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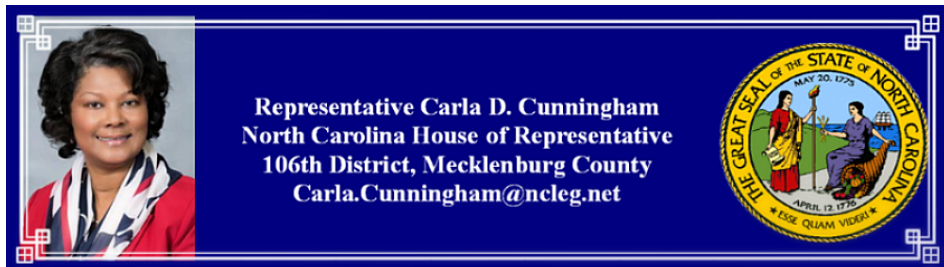
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Rep. Carla Cunningham February 2020 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2020 5:39 PM

To: Steve Johnston



Rep. Carla Cunningham: House Committee Assignments 2017-2018 Session

Appropriations

Appropriations Health and Human Services

Commerce

Energy and Public Utilities

Health

Wildlife Resources

Non-Standing Committee

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

Appointments by North Carolina House of Representative Speaker Tim Moore

Minority Health Advisory Council

North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

North Carolina Institute of Medicine Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program

February 5, 2020

Rep. Carla Cunningham Named to House Interim Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Carla Cunningham was named to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. Interim committees meet in between legislative sessions to study and issue recommendations on important issues.

“I am excited to serve on this committee because health care and providing services to citizens in need are top legislative priorities for me,” stated Rep. Cunningham.

Interim legislative committees will study and make recommendations on important issues

prior to the General Assembly's next legislative session scheduled to begin on April 28.

"I hope to use this committee as an opportunity to make bipartisan progress on mental health services and expansion of health care coverage. The consequences of failing to provide affordable and comprehensive mental health and health care services to all citizens are too great. We must continue to work to make people's lives better," declared Rep. Cunningham.

Rep. Cunningham represents Mecklenburg County and District 106 in the North Carolina House.

###



One-Stop Early Voting for the March 2020 Primary Election

- [List of One-Stop sites and hours by county](#)

One-Stop Early Voting

One-stop absentee voting (commonly known as "early voting") allows any registered voter to cast an absentee ballot in person on select days prior to Election Day. Unlike on Election Day, when registered voters can only vote at their specific precinct, one-stop voting allows registered voters to vote at any one-stop absentee voting site in the county. One-stop sites will have all the ballot styles for a given election at each site.

When you present to vote at a one-stop site, you may change your name or address, if it needs to be updated.

Find the One-Stop Sites in your County: [One-stop Site Lookup](#)

Same-Day Registration

Persons who are not registered in a county may register at one-stop sites (early voting sites) during the early voting period. Upon completion of registration, the newly-registered voter can immediately vote at that same one-stop site. This process is known as same-day registration.

Same-day registrants must attest to their eligibility and provide proof of residence. A voter attests to her eligibility by completing a Voter Registration Application and affixing his/her signature. Knowingly attesting to false information is a Class One felony. After the voter's attestation, he/she must prove his/her residence by presenting any one of the

following showing his/her current name and current address:

- North Carolina driver license
- Other photo identification issued by a government agency. Any government-issued photo ID is acceptable, so long as the card bears the voter's current name and current address.
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing the voter's name and address
- A current college/university photo identification card paired with proof of campus habitation

Within two business days of the person's registration, the county board of elections will verify the registrant's driver license or social security number, update the voter registration database, search for possible duplicate registrations, and proceed to verify the registrant's address by mail. The registrant's vote will be counted unless the county board of elections determines that he or she is not qualified to vote.

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Use the [Voter Lookup Tool](#) to check your registration

Voters are not required to show photo ID for the March 2020 primary election.

- In a December 31 [order](#), a federal district court blocked North Carolina's voter photo ID requirement from taking effect. The injunction will remain in place until further order of the court.

No se le exigirá a los votantes que muestren una identificación con foto durante las elecciones primarias del marzo de 2020.

- En una [orden](#) del 31 de diciembre, un tribunal federal de distrito bloqueó el requisito de identificación con foto para votación en Carolina del Norte. El requerimiento permanecerá en vigencia hasta nueva orden de la corte.



Proposed Duke Energy Rate Hike

Proposed Duke Energy Rate Hike

Last September Duke Energy filed an application with the NC Utilities Commission to increase residential rates by 6.7%, commercial rates by 5.1%, and industrial rates by 4.8%. The North Carolina Utilities Commission is a state agency created to regulate the utility rates. It is the oldest regulatory body in state government.

The Utilities Commission is currently considering the proposed rate increase and accepting

public input. You can email the Commission using this [email form](#). Include docket number “E-7 Sub 1214” in the docket number line.

[Duke Energy is seeking rate hike costing the average residential customer \\$97 per year. Here's how you can weigh in.](#)

News & Record

[Duke Energy wants to raise utility bills to clean up coal ash](#)

WCNC

[‘You’re responsible for the cleanup’: Duke Energy customers protest 6.7% rate increase](#)

WSOC

[Monday numbers: A closer look at Duke Energy Carolinas’ proposed rate hike](#)

NC Policy Watch

[Info on Proposed Rate Increase from Duke Energy](#)

Duke Energy



NC Infant Mortality Suffers With No Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid expansion would help North Carolina’s economy by bringing federal tax dollars into the state to use for health care services. The Cone Health Foundation estimated by 2022 this would amount to \$4.7 billion dollars and 37,000 jobs into our state’s economy.

Medicaid expansion would close the health care coverage gap for 634,000 people by 2022. Expansion not only helps those folks, but also all of us who currently have coverage but face higher health care costs because we all ultimately pay for ER uncompensated care of the uninsured.

Health care jobs and lower costs are very important, but perhaps the most heart-breaking consequence of failing to expand Medicaid is that more babies die when states do not act, particularly African-American babies.

The American Journal of Public Health recently found that states that expanded Medicaid saw significant drops in their infant mortality rates compared with states like North Carolina. The impact was particularly strong among African-American families.

North Carolina needs to expand Medicaid so our most vulnerable and precious citizens can get the start to life that they deserve.

[Here's what could help save more black infants' lives. But NC isn't doing it.](#)

The News & Observer

[These are the people who suffer because of NC's stubborn refusal to expand Medicaid](#)

NC Policy Watch



NC Attorney General Releases Top 10 Consumer Complaints of 2019

Attorney General Josh Stein shared the top 10 consumer complaints that his office received in 2019.

Last year, people in North Carolina filed 14,462 consumer complaints. In the course of mediating those complaints, the NC Department of Justice (NCDOJ) secured consumer refunds of nearly \$580,000, of which more than \$293,000 went to refund elder fraud victims.

The top 10 consumer complaints of 2019 are:

- 1. Telemarketing/Do Not Call:** Telemarketing complaints are related to robocalls, spoofed calls, and calls that violate the Do Not Call Registry. NCDOJ received 1,545 telemarketing complaints.
- 2. Lenders/Credit:** Lender and credit complaints involve issues with mortgage lenders, creditors, debt adjusters, credit reporting and recovery, and collection agencies. NCDOJ received 1,477 lender and creditor complaints.
- 3. Motor Vehicles:** Motor vehicle complaints involve issues related to car rentals, sales or purchases of new and used cars, and car repair issues. NCDOJ received 1,381 motor vehicle complaints.
- 4. Elder Fraud:** Elder fraud scams cover a range of scams that target older adults, including imposter and sweetheart scams. NCDOJ received 1,249 elder fraud

complaints.

5. **Home Repair:** Home repair scams involve home improvement, repair, construction, and care. NCDOJ received 1,215 home repair complaints.

6. **Health Care:** Health care complaints include health services and products, and hospital, doctor and healthcare-provider services. NCDOJ received 783 health care complaints.

7. **Cable TV/Satellite:** Cable TV and satellite complaints are related to cable TV and satellite service providers with a state-issued franchise. NCDOJ received 780 cable TV and satellite complaints.

8. **Landlord-Tenant:** Landlord-tenant complaints involve disputes over the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. NCDOJ received 680 landlord-tenant complaints.

9. **Telecommunications:** Telecommunications complaints involve issues with cellular providers and other telephone companies. NCDOJ received 675 telecommunications complaints.

10. **Home Furnishings/Appliances:** Home furnishing and appliance complaints include issues with furniture companies and appliance repair. NCDOJ received 421 home furnishings and appliance complaints.

North Carolina consumers can visit ncdoj.gov to learn more about ways to protect themselves from scams and fraud. People can also [request a presentation](#) for a group or organization about public safety issues, scams and frauds, and ways to prevent crime and protect yourself and your information. If you believe you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam, file a complaint with our Consumer Protection Division at ncdoj.gov/complaint or by calling 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.



Be Wary of Medicare Scams

The North Carolina Insurance Commissioner is warning Medicare recipients to be on alert for scams. The Insurance Department has received reports of phone calls with the Caller ID listed as “Senior Center” but the number is unavailable. The callers are saying they are conducting a Medicare survey and are asking for personal information or asking if those they have called if they have received their new 2020 Medicare card.

“If someone is calling, claiming to be from Medicare and asking for your Social Security number or bank information, hang up, it’s a scam,” said Commissioner Causey. “First, Medicare won’t call you. Second, Medicare will never ask for your Social Security number or bank information,” he added.

If someone is threatening to cancel your benefits if you don’t give up information or money, report it to the Department’s Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program or SHIIP or the N.C. Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-855-408-1212.



Our Children Have a State Constitutional Right to a “Sound Basic Education”

North Carolina students have a state constitutional right to a “sound basic education.” The NC Supreme Court famously confirmed this right in its 1997 decision in the *Leandro* case. In the two decades since that decision NC lawmakers have struggled to properly fund public education.

Recently, new litigation has signaled a renewed commitment from the courts to hold legislators’ accountable so that every child can receive a “sound basic education.”

This week Superior Court Judge David Lee signed a consent order that establishes a plan of action of what the State must do to serve our students. The consent order is agreed to by education advocates and the State of North Carolina.

What is in the consent order follows the recommendations of an independent consultant (known as the “WestEd Report”) hired to determine what North Carolina needs to do to meet its constitutional commitment to provide every child with a “sound basic education.”

The WestEd report recommends that the State invest about \$8 billion more over the next eight years. That is a big number that shows how poorly recent legislative budgets have treated our public schools and early education programs.

You can [read the report here](#).

[Court finds 'considerable, systemic work is necessary to deliver' on Leandro](#)

EdNC

[Governor's commission adopts recommendations to improve state's public schools](#)

NC Policy Watch

[Editorial: With agreement on facts, now implement solutions to bring quality education to all](#)

Capital Broadcasting Company

[Editorial: Shortchanging Public Education](#)

The Transylvania Times

[Editorial: No new state budget is a loss for more than teachers](#)

The News & Observer

[Our view: State Senate failure](#)

Winston-Salem Journal

[NC teachers want info before responding to pay impasse](#)

Associated Press



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