



**Chatham County Democratic Party
News You Can Use
March 31, 2025**

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CCDP Events

Make Protest Posters with Us, April 2, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Community Engagement Center, 628 East St, Pittsboro

Join us on April 3rd at the CEC anytime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.! We will have some supplies on hand in order to make posters to use at upcoming rallies and protests. Feel free to bring your own supplies to share as well. Join in the fun while preparing to do something serious!

Sign up at: [Make Protest Posters With Us!](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Other Local Events

**Hands Off! Pittsboro Fights Back, April 5, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Chatham County
Courthouse, 40 E Chatham St., Pittsboro**

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

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

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

Check out handsoff2025.com for more information. Sign up at: [Hands Off! Pittsboro Fights Back](#). **Note that this event is being held at the Chatham County Courthouse (Chatham County Justice Center), NOT the Chatham County Historic Courthouse in the traffic circle.**

Town Hall: Local Impact of Federal Budget Cuts, April 12, 2 – 4 p.m., Jordan-Matthews High School, 910 E Cardinal St, Siler City

US Congressman Richard Hudson is afraid to face Chatham voters in person. But, our representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly, Representative Robert Reives and Senator Natalie Murdock, understand the meaning of public service. They will be joining us for a town hall. And they want to hear from you! Leader Reives and Senator Murdock will be joined by Melissa Driver Beard, Executive Director of CORA, and Anna Tuell, Executive Director of Chatham Habitat for Humanity, to discuss the effect of federal budget cuts on Chatham residents. Start thinking of the questions you want to ask and RSVP at: [Town Hall: Local Impact of Federal Budget Cuts](#)

“In Our Court: The Fight for Justice in North Carolina” Conference, April 12, 9:15 a.m.- 5 p.m., NCCU Law School, 640 Nelson St., Durham

In Our Court is a timely educational series examining the vital role North Carolina’s judiciary plays in our daily lives. Through interactive breakout sessions, informative panel discussions, innovative art installations and storytelling — and inspiring keynotes from Former State Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley and Justice Allison Riggs — In Our Court will provide a vision for the state courts we deserve. As part of In Our Court, you can also experience the series’ traveling “Gavel-to-Gavel” Exhibition, providing historical and current perspectives about how North Carolinians are impacted by courts at every level.

This conference is sponsored by Common Cause NC, American Constitution Society, Democracy NC, Emancipate NC, HBCU Student Action Alliance, People’s Parity Project, Pro-Choice North Carolina, and Southern Vision Alliance.

Space is limited — RSVP to save your seat for this not-to-be-missed event at [In Our Court](#)

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

HB2 2.0: NC Republicans are back on their bathroom bullsh*t

North Carolina Republicans didn't learn their lesson in 2016, after the sweeping GOP "bathroom bill" HB2 did little else but lose North Carolina billions of dollars in income. Now, they're trying again in the Senate with SB 516, the "Women's Safety and Protection Act".

The big idea: Under SB 516, transgender individuals will not be allowed to use the bathrooms, changing rooms, or sleeping quarters of their choice in government-run buildings (like universities, schools, libraries, and more) if a cisgender person is in the room at the same time.

Why it matters: There is no evidence of transgender individuals in North Carolina enacting violence against cisgender women in bathrooms. The NCGOP is taking a far-fetched hypothetical staged in the most divisive part of today's culture battle to divide and distract voters, and they're using women as a shield to hide their real intentions.

Dig deeper: If the NCGOP cared about women, they'd be rushing to address the real problems North Carolina women are facing, instead of making up fake problems to fake solve.

Following the filling of S.B. 516 on March 25, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement:

"North Carolina Republicans have reintroduced this decade's version of the infamous 'bathroom bill.' HB2, the last iteration, cost the state billions of dollars amid national backlash. This is a ploy by the Republican party to distract and divide—and doesn't do a thing to address the pressing needs that North Carolinians are feeling in their pocket books and in their schools."

"The title of the bill is 'Women's Safety and Protection Act' and that pisses me off," said Chair Anderson Clayton. "You want to protect women? How about addressing North Carolina's maternal mortality rate, which is higher than the national average. You want to protect women? 35% of North Carolina women have experienced intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence. How about you do something about that, instead of making it easier for domestic abusers to buy and carry guns? You want to protect women? The median North Carolina woman earns over \$7,500 less than the median man. Women need the government to step up in a lot of different ways. Women do not need Republicans to attack the basic human rights of our transgender community."

You can thank Thom Tillis for Signalgate

ICYMI: The biggest story in the national news this week was the bombshell report that dropped from Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, on Monday. Goldberg was accidentally added to a group chat by a member of Trump's national security team on the popular Internet messaging app "Signal." Members of the message thread included Vice President JD Vance, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. Specifics

about an upcoming military operation were shared in detail, in real time, through this unsecured channel that included a member of the press.

The big idea: This is the kind of colossal failure of leadership that has become routine in Donald Trump's presidency. This sends a dangerous message about the fragility of our national security infrastructure.

The local angle (there is always one): Thom Tillis originally signaled that he was going to vote against Pete Hegseth's nomination for Secretary of Defense, even going so far as to encourage Hegseth's ex-sister-in-law to deliver testimony about Hegseth's history of domestic violence during his confirmation hearings. After Trump threatened Thom with a primary, he folded and voted to confirm Hegseth anyway. He cast the majority-making vote—selling out Hegseth's victims and putting a dangerous, incompetent man in charge of our nation's military operations. Pete Hegseth, and his irresponsible sharing of sensitive national security information via Signal message, would not be a problem if Thom Tillis had the spine to vote no.

###

Updates from State Senator Natalie Murdock (Highlights)

Senate Bill 50

Last week, I spoke out in opposition of Senate Bill 50: Freedom to Carry NC. This bill eliminates the current requirement to obtain a concealed carry permit in North Carolina, making it legal to carry a concealed firearm without first receiving a background check or safety training.

Law enforcement officers use concealed carry permits to differentiate between law-abiding citizens who have passed the permitting process and criminals who are carrying guns illegally. These officers have said that this bill would make their jobs more difficult and dangerous. Studies have found that states that passed legislation removing concealed carry permits have seen increases in firearm-related homicides and suicides, especially among domestic violence cases.

Most North Carolinians support gun rights AND believe in the importance of responsible gun ownership. The concealed carry permit process is not a barrier for law-abiding citizens. Clearing a basic background check, understanding the laws surrounding firearm usage, and passing a basic firearm skills test are not extreme policies but commonsense ones. Keeping North Carolinians safe is my top priority, and I will continue to fight against legislation that prioritizes guns over lives.

Goldston Computer Essentials for New Users, April 3, 4 – 8 p.m., Goldson Library, 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Road, Goldston

Chatham Community Library, in conjunction with the Kramden Institute, will offer a 4-hour, hands-on "Computer Essentials for New Users" class designed for adults with little

or no computer experience. **Upon completion of this class participants will receive a FREE refurbished laptop from the Kramden Institute.** Admission free, but registration is required. Register at: [Computer Class Sign-up](#)

New Local Bills I Have Recently Filed

SB 340: Funds for Pittsboro Fire Services.
SB 342: Funds for New Siler City Fire Station.
SB 341: Funds for Siler City Streetscape Project.

###

Links to Events, Trainings, and Actions by Affiliate Organizations

[ACLU of North Carolina](#)

[Chatham Voices for Justice](#)

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

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

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

[Democracy North Carolina](#)

[Democracy Out Loud](#)

[Indivisible](#)

[MegaphoneNC](#)

[NC Counts Coalition](#)

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

[New North Carolina Project](#)

[North Carolina Poor Peoples Campaign](#)

[Poder NC](#)

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

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

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Selected News and Opinion Stories

North Carolina

Associated Press: [North Carolina Judge Challenging Outcome of Race Wore Confederate Uniform in College Photo](#)

Axios Raleigh: (1) [How NC Gov. Josh Stein is approaching the GOP legislature](#), (2) [RTI International has cut more than 500 jobs due to federal funding uncertainties](#)

Ballotpedia: [North Carolina Ballot Measures: Historical Ballot Measures Factbook](#)

BBC: [US Politics Unspun](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Four of the Republican judges in the Jefferson Griffin case were his de facto running mates in a previous election](#)

Carolina Forward: [Protect North Carolina's Medicaid Expansion](#)

Carolina Public Press: (1) [Hunt, unlike predecessor, will 'build bridges' as lieutenant governor](#), (2) [Trump funding freeze has NC nonprofits worried about their future](#), (3) [After Worst Season in North Carolina History, Corn Farmers Want 'Hope'](#)

CBS17: [North Carolina minimum wage: Bill proposes increase to \\$22](#)

Chop Wood, Carry North Carolina: [3/26](#)

Indy Week: [What Dramatic Federal Cuts May Mean for North Carolina Libraries](#)

NC Health News: [Disability advocates, families push lawmakers for more services, funding](#)

NC Newslane: (1) [Western NC housing nonprofit executive warns 'lives will be lost' to DOGE weather service cuts](#), (2) [New poll: North Carolinians don't support major cuts to federal agencies targeted by Trump, Musk](#), (3) [Several bills filed in state Senate to increase NC's housing supply](#), (4) [North Carolina Senate proposal again seeks to bar transgender people from specified public restrooms](#)

ProPublica: [A Political Power Grab Redirected Funds for North Carolina's Sexual Abuse Survivors. Women in Crisis Paid the Price.](#)

The Assembly NC: (1) [What Are Trump's Plans for FEMA? Depends Who You Ask.](#) (2) [The Politics of Defining DEI](#)

WCNC: [NC's state health department loses \\$100 million in funding, more cuts expected](#)

WHQR: [NC state government announces partnership with ChatGPT](#)

WUNC: (1) [New applications roll in for NC's \\$600M in Opportunity Scholarships,](#) (2) [NC lawmakers closer to eliminating concealed carry permits,](#) (3) [Democrats file long-shot bills at the NC legislature,](#) (4) [NC Senate to vote on health care cost transparency bill,](#) (5) [EPA's proposed cuts impacts RTP campus](#)

Yahoo! News: [With the Dept. of Education on the chopping block, these are the states that rely most on federal school funding](#)

U.S./International

ABC News: [Museums and parks must remove some items related to race and gender](#)

America, America: [Reveling in Terror Tactics](#)

AP News: (1) [DOGE cuts are testing some conservative voters' faith in special election for Matt Gaetz's old seat,](#) (2) [Judge orders government to preserve Signal messages about Houthi military strike](#)

CBS News: [Trump administration pauses some green card applications as part of aggressive vetting effort](#)

Civil Discourse: (1) [Alien Enemies Act,](#) (2) [The Houthi PC Small Group,](#) (3) [Big Law Fights Back,](#) (4) [Wisconsin and, Strangely, Alabama](#)

CNN: (1) [Trump administration cancels at least 68 grants focused on LGBTQ health questions](#) (2) [Old US-Canada relationship is 'over,' warns Canadian prime minister Mark Carney,](#) (3) [Officials say texts sent by Waltz and Ratcliffe in Signal chat may have damaged US' ongoing ability to gather intel on Houthis](#)

Government Executive: [FEMA set for elimination, Noem says, amid bipartisan House reform proposal](#)

Heather Cox Richardson: Letters From An American: [March 23,](#) [March 24,](#) [March 25,](#) [March 26,](#) [March 27,](#) [March 28](#)

Hopium Chronicles: (1) [Yes, People Are Disappearing In America](#), (2) [The Atlantic Exposes The Lies Of Hegseth, Gabbard And Trump](#), (3) [Learning How To More Forcefully Denounce And Challenge Trump's Dangerous Weakening Of America](#) (4) [Besides The Bluster, The Blather And Fascistic Bloodlust, There Is Also Failure, Incompetence, Weakness, A Worsening Economy And A Public Rapidly Losing Faith](#), (5) [Trump's Madness Is Tanking The Economy And Causing Voters To Lose Faith In Him](#) (6) [Sunday Hopium – Trump Had a Bad Week and We Need To Keep Working Hard Everyone](#), (7) [Today Is a Do Day, Mad Donald's Tariffs Are Wrecking the U.S. Economy and His Standing With Voters](#)

Huff Post: [Trump Admin Pulls Research Funding To Protect Pregnant Women From Domestic Violence](#)

KFF Health News: [Trump Turns Homelessness Response Away From Housing, Toward Forced Treatment](#)

Let's Address This: (1) [Trump Goes Full Fascist In Rounding Up Americans](#), (2) [Trump's War on Immigrant Kids](#)

Lucid: (1) [Four Ways to Think About Trump-Musk: Plunder Operation, Engineered Incompetence, National Sabotage Syndicate, Leader\(s\) Enrichment Vehicle](#), (2) [Why We Resist](#)

MindWar: [Hanging By a Handmaid: SCOTUS To Rule Whether Due Process Still Exists](#)

NBC News: [Speaker Mike Johnson floats eliminating federal courts as GOP ramps up attacks on judges](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [Opinion | Hillary Clinton: This Is Just Dumb](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [Opinion | This Is Why Young People Really Voted for Trump](#)

NY Times: On Politics: (1) [The importance of being SpaceX](#), (2) [The Wisconsin lawsuit Musk doesn't talk about](#), (3) [Shrugging off Democrats' attacks on Musk](#)

NY Times: The Evening: (1) [An extraordinary security breach](#), (2) [Fallout from Signal leak](#), (3) [More Signal texts released](#), (4) [10,000 jobs cut at U.S. health agency](#)

NY Times: The Morning: (1) [Gaza's return to war](#), (2) [Secrets on Signal](#), (3) [The self-deporters](#), (4) [How Much Does America Spend?](#)

NOTUS: (1) [Republican Senators Want the Signal Group Chat to Be Investigated — Just Seemingly Not by Them](#), (2) [HHS Said It's Pulling Billions in Leftover](#)

[COVID-19 Funds. The Cuts Go Far Beyond the Pandemic.](#), (3) [DOGE is Slashing HHS Personnel and Health Projects. States Are Already Feeling the Strain.](#), (4) ['This Is a Safe Media Space': Behind the Strategic Insulation of the MAHA Movement](#)

Politico: (1) [Dems seethe over war plan group chat. How to stick it to the GOP is an open question.](#), (2) [The Potential Legal Fallout of the Signal Group Chat Leak](#), (3) [What the Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez mega-rallies are really about](#), (4) [RFK Jr.'s massive cuts stun staff, leave senior employees scrambling](#), (5) [Senior Republican joins Dems in raising alarm over White House's flouting of funding bill](#), (6) [If Trump Defies the Courts, It Will Backfire Badly](#)

PoliticsNC: [Gallup poll shows looming problems for Trump and GOP in midterms.](#)

Popular Information: (1) [How the Social Security Administration is dodging a federal court order](#)

ProPublica: (1) [NIH Ends Funding to Study the Health Effects of Climate Change](#), (2) [How Elon Musk's SpaceX Secretly Allows Investment From China](#)

Public Notice: [Trump's hostile takeover of big law](#)

Reuters: (1) [USDA cuts hit food banks, risking hunger for low-income Americans](#)

Talking Points Memo: (1) [Alien Enemies Act Deportations Were Carefully Orchestrated To Keep Courts In The Dark](#), (2) [Trump's Pick For Ambassador To South Africa Actively Opposed Fight To End Apartheid](#)

The Assembly NC: [What Are Trump's Plans for FEMA? Depends Who You Ask.](#)

The Bulwark: (1) [How to Think \(and Act\) Like a Dissident Movement](#), (2) [Wisconsin Supreme Court Race a Test of Musk's Reach](#), (3) [Some Weird Alliances Are Breaking Out Among Democrats](#), (4) [This Is the Land of Wolves Now](#), (5) [Trump-Approved Immigration Reform? Biz Leaders Are Still Dreaming](#), (6) [Trump 'Cards': Foreign Policy Without Principle](#), (7) [When 'Make America Healthy Again' Actually Means the Opposite](#)

The Contrarian: (1) [Cowardice and Capitulation Stain the Legacy of Once-Esteemed Mega Law Firm](#), (2) [GOP voters have been gaslit and hoodwinked. Yet they still believe Trump.](#), (3) [The Real Harm in DOD's Revisionist History](#), (4) [The Signal is Flashing Red](#), (5) [When Signal met the Senate](#)

The Message Box: [Make No Mistake: Trump and Musk are Going After Social Security](#)

The Status Kuo: (1) [The Renditions Are Backfiring](#), (2) [They Ought To Be Fired](#), (3) [Three Signals that I Very Much Like](#)

Time: (1) [Signal-Gate Worse Than Trump's Past Intel Scandals in 1 Way](#), (2) [Why Trump Pulled Elise Stefanik's Nomination](#), (3) [Pat Ryan Interview: Why Democrats Need 'Patriotic Populism'](#)