

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week

I have been engaged in meetings throughout District 40. I go to meetings in the district to meet and greet members of our community to understand the needs of those I represent.

If you need to contact my office, please do not hesitate to do so. Although, I may not be in the Raleigh office, it is still open and available.

Joyce Waddell



**Grandparents
Scholarship
Event**

*Senator Waddell
conducts a special
activity at the September
2023 Grandparents
Scholarship Event.*



*The foundation provides
educational scholarships
to high schools seniors
who are in legal custody
and being raised by their
grandparents.*



Long Session

Long session is coming to a close at the North Carolina General Assembly. Most times, there is little business left to complete after the biennium budget has been passed. Since the budget is complete, legislators are now focusing on redistricting, which is typically established following the return of each decennial census.

Currently, the General Assembly is in regular session (or the "long session") beginning in January of each odd-numbered year. The budget is created during the "long" or "regular" session. Our state operates on a biennial budget, which means our state budget covers two fiscal years and adjourns to reconvene the following even-numbered year for what is called the "short session". Adjustments can be made to the budget for the second year, which is typically called "short" session. North Carolina's state fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following calendar year.

Though there is no limit on the length of any session, the "long session" typically lasts for 6 months, and the "short session" typically lasts for 6 weeks. Occasionally, in the case of a special need, the governor may call a Special Session of the General Assembly after it has adjourned for the year.

The Senate has 50 members. Though its members represent districts that are larger than those of their colleagues in the House, its prerogatives and powers are no greater, other than (since 2017) the power to advise and consent to the governor's cabinet nominees. The president of the Senate is the lieutenant governor of North Carolina, but the lieutenant governor has very limited powers and only votes to break a tie. Before the office of lieutenant governor was created in 1868, the Senate was presided over by a "speaker".

The *president pro tempore* appoints members to standing committees of the Senate, and holds great sway over bills.

The qualifications to be a senator are found in the state Constitution: "Each Senator, at the time of his election, shall not be less than 25 years of age, shall be a qualified voter of the State, and shall have resided in the State as a citizen for two years and in the district for which he is chosen for one year immediately preceding his election."

UNC Charlotte Tour

*UNC Charlotte's Chancellor provided a tour of the university's two newest research centers, **CIPHER** (Center for Computational Intelligence to Predict Health and Environmental Risks) and **BATT CAVE** (North Carolina Battery Complexity, Autonomous Vehicle and Electrification Research Center).*



Senator Waddell, some members of the Mecklenburg legislative Delegation, and others participate in an update for UNC Charlotte.



Senator Waddell participates in a simulation with special programming.

Vaccines

The newest version of COVID has been approved for the latest strain of the virus. If you get your vaccine for Influenza, please consider getting one for COVID or the updated booster.



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