



**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest  
April 22, 2024**

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**Three Chatham Democrats Elected as Delegates to the Democratic National Convention**

At the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Convention held April 20 in Fayetteville, three Chatham County Democrats were elected to serve as delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in July.

They are:

Akhil Karandikar (East Williams), Jan Nichols (East Pittsboro), and Gloria Weissman (West Williams).

Congratulations Akhil, Jan, and Gloria!

**###**

## **Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities**

### **CCDP Volunteer Trainings**

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

**[Canvassing Orientation and Training](#)**, May 8 & May 22, @Zoom

**[Volunteer Orientation](#)**, April 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](#)**, May 11, Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

**[Chatham Young Democrats Launch Party](#)**, May 4, 2 p.m., 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**

**###**

### **Other Upcoming Events**

**Democracy NC Early Voting Advocacy Training, April 22, 6-7 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

For more information and to sign up, go to: **[Early Voting Advocacy Training](#)**

**Board of Elections Absentee Business Meeting, April 23, 5 p.m.**, Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro

The public may view the meeting online at **<https://meet.goto.com/978218213>**.

Information about the Chatham County Board of Elections can be found online at **[www.chathamcountync.gov/elections](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/elections)**. Questions may be directed to the Board of Elections office at 919-545-8500.

**Fearrington Democratic Club Zoom, “Oil and U.S. Foreign Policy,” April 23, 7 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

David S. Painter, Associate Professor Emeritus of International History at Georgetown, will speak on the subject of “Oil and US Foreign Policy.” To request the Zoom link, use the form on the Club’s website: [Contact us](#) by 5 p.m. the day of the event. Earlier is better.

**Coffee with CORE, April 26, 8 - 10:30 a.m.**, Chatham County Public Library, 197 NC-87, Pittsboro

For more information, go to: [Coffee with CORE](#)

**Democracy NC Monthly Phone Banking Party, April 29, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

For more information and to sign up, go to: [Monthly Phone Banking Party](#)

**County-to-County Event: An Evening with Anderson Clayton and Mo Green, May 17, 6 p.m.** (Location provided upon registration)

Hear from NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton about NC Dems' and C2C's winning strategies for 2024. Then, Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board member Rani Dasi will moderate a discussion with Democratic Candidate for NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Mo Green about the state of our public schools and why his Republican opponent is a threat to the entire system. Get tickets at: [Orange County Democratic Party](#)

For other County-to-County events and volunteer opportunities, go to: [Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Petitions Near Me](#). [Sign up here](#) for C-2-C news and updates. [On the Issues](#) articles provide a deep and thoughtful dive into North Carolina and national politics and policy.

###

**Events, Trainings, and Actions Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue**

This week’s events:

**NC TroubleMaven & TroubleNation Strategy/Training, April 22, 7 p.m.**

**Influencing Legislators: How to Run an Advocacy Day, April 25, 7:30 p.m.**

**TroubleNation New Group Orientation Training, April 26, 12 p.m.**

For more information and to sign up, go to: <https://redwine.blue/events/>

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

#### **Attorney General Josh Stein: We've Ended the Rape Kit Backlog in North Carolina**

- Attorney General Stein announced that North Carolina has ended the backlog of untested sexual assault kits – a milestone more than six years in the making that is already delivering justice to victims and survivors.
- When AG Stein entered office in 2017, there were more than 16,000 untested sexual assault kits sitting on the shelves of local law enforcement.
- Through his bipartisan work with the legislature, local law enforcement, State Crime Lab scientists, advocates, and survivors, AG Stein led the effort to track, test, and review 11,858 testable kits that has led to 114 arrests.
- AG Stein has also put in place measures to ensure that a backlog in North Carolina never happens again and will continue to partner with law enforcement to solve cold cases, get rapists off the streets and behind bars, and deliver justice to victims.
- This accomplishment is yet another example of Josh's record of working with Democrats and Republicans to make communities safer. As North Carolina's chief law enforcement officer since 2017, Josh has not only partnered with the legislature to eliminate the nation's largest backlog of untested rape kits, but has also fought to strengthen our laws to protect kids from sex crimes, prosecute drug traffickers, and tackle the fentanyl crisis.

#### **Biden's Latest Plan for Student Loan Cancellation Moves Forward as a Proposed Regulation**

- In North Carolina, the Biden-Harris Administration has approved \$1.8 billion in relief for 24,560 borrowers under Public Service Loan Forgiveness and \$54 billion in relief for 1,400,000 million borrowers due to the Administration's fixes to income-driven repayment plans.
- The broadest forgiveness category would help borrowers who owe more than they originally borrowed because of runaway interest. It would eliminate up to \$20,000 in interest for anyone in that situation, while those with annual incomes below \$120,000 and enrolled in income-driven repayment plans would get all their interest erased with no maximum limit. It would be done automatically.
- It would automatically cancel loans for those who went to colleges or programs considered to have low financial value.
- Borrowers would be eligible for cancellation if they attended a program that leaves graduates with earnings no better than those with a high school diploma, for example, or programs that leave graduates with large shares of debt compared with their incomes.

- Another category would cancel loans for people who have been paying back their undergraduate student loans for at least 20 years, and those who have been paying graduate loans for at least 25 years.
- The department said the hardship proposal will offer cancellation to borrowers who are at high risk of defaulting on their loans along with those who face other hardships, including high medical and caregiving expenses
- The Biden administration said it plans to start implementing some parts of the new proposal as soon as this fall, using the education secretary's authority to implement rules early in certain cases.
- The White House says it's confident the new plan is on solid legal ground, saying the Higher Education Act gives the education secretary the power to waive student loans in certain cases.

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### **News from Neighbors on Call**

#### **NoC Spring Happy Hours With Special Guests**

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. For more information, go to: [Upcoming Events](#)

Be sure not to miss this one: **May 23, 5:30 p.m. in Pittsboro** with NC House Dem Leader Robert Reives, NC Sen. Lisa Grafstein (SD 13), NC Sen. Natalie Murdock, and Safiyah Jackson (HD 37)

#### **NC Policy Update, April 15, 2024**

##### **Voting Rights**

- [On Thursday the NC Supreme Court heard a lawsuit that would determine whether people who wrongfully accuse others of voter fraud may be sued for defamation.](#) The suit stems from the 2016 gubernatorial election, when supporters of Republican Pat McCrory, who narrowly lost to Democrat Roy Cooper, falsely accused many Democratic voters of committing voter fraud. While the voters seeking to sue these supporters for defamation have won in lower courts, the NC Supreme Court seems likely to rule instead in favor of the Republicans who made the false accusations, a decision that lawyers for the Democratic voters say could embolden political operatives to make false voter fraud accusations in future elections.

##### **Education Policy**

- [Republican leaders at the NCGA are planning to allocate additional funding for charter school vouchers during the next legislative session, potentially as much as \\$300 million.](#) That figure was the shortfall in the so-called Opportunity Scholarship program this year as legislation opened the program to all families, including wealthier families and those with children already in private

school, bringing in a record 72,000 applications. Critics of the voucher program, including Governor Cooper, have denounced the Republicans' intention to spend hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money to help rich families attend private schools while public schools aren't fully funded.

## **Immigration**

- [\*\*A key Republican priority during the next legislative session beginning April 24 is passing legislation requiring North Carolina sheriffs to cooperate with US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)\*\*](#). This is the fourth year in a row the legislature has tried to pass such legislation. In 2019 and 2022, Governor Cooper overrode these bills with enough Democrats in the NCGA to sustain his veto, and in 2023, when Republicans would have been able to override his veto, the bill didn't get through the NC Senate before the end of the session. The bill, HB 10, would require sheriffs to hold undocumented immigrants without a warrant at the request of ICE.

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## **Selected News and Opinion Stories**

ABC11: [\*\*NC Medicaid | Governor Roy Cooper signs proclamation after Medicaid enrollment tops 400K in first 4 months\*\*](#)

ABC45: [\*\*Biden Campaign Hosts Roundtable Discussion on Reproductive Rights\*\*](#)

AOL: [\*\*Trump Cancels North Carolina Rally Due to Storm\*\*](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [\*\*'The Horror Stories': NC School Systems Prepare for 2024 Funding Cliff\*\*](#)

Carolina Forward: [\*\*North Carolina farmers are still paying the "Trump Tax"\*\*](#)

Chapelboro: [\*\*UNC Basketball's Lynch, Crawford Among Triangle Athletes Denouncing Robinson's Run for NC Governor\*\*](#)

Chapelboro: [\*\*Chatham County Roundup: County Commissioner Karen Howard Talks Budget, Taxes, and Arts\*\*](#)

Education NC: [\*\*UNC System set to repeal DEI policy\*\*](#)

Education NC: [\*\*North Carolina forecasts one-time \\$1.4 billion budget surplus\*\*](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [\*\*House Passes Ukraine Funding Bill!!! Trump's Terrible Month, Winning North Carolina\*\*](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Winning Arizona, 6 Big Problems For Trump, House Passes Ukraine Funding Rule 316-94!!!!!!!](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Winning Arizona, Making Calls For Ukraine, A Good Youth Poll, A Bluer 2024 Election](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Why I'm Optimistic We'll Win This Year \(New Video\), Make Calls for Ukraine, It's A New Bluer Election](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Make Calls For Ukraine, Hopium Get Together Tonight, Old Orange Guy Falls Asleep Before Lunch](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [House Must Pass Ukraine Funding, Murder Rates Plummeting Across US, Election Is Becoming Bluer](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Ukraine Funding Has Passed the House – Great Work Everyone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!](#)

Lucid: [The Small Miracle That Is Trump's Trial, And The Challenge It Poses To His Authoritarian Personality](#)

NBC News: Poll: [Election Interest Hits New Lows in Tight Biden-Trump Race](#)

NC Health News: [Disability Rights NC to settle Samantha R case](#)

NC Newslines: [NC's legislative "short session" comes with a long to-do list](#)

News & Observer: [Foushee letter to Biden on aid conditions follows Israel visit](#)

News & Observer: [NC politics podcast: DEI bill in 2024 session, Capitol dome](#)

News & Observer: [Moms For Liberty holds Town Hall in NC to mobilize parents](#)

News & Observer: [What UNC System's DEI policy means & what happens next](#)

News & Observer: [NC lawmakers could take up video gambling legislation this year](#)

News & Observer: [NC 2024 budget surplus: \\$1.4 billion before lawmaker session](#)

NY Times (May Require Subscription): [House Approves \\$95 Billion Aid Bill for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan](#)

NY Times: [Trump on Trial: "We have our jury"](#)

NY Times: [Trump on Trial: A historic day arrives](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: Is Trump's trial really about 'hush money'?](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: The ex-Bernie pollster with a warning about R.F.K. Jr.](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: Donald Trump, the Defendant](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [As Civil Rights Era Fades From Memory, Generation Gap Divides Black Voters](#)

NY Times (May Require Subscription): [Senate Dismisses Impeachment Charges Against Mayorkas Without a Trial](#)

NY Times: [The Morning: Trump's nostalgia bump](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [The Congresswoman Going After Elite Universities on Antisemitism](#)

The Assembly: [Why the State's Deaf Schools Declined – And Could Rise Again](#)

The Hill: [Trump leads Biden in North Carolina: Poll](#)

Washington Post: [The Campaign Moment from The Washington Post](#)

WRAL: [Moms for Liberty brings message of frustration to NC town hall](#)

WRAL: [UN says DuPont and Chemours violated human rights in NC, contributed to 'global toxic contamination problem'](#)

WUNC: [2024 North Carolina Election: Mark Robinson family's nonprofit faces DHHS probe for financial issues](#)

WUNC: [UNC Board of Governors' statement after vote to repeal DEI policy](#)

WUNC: [Mark Robinson's position on corporal punishment in schools](#)

WUNC: [2024 North Carolina election: Few Latino candidates on ballots despite population growth](#)

Zocalo Public Square: [Will the Youth Voter Turnout Finally Rock? | Essay](#)