

**\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\* Latest Updates from the NCGA**



**From** Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>  
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**Date** 2023-11-03 17:31



## NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

November 3, 2023

### Updates on Noteworthy Votes



Below are the additional bills on which I voted over the past two weeks. You can find a full list of bills I have voted on this session [here](#).

#### Key bills on which I voted YES:

- **[SB274, Senior Care Options](#)**. Expands the definition of home assistance service provider to protect and safeguard North Carolina residents by requiring all providers to be licensed. This definition now includes providers that assist with meal preparation; cleaning and organizing the home; home management; retail and grocery shopping; errand services; and travel to and from medical appointments, social events, and community activities.
- **[SB409, Various Changes to Criminal and Civil Laws](#)**. Modifies the criminal law for breaking and entering a vehicle of any kind to increase the punishment depending on the value of the property taken from the vehicle, permits the aggregation of multiple convictions of financial crimes for sentencing, and provides jurisdiction to the court of each county where one of the financial crimes occurred.

#### Key bills on which I voted NO:

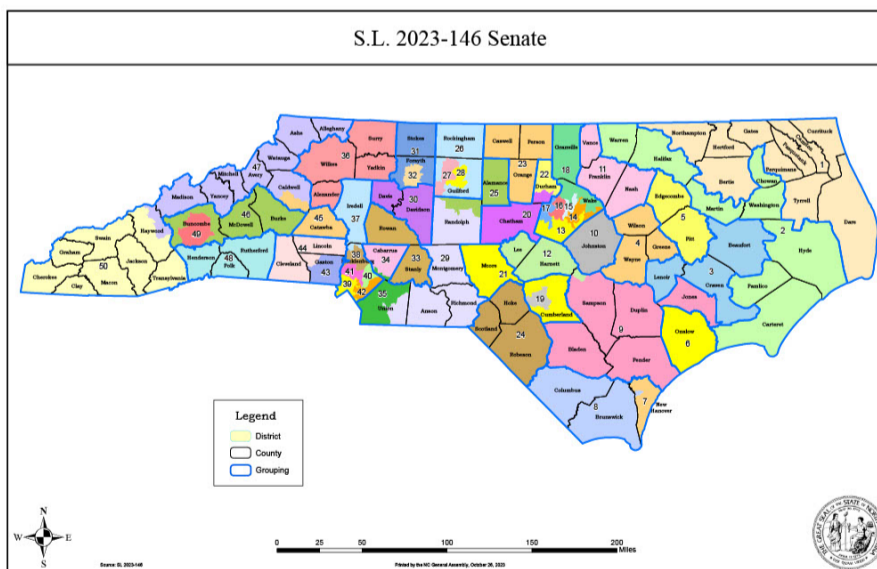
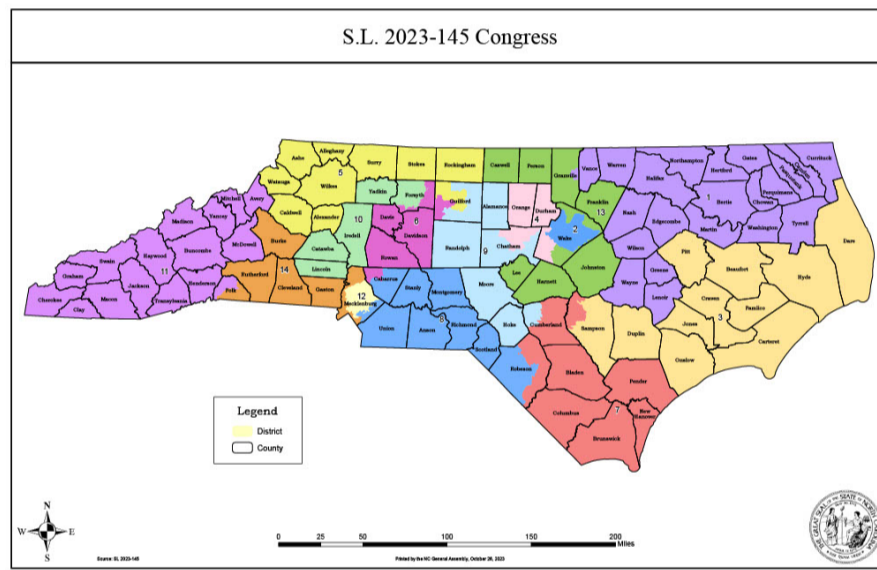
- **[SB757, Realign Congressional Districts 2023/CST-4](#)**. See the section on "Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee Updates."
- **[SB758, Realign NC Senate Districts 2023/SB758,2 Ed](#)**. See the section on "Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee Updates."
- **[SB759, Watauga County Board of Commissioners/LST-2](#)**. Establishes five single-member electoral districts for the Watauga County Board of Commissioners. Currently, the five members of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners are elected at-large. I voted no because this change will create districts with a heavy partisan bias. More info [here](#).
- **[SB761, Additional General Assembly Appointments](#)**. This act appoints people to various public offices on the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. This list of appointments includes seven new superior court judges, replacement members for most of the State Board of Transportation, and [other problematic appointments](#). A lawsuit is underway already and a [three judge panel enjoined several of the appointments on the basis that the Legislature lacks Constitutional authority](#) to make such appointments. Lawsuits over constitutional issues, such as the one pending now over [SB512](#) (the bill that allowed the NCGA to make these appointments), are decided by three-judge panels. In the future, these lawsuits may instead be heard by the special judges the legislators appointed. Read more [here](#).
- **[HB898, House Redistricting Plan 2023/H898 Ed 2](#)**. See the section on "Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee Updates."

### Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee Updates



Last week, the Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee met to vote on the **two new proposed Congressional district maps (SB756 and SB757)**, the **Senate district map**, and the **House district map** that will be used for the 2024 elections and for the rest of the decade. Despite the public's continued calls for transparency and fairness through this process, committee chairs announced that **no public comments would be permitted on these maps**, except written comments via the Redistricting Public Comment Portal.

The maps give a heavy partisan advantage to Republicans, double-bunk three Democratic incumbents (including me), and have districts drawn in unusual ways with seemingly little regard for the criteria traditionally used to judge a map's fairness, like compactness. **The new Senate map makes major changes to SD41, splitting the towns of Davidson and Cornelius, putting each part in new Senate districts (SD37 and SD38 respectively), and moves SD41 to West and Uptown Charlotte.** The new Congressional map keeps most of Charlotte in Rep. Adams' district but moves the rest of North and West Mecklenburg County into a new Congressional District (NC-14) made up of mostly rural counties to the west of Charlotte.



When these maps went to the floor for a vote, the comment portal closed and legislative leaders did not make the comments available for public review. However, my office made a record of all the comments made prior to the portal's closure, which can be found [here](#). The overwhelming majority of the comments oppose the gerrymandered maps, noting that they fail to keep communities together, are not compact, are not fair or competitive districts, and give an unfair partisan advantage to the party in power. Citizens also noted that the maps will result in the needs of various communities going unmet. I cannot tell whether the chairs of the Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee read or responded to the public's written comments. More info [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

### Senator Marcus in the Community



North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate

SENATOR NATASHA R. MARCUS  
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COMMITTEES:  
  
JUDICIARY  
REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS  
APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET  
APPROPRIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE, NATURAL AND  
ECONOMIC RESOURCES

October 02, 2023

Sec. Joseph R. Hopkins  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1 South Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Honoring Steph Curry with Naming of Davidson I-77 Interchange

Dear Secretary Hopkins,

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for Davidson's request to name our I-77 highway interchange at Exit 30 in honor of one of Davidson's favorite sons — Davidson College graduate, phenomenal basketball player who wears the #30 jersey, and all-around good man — Steph Curry. His athletic and scholarly achievements combined with his charitable works here in Davidson make him a local hero. Our residents would appreciate the opportunity to recognize his accomplishments and local connection in this unique way.

It's my understanding that several residents have worked as a team to send you an application and that the Town of Davidson will be passing a resolution in support of the request at their next meeting. Please accept this letter as my show of support and request for approval of the application. Exit 30 is the perfect spot to honor Steph.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natasha Marcus

I support the request to name Davidson's I-77 highway interchange at Exit 30 in honor of Davidson College graduate and phenomenal basketball player, Steph Curry. You can read more about the plans to consider this request [here](#).



Last week, I attended the Carolina BalloonFest in Statesville, North Carolina. We didn't get the full experience because of the weather, but I hope to attend again next year!



This week, I attended a networking lunch hosted by [Running Start](#), a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging young women to run for office.



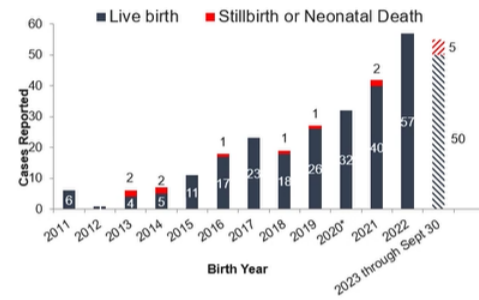
Yesterday, I spoke at the Pines of Davidson about how the new maps impact Davidson voters.

### Congenital Syphilis Key Measures 11-2-23

#### Number of congenital syphilis cases

Data Jan 1- Sept 30 2023

55 cases, 3 stillbirths, 2 neonatal deaths



#### Proportion of cases prevented

Data Jan 1 – Sept 30 2023

181 women with syphilis were pregnant

55 cases of congenital syphilis were diagnosed

prevented = 70%

Data sources: NC EDSS HIV/STD Syphilis Line List and Congenital Syphilis Reports 11/1/23

Today I met with Matt Gross, Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs at the NC Department of Health and Human Services and leading epidemiologists to discuss the rise in syphilis cases in Mecklenburg County. The increase in these cases statewide, especially in Mecklenburg, is associated with rising infant mortality rates. Some federal funds are being used to track cases in North Carolina to reduce infection rates. The Governor requested state funds for communicable disease prevention, but the NCGA did not provide it this biennium. Given that prenatal care reduces the rate of congenital syphilis and reduces the rate of infant deaths, we are hopeful that North Carolina can reverse this trend by educating and caring for pregnant women.

### Saturday, November 4: Community Shred Event in Cornelius



\*Due to heavy volume, the event may end prior to 11:00 a.m. due to truck capacity, equipment failure, bad weather or any other unforeseen event.

\*Please do not bring items that can be recycled or trash.  
Ex: Junk Mail, Newspapers, Magazines

The Cornelius Police Department will host a Community Document Shredding Event in the student parking lot of William A. Hough High School (12420 Bailey Rd) on Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. This event is free to the community. There will be a four-box maximum per resident or business. The public is encouraged to bring documents such as obsolete tax documents, financial statements, canceled checks, insurance documents, business records, or any records that they want safely destroyed to this event. More info [here](#).

## Sunday, November 5: Pumpkin Smash at Fisher Farm Park



The Town of Davidson plans to host a Pumpkin Smash event on Sunday, November 5, from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM at Fisher Farm Park (21215 Shearers Rd). There will be various ways to smash pumpkins, including by shooting it with an arrow at the Archery Range. All pumpkin remains will be composted.

Bring your pumpkins to the event, or drop them off at Davidson Town Hall and Community Center (251 South Street) in advance between regular business hours (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM) starting Monday, October 30 through today, Friday, November 3. Even if you can't participate in the event this year, please consider donating your pumpkins to be composted. More info [here](#).

## COVID Updates and Information



As a reminder, every U.S. household can now place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered to their home. The U.S. government will continue to make COVID-19 tests available to uninsured individuals and under-served communities through existing programs. Please contact a [HRSA health center](#), [Test to Treat site](#), or [ICATT location](#) near you to learn how to access low- or no-cost COVID-19 tests. Learn more [here](#).

The updated vaccines are available now. I got mine last month, just in time to avoid getting sick despite exposure to someone who later tested positive! For updated vaccine-related recommendations depending on health and age, click [here](#). To find a vaccine near you, click [here](#).

## Links to Helpful Information

**Domestic Violence Hotline:** If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, please call [Safe Alliance](#) at **704-332-2513** and they can help you.

**Mecklenburg's County Bar [website](#)** provides a list of pro bono resources for those unable to afford legal counsel.

**Mecklenburg's Department of Community Resources** provides individuals and families with [immediate access](#) to a diverse range of Mecklenburg County Health and Human Services programs and community partner services in Community Resources Centers throughout the County.

**Mecklenburg's Energy Assistance Programs:** Do you need help paying your heating or cooling bills? Mecklenburg offers [two different programs](#) to help eligible low-income households with their immediate energy needs.

**Property Tax values and histories in Mecklenburg County** can be searched on [this site](#) that includes links to Polaris and information about past assessments. You can find more detailed information on real estate values on the [Mecklenburg](#) site.

**Suicide Prevention:** If you have thoughts of harming yourself, **please call or text 988**, the Suicide Prevention Hotline for help.

**Unclaimed Cash!** Visit [NCCash.com](#) today to see if you have unclaimed property under the supervision of the NC Treasurer's office. More info [here](#).

**Voter Information:** You can find your current information on the [NC Voter Lookup page](#).

## Free Property Tax Assistance Services



Do you need help with your property taxes? The [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#) is providing free assistance to help homeowners prepare their NC property tax relief applications. Call **980-256-7952** or visit their website to learn more [here](#).

## Financial Update on the State's General Fund

<b>Beginning Cash, Friday, October 20</b>	<b>15,743,678,355.47</b>
<b>Add Receipts:</b>	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	2,513,271,634.00
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	1,093,094,465.82
<b>Less Disbursements:</b>	
Payroll	972,551,019.92
State Aid	390,234,521.83
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	155,719,000.66
Tax Refunds/Distributions	148,799,753.30
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	1,283,189,105.32
<b>Ending Cash, Friday, October 27</b>	<b>16,401,551,054.26</b>
<b>Less Reserved Cash:</b>	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	1,047,579,814.72
Other Reserves	15,546,345.80
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	133,837,075.59
Carry Forward Reserve	280,084,063.32
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	591,900,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	95,328,642.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	58,554,941.00
Information Technology Reserve	108,943,174.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	326,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	155,642,170.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	8,380,211.23
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Reg Economic Dev Reserve	0.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	0.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	0.00
Savings Reserve	4,750,001,113.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	1,000,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	872,402,573.43
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	10,000,000.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	25,000,000.00
<b>Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, October 27</b>	<b>6,638,036,193.19</b>

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, October 27. OSC provides a weekly update on the State’s General Fund cash position which can be found at [osc.nc.gov](https://osc.nc.gov). **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$6.638 billion.**

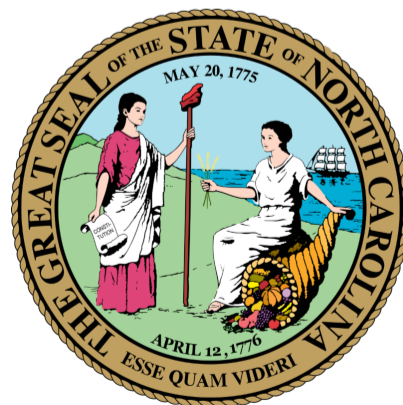
The State Controller is North Carolina’s chief fiscal officer and serves as an independent resource to ensure the financial integrity of the State.

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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.



Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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