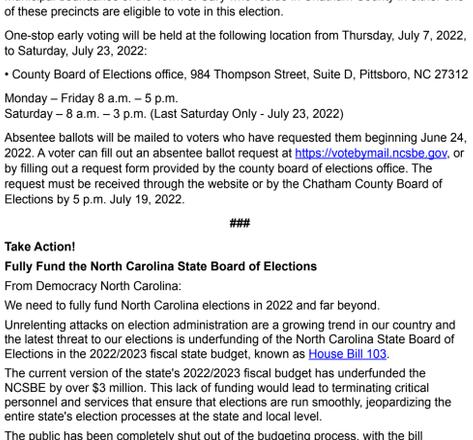


CCDP Weekly News Digest July 11, 2022

Our New Office is Open for Business!

A nice crowd was on hand for the grand opening of our new Headquarters office in Pittsboro on Sunday, July 3. Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry cut the ribbon for the office, located at 628-A East Street, in the Chatham Commons Shopping Center. Members of the community dropped in during the subsequent Open House to check out the new digs, socialize, and indulge in free cake and ice cream.

Donations of new office furniture are gratefully welcomed! Every donation will be noted on an [Appreciation Wall](#) in the new office. For information on how to donate, visit: <https://www.wayfair.com/registry/wedding/d9004898-ea4b-4279-9-1d0-86b69de0e3bc>



###

Early Voting is Under Way for Cary Runoff Election

The runoff election for the At-Large Seat for the Town of Cary will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Two polling places will be open: East Williams Precinct, and New Hope Precinct. Only voters who live in the municipal boundaries of the Town of Cary who reside in Chatham County in either one of these precincts are eligible to vote in this election.

One-stop early voting will be held at the following location from Thursday, July 7, 2022, to Saturday, July 23, 2022:

• County Board of Elections office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Last Saturday Only - July 23, 2022)

Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who have requested them beginning June 24, 2022. A voter can fill out an absentee ballot request at <https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov>, or by filling out a request form provided by the county board of elections office. The request must be received through the website or by the Chatham County Board of Elections by 5 p.m. July 19, 2022.

###

Take Action!

Fully Fund the North Carolina State Board of Elections

From Democracy North Carolina:

We need to fully fund North Carolina elections in 2022 and far beyond.

Unrelenting attacks on election administration are a growing trend in our country and the latest threat to our elections is underfunding of the North Carolina State Board of Elections in the 2022/2023 fiscal state budget, known as [House Bill 103](#).

The current version of the state's 2022/2023 fiscal budget has underfunded the NCSBE by over \$3 million. This lack of funding would lead to terminating critical personnel and services that ensure that elections are run smoothly, jeopardizing the entire state's election processes at the state and local level.

The public has been completely shut out of the budgeting process, with the bill introduced on Tuesday and passed on Thursday of last week.

[North Carolina currently has a \\$6 billion surplus – there is absolutely no reason to not fully fund our elections. >>> Tell Gov. Cooper to VETO HB 103!](#)

Become a Democracy Hero: Be a Poll Worker

Thinking about what you could do to help preserve democracy? One way is to become an **Election Assistant** (sometimes informally called a poll worker) for the Chatham County Board of Elections. Election Assistants check in registered voters, provide the voter with the correct ballot, direct voters to the voting unit, and hand out "I have voted" stickers. You would be trained in advance and paid, and you would work in 6-hour shifts during Early Voting, supervised by experienced election officials. [Click here](#) for more information from the Chatham County Board of Elections, or call (919) 545-8500.

Help Shape Our State Carbon Plan

You can [support a strong state carbon plan](#) through the state Utilities Commission (NCUC). The North Carolina League of Conservation Voters and allied advocates are mobilizing for [a fossil-free plan](#) in the public interest.

Last fall, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 951](#), directing NCUC to develop a plan to cut carbon emissions from power plants by 70% by 2030, and to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. NCUC is now taking public comments on Duke Energy's proposed carbon plan to implement that legislative mandate. NCUC will then approve the final plan later this year.

[In-person hearings](#) are being held in Durham on July 11, Wilmington on July 12, Asheville on July 27, and Charlotte on July 28. There will also be two online hearings and a separate process for submitting comments through NCUC's website.

To learn how to make an effective public comment, [register for a webinar on Wednesday, July 13](#).

###

Manns Chapel July 9 Canvass

On Saturday July 9, a group of canvassers knocked on doors in Briar Chapel, looking for more volunteers to help us contact voters from now until November 8. In addition to finding volunteers, their purpose was to let Democrats and friendly Unaffiliated voters know that the Democratic Party is alive and well in this precinct. The canvassers knocked on 156 doors and talked to 42 people. Manns Chapel Precinct plans to continue weekly or at least semiweekly canvasses from now until November 8.

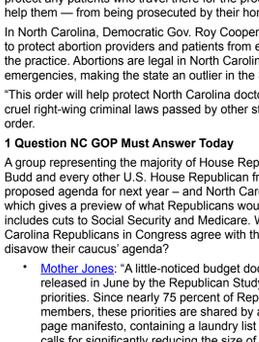


Photo Credit: Tom Lauer (also a canvasser)

Front row, kneeling: Robin Tovell Toubat. Front row standing, left to right: Sue Blalock, Geraldine Gannon, Caroline Deegan

Back row, left to right: Diane Tracy, Liz Kawabata, Jan Parker, Trish Lauer, Michael Hobbs, Kathleen Southworth, Lucas Southworth

###

Events

Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 5 – 6 p.m.

Board of Elections Absentee Meeting

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 for July 12, 2022:

Board of Elections Absentee Meeting for Cary Runoff

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

<https://meet.goto.com/387513117>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: **+1 (872) 240-3412**

Access Code: 367-513-117

Thursday, July 14, 7 p.m.

Empowering Black Entrepreneurs in Chatham County

Zoom Event

The Community Remembrance Coalition – Chatham and the Chatham County NAACP Branches 5377 and 5378 invites you to a Zoom event: Empowering Black Entrepreneurs in Chatham County, on July 14 at 7 p.m. Participants include Stephanie Terry, executive director, WEBB Squared; Rinnie Orr, associate director, WEBB Squared; Ebony Flores, Home Repair Construction; Shaughn and Amber Ross, Art Business; and Murvin Headen, Multi-Media Production Co.

RSVP at: <https://www.crc-c.org/upcoming-events.html>

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

REMINDER: North Carolina Republicans Voted Against Saving North Carolinians' Pensions

As President Biden announces a new American Rescue Plan rule in Ohio today that will protect North Carolinians and millions of Americans' pensions – particularly those in multiemployer pension plans who would otherwise have seen substantial cuts to their benefits – voters deserve to know that every North Carolina Republican in Congress, including U.S. Senate candidate and Congressman Ted Budd, [voted](#) against the fix.

"While Republicans have advocated for a plan that could end the Social Security and Medicare guarantee, putting North Carolinians' retirement in jeopardy, Democrats believe you deserve the retirement benefits you've earned. It's simple: President Biden and Democrats are saving North Carolinians' pensions. Republicans could put your retirement at risk," said NCDP Spokesperson Ellie Dougherty.

This new pension rule will protect more than 200 multiemployer plans that were on pace to become insolvent in the near future, which could have led to pension cuts for 2-3 million workers and retirees across the country. Thanks to President Biden and Democrats' American Rescue Plan, pension funds that receive Special Financial Assistance are projected to remain solvent at least through 2051.

Voting against this fix is not the only way Republicans have threatened to put North Carolinians' retirement benefits at risk. The only plan put forward by Senate Republicans could put North Carolinians' Social Security and Medicare benefits on the chopping block, impacting the [over two million](#) North Carolinians who rely on Medicare for their health coverage and [over two million](#) North Carolinians who receive Social Security benefits each month to help cover everything from rent to putting food on the table.

Governor Cooper, Attorney General Stein Take Critical Steps to Protect North Carolinians' Reproductive Rights

In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, top North Carolina Democrats, including Governor Cooper and Attorney General Stein, are taking critical steps to protect North Carolinians' reproductive rights as North Carolina Republicans, including U.S. Senate candidate and Congressman Ted Budd, [push an extreme agenda](#) to restrict abortion in our state [with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the life of the mother](#).

While abortion is still legal in North Carolina, Governor Cooper's veto power is the last line of defense. Yesterday, the Governor signed an Executive Order to protect abortion access in North Carolina. Last week, Attorney General Stein reaffirmed his commitment to protecting North Carolinians' reproductive rights after North Carolina Republican legislative leaders called to reinstate a 20-week abortion ban.

[See below for more on Cooper and Stein's steps to protect abortion in North Carolina:](#)

News & Observer: [Cooper moves to protect abortion access in NC, including for travelers from out of state](#)

Gov. Roy Cooper on Wednesday said he'll continue to fight for abortion rights and signed an executive order aimed to protect access to services in the state. He said states are "taking our country backward to the '50s and '60s where women died in back alleys."

Dr. Katherine Farris, chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic and a "proud provider of abortion care" in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, said that North Carolina "has emerged as a critical access point for the entire region."

... The order also protects against extradition to other states, saying North Carolina will "decline requests for the extradition of any person charged with a criminal violation in another state where the violation alleged arises out of the inquiry into, provision of, assistance with, securing of, or receipt of reproductive health care services that are lawful in North Carolina, unless the acts forming the basis of the prosecution of the crime charged would also constitute a criminal offense under North Carolina law."

News & Observer: [Josh Stein responds to GOP calls for NC's 20-week abortion ban to be reinstated](#)

Attorney General Josh Stein, responding to Republican legislative leaders on Friday, reiterated his "commitment" to protecting reproductive rights and said a legal review of the state's 20-week ban on abortion would be completed in the "coming days and weeks."

... "As Attorney General of North Carolina, I will continue to protect women's reproductive rights under state law. This commitment is more important than ever," Stein wrote in a letter to Berger Moore. "Today there is an increasingly hostile environment toward women's freedoms. States across this nation are banning abortions in all instances, including rape and incest. We cannot allow efforts to restrict women's ability to make their own healthcare decisions to succeed in North Carolina."

News & Record: [Cooper moves to protect abortion access, including for women from out of state](#)

Gov. Roy Cooper signed an executive order Wednesday shielding out-of-state abortion patients from extradition and prohibiting state agencies under his control from assisting other states trying to prosecute those who travel here for the procedure.

Cooper joined a growing number of Democratic governors seeking to offer sanctuary in the wake of the controversial U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning abortion protections.

The governors of Rhode Island and Maine signed executive orders late Tuesday, stating that they, too, will not cooperate with other states' investigations into people who seek abortions or health care providers that perform them.

Spectrum News: [N.C. attorney general doesn't commit to lift 20-week abortion ban injunction](#)

Facing an ultimatum from Republicans following the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning abortion protections, North Carolina's Democratic attorney general on Friday declined to immediately seek enforcement of a 20-week abortion ban previously thrown out by courts.

... Stein reaffirmed his commitment to protect reproductive rights under state law in what he called "an increasingly hostile environment toward women's freedoms."

"We cannot allow efforts to restrict women's ability to make their own health care decisions to succeed in North Carolina," he wrote.

The Daily Tar Heel: [Gov. Roy Cooper signs executive order protecting abortion access in N.C.](#)

At a press conference on Wednesday, Gov. Roy Cooper signed an executive order that will protect reproductive freedom and abortion access in North Carolina, as well as other advocates, joined Cooper.

The executive order comes in response to the United States Supreme Court's decision to overturn the federal right to abortion.

"Politicians should not be in that exam room with a patient and her doctor," Cooper said at the press conference. "I will never back down when women's health is on the line."

WGHP: [NC Gov. Roy Cooper signs executive order to protect women's rights to abortion](#)

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order 263 on Wednesday that would "take several steps to defend access to reproductive health services in North Carolina."

"The Supreme Court ripped away the constitutional right to reproductive freedom that women have relied on for five decades," said Governor Cooper. "For now, it's up to the states to determine whether women get legislative health care, and in North Carolina they still can, thanks to my veto and enough reproductive voters to sustain it. I am determined to keep it that way and people need to know that their votes in state legislative races this November will determine the fate of women's health and freedom in our state."

WSONC: [Cooper signs executive order to protect abortion providers, patients who travel from other states](#)

Democratic governors in states where abortion will remain legal are looking for ways to protect any patients who travel there for the procedure — along with the providers who help them — from being prosecuted by their home states.

In North Carolina, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper signed an executive order Wednesday to protect abortion providers and patients from extradition to states that have banned the practice. Abortions are legal in North Carolina until fetal viability or in certain medical emergencies, making the state an outlier in the Southeast.

"This order will help protect North Carolina doctors and nurses and their patients from cruel right-wing criminal laws passed by other states," Cooper said in an announcing the order.

1 Question NC GOP Must Answer Today

A group representing the majority of House Republicans, including Congressman Ted Budd and every other U.S. House Republican from North Carolina, just released their proposed agenda for next year – and North Carolinians aren't going to like it. The plan, which gives a preview of what Republicans would try to do if they controlled Congress, includes cuts to Social Security and Medicare. Which raises the question: Do North Carolina Republicans in Congress agree with these proposed cuts – or will they disavow their caucus' agenda?

- **Mother Jones:** "A little-noticed budget document, the Blueprint to Save America, released in June by the Republican Study Committee, details the group's priorities. Since nearly 75 percent of Republican House lawmakers are RSC members, these priorities are shared by a majority of the GOP caucus. The 122-page manifesto, containing a laundry list of longstanding conservative desires, calls for significantly reducing the state of America's social safety net, drastically limiting abortion access nationwide, effectively throwing in the towel on combatting climate change, raising the age requirement to receive full Social Security benefits, cracking down on transgender rights, and making it easier for Americans to carry concealed weapons."
- **Mother Jones:** "The RSC calls for raising the retirement age by three months per year through 2040, at that point the new age requirement to receive full Social Security benefits for people born after 1978 would be 70."

"As Republicans keep saying they want to put North Carolinians' hard-earned Social Security and Medicare benefits at risk, ban abortion, and more – North Carolina families deserve to know where Congressman Budd and the rest of the Republican U.S. House delegation from our state stand on the latest GOP agenda. While Democrats are laser-focused on lowering costs and protecting the right to abortion, North Carolina Republicans need to answer how far they'll go in taking away North Carolinians' benefits and reproductive freedom," said NCDP Spokesperson Ellie Dougherty.

This proposal is just the latest threat to Social Security and Medicare from Republicans in Congress. Earlier this year, Rick Scott, the chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, put forward a plan that was supported by RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel and other prominent Republicans that could put North Carolinians' Social Security and Medicare benefits on the chopping block. If Republicans get their way and Medicare and Social Security benefits are cut, it would have a significant financial toll on the [over two million](#) North Carolinians who rely on Medicare for their health coverage and [over two million](#) North Carolinians who receive Social Security benefits each month to help cover everything from rent to putting food on the table.

Ted Budd is a "Weak" Candidate Gambling On "Extremes" Positions

Reporting this week reveals U.S. Senate candidate Congressman Ted Budd is focused on "doubling down on conservative positions" that are "out of touch" with mainstream North Carolina voters. Budd's opposition to legislation that North Carolina's current Republicans Senators Burr and Tillis supports, including the gun safety compromise and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, represents a stark shift to the right and a "high-risk strategy" for a candidate in a swing state like North Carolina.

Read more: [Politico: GOP Senate hopefuls adopt a high-risk strategy for November](#)

- In many cases, facing their own fiercely competitive general election races, Republicans running this year are largely foregoing appeals to the center, instead doubling down on conservative positions — from opposing popular bipartisan reforms to celebrating the rollback of abortion rights.
- The stark difference in rhetoric and policy positions between those outgoing senators and the Republicans back home running for their seats also illustrates the deeply polarizing approach being taken by a new crop of GOP candidates.
- It was the same story in North Carolina. Retiring GOP Sen. Richard Burr also backed the gun bill and infrastructure package. But Rep. Ted Budd (R-N.C.), the nominee to succeed him, opposed both measures in the House and called the infrastructure plan "a liberal tripod horse for a socialist agenda."

Daily Beast: [Dems Always Swear They Can Win in NC. This Time They Mean It](#)

- Where Democratic strategists feel they have a strong candidate in Biden, they also believe they have a weak candidate in the Republican nominee: Rep. Ted Budd, a third-term congressman who cruised to victory in the primary after winning former President Donald Trump's endorsement.
- Budd was one of the 147 members to vote against certifying the 2020 election results and, on top of being a member of the far-right House Freedom Caucus, he's backed by the ultra-conservative PAC Club for Growth.
- DSCC chair, told The Daily Beast that North Carolina is certainly a priority for the committee. "I'm getting a lot of excitement on the campaign trail, it's a clear contrast between her and her opponent who is an extreme candidate. He's out of touch with the majority of North Carolina voters... she's gonna do extremely well," Peters said. "She's gonna build a lot of excitement on the journey."

NEW REPORT: Congressman Budd Took "Posh" Trips Bankrolled By Special Interests

A new report reveals U.S. Senate candidate Congressman Ted Budd took a series of "lavish trips paid for by his benefactor Club for Growth" throughout his time in Washington, DC. Totalling over \$30,000, the vacations included "posh" resorts that cost a minimum of \$900 a night – representing "contrasting images" to the "small-town guy" he portrays on the campaign trail.

Club for Growth has poured [millions](#) into boosting Budd's campaign and dragged him across the finish line in the [national](#) Republican primary.

Read more: [WGHP: Senate candidate Ted Budd's expensive trips paid for by benefactors draw criticism from Democrats](#)

- During his early years as the representative of North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, Rep. Ted Budd, like most of his colleagues, took advantage of his position to take several trips funded by outside groups.
- But now those sometimes-lavish trips that were paid for by his benefactor Club for Growth and other conservative organizations are drawing new scrutiny after members of his own party attacked him during the Republican US Senate primary, which he won, for the outside money his campaign had received.
- Budd's financial backing [often became the focus of his opponents](#), especially McCrory, during debates, when Budd wasn't there to respond.

[Club for Growth, a conservative political action committee](#), spent [about \\$14 million to back Budd during the primary](#). That was the same approach as his super PAC took in 2016, [when Budd emerged from a field of 17 and won his primary in the 13th District with 20% of the vote](#).

Budd is an avowed conservative [who votes against most spending plans in Congress](#). He campaigns on being a small-town guy from Advance who fights against big-government Democrats in Washington, D.C.

But those contrasting images also create a target, and Dory MacMillan, a spokesperson for Beasley, quickly took a shot at that target.

"The same special interests that spent millions to get Congressman Budd through the primary also paid for his luxury trips around the world," she said in a statement for WGHP. "It's the latest example of how Congressman Budd is another corrupt politician who wants power at all costs and plays by his own rules to help himself."

Said NC Democratic Party Chair Bobbie Richardson in a statement for WGHP: "Congressman Budd is a corrupt Washington politician who took tens of thousands of dollars in special interest money to go on luxury trips while failing to deliver results on the critical issues facing North Carolinians."

Chris Cooper, a government professor and elections expert from Western Carolina University, said that "when politicians talk of 'the swamp,' this is exactly the kind of thing they're referring to. There is nothing illegal here. Nor is there anything particularly out of the ordinary.

"But the cozy relationships between third-party groups (whether they be federal interest groups, or groups that are politically active in other ways) and elected officials certainly contributes to distrust in politicians and lack of efficacy in the political process."

"Voters do not like politicians getting special treatment by donors and interest groups," he said.

"Voters are rightly concerned that the policeman will be more responsive to the interest group than their constituents."

###

Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note

[Chapelboro.com:](#) [Protestors Turn Out in Pittsboro to Fight for Reproductive Rights](#)

[Chapelboro.com:](#) [NC AG Doesn't Commit to Lift 20-Week Abortion Ban](#)

[Chapelboro.com:](#) [NC Governor Signs Bill That Keeps Hemp Industry Lawful](#)

[Chapelboro.com:](#) [NC Board, Citing Fraud Probe, Rejects Green Party for Ballot](#)

[WRAL.com:](#) [Gov. Roy Cooper: 'Governors Are the Last Line of Defense' on States' Abortion Laws](#)

[Carolina Public Press:](#) [Would Cape Fear River Barrier Wall Do Enough to Stop Contaminants?](#)

[Carolina Public Press:](#) [Internet-Starved Counties See Hope for Broadband in ARPA Funds](#)

[Chapelboro.com:](#) [NC Governor Signs Executive Order Protecting Abortion Access](#)

[Chatham News + Record:](#) [Chatham County Named Most Generous County in NC](#)

[Triangle Business Journal:](#) [Chatham's Growth Extends West as Siler City Charts 200 New Homes](#)

[WRAL.com:](#) [High Hopes and Dashed Plans: GOP Policy Flips Prompt Calls for Further Action](#)