



**Chatham County Democratic Party
News You Can Use
December 9, 2024**

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CCDP Events

2024 Holiday Party-Open House, December 15, 2 – 5 p.m., Community Engagement Center, 628-A East St., Pittsboro

The next four years will be challenging. We will need one another more than ever before as we continue our fight to protect democracy in 2025 and beyond.

Please join us for our holiday party to renew our commitment to shared values, celebrate the victories of all our local candidates, and enjoy great company, good food, fun and maybe a silly game or two. You’ll also learn about our plans to form the Chatham Resistance! (Spoiler Alert: We have no intention of accepting tyranny.)

Hope you can join us! Stop by any time. FYI: We are collecting donations for the CORA Food Bank again this year – if you would like to contribute, please bring your donation to the party!

Sign up at: [Holiday Party 2024](#)

Other Upcoming Events

Virtual Town Hall: The Election is (Almost) Over: Now What?, December 12, 6 p.m., sponsored by ACLU North Carolina

Now that the election results are official, we know you may have a lot of questions. ACLU North Carolina’s Executive Director, Chantal Stevens, will moderate a panel of our leaders in Policy, Legal, Organizing, and Communications to analyze the election results and outline our advocacy strategies moving forward. The panel will be followed by a short Q&A. We will be recording the event for public release, so just know that if you ask a question, it may be included in the recording. This event will be a great opportunity to learn what we’re up against now that the election cycle is over and how you can help advocate for civil rights in the coming months.

[**RSVP here to sign up and receive the Zoom link.**](#)

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

North Carolina Republican Party Attempts to Throw Out 60,000 Votes to Undermine Voters in Supreme Court Race

Following Jefferson Griffin and the North Carolina Republican Party’s attack on over 60,000 voters to undermine fair elections and threaten democracy, North Carolina democratic leaders released the following statements on November 26, 2024:

“I’m honored to have won a statewide election to keep my seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court. But now, my opponent and the NCGOP are recklessly alleging that more than 60,000 ballots should not have been counted, including my parents,” **said NC Supreme Court Justice Allison Riggs**. “My parents aren’t alone. There are so many others whose voting rights are being unfairly attacked by my opponent and the NCGOP. Enough is enough. Their stories need to be told. I was elected to defend constitutional rights, and I will never stop doing that.”

“The NCGOP is trying to throw out more than 60,000 ballots because they lost the Supreme Court election by a few hundred votes. Two of those voters are the parents of

Justice Riggs. North Carolinians want leaders focused on results, not retribution,” **said House Democratic Leader Roberts Reives.**

“The NCGOP mailed out a “NOTICE” in an attempt to intimidate more than 60,000 voters across North Carolina who voted both legally and under the archaic rules set by the NCGOP themselves, including erasing the 3-day window for absentee ballots to be accepted as long as they were postmarked by election day. If the NCGOP does not like these outcomes, they only have themselves to thank,” **said NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton.**

Breaking: We're Defending North Carolina Voters in Federal Court

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement on December 6, 2024:

“Today, the North Carolina Democratic Party has filed a lawsuit to defend North Carolina voters in federal court. Justice Allison Riggs won a majority of votes to retain her seat on the NC Supreme Court. Instead of respecting the results of the election, Jefferson Griffin and Republicans are attempting to throw out over 60,000 votes. Those 60,000 voters are Republicans, Democrats, veterans, seniors, teachers, our neighbors. No North Carolinian deserves to have their vote thrown out in a callous power grab - but this is no surprise from the party of insurrectionists. We are prepared to take on Republicans. They can't stop the results of an election just because they don't like the fact that we won. This is a democracy - and we will use every tool that is provided to us by the Constitution of these United States to uphold the will of the people. See you in court.”

Recount Confirms Justice Allison Riggs Defeated Jefferson Griffin

Justice Allison Riggs is the winner of her race for N.C. Supreme Court. This has been confirmed by a statewide machine recount. Justice Riggs' win margin was identical in the recount—she won by 734 votes out of over 5.5 million cast.

- Justice Riggs' win is an incredible victory for all who value civil rights and reproductive freedoms, and should be widely celebrated.
- Her opponent, Judge Jefferson Griffin, should concede immediately.
- Trying to engineer an electoral outcome by disenfranchising more than 60,000 voters, including active duty and retired service members, is anti-democratic.
- Democrats stand for counting all votes—regardless of the party of the voter who cast them. As a long-time civil rights and voting rights attorney, Justice Riggs has always stood up for voters' ability to cast a ballot that counts, regardless of their party affiliation. This is about accepting the results of free and fair elections.
- Judge Griffin has the right to pursue a recount, which proceeded smoothly and confirmed his loss. But as a sitting judge, he must be held accountable for pursuing legal challenges that are based on failed legal theories.

- The legal arguments put forth by Judge Griffin and the NCGOP have already been struck down by the state Board of Elections, state courts, and federal Courts.
- On Judge Griffin's list of ballot challenges: Justice Riggs' own parents, an Orange County Commissioner and Republican County Commissioner Taylor Vorbeck from Lee County, among many others.
- The vast majority of ballot challenges are based on an argument that has already been rejected by the NC State Board of Elections and dismissed by a federal court—Griffin's and the GOP's claim that voters who do not have the last 4 of their SSN or a driver's license number on their state voter file must have their vote tossed is legally unsound.

Statement from Chair Clayton, December 4, 2024:

“The statewide recount confirmed what North Carolinians already know: Justice Allison Riggs won her race and will keep her spot on the NC Supreme Court. Instead of challenging 60,000 ballots with baseless claims, Jefferson Griffin needs to do the right and honorable thing and concede now.

The voters have spoken and the NCGOP needs to respect the will of the people. Jefferson Griffin and the NCGOP are trying to find new ways to toss out the results but North Carolinians and the rest of the country are paying close attention to their next steps. They are going down a sinister path and are seemingly willing to do whatever it takes to silence the will of the people by preventing Justice Riggs from taking the seat she earned through their votes. Her victory is decisive, especially compared to Chief Justice Newby's 401 margin of victory in 2020. We look forward to seeing Justice Riggs sworn in next month to continue serving the people of North Carolina.”

Senate Overrides Governor Cooper's Veto of SB 382

[Senate Bill 382](#), branded by Republicans as a third round of aid after Hurricane Helene, makes a litany of changes to executive power, appointments and elections. It [shifts power away from newly elected Democrats](#), and [makes deadlines for voting absentee and counting absentee ballots more strict](#). Governor Cooper called the bill “a sham” and said “it does not send money to Western North Carolina but merely shuffles money from one fund to another in Raleigh.”

The House vote will take place on Wednesday, December 11th.

House Republicans Mike Clampitt, Mark Pless and Karl Gillespie are all from western North Carolina and all voted against SB 382. None have said if they plan to change their votes. Should they do so again, a veto override would fail.

Senator Sydney Batch Elected as the New Senate Democratic Leader

Senator Sydney Batch (D- Wake) was elected by the senate democratic caucus to serve as the new Senate Democratic Leader. She replaces Senator Dan Blue who served in the role since 2014. Senator Batch has served in the senate since 2021 and represents senate district 17 which includes the town of Apex.

Statement from Chair Clayton, December 2, 2024:

“On behalf of the North Carolina Democratic Party, I want to recognize Senator Blue for being a trailblazer for our state and thank him for his years of service and leadership for our party. I want to congratulate Senator Batch on becoming the new Senate Democratic Leader. We support Senator Batch as she leads our caucus of committed public servants who are fighting for every voice across our state.”

NCDP Chair Statement Honoring the Life and Legacy of Yvonne Johnson

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement on December 5, 2024:

“On behalf of Democrats across our state, I want to pay tribute to the life and legacy of former Greensboro Mayor and City Councilwoman Yvonne Johnson. Mayor Johnson dedicated her life to her community and to public service. Her love for her city and her state was undeniable and her constituents know the impact she’s left behind. We honor Mayor Johnson and I want to send my heartfelt condolences to her family and to the people of Greensboro.”

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District 20 Updates from NC State Senator Natalie Murdock (Highlights)

Senate Overrides Veto of SB 382

On Monday, the Senate overrode the governor's veto of Senate Bill 382 - Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes which had been rushed through the house and senate on November 20th. The bill strips authority from the incoming governor and attorney general, and makes various changes to the elections process while masquerading as a Disaster Relief Bill. This move by the general assembly is undemocratic and is an insult to the 4.5 million North Carolinians who participated in the election. These citizens made their voices heard, electing a governor and attorney general they trusted to govern and oversee critical functions, only to see their choices undermined by an effort to strip those officials of their rightful authority.

The bill is extensive, but here are several of the extreme policy changes that will occur if this bill becomes law.

Court Packing:

- Creates 2 Special Superior Court Judge Positions: 1 nominated by Speaker of House, 1 nominated by President Pro Tempore of Senate;
- Eliminates elected judicial seats for Bryan Collins (Wake) and L Todd Burke (Forsyth);
- Abolishes the NC Court Commission;
- Takes supreme court and court of appeals vacancy appointment power away from governor by limiting his choices to a list provided by political party leaders.

Board of Elections Authority:

- Moves authority over the state's Board of Elections from the governor to the state auditor's office - Includes appointment and administrative authorities.
- Bans the attorney general from taking stances in court that don't align with the opinions of state legislative leaders, which would prevent him from arguing against unconstitutional laws that violate voting rights, first amendment rights, and much more.
- Requires the governor to fill judicial vacancies from a list of recommendations provided by the political party of the departing judge.
- Shortens the ballot curing period from 10 days to 3, which would severely limit voters' ability to ensure their vote is counted.

Governor Cooper made the following statement on his veto of SB382:

"This legislation is a sham. It does not send money to Western North Carolina but merely shuffles money from one fund to another in Raleigh. This legislation was titled disaster relief but instead violates the constitution by taking appointments away from the next Governor for the Board of Elections, Utilities Commission and Commander of the NC Highway Patrol, letting political parties choose appellate judges and interfering with the Attorney General's ability to advocate for lower electric bills for consumers. Instead of giving small business grants to disaster counties it strikes a cruel blow by blocking the extension of better unemployment benefits for people who have lost jobs because of natural disasters. Finally, it plays politics by taking away two judges elected by the people and adding two judges appointed by the legislature, taking away authority from the Lieutenant Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction and more."

Changing of the Guard: NC Senate Democrats Leadership Election Results

Monday evening (December 2), the NC Senate Democratic Caucus convened to elect its leadership team for the upcoming legislative session. The following members have been chosen to lead the Caucus:

Senate Democratic Leader: **Senator Sydney Batch** (District 17)
 Senate Democratic Minority Whip: **Senator Jay Chaudhuri** (District 15)
 Senate Democratic Caucus Secretary: **Senator Julie Mayfield** (District 49)

The Caucus leadership will play a critical role in advancing Democratic values, standing up for North Carolina's families, and holding the Republican majority accountable during the legislative session.

Before the election of leadership, **Democratic Minority Leader Dan Blue** announced his desire to decline another term as Leader. Of the election of **Senator Sydney Batch** he said, "I am excited to pass the torch into the capable hands of Senator Batch. Her vision for the future of the Senate Democratic Caucus builds upon the work we started and will ensure the end of the Republican supermajority and to a new Democratic Senate majority which will improve the lives of all North Carolinians."

Senator Sydney Batch, elected as the Senate Democratic Leader, shared the following remarks:

"It is an honor to be chosen by my colleagues to lead the Senate Democratic Caucus during such a pivotal time for our state. I am deeply grateful for Senator Dan Blue, whose leadership has guided the Caucus over this past decade. As we turn the page to a new chapter, I thank him for bringing forth his many years of experience gained through a historic tenure in both chambers of the General Assembly to deliver results for the people of North Carolina.

North Carolinians are counting on us to protect their rights, expand opportunity, and fight for policies that prioritize people over politics. Our Caucus remains focused on creating a North Carolina where every resident can build the life they want for their families and themselves, and we are ready to work to get North Carolina back on the right track."

Rural Life Initiative

I along with my colleague from the House, Rep. Donna White, joined Commissioner Beth Pugh Farrell, and Capitol Grange President, Barden Culbreth, to announce The Rural Life Initiative.

The Rural Life Initiative is a national project undertaken by a number of Granges in seven pilot states, including North Carolina. This partnership between Pfizer and the Grange is to bring resources to rural communities that are already struggling with addressing healthcare needs, whether its access to care or access to accurate information, local granges are taking this money and investing in grassroots community needs.

North Carolina was the largest recipient of grants funding. The Capitol Grange, the local Raleigh chapter, has reached out and directed its grant money to the [Carolina Cancer Foundation](#).

###

Links to Events, Trainings, and Actions by Affiliate Organizations

[Common Cause North Carolina](#) and [Common Cause](#)

[Community Organizing for Racial Equity \(CORE\)](#)

[County-to-County; Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Petitions Near Me](#)

[Democracy North Carolina](#)

[MegaphoneNC](#)

[NC Counts Coalition](#)

[Neighbors on Call; Upcoming Events, Canvasses, NC Policy Update.](#)

[New North Carolina Project](#)

[Red, Wine, and Blue; <https://redwine.blue/events/>](#)

[Swing Left Durham/Chapel Hill/Chatham](#)

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Selected News and Opinion Stories

Alt Right Delete: [The Billionaires Strike Back](#)

America, America: [Two Faces of Fascism](#)

America, America: [These Times Demand Courage](#)

American Bar Association: [Judges](#)

Axios: [NC Democrats oust Dan Blue, elect Sydney Batch as Senate minority leader](#)

Axios: [What North Carolina companies are thinking about potential Trump tariffs](#)

Cardinal & Pine: ['I feel powerless': The NC Supreme Court race could hinge on whether thousands of likely legal ballots are thrown out](#)

Carolina Journal: [Lara Trump leads Tillis in Senate race poll, but Cooper would have a slight edge](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Recounts, protests prolong wait for some NC election results](#)

Carolina Public Press: [List of voters challenged. NC residents unhappy about being on list.](#)

Heather Cox Richardson: Letters from an American: [November 24](#), [November 25](#), [November 26](#), [December 1](#), [December 2](#), [December 4](#),

Hopium Chronicles: (1) [Keep Fighting Trump's Outrageous 3](#), (2) [Republicans Thought They Were Getting A Bro-Podding Business Guy. They - And We - Are Getting A Russian-Backed Monster](#), (3) [Gray Takes The Lead In CA-13](#) (4) [Fighting Trump's Unacceptable 4](#), (5) [Learning How To Tell Our Story More Effectively Has Done](#), (6) [My Interview With DNC Chair Candidate Ken Martin](#), (7) [For Dems It's A Time For Re-Imagination, Re-Invention And Innovation](#), (8) [Another Good Jobs Report](#),

Indy Week: [Gov. Cooper should commute sentences for those on NC death row](#)

NC Health News: [Medicaid expansion solidified Cooper's legacy](#)

NC Newsline: [NC Republicans move to put tax, voter ID amendments on ballot](#)

NC Newsline: [While the U.S. veered right, western NC moved left. Here's what experts say caused it.](#)

NC Newsline: [The NC Democratic Party Sues To Prevent the State Elections Board from Throwing Out Votes](#)

News & Observer: [NC's unfair voting maps gave GOP Congress majority](#)

News & Observer: [NC Senate Democrats elect Sydney Batch as new caucus leader](#)

NY Times: On Politics: (1) [John Fetterman wants Democrats to stop freaking out](#), (2) [Biden the father vs. Biden the institutionalist](#), (3) [A Harris ally says Biden broke a promise](#), (4) [On Politics: Fighting over a 'flawless' campaign](#)

NY Times: The Morning: (1) [Obama's big lesson](#), (2) [Trump's mass deportations](#), (3) [Turnout wasn't the problem](#), (4) [A pardon for Hunter Biden](#), (5) [Trump's climate agenda](#)

Politico: [Republicans \(Quietly\) Disagree With Trump on the Fed](#)

Politico: [Why Democrats should pick — or pass over — potential contenders for DNC chair](#)

PoliticsNC: (1) [Disdain for democracy and voters](#) , (2) [Compromised](#)

Popular Information: [North Carolina Supreme Court candidate seeks to disqualify 60,000 voters — including his opponent's parents](#)

ProPublica: [How Donald Trump Plans to Take Spending Control From Congress](#)

Public Notice: [Trump ran on identity politics and won](#)

Public Notice: [Tulsi Gabbard and Trump's scheme to gut the intel agencies](#)

Public Notice: [A government by toxic men, for toxic men](#)

Public Notice: [Trump hoodwinked voters about his worst policy commitments](#)

The Assembly NC: [Rural North Carolina Saw Gains for Republicans](#)

The Assembly NC: [How Republicans Came to Love Early Voting](#)

The Assembly NC: [Sydney Batch Ousts Longtime Senate Leader Dan Blue](#)

The Assembly NC: [Why This Western N.C. Republican Voted Against the Helene Relief Bill](#)

The Bulwark: (1) [Hegseth Brings His Nomination Back from the Brink](#), (2) [The Two Nominees for Whom Trump Is Prepared to Go to War](#)

The Guardian: [Democrats should stop mocking Trump's ground game and start learning from it](#)

The Message Box: (1) [Resistance 2.0: A New Approach for Trump's Second Term](#), (2) [The Complicated Politics of the Hunter Biden Pardon](#)

Time: [2024 Campaign's Real Story, According to Campaign Advisors](#)

Time: [Pete Hegseth's Nomination Is on Shaky Ground](#)

Time: [6 Reasons Why Joe Biden Pardoned His Son Hunter](#)

Time: [The Opposition to Trump Has Never Been This Deflated](#)

Time: ['Disaster Dodged': Gaetz's Meltdown Draws Relief and Envy](#)

Washington Post: [The Campaign Moment](#)

WRAL: [Amid protests, Senate overrides Cooper's veto of bill stripping power from governor, other Democratic officials](#)

WUNC: [How NC helped determine control of Congress](#)

WUNC: [Tim Moore defends new Congressional map as he files to run](#)