

For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

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Greetings:

With the election around the corner, the General Assembly has been gearing up for a meeting on November 15th, a week after elections.

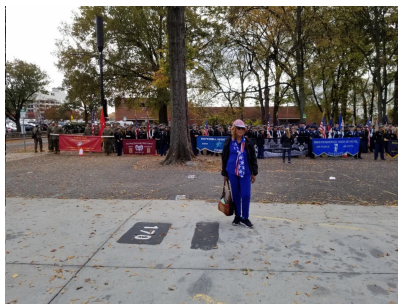
After the election, you should not continue to receive those mailers and see all of the television ads. If you have not already, please go vote.

Joyce Waddell

An Executive Order was Signed Establishing Commission on the Future of Public Universities in North Carolina

The signed Executive Order establishing the Commission on the Future of Public Universities advises the Office of the Governor and the public on the status of public higher education governance in North Carolina and on strategies to successfully position the state's universities and colleges to meet the needs of future students.

Veterans Day Parade



Senator Waddell participated in the Charlotte Veterans Day Parade and spoke with many other participants about the importance of Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

The Leandro Education Funding Lawsuit

The North Carolina Supreme Court issued an order Friday upholding a lower-court decision ordering state officials to transfer funds for a massive state public education improvement plan. The order which is a major step in the long-running Leandro education funding lawsuit sends the case back to a trial court, which is expected to recalculate how much money that should be.

The case's remedial plan, known as the Leandro Plan is an agreement between school boards and the state intended to fix what the high court said was broken with the state's education system. The Leandro Plan is a result of a long legal battle over whether schools were adequately resourced and run. The Leandro Plan calls for at least \$5.6 billion in new, annual education spending by 2028 to shore up school resources, as well as numerous policy changes concerning school improvement and accountability.

The recent court's opinion orders the transfer of funds from state executives to educational entities, without the standard process of lawmakers appropriating funds through a bill. Executives can only access funds through appropriations, but the court's opinion upholds an argument that the state's Constitution — which guarantees adequate education access — suffices as an appropriation of funds in this instance.

Friday's opinion states the court has the "inherent power" to order a remedy for constitutional violations. The opinion upholds the November 2021 order by late Judge W. David Lee that called for state executives to transfer the \$1.75 billion to state education authorities to implement the remedial plan's second and third years. The opinion does not explicitly state the remainder of the eight-year plan must be funded.

The Leandro Plan would expand the money available for Smart Start and the funding for the WAGE\$ program, which pays early childhood teachers more money for their education and continued employment.

While this court battle has been raging on, our schools are suffering from a lack of resources to provide adequate opportunities for our students. When schools have adequate resources, we are better able to pay teachers good wages, provide additional education opportunities for the students and provide safe infrastructure.

I believe when we fully fund our public education system, we create the ability for global competitiveness. Our public education system has been taking hits against it for years, but we are an intelligent society that truly understands that fighting for education for all students is imperative to our communities.

Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Many of her precincts have changed which makes the election much more competitive. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

Thanks to those who already voted and those who donated. It is appreciated.

[CLICK HERE TO](#)

DONATE \$25; \$50; \$100; \$250
OTHER AMOUNT \$ _____

For the past week our weather has been perfect, but don't get caught off guard. Even with the great weather, influenza and COVID is still around and getting vaccinated is a great way to combat the transmission. Be safe as you move about the community.

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