, forced to go to court to seek permission for the medical attention they need, and left to travel hundreds of miles for health care. In states like Florida,

abortion will likely soon be illegal before many women know they're pregnant. Because of Donald Trump, one in three women in America already live under extreme and dangerous bans that put their lives at risk and threaten doctors with prosecution for doing their jobs. And that is only going to get worse. With all his empty words on fertility treatments, Trump doesn't tell you the MAGA Republicans he controls in Congress have put forward bills that could ban fertility treatments and that the Speaker of the House he empowered is one of the strongest supporters for a national abortion ban in the nation. Let there be no illusion. If Donald Trump is elected and the MAGA Republicans in Congress put a national abortion ban on the Resolute Desk, Trump will sign it into law.

“Here's what Donald Trump doesn't understand: When he ripped away Roe v. Wade, he ripped away a fundamental right for the women of America that the United States Supreme Court had affirmed and reaffirmed for 50 years. As a fundamental right, it didn't matter where you lived. It was granted to you as an American, not as a resident of any state. Generations of women had come to rely on that right. Now we're in the extraordinary position where women today have fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers. That has never happened before in America. And it cannot be allowed to stand. I am determined to restore the federal protections of Roe v. Wade. So, it won't matter where you live in America: The fundamental right to choose for women will once again be the law of the land. If you give me and Vice President Harris a Democratic Congress, that is exactly what we will do.

“Trump is simply lying. There was no groundswell of support in America for overturning Roe. In fact, support for Roe is higher today in America than it has ever been. The real truth is Trump made a political deal in 2016. He promised to appoint a Court that would get rid of Roe. And he had to make good on that debt. So, he did. It was never about public policy or what was right or what Trump believed. It was always about politics.

“Trump admits as much in his statement today. Having created the chaos of overturning Roe, he's trying to say, ‘Oh, never mind. Don't punish me for that. I just want to win.’

Speaker Tim Moore wants Michele Morrow to be in Charge of Your Child's Education

Speaker Tim Moore publicly supported Michele Morrow's candidacy for North Carolina Superintendent for Public Instruction, saying “I'm a good loyal fellow Republican. I'm gonna vote for the Republican nominee for office.”

“Speaker Moore has just let North Carolinians know that he supports Michele Morrow, who has advocated more for public executions of public officials than she has for public education,” **said NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton**. “Michele Morrow has called our public schools 'socialist indoctrination centers', took her own children to the insurrection on January 6th, homeschools her kids and said she'd like to see a constitutional amendment to get rid of the state board of Education. Now, Speaker Moore wants her

to be in charge of our public schools and its \$11 billion budget. Every Republican will now have to answer for Speaker Moore attempting to normalize an extremist who is nationally known for her violent rhetoric and conspiracy theories. Democrats are fighting for the future of public education in our state, and we are proud that we are offering a clear choice in this race with Mo Green.”

###

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 Congresswoman Valerie Foushee

I wanted to take a moment to update you on the work that I’ve been doing in the Fourth District and Washington, D.C. to serve you.

In March, the House voted to pass the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024](#) and the [Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024](#), legislation that will ensure the federal government remains funded through the end of the fiscal year. I was proud to vote for the passage of both bills, which included all fifteen Community Project Funding requests which I have championed, that will deliver federal funding directly to local projects throughout the Fourth District.

In total, I secured **over \$12.39 million** in federal funding for fifteen Community Project Funding requests from Fourth District non-profits and public institutions. You can find information regarding the projects included in the first government funding package [here](#), and the second government funding package [here](#).

Congressional Trip to Israel

I recently returned from a congressional trip to Israel where my colleagues and I met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian leaders in Ramallah, U.S. Ambassador Jack Lew, and family members of hostages to discuss the ongoing conflict in the region.

Fostering diplomatic dialogue and facilitating de-escalation efforts is the only way to reach a bilateral ceasefire, ensure the release of all remaining hostages, alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and achieve the ultimate goal of a permanent two-state solution. To ensure long-term stability and security in the region, we must use diplomacy as a tool to bring both sides to the table for meaningful negotiations towards a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement. You can read my full statement on the trip [here](#).

Following my trip to Israel, I joined 13 House Democrats in sending a letter to President Biden reinforcing our earlier calls for a bilateral ceasefire and to urge the administration to ensure that U.S. foreign aid will not be used to deepen the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. You can read the full letter [here](#).

Highlights from Washington

On March 7, President Biden delivered his State of the Union Address to Congress, where he highlighted how his administration has lowered health care costs, cancelled student debt to grow the middle class, defended reproductive freedoms, delivered historic benefits for America's veterans, and fought to prevent gun violence in our community.

I was proud to be joined by local gun violence prevention activist, Lavern Lucier, as my guest to the State of the Union Address. Lavern Lucier is the mother of the late-Syncere Burrell, who was the victim of a shooting in Durham in 2020. Lucier has long been a critical ally in the fight to slow the flow of guns into local communities. I applaud her commitment to making our schools, neighborhoods, and streets a safer place for our children.

[Click here](#) to view a video highlighting my State of the Union guest

As a member of the New Democrat Coalition's AI Working Group, I joined my colleagues in meeting with key stakeholders to discuss responsible development and deployment of AI systems. From housing to lending to hiring, ensuring safety and fairness is paramount as these systems effect a vast variety of consumers.

Last month, I had the honor of joining a roundtable discussion hosted by the U.S. House Pro-Choice Caucus, Men 4 Choice, and the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys for a powerful conversation on the role of Black men in protecting our reproductive freedoms.

Reproductive rights are under attack across the nation. Discussions like these are an important step in working together in our fight for reproductive justice.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Highways and Transit Subcommittee, I had the opportunity to ask experts how investing in transit eases access for individuals commuting long distances each day.

Lack of affordable housing continues to push individuals further and further from their places of work, and it is more important than ever that public transportation systems reach rural areas across the nation.

[Click here](#) to view a video clip from the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on rural transportation

Last month, I introduced the [IMPACT Act](#), which passed through the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology's markup with unanimous support. This bipartisan bill will take significant strides in reducing harmful emissions during the manufacturing processes of cement, concrete, and asphalt, key building materials that are essential for our nation's infrastructure. This forward-thinking bill will enhance the competitiveness of American manufacturing and R&D. I am proud to see it progress one step further towards becoming a law. You can read more about the IMPACT Act [here](#).

I also recently introduced the [EMPOWER Act](#) alongside U.S. Representative Ted Lieu (CA-36), which would increase the government's match for small campaign donations in the public financing system. Since the Citizens United Supreme Court Case, wealthy corporations have had an extensive influence in our elections. It's long past time for Congress to reform the campaign finances system and put the power back in the hands of voters. You can read more about the EMPOWER Act [here](#).

Fourth District Focus

In North Carolina, I was proud to welcome Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor Roy Cooper to Durham last month to highlight the \$32 million awarded to women and minority-led venture capital funds to bolster our local businesses.

Last month, I had the opportunity to join Food Tank and Duke University for an important discussion on how Congress can play a bigger role in ensuring food accessibility. Food insecurity continues to affect over 44 million Americans. Congress must do everything it can to help put food on the table for American families in need.

I was proud to join NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody Kinsley at a town hall on minority healthcare access hosted by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP and the Northern Orange NAACP. Minority communities face additional barriers to vital healthcare resources, and I will continue to fight in Congress for equitable healthcare access across our communities.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the East Chapel Hill Rotary Club to share an update on the work I've been doing in Congress, and to discuss our community's needs. Thank you to the East Chapel Hill Rotary Club for hosting this engaging discussion on local priorities, and for your continued service to our community!

Constituent Services

I'm proud to report that in March, my office closed **over 70** constituent cases and helped recover **\$106,210** owed to constituents in the Fourth District from federal agencies!

Navigating federal agencies can be difficult, but my office is here to help if you are having trouble with passports, Social Security and Medicare benefits, immigration, military and veteran benefits, IRS and tax issues, and much more. If you ever need

assistance with any federal agency, please reach out by clicking the button below or by calling my Durham District office at 919-967-7924 to speak with one of my Constituent Services Liaisons.

Get Help with a Federal Agency

As always, it is an honor to serve and represent you in the United States House of Representatives. I look forward to continuing to advocate for you and our community every day. Please [subscribe](#) to my newsletter and follow along on my official social media pages on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date with the work I'm doing on behalf of North Carolina's Fourth District.

Sincerely,



Valerie Foushee

Member of Congress

###

News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson

I'm on the Armed Services Committee and this week we met with the four-star General in charge of U.S. forces in Europe.

Most of our conversation was about Ukraine. Here are the highlights from the unclassified portion.

He began by emphasizing that our allies in Europe are doing a lot to help, specifically mentioning that the vast majority of tanks and military fuel for Ukraine has come from European allies.

However, he told us there are two specific areas where America's contributions are critical: artillery shells and air defense interceptors.

Ukraine has begun strictly rationing their use of artillery. Russia is now firing roughly 10,000 rounds of artillery *per day*, which is 5x more than Ukraine. According to the

General, Russia will be firing 10x more than Ukraine within a few weeks unless there is further aid.

That would be a potential game-changer that could break the stalemate and allow Russia to punch through Ukrainian defenses, but there's an even bigger risk: running out of interceptors.

Our heavy supply of interceptors to Ukraine has prevented Russia from obtaining air superiority. In short, Russian fighter jets can't get close to Ukraine or they'll be shot down. That has kept the war on the ground, which has allowed Ukraine to take advantage of defensive fortifications and shorter supply lines. Once those interceptors are gone, it brings the Russian air force into the war in a way it simply hasn't been until now, and the combined effect with a 10x artillery advantage could be decisive.

Those interceptors are also used to take down incoming Russian missiles, but Ukraine has so few interceptors left that it now has to allow many of those missile attacks to hit their targets. Russia knows this and has stepped up their attacks on the electric grid, landing some major hits last week.

Every few days, Russia launches a major attack. It appears that their attack rhythm matches their artillery shell production rhythm - as soon as they have enough shells for an attack, they let loose, then wait until they've made enough shells to attack again. But they are also clearly preparing for a major summer offensive.

There were some skeptical questions from some committee members about spending more money to help Ukraine defend itself. The General made the point that the vast majority of the funds allotted for Ukraine are being spent in the United States. The American inventory purchased by Ukraine is typically then replaced with newly-manufactured inventory. In that way, we have used our support of Ukraine to modernize some aspects of our own military.

There were also some skeptical questions about the accountability for the weapons we're selling to Ukraine, so the General walked us through the supply chain: Ukraine makes a selection of military hardware and we approve their purchase. Then we ship the hardware to Poland, where it is received and accounted for by American soldiers who are stationed there. At that point, it is transferred to Ukrainians. Most of the hardware has barcodes and the Ukrainians have scanners that allow us to maintain some oversight into where those weapons are. The General admitted that we don't have perfect oversight once the weapons get to the frontlines, but given that we're talking about an active war zone, that's to be expected.

Finally, there was a discussion about what "winning" looks like. That was a little tough. For the General's part, he was pretty clear that he doesn't see the total eviction of Russia from all Ukrainian territory as realistic at this point. He described a successful involvement by the U.S. and our allies as making sure that Ukraine remained "sovereign and independent" - which is another way of saying, "not conquered by Russia."

Last week, I gave you a sense of the politics of this issue. In short, the Speaker supports further Ukrainian aid but is trying to find a way to call it for a vote without enraging his right-flank to the point of being fired. The big question is whether he'll call a vote on the Ukraine bill that already passed the Senate or try to cobble together his own version to appease his right-flank. We've essentially been waiting on that decision from him for the last several months.

“Well Jeff, are we going to see it next week?”

Not sure. Right now, here's what we're scheduled to vote on next week (and this is true):

- H.R. 6192 – Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act
- H.R. 7673 – Liberty in Laundry Act
- H.R. 7645 – Clothes Dryers Reliability Act
- H.R. 7637 – Refrigerator Freedom Act
- H.R. 7626 – Affordable Air Conditioning Act
- H.R. 7700 – Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act

You might look at that list and see a handful of message bills designed to inflame a narrative about the over-regulation of kitchen appliances. I see it differently. I see those bills as the Speaker trying to give his right-flank *everything he can think of* before calling a vote on Ukraine. He's basically giving them a nickel's worth of goodwill before asking them for a dollar, but I guess he figures it's worth a shot. And if it gets us a vote on Ukraine, then sure, go for it.

A.I. Jeff - part two

Naturally, the short anecdote I threw into my last email - almost as an after-thought - was the part everyone responded to, to the point where reporters called and wanted to talk about it.

For those who missed that [one](#), I included a story about how I have to make a lot of phone calls as a candidate and - more and more - people don't believe I'm a real person. They think I'm A.I.

This culminated in a woman who recently refused to believe it was me, despite my assurance that I was a real person.

Many of you replied, reasonably, to the effect of, “Hey Jeff, that's a problem we're all worried about, and since you're in Congress you should do something about it.”

Fair enough. Here's the latest on that front.

Since ChatGPT hit the scene early last year, several dozen bills have been filed to address various aspects of A.I.

Some take a broad view and try to regulate A.I. in general ways and some try to tackle very specific concerns like the threat of A.I. to musicians, or banning A.I. from being able to fire people (the “No Robot Bosses Act”), or even empowering A.I. to prescribe drugs.

And then there’s a whole separate category of bills trying to protect us from the threat of deepfakes and A.I. forgeries.

By my count, at least eight of those bills have been filed just in the last six months. Some of them are specific to elections and some are specific to robocalls and telemarketers.

A few thoughts on all these A.I. bills:

1. The bills have gotten smarter over the last year. The ones being offered now are more sophisticated than the bills we saw in the initial reaction to ChatGPT. Legislators are climbing a learning curve.
2. This issue is still largely bipartisan. I’m looking at who is filing these bills and how they’re written and there don’t seem to be many big partisan divisions here - yet.
3. My sense is that none of these bills will pass anytime soon - but then again, they weren’t really meant to. There’s a bipartisan working group that says it’s going to debut a bunch of recommendations in about a month and most of these current bills exist to be ideas for leadership to consider when crafting the actual A.I. package that we hope is coming.

Right now, my biggest hope is we can at least pass something to protect the upcoming election from deepfakes. It’s not unrealistic to think that - in a country full of 1% races - an election could be decided based on an A.I. forgery this year.

Best,

Jeff

P.S. - Marisa and I brought Owen and Avery to D.C. for a quick trip over Spring Break. They loved it.

###

News from CORE

Notes from Our Executive Director

The time is upon us! Juneteenth planning is in full swing, and we're ready to share all the amazing ways you can be part of this transformative celebration. You can find more information on our website: www.corenc.org/juneteenth.

Thanks to our dedicated community planning team, we're thrilled to present the 7th Annual Juneteenth Black Arts Festival at the Chatham County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 15th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Let's give a round of applause to our incredible Juneteenth planning team!

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, carries the theme of Freedom to Dream this year. Black joy is Black liberation. As Nelson Mandela stated, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." We welcome ALL to join us in this joyful celebration of our collective liberation.

Juneteenth is more than a celebration; it's a call to action. Black joy is radical, steeped in abundance, and revolutionary, rooted in deep love for ourselves, our ancestors, and our community. It's an audacious force that disrupts systems of oppression and opens pathways to clarity, comfort, and peace—even in turbulent times.

Join us in honoring our collective strength and resilience! Support Juneteenth today!

Learn more about [CORE's 7th Annual Juneteenth Black Arts Festival here.](#) (Saturday, June 15, Chatham County Fairgrounds)

###

News from County-to-County

Democrats are winning [election after election](#) across the nation because of voters angry about the cratering of women's reproductive rights after the disastrous Dobbs decision in June 2022. With your help, we can and will continue that streak of voter activism here in North Carolina in 2024!

All of April, **C2C** is **spotlighting** four fabulous women running to represent parts of Wake County and Mecklenburg County. [Safiyah Jackson](#), [Lisa Grafstein](#), [Woodson Bradley](#), and [Nicole Sidman](#) can help break the NC GOP Supermajority and restore sanity to our state! The national [Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee](#) just announced the 14 North Carolina candidates they are supporting this year, and all four candidates are on their list (along with six other wonderful C2C candidates)!

So let's keep [phone banking](#) for another whole week, through Monday, April 15, for our current **Spotlight Candidates** [Safiyah Jackson \(HD 37\)](#) and [Lisa Grafstein \(SD 13\)](#). You've made **930 calls** so far! And this past Saturday, C2C volunteers knocked on **274 doors** for them as part of the C2C/Neighbors on Call canvass! And we're looking forward to the kickoff [phone bank](#) for two new Spotlight candidates, **Woodson Bradley and Nicole Sidman**, on Tuesday, April 16.

Our friends at Carolina Forward recently did a fascinating deep dive into [The GOP's Metro Implosion](#) (yup: in Wake and Mecklenburg). Read it and we promise – you won't weep! But from now until Election Day, every door knock, every phone conversation, [every dollar donated](#) will be needed and deeply appreciated. Wouldn't it be marvelous if Joe Biden won the state riding on the ["reverse coattails"](#) of our fabulous NC General Assembly candidates here at C2C?

[Safiyah Jackson](#) believes the well-being of any community is determined by the well-being of its youngest members. She's an early childhood advocate, who has also been involved in local and state Democratic politics. [Sign up here](#) to phone bank for her and Lisa!

[Lisa Grafstein](#) moved to a new home in Wake County so she could run for re-election after Republicans gerrymandered Senate District 13. In her time in the NC Senate, she has sponsored [dozens of bills](#) to protect voters', women's, and children's rights. [Sign up here](#) to phone bank for her and Safiyah!

[Woodson Bradley \(SD 42\)](#) is a domestic violence survivor and advocate for families, children, and teens across the state. She believes the well-being of any community is determined by the well-being of its youngest members. We are so excited that Safiyah is one of the promising candidates we'll be working with. [Sign up here](#) to phone bank for her and Nicole starting April 16!

[Nicole Sidman](#) is an attorney who currently volunteers for social justice groups, education groups, including the Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, and for Democratic political campaigns. She stepped up to run against Tricia Cotham after Cotham switched parties and helped create the Republican Supermajority in North Carolina, which ensured the veto-proof passage of abortion restrictions and voting rights restrictions, among others. "This election is not about Tricia," Nicole told the *Charlotte Observer*. "It's about restoring the promises she broke to women, to the LGBTQ community, to our schools, to our state... We should keep focusing on the issues." [Sign up here](#) to phone bank for her and Woodson starting April 16!

[What's Up Down East?](#) Eastern North Carolina (counties East of I-95) is a vibrant, diverse, and history-rich region of our state. A stronghold for NC Democrats in the past, changing demographics, Republican gerrymandering, and low voter turnout have made this area a crucial political battleground. [Join us](#) Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. on Zoom to learn more about four amazing Eastern NC Democratic candidates for the NC Legislature: [Dante Pittman \(HD 24\)](#), [James Mercer \(SD 11\)](#), [Claire Kempner \(HD 9\)](#), and [Lorenza Wilkins \(HD 25\)](#). Dr. Kimberly Hardy of the NCDP will moderate.

[Sign up here](#) for our news and updates. [On the Issues](#) articles provide a deep and thoughtful dive into North Carolina and national politics and policy (this one, [on abortion](#), ran in May 2023).

###

News from Carolina Forward

The North Carolina that we love is in serious trouble.

Our home was once known as an example of good government and moderation in the South. But boy, how things have changed.

Today, our state leaders now make national headlines for partisan gerrymandering, political corruption, and insulting our fellow North Carolinians as “filth.” They're gutting our public schools, assaulting reproductive freedom, and letting corporate lobbyists write our laws. The list goes on and on.

I'm Blair Reeves, the Executive Director of **Carolina Forward. We're fighting back.** We're a new type of state-level think tank: independent, pro-growth, powered by grassroots supporters, and focused on building a brighter future for our great state. We believe in a better North Carolina - a strong, pluralistic state that serves *all* of our people, not just the wealthy and well-connected few.

What does Carolina Forward do?

- We deliver some of the best polling research in the state to understand what North Carolina voters *really* think.
- We demystify North Carolina's state government to help people better understand how they're being (mis)represented.
- We hold state lawmakers accountable for their votes, and make sure voters stay informed
- And we help expose special interest agendas, whether in the form of dark-money political spending or corporate lobbying in the state legislature.

Are you invested in the future of our state? Want to stay informed on what our state leaders are *really* up to in Raleigh? Then come along - the more people who are engaged in making North Carolina the best it can be, the better.

Let's do this.

Onward,
Blair Reeves
Executive Director

###

News from NC Attorney General Josh Stein

Consumer Alert

Tax Day, and Tax Scammers, are Approaching

Reminder: Tax Day is Monday, April 15. With the deadline to file your taxes approaching, scammers will try to trick you out of your hard-earned money. Use our tips below to help protect yourself and your loved ones from tax season scammers.

- **Guard your personal information.** Identity thieves can use your Social Security number to take out loans, open credit cards, or even collect your tax refund. Email is vulnerable to hackers, so avoid emailing your Social Security number or other confidential information to a tax preparer or accountant. If you're using a website to file your taxes, make sure you confirm it is a secure site before entering any personal information.
- **Be wary of anyone who calls or emails you and offers to help with your taxes, demands tax payments, or claims to be with the IRS.** The IRS will not call you directly or have law enforcement or another government agency call you on their behalf. If you get a call from someone claiming to work for a government agency, ask them for their name, identification number, and contact number. Then, hang up and look up and call a known contact number for that government agency to verify the call. Avoid anyone who demands you make immediate payments using methods like gift cards, money orders, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers.
- **Think twice before you opt for an instant refund.** Some tax preparers and banks offer a refund anticipation check (RAC). This is a paid service for taxpayers who don't have a bank account to use for direct deposit of their refund, or who don't have the money to pay for tax preparation assistance. There's a fee (typically about \$30) to set up the RAC system. The preparer deducts that fee, their tax preparation charges, and other fees from the eventual refund. After all that, there may not be much of your actual refund left.
- **If you have questions about something a tax preparer tells you about your taxes, check it out.** You can contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or the NC Department of Revenue at 1-877-252-4052.

Filing your taxes can be stressful, and it is easy to let the situation get the best of you. If you are unsure about something or something doesn't feel right, always make sure to do your research first. If you believe you have been the victim of a tax scam, contact our office at 1-877-5-NOSCAM or file a complaint online at www.ncdoj.gov/complaint.

###

News from Democracy North Carolina

The word "unprecedented" has become nearly meaningless in recent years, but for many alive today, there is no other way to describe the times we are in. The confluence of genocide and violence in Gaza – as well as Myanmar, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and beyond – alongside a pandemic, political divisions, and personal loss, has left everyone on earth in a place of unparalleled experiences. As

individuals and nations, we are in a moment of global reckoning around imperialism, greed, hate, and colonialism. These experiences may not be falling on everyone in the same way, but make no mistake, they are happening to us all.

In this month of Ramadan, which ends today, and in the days and months leading to the next chapter in the story of American democracy, we ask for healing for those observing the holy month in the Middle East and beyond. We also ask for urgent and swift action for those at risk and all those working toward liberation.

Because hope transcends our darkest moments, we are still filled with hope for a better tomorrow – for the lives of those in Gaza, for democracy and self-determination for all. But hope cannot sustain without action and accountability.

Without action, thousands – disproportionately of whom are women and children – will continue to perish, either due to violence, disease, or food insecurity. Entire generations of families have been killed or left traumatized by fear and loss.

Without accountability, nothing will change. The denial of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people and funding of arms that have claimed more than 33,000 lives since October – returning a decades-long occupation to the spotlight – is a shameful stain on the soul of our nation. It is an ongoing reminder of past genocides committed on our shores, as well as complicity in funding imperialist movements abroad. The refusal to address either in this moment stops our ongoing struggle for liberation in its tracks. As Fannie Lou Hamer said more than 50 years ago, nobody's free until everybody's free.

It is not too late to choose a different path. To choose hope, accountability, positive action.

We acknowledge the catalyst and loss of life in this ongoing struggle which occurred in October and mourn those losses, as well as wish for the immediate return of those in captivity. And we can't deny the horrific response which continues in front of us now. We rise with others who have said it before and those we hope will join us in the call to take action to end the occupation and our nation's complicity in the oppression taking place in Gaza.

Permanent ceasefire now.

Thank you,

Cheryl Carter and Adrienne Kelly
Co-Executive Directors, Democracy North Carolina

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Selected News and Opinion Stories

ABC News: [Bankruptcy Documents Detail How NC GOP Governor Nominee Mark Robinson Failed to File Federal Income Taxes for 5 Years](#)

Axios: [North Carolina Clears Decades-Long Rape Kit Backlog, AG Josh Stein Says](#)

Axios: [Japanese PM's Visit Highlights Growing Ties With North Carolina](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Video: NC Lost 10,000+ Teachers in 2023, the Most in Two Decades. Here's Why.](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Women Share Horror Stories Caused by Red State Abortion Bans](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Voter Defamation Case Before NC Supreme Court This Week](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Federal Judge Won't Stop Lawsuit Against NC Over Kids Confined in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities](#)

CBS 17: [Women Impacted by Abortion Restrictions to Campaign for Biden in NC This Week](#)

Chapelboro: [What to Expect \(and Not Expect\) in the General Assembly Short Session](#)

Chapelboro: [Chatham County Roundup: Pittsboro Mayor Kyle Shipp on Town News and Events](#)

Chapelboro: [Local Governments, Water Agencies React to New Federal PFAS Regulations](#)

CityView NC: [In Fayetteville, EPA to Announce First-Ever Enforceable PFAS Contamination Standards](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [The 2024 Election is Changing. It's Getting Better for Joe Biden and the Democrats.](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [My Latest Take on Where Things Are \(Video\), Hopium Year 2, With Dems Today](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [A Deep Dive on the Abortion Fight in Florida \(Video\), Helping Arizona, GOP = An Unprecedented Dumpster Fire](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Why I'm Optimistic About Winning This November, Hopium Year 2, What They Want](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [New With Dems Recording, Biden Gains 4 in NYT Poll, Trump's Ugly April](#)

IndyWeek: [Voices: Why I and Others in the Triangle Didn't Bend for Joe Biden on Super Tuesday](#)

Lucid: [The Republican War on Women is Straight Out of the Authoritarian Playbook](#)

News & Observer: [Biden Supporters, Including Women Who Miscarried, Blast Trump on Abortion at NC Event](#)

News & Observer: [After Years of Battles, NC GOP Is on the Cusp of Requiring Sheriffs to Cooperate with ICE](#)

News & Observer: [North Carolina to Welcome Japanese PM This Week with BBQ, Bluegrass and a Toyota Tour](#)

NY Times: [More Voters Shift to Republican Party, Closing Gap With Democrats](#)

NY Times: [TV Networks to Urge Biden and Trump to Debate, Wading into a Fraught Topic](#)

NY Times: [A Closer Look at a Slight Shift in the Polls](#)

NY Times: [Biden's Plan B on Inflation: Turn It Against Trump](#)

NY Times: [Republican Women Are Divided on Abortion as Bans Spread](#)

NY Times: [Opinion: Republicans Are Fleeing the Stench of a Rotten Congress](#)

NY Times: [Democrats Hammer a Simple Attack on Abortion: Donald Trump Did This](#)

NY Times: [Trump on Trial: Finally, a Trial](#)

NY Times: [A Hot Inflation Report is a Blow to President Biden](#)

NY Times: [Arizona Ruling Spurs Strong Reactions, But Election Impact is Unclear](#)

NY Times: [Trump Allies Have a Plan to Hurt Biden's Chances: Elevate Outsider Candidates](#)

NY Times: [Opinion: What Worries Me Most About a Trump Presidency](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: College Towns Usually Lift Democrats. Is the Picture More Complicated in 2024?](#)

NY Times: [The Man Who Snuffed Out Abortion Rights Is Here to Tell You He Is a Moderate](#)

NY Times: [Biden Shrinks Trump's Edge in Latest Times/Siena Poll](#)

NY Times: [Trump's Ex-Finance Chief Is Sentenced to 5 Months in Rikers for Perjury](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: Two Imperfect Messengers Take on Abortion](#)

NY Times: [Opinion: 2024, Meet 1892, Your Doppelganger](#)

Spectrum News: [N.C. Needs More Teachers. What State Superintendent Candidates Say About Attrition](#)

The Assembly NC: [The GOP's Family Feud](#)

The Assembly NC: [Jim Hunt's Daughter Tries to Win in a New North Carolina](#)

The Hill: [Trump Appointees Barred EPA Staff from Warning Senate About 'Forever Chemical' Loophole: Internal Staff Messages](#)

Vox: [Are Young Voters Really Embracing Donald Trump?](#)

Washington Post: [The Campaign Moment](#)

WRAL: [NC Republicans Look to Spend More on Private School Vouchers, After Wealthier Families Left Out](#)

WRAL: [NC Teacher Turnover Hits Highest Mark in Decades. New Report Shows Changes in Who is Leading Classrooms.](#)

WRAL: [Editorial: Purposeful Efforts to Diminish N.C. Public Education Must Stop](#)

WRAL: [Cooper's Visit with Japan's Kishida Could Coincide with a Major NC Jobs Announcement](#)

WRAL: [Japanese Prime Minister Joins Gov. Cooper for Lunch at Executive Mansion](#)

WUNC: [NC Superintendent Candidate Michele Morrow Gets Backing from High-Profile GOP Fundraisers](#)