

For Immediate Release



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly *For the Week*

I have been engaged in meetings throughout District 40. As promised, I am providing the highlights of some of the provisions in the 2023-2024 budget.

According to leadership, we will be voting on the presented maps for redistricting at the General Assembly next week.

Joyce Waddell

Barber Scotia College Convocation



Senator Waddell congratulates the new president of Barber Scotia College and gives suggestions for going forward as she attends the 2023 Convocation.



Senator Waddell tours the Mary McCloud Bethune room of history located at Barber Scotia College as she attends the 2023 Convocation.

Bills

The Governor VETOED:

H 600, Reg Reform
S678, Clean Energy

Although the Governor was unsatisfied with certain provisions of the following bills, he did not veto them and

The Governor will allow them TO BECOME LAW:

H 259, Budget
H 361, Disability Rights Bill
S 452, DOJ/High School Athletics Association Bill

The Governor SIGNED:

H 125, NC Health & Human Services Workforce Act
H 142, Protect Our Students Act - AB
S 211, Permit Multistate Water/Sewer Authority
S 579, Prevent Harm to Children
S 477, Amend Bus. Corp. Act/Bus Opp Disclosures
S 531, Dam Safety Law Clarification
H 8, Various Statutory Changes

**Annual Hat Luncheon**

Senator Waddell participates and wins the Unique Hat contest at the Alma Adams Annual Mad Hattitude luncheon and auction.

**Some Budget Highlights**

Medicaid expansion: Provides federally funded health care coverage to more than 500,000 North Carolinians who work jobs that don't offer health insurance and who also do not make enough money to afford insurance on the private market.

Raises for teachers, state workers: Gives most state employees a 4% raise this fiscal year, which began July 1, and a 3% raise next fiscal year. The pay increase will be retroactive. That means an average state worker with a \$57,377 annual salary is looking at a raise to just under \$60,000 this fiscal year and about \$61,400 next year. Beginner teacher pay would jump from \$37,000 to \$39,000, and again up to \$41,000 next year, an increase of 10.8% over both years combined.

I sponsored bills each biennial for increase in teacher salaries.

Raises for Council of State: Gives the governor and other members of the Council of State — North Carolina's collection of 10 statewide elected officials — five-figure raises. The governor's salary would be \$198,120 this year, a 19% increase.

School vouchers: Qualifies more families for publicly funded private school vouchers under a massive expansion of the state's Opportunity Scholarship. The program currently serves mostly lower-income families, providing applicants with a voucher to help pay for private school tuition for their children. The expansion would make families of all incomes eligible and its cost could grow to more than \$500 million per year by 2031.

Tax cuts: Accelerates planned cuts to the state's personal income tax rate. The state's current rate is 4.99% and will decrease to 4.6% in 2024, 4.25% in 2025 and 3.99% in 2026 and beyond.

Vaccines

Pop up locations for the COVID or Influenza vaccine are located throughout the state. Please consider getting those vaccines. It could save the life of you or a family member.



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