



Chatham County Democratic Party
News You Can Use
October 14, 2024

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Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Canvassing, Canvassing, and More Canvassing

We had another great weekend. **Together, we knocked on over 1,600 doors and talked with 624 voters!!** Canvassing is the most effective way to increase voter turnout. It's as simple as that!

We're determined not to lose momentum. **On Tuesday at 5 pm, we will launch our very first weekday canvass. And, it will be special.**

We will do our best to get canvassers out the door quickly and ask everyone to return to the Community Engagement Center by 6:45 pm. **Representative Reives will join us to enjoy pizza and share stories.** (Rep. Reives met this week with Vice President Kamala Harris, so I imagine he will have some fun stories to share.)

Click [here](#) to sign up to join us for this special canvass.

2024 General Election Early Voting Poll Greeting

Poll greeting is one of the most important activities volunteers do. We greet voters at the polls, offer them the Sample Democratic Ballot, encourage them to vote for the candidates on BOTH SIDES of the ballot, and thank them for voting. We also provide a friendly face for folks who may not be entirely comfortable or who may be unsure about the process of voting in person.

Sign up at [2024 General Election Early Voting Poll Greeting Sign Up](#). After you sign up, Mobilize will send you a confirmation email with a link to download CCDP's 2024 Poll Greeting Guidelines and a link to optional, but highly recommended, Poll Greeters Training Zoom sessions for both new and experienced poll greeters.

Join Our Phone Banking Team

Now is the time to ramp up enthusiasm and engagement! Early voting begins October 17th. CCDP has a goal of delivering 28,000 votes for all 28 Democratic candidates on the ballot in November. To reach that goal, we are calling registered Democrats and left-leaning Unaffiliated Voters to make sure they know that their vote matters. Please volunteer TODAY - By talking to voters on our call lists, you will help make sure that our side shows up in November.

Sign up at: [Join Our Phone Banking Team](#)

CCDP Volunteer Trainings

[Volunteer Orientation](#), October 20 @Zoom

Call for Office Volunteers for CCDP's New Siler City Office

CCDP's Siler City Office is now open! The location is 235-A North Raleigh St, Siler City, with current office hours set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We hope to add evening hours on Tuesday and Thursday and Saturday afternoon hours. Office volunteers are needed to ensure every voter knows when, where, and how to vote! In

addition, we are gearing up for a host of functions including canvassing, phone banking, poll greeting, writing, envelope stuffing, etc. We need you!

If you are interested in helping in the office, please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EA9AC29A1F8C61-51887249-siler#/>

###

Other Upcoming Events

Board of Elections Business/Absentee Meeting, October 15, 5 p.m., Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its business/absentee meeting on October 15, 2024, 5 p.m.

The public may view the meeting online at <https://meet.goto.com/809247405>.

Racial Equity Fundamentals Workshop (Sponsored by CORE), October 19, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Holy Trinity United Holy Church, 309 S. Sears Avenue, Siler City

CORE's Racial Equity Fundamentals Workshops build base knowledge of equity concepts and terms. This workshop begins conversations about race and racism while exploring ways to drive change in our systems, shift power, and promote community healing as we move toward our shared liberation.

Register at: <https://www.corenc.org/education> .

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

Join the Biden-Harris team as they continue their **Democracy at Work Series: Keeping Communities Safe from Gun Violence** on **Wednesday, October 16th** from **3 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** If you are attending this session or others, be sure to register!

Early voting opens **THIS WEEK on Thursday, October 17!** Check your registration status and make a plan to vote using the **I WILL VOTE** website!

Our digital messages this week are:

Allison Riggs - Justice Allison Riggs was appointed to the North Carolina Supreme Court by Governor Cooper in 2023, and she became the youngest woman ever to serve on the Court. Justice Riggs has spent her legal career fighting for the rights of North Carolinians, including arguing two cases before the United States Supreme Court. Like

the US Supreme Court, North Carolina's Supreme Court holds a Republican supermajority (5-2), and we must **keep Justice Allison Riggs** in her seat. Our Republican-led State Supreme Court is the reason we have such gerrymandered districts and continue to deal with partisan games that have real effects on North Carolinians' lives.

Carolyn Thompson - Judge Carolyn Thompson was appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals by Governor Cooper in 2023. Judge Thompson has a heart of service and is an ordained minister. She's spent over 20 years in the judicial system fighting for North Carolinians. It's imperative that we keep Democrats in seats on our courts because, many times, our courts are the last line of defense against corruption in our state. We must **keep Judge Carolyn Thompson** on the NC Court of Appeals.

Plan Your Vote - October 17 begins early voting in North Carolina! Make a plan for when you're going to head to the polls. Go to **iwillvote.com** for a list of what you need to be able to vote and to ensure you're registered. North Carolina has a voter ID law that's in effect, so be sure you take your valid photo ID. Consider reaching out to friends and family, especially those you know who haven't voted before, and invite them to join you when you go. It's highly recommended that you vote early in your county to avoid precinct restrictions and lines at the polls. Early voting allows you to vote when it's most convenient for you, and it **ends on Saturday, November 2 at 3 p.m. Election Day is November 5, 2024**, and remember, if you vote on Election Day, you must vote in your designated precinct location. Remember, **when we fight, we win!** Happy Voting!

Indigenous Peoples Day - October 14th is Indigenous Peoples' Day – a day to reflect on and amplify the voices of indigenous people across our country. Our country has a long and ugly history regarding the treatment of the Indigenous People, and it's up to us to center their voices and stand in solidarity with their fight. There is power in numbers, and when we stand together, we can truly make changes to finally create the country we know the United States can be for *everyone*.

Combatting GOP Disinformation on Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts **NEW**

With many Republicans spreading and amplifying conspiracy theories and disinformation about the government and their disaster relief efforts in the west, below you'll find helpful articles, talking points, and fact checks to help combat the false narratives in your communities.

Reminder: only use credible sources when posting articles about the rescue and relief efforts in western North Carolina.

Mark Robinson amplified disinformation about a lack of resources coming from Governor Cooper and the federal government. Robinson quickly attempted to politicize the situation in a desperate attempt to change the news cycle after **the big September surprise that he previously called himself a "black nazi."**

While Mark Robinson publicly called on Governor Cooper to deploy more resources to help people in western North Carolina, records showed that he was the only Council of State member to not vote on Cooper's request to declare a state of emergency.

Donald Trump, Republicans in congress, and Elon Musk are now claiming that FEMA is running out of money because they spent most of their funding and resources on handling border crossings but as the Washington Post headline states, **“No, Biden didn’t take FEMA relief money to use on migrants — but Trump did”**

- “In 2019, the Trump administration, in the middle of hurricane season, told Congress that it was taking \$271 million from DHS programs, including \$155 million from the disaster fund, to pay for immigration detention space and temporary hearing locations for asylum seekers who had been forced to wait in Mexico.”

Senator Tillis pushed back against Trump’s lies while appearing on CBS’ Face the Nation on Sunday saying: “We have the federal resources that we need. Immigration policy is not affecting the flow of resources to western North Carolina.”

Senator Tillis praised the efforts of federal, state and local officials for their response to the devastation out west:

"I've lived in North Carolina for almost 30 years. I've seen a lot of storms come through this state. **I'm actually impressed with how much attention was paid to a region that wasn't likely to have experienced the impact that they did.** The unique nature of just the sheer land mass, and then the unique terrain within Western North Carolina is very challenging. Are we going to score? You never score an ace on a disaster response. But the only thing more difficult than a hurricane response is what we've seen in the western part of the state."

Later on Friday, Senator Tillis and Senator Ted Budd put out a joint statement:

“Our National Guard and local, state, and federal first responders on the ground have been working tirelessly to respond to this disaster with the resources they have. Given the unprecedented extent of the devastation and complexity of search and rescue operations, it would be helpful to assign an active-duty military leader who has extensive experience with operations of this magnitude to lead moving forward.”

FEMA has already provided more than \$45 million in direct financial assistance to individuals and families affected by the storm, **including more than \$17 million to North Carolina.** (As of October 4, 2024)

The White House also approved \$100 million in emergency funding to help North Carolina rebuild roads and bridges more quickly.

The conspiracy theories and misinformation about the federal government's response to the disaster have gotten so out of control that the Federal Emergency Management Agency created an entire page on its website, "[Hurricane Helene: Rumor Response](#)," aimed at countering unverified claims circulating online.

North Carolina state Sen. Kevin Corbin, a Republican, denounced what he described as "conspiracy theory junk" circulating about FEMA stealing money from donations for disaster relief for Western NC:

"PLEASE help stop this junk. It is just a distraction to people trying to do their job. Folks, this is a catastrophic event of which this country has never known," said Senator Corbin. **NC State Representative Lindsey Prather, a Democrat representing the Asheville, told HuffPost:**

"The biggest issue is rumors and fake memes and photos of people being trapped in areas around the county, and we send folks out to rescue them, and there's no one there to be rescued," Prather said, noting that such efforts require resources that could be used elsewhere.

Senator Blue put out the following statement on the disinformation surrounding Hurricane Helene efforts:

"Over the past week, the people of Western North Carolina have shown the country their strength and resilience in response to the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Elected officials from both parties have been on the ground, working tirelessly to help our communities recover, while staying in close contact with those of us in Raleigh to ensure the support they need is delivered as quickly as possible."

"Legislative Leaders, Governor Roy Cooper, and President Biden have been working together to coordinate across all levels of government, and are leading an effort that puts the people of NC first. It is disappointing and shameful to see certain individuals spreading falsehoods about the ongoing recovery efforts. North Carolina is facing one of the greatest challenges in our state's history, and it is simply not the time for politicians to try and score cheap political points. What our Western North Carolina communities need now is genuine support, not lies or manipulation by bad-faith actors."

> Updates from Governor Cooper (Updated October 4, 2024) NEW

North Carolina Emergency Management and officials are cautioning the public about false Helene reports and misinformation being shared on social media. Today, NCEM launched a [fact versus rumor response webpage](#) to provide factual information in the wake of this storm.

Today, Governor Cooper requested and was granted the addition of Swain and Mecklenburg counties to North Carolina's Major Disaster Declaration. Residents affected by Helene in these counties can apply for FEMA assistance by going to disasterassistance.gov

This week, President Biden approved 100% FEMA reimbursement for six months. To apply for Individual Assistance, visit disasterassistance.gov. President Biden also approved Governor Cooper's request for active-duty military personnel and equipment to support ongoing operations in Western North Carolina. Aviation assets deployed earlier this week, and military personnel have deployed throughout the day today. That is in addition to the more than 1,200 North Carolina National Guard who are currently deployed, conducting search and rescue missions and distributing food, water and other supplies. In order to ensure that all resources are available for use in the response to Hurricane Helene, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 316, which permits the use, sale, and distribution of dyed diesel fuel for highway use.

> **White House Update on Support for North Carolina (October 4, 2024)** **NEW**

Staffing: In North Carolina, **more than 575 FEMA staff** are on the ground, with more arriving daily. Over **38 state and federal Urban Search and Rescue teams** are in North Carolina helping people. As of today, these teams have **rescued or supported over 2,500 survivors**. Dozens of Disaster Survivor Assistance staff are on the ground in affected areas to help survivors to apply for FEMA assistance and connect them with additional state, local, federal and voluntary agency resources. **Over 1,000 National Guard Bureau troops** have deployed to North Carolina to support response and recovery efforts. To date, troops have delivered nearly one million pounds of food, water and other supplies. **Experienced FEMA leaders** from around the country are in the field to bolster response efforts. **Field Coordinating Officer Thomas McCool, Region 4 Regional Administrator Robert Samaan, Region 3 Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney, Region 7 Regional Administrator Andrea Spillars** and **Chief Financial Officer Mary Comans** are on the ground overseeing response operations.

Financial Support: FEMA has provided **more than \$17 million in housing and other types of assistance** to over **10,000 households**.

Sheltering: Over 100 families who cannot return home are staying in safe and clean lodging through FEMA's Transitional Shelter Assistance program. Transitional Sheltering Assistance is available for North Carolinians displaced by Tropical Storm Helene. Residents in declared counties who have applied for disaster assistance may be eligible to stay temporarily in a hotel or motel paid for by FEMA while they work on their long-term housing plan. People do not need to request this assistance. FEMA will notify them of their eligibility through an automated phone call, text message and/or email, depending upon the method of communication they selected at the time of application for disaster assistance. Twenty shelters are housing just **over 1,000 occupants**. Mobile feeding operations continue to help survivors in heavily impacted

areas, including three mass feeding sites in Buncombe, McDowell and Watauga counties.

Power and Cellular Restoration: As of today, **more than 72% of originally reported power outages have been restored. Nearly 8,000 crews** continue to assist with remaining power restoration efforts. Cellular restoration continues to improve, with **less than 30% of cellular sites down** as of today. As of today, only **two counties have 50% or more cell sites down**. Two Federal Communications Commission surveillance teams are conducting inspection operations on equipment in targeted counties. FEMA is boosting response coordination by providing **40 Starlink units to ensure first responders** can communicate with each other. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has full mobile cellular service.

Commodities: Commodity distribution, mass feeding and hydration operations are underway in areas of western North Carolina. FEMA commodity shipments are enroute to support operations. The agency is on track to meet requested delivery timelines for meals and water. Voluntary organizations are supporting feeding operations with bulk food and water deliveries coming via truck and aircraft. The Salvation Army has **nine mobile feeding units** supporting the massive operation. The American Red Cross is engaging in targeted distribution of emergency supplies in low-income communities with high levels of minor or affected residential damage.

###

Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Update from NC Congresswoman Valerie Foushee

It has been two weeks since Hurricane Helene made landfall in the United States, leaving a path of destruction across the Southeast. Our entire state is reeling from the aftermath of this unprecedented storm and the devastation it has wrought upon our neighbors in Western North Carolina. I am extremely grateful for the ongoing emergency response and recovery efforts, and my office is here to help support North Carolinians impacted by Hurricane Helene.

In the recent days, we have witnessed an alarming surge of disinformation on social media concerning the federal response and recovery efforts within our state. To dispel the rumors circulating online, I would like to take an opportunity to share an update with you on the coordinated disaster relief response and the federal aid being delivered to Western North Carolina.

As of this week, FEMA has approved [more than \\$40 million](#) in federal aid for housing and other types of assistance to [over 30,000](#) North Carolina households, and are continuing to deliver meals, water, tarps, generators, and other essential supplies to the region. President Biden also ordered an additional [500](#) active-duty troops to support response and recovery efforts in Western North Carolina. In total, there are [1,500](#) active-duty service members, [1,700](#) National Guard Bureau troops, [over 1,200](#) Urban Search and Rescue personnel, and [more than 1,000](#) FEMA staff on the ground in our state, with more arriving daily. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have also established [three](#) Emergency Operations Centers in North Carolina and are conducting water/wastewater assessments, bridge and road inspections, and debris removal efforts.

Furthermore, President Biden has approved [100 percent](#) Federal cost share for recovery efforts in our state which will cover the costs associated with debris removal, first responders, search and rescue, shelters, and mass feeding. I am also pleased to share that the Biden-Harris Administration is providing [\\$100 million](#) in Emergency Relief funds to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the immediate emergency work to re-establish critical routes and repair the roads and bridges damaged by flooding from Hurricane Helene.

The disinformation that is spreading online will only impede the ongoing disaster relief efforts, making it more difficult for those affected to get the critical resources and support they need. FEMA is actively working to stop the spread of these harmful rumors, and you can learn more about their response [here](#). Please continue to only share information from trusted and verified sources.

Additionally, I would like to pass along a list of federal and state resources available to North Carolinians impacted by Hurricane Helene:

[How to Apply for FEMA Assistance](#)

Homeowners and renters in [27 North Carolina counties and tribal members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians](#) can apply for federal assistance in several ways:

- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov
- Use the [FEMA App](#)
- Or call **800-621-3362** any day of the week. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Services (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

Additionally, you can learn more on applying for individual assistance by watching FEMA's informational video [here](#).

Replacing Lost Documents

When applying for FEMA assistance, North Carolinians may need to provide proof of identity, residence, and other documentation. Below are some steps to help you replace important documents that were lost or damaged in the storm:

- **Insurance policy information:** Call your insurance company or agency and ask for a copy of your policy, including the Declaration Page.
- **Birth and death certificates, marriage and divorce documents:** You can order certificates online at vitalrecords.nc.gov/order.htm.
- **Driver Licenses:** If your driver license has been lost or damaged, you may apply for a replacement at any driver license office. Standard licenses may be replaced online through the [NC DMV website](#). If there is a change of address, North Carolina driver license or ID card holders have 30 days to update their address on the credential.
- **Social Security Cards:** You may be able to order a replacement online at ssa.gov/number-card/replace-card, or you can fill out an application for a Social Security card and bring it to your local office along with unexpired identification. Documents must be original or have a signature, stamp, or raised seal from the issuing agency. No photocopies will be accepted.
- **Medicare Cards:** To replace your card, you can call Medicare at 800-633-4227 (TTY 877-486-2048), visit your local Social Security office, request a new card through your online account with Social Security, or visit MyMedicare.gov.
- **Green Card:** Visit uscis.gov and complete the Form I-90 application to replace a permanent resident card, and file it online or by mail. More information on replacing your Green Card can be found [here](#).
- **Passports:** For information on how to replace a lost or damaged passport, visit the [travel.state.gov website](https://travel.state.gov) on reporting a lost or stolen passport.
- **Federal Tax Returns:** To request a copy of your tax return, you will need to submit Form 4506 and return to the IRS. For more information, you can visit irs.gov/forms-pub/about-form-4506.

- **Military Records:** For more information on obtaining free copies of your DD Form 214 and other military service records, visit [archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records).

Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. You can apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits are now available in 25 North Carolina counties as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. To file an application for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, visit des.nc.gov. **The deadline to apply is December 2, 2024.** If you need help or do not have access to a computer, you may file over the phone by calling the DUA hotline at 919-629-3857.

Additional Resources

- **If you have family or friends who are missing or unaccounted for**, text PERSON to 40403 to add your loved one to search and rescue efforts. Rescue efforts are ongoing and based on the severity of need. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.
- **If you need help reconnecting with loved ones missing after Hurricane Helene**, you can call 800-733-2767. Provide as much information as possible to help operators locate your missing loved one.
- **United Way's NC 211** is an information and referral services that connects North Carolinians to verified resources for basic needs such as housing and utility assistance, food, healthcare, transportation, and more. NC 211 is a multilingual and confidential service that provides health and human services information and referrals through a free statewide phone number (2-1-1 or 1-888-892-1162 if you are calling from an out-of-state area code) and website (www.nc211.org).
- **A toll-free legal aid hotline** is now available for North Carolinians impacted by Hurricane Helene. Low-income residents with disaster-related legal

questions may call the disaster legal assistance hotline at 866-219-5262. For more information, visit www.ncbar.org.

- **Prescription Assistance:** Uninsured North Carolina residents in areas impacted by Hurricane Helene can replace their 30-day supply of certain prescription medications, durable medical equipment, and medical supplies from any pharmacy that participates in the [Emergency Prescription Assistance program](#). Residents in 179 North Carolina zip codes are now eligible to apply for EPAP assistance. To learn more about the program, check out the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) [website](#). To find a participating pharmacy near you, use the pharmacy locator [here](#). For help enrolling in the EPAP program, please call the enrollment hotline at 1-855-793-7470 (TDD 1-800-876-1089).

For a thorough list of resources available to North Carolinians impacted by Hurricane Helene, please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4827#local-resources>.

It is my priority to ensure North Carolinians remain safe and informed during this challenging time. Please continue to stay connected with official updates and reach out if you need any federal assistance. Together, we will rebuild stronger and more resilient than ever.

Sincerely,

Valerie Foushee

###

Update from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson

[The Mark Robinson Effect](#)

###

Updates from NC State Senator Natalie Murdock

Governor Cooper Signs Disaster Recovery Act

Governor Roy Cooper signed the following bill into law:

- House Bill 149: [Disaster Recovery Act of 2024](#).

Governor Cooper issued the following statement on his signing of HB 149:

"Recovery for Western North Carolina will require unprecedented help from state and federal sources and this legislation is a strong first step. Hurricane Helene caused catastrophic damage but also showed the resiliency of North Carolina's people and its communities and we must continue the bipartisan work to help them build back strong."

Funding included in the Disaster Recovery Act:

- The bill creates a new Hurricane Helene Fund with \$273 million from the state's reserve fund.
 - **\$250 million will go to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management**, to provide the state's match to federal disaster relief funds.
 - A portion of the money will be used to establish a revolving loan program to help local government and state agencies with cash flow while they are waiting for reimbursement from the federal government.
 - **\$16 million to the Department of Public Instruction** for lost compensation of school nutrition employees due to school closures resulting from Hurricane Helene.
 - **\$2 million for grants to the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments** to provide technical assistance with local recovery funds. In providing this assistance, these entities shall prioritize grants to counties with a population of less than 250,000. The Office of State Budget and Management will run the program.
 - **\$5 million for the State Board of Elections** for voter outreach and communication in the affected counties.

Elections Changes:

- Allows voters in the affected 25 counties to hand-deliver completed absentee ballots to any county board of elections in North Carolina or the State Board of Elections office, as long as the ballot is received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.
- Allows county boards of elections to modify their approved early voting sites, days, and hours through a bipartisan, majority vote.
- Allows county boards to modify Election Day polling places by bipartisan, majority vote. This provision also allows county boards of elections, with the approval of the State Board executive director, to open a polling place in

another county, provided that materials, tabulators and voting processes are kept separate for each precinct's voters at that location.

Other Policy Changes:

- Grants school calendar flexibility to public schools by allowing them to make up or mark as completed any number of the days or hours missed. It also allows the schools to use up to 30 remote instruction days towards required instructional days.
- Provides flexibility for infrastructure projects.
- Allows the governor to waive fees assessed by the Division of Motor Vehicles for things such as obtaining a duplicate driver's license, obtaining an identification card and more.

[Read the full legislation here.](#)

Hurricane Helene Updates

My heart goes out to the people of Western North Carolina and their loved ones. The destruction wrought by the hurricane has resulted in the loss of many lives, and left an overwhelming amount of devastation in its wake.

Rest assured that the local, state, and federal governments are doing everything they can to address this emergency. Legislators will be voting on Wednesday to pass hurricane relief legislation and provide funds for recovery. We are thankful for all who are dedicating their time, energy and resources to helping with the relief efforts.

There is a significant amount of misinformation circulating online, and it is very important that you verify the information you're being given is correct. Many of these claims are meant to elicit shock and outrage, and it is necessary that we vet our sources before spreading this information. Misinformation hurts the recovery effort.

Volunteers and first responders are still working around the clock to rescue missing and trapped residents in Western North Carolina, as well as restore crucial power and communications infrastructure and transport much needed supplies to survivors. Below are some updates from NCDOT regarding the situation:



Latest Updates:

- Our crews and contractors have reopened more than 540 roads
- We are now reporting about 630 road closures in our system – of which about 100 are primary routes. This number is still changing daily as communications improve and we reach more sites.
- Cut and shove, debris removal and damage assessment are winding down, and some locations are transitioning to temporary repairs and reconstruction.
- N.C. National Guard is engaged in Avery and Watauga counties. Army troops are assessing damage in Watauga
- Transportation infrastructure damage estimates from assessments to this point are up to several billion dollars. This information has been shared with legislators, media, and incorporated in remarks
- On Thursday, Gov. Cooper signed the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024, which had received unanimous legislative support. The bill waives certain DMV fees, waives certain environmental requirements for state highway repair, and authorizes the department to use alternative delivery contracting methods to respond to the damage by Hurricane Helene.

Recap:

- We have more than 2,100 DOT employees responding. This includes 1,700 working in Western NC (290 transfers) and another 375 from our Central Units.
- We have more than 1,100 pieces of heavy equipment, dump trucks, backhoes, loaders and graders in the affected areas
- Communications and STOC continue to work together to update messaging to combat truck traffic using routes off the required detour route and getting stuck. Fresh online mapping, messaging and social posts have been issued.
- NCDOT Aviation has helped coordinate 228 drone missions, 10 missions by NCDOT's Photogrammetry Unit, seven missions of the Civil Air Patrol, and 11 missions to fly state and other leaders to view damage sites.
- The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles reports that five driver license offices and two license plate agencies are closed in Western NC.
- NCDOT Aviation is providing daily updates on Helene drone flights.

For individuals who want to help, the best way to help right now is to donate money. We recommend the NC Disaster Relief Fund (nc.gov/donate). It will go to local groups who know what is needed on the ground in their communities.

If people have already gathered items to donate, urge them to work through one of the established VOADs organizations: <https://www.ncvoad.org/members/>.

We strongly discourage people from delivering supplies to Western NC themselves right now for their own safety and so they don't get in the way of ongoing rescue and relief operations

People who wish to volunteer can indicate their interest at [nc.gov/volunteernc](https://www.nc.gov/volunteernc).

Businesses that want to donate goods or services should reach out to the Business Emergency Operations Center at NCEM. BEOC@ncdps.gov

For information on road closures, accidents, and other details. <https://drivenc.gov/>

Elections Updates

Early Voting

- **The in-person early voting period for the 2024 general election:**
 - Begins Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024.
 - Ends 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.
- **The general election is on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024.**
- **Find early voting sites and schedules in your county:** [Early Voting Site Search](#).
- **Locations and voting hours are also available here:** [Early Voting Sites for the Nov. 5, 2024 General Election \(PDF\)](#).

Same-Day Registration

- To register using same-day registration, an individual must meet all eligibility requirements.
 - For voter qualifications, visit [Who Can Register](#).
- Voters registering during the early voting period must have resided in the county where they are registering for at least 30 days prior to Election Day.
 - Find details about early voting at [Vote Early in Person](#).
- Unsure if you are registered to vote?
 - Find out your voter registration status with the [Voter Search](#).

Voter ID:

Voters must show an acceptable photo ID when they check in at their voting site during early voting or on Election Day. Election workers check to see if the picture

on the ID reasonably resembles the voter and if the name on the ID is the same as or very similar to the voter's name in their registration record. The address on the photo ID does not have to match the voter registration records.

Acceptable forms of ID:

Any of the following that is unexpired, or expired for one year or less:

- North Carolina driver's license
- [State ID from the NCDMV](#) (also called "non-operator ID")
- Driver's license or non-driver ID from another state, District of Columbia, or U.S. territory (only if voter registered in North Carolina within 90 days of the election)
- U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport card
- North Carolina voter photo ID card issued by a county board of elections (see [Get a Free Voter Photo ID](#))
- College or university student ID approved by the State Board of Elections (see box below)
- State or local government or charter school employee ID approved by the State Board of Elections ([see the list of accepted student and employee ID](#))

Note: A voter 65 or older may use an expired form of acceptable ID if the ID was unexpired on their 65th birthday.

Any of the following are accepted, regardless of whether the ID contains an expiration or issuance date:

- Military or veterans ID card (with photo) issued by the U.S. government
- Tribal enrollment card (with photo) issued by a [tribe recognized by the State of North Carolina or the federal government](#)
- ID card (with photo) issued by an agency of the U.S. government or the State of North Carolina for a public assistance program (Note: Although this is an acceptable form of ID under North Carolina law, the State Board is not aware of any such ID in circulation that contains a photo. All IDs for voting are required to have a photo.)

If the voter does not show an acceptable ID, the voter may proceed to vote in one of the two following ways:

1. complete an ID Exception Form and then vote with a provisional ballot, or
2. vote with a provisional ballot and then return to their [county board of elections office](#) with their photo ID by the day before county canvass. (For municipal elections in September and October, this deadline is the Monday following Election Day. For all other elections, the deadline is the second Thursday following Election Day.)

Absentee-By-Mail Voters:

Voters who vote by mail must include a photocopy of an acceptable ID when returning their ballot, or they may complete an ID Exception Form. The voter places the photocopy of ID or ID Exception Form in a pocket on the outside of the ballot container envelope, which is then placed in an outer return envelope to protect the privacy of the voter.

Energy Funds for All Resource Library

[EnergyFundsforAll.org](https://www.energyfundsforall.org) is a mobile-accessible website created for residents across the Carolinas to learn more about ways to save money on energy bills, improve energy efficiency of homes and apartments, and install solar.

Through the Energy Funds for All website, NC and SC residents can use the guide to access support for home and community energy projects that are funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

The resource guide can direct you to funding opportunities available to individuals, businesses, and government entities. There are funding opportunities on their website available to all of the following:

- Renters
- Homeowners
- Landlords
- Nonprofits
- Local Government
- Tribal Government
- Workforce Development & Labor
- Businesses

[Check out the Energy Funds for All Resource Library Here!](#)

Unclaimed Property

Unclaimed property consists of bank accounts, wages, utility deposits, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, bonds, and contents of safe deposit boxes that typically have been abandoned for one to five years. Funds become unclaimed because the company loses track of the consumer, due to an incorrect address or other missing information.

By law, these funds are escheated, or turned over, to the Department of State Treasurer for safekeeping. As new funds are added, the NC Cash database is updated, which means that your name could be listed right now.

[Check to see if you have unclaimed property here](#)

Legislative Updates

Signed by Gov:

- House Bill 149: [Disaster Recovery Act of 2024](#).

Looking for a specific bill? [Search for it here!](#)

###

Reives Report

Misinformation in WNC

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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](#) ; [2024 Voter Education Resource Order Form \(Free\)](#)

[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

America, America: [What a Strong Leader Actually Looks Like](#)

Cardinal & Pine: ['There is Progress': Gov. Cooper, FEMA Share Update on Hurricane Helene Response Efforts in Western NC](#)

Cardinal & Pine: ['Truly Dangerous Narrative': Lies About NC's Helene Response Cause a Second Wave of Harm](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [County Election Officials Given Room to Adjust Voting Measures to Account for Helene's Destruction](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Applying for FEMA Aid in NC After Tropical Storm Helene](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Keeping Democracy Functioning in NC After Devastation of Helene](#)

Carolina Public Press: [NC Legislators Commit \\$5 Million to Emergency Election Measures](#)

Carolina Public Press: ['Like Drinking From a Fire Hose.' New NC Elections Directors Start Just Ahead of 2024 Vote.](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Misinformation Creates Confusion About Federal, NC Storm Response](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Two Weeks Later. Taking Stock of Storm Recovery Across Western North Carolina, County-by-County](#)

Carolina Public Press: [How Early Voting Works in NC in 2024. Frequently Asked Questions](#)

CBS: [North Carolina Republican Pushes Back on Hurricane Misinformation: "Nobody Can Control the Weather"](#)

Chapelboro: [Voters in North Carolina and Georgia Have Bigger Problems Than Politics. Helene Changed Everything.](#)

Chapelboro: [As Siler City Passes TriRiver Water Merger, Chatham County Weighs Its Own](#)

CNN: [Bill Clinton To Hit Battleground States for Harris](#)

Democracy North America: [Built By Us Podcast Series](#)

FWIW: [Is the Bro Vote Overhyped?](#)

Heather Cox Richardson: Letters from an American: [October 6](#), [October 7](#), [October 8](#), [October 9](#), [October 10](#), [October 11](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Harris Up 3 in New NYT Poll, The Country is Better Off, Trump and Musk Are Depraved, Dangerous Madmen](#) (2) [A Very Good Week for Harris-Walz, Winning It in October, Prayers for Florida](#) (3) [The Election is Close and We Just Need to Go Out and Win this Thing, Together \(Video\)](#), [More Good Economic News, Prayers for Florida](#) (4) [VP Harris Brings the Joy to Arizona, Obama Fires Up Pittsburgh, Closing Strong With Josh Stein and Colin Allred](#) (5) [Harris Up 4 in PA, Bringing the Joy to the Early Vote, Closing Strong With Josh Stein](#) (6) [Hopium's Home Stretch Strategy to Close Strong and Win the Election, Together](#) (7) [With 3 Weeks To Go, the Vice President Is Bringing the Joy, Trump Is Weak and Unwell, and I Would Much Rather Be Us Than Them](#)

Inside Climate News: [Will Young Voters' Initial Excitement for Harris Build Enough Momentum to Get Them to the Polls?](#)

Lucid: [The Authoritarian's Fortress of Lies](#)

NC Newslines: [North Carolina Lawmakers Approve \\$273 Million for Initial Hurricane Helene Relief Recovery](#)

NEA.org: [How Project 2025 Would Devastate Public Education](#)

New Branchhead: [Diseased Radicalism or Responsible Statecraft. The Downballot Races.](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [The Interview: A Conversation With J.D. Vance](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [After Floods, Soaring Interest Rates Become a Hot Election Issue](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [A Stern Obama Tells Black Men to Drop 'Excuses' And Support Harris](#)

NY Times: [The Morning: Inside Trump's Rallies](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: Trump's Ugly Closing Argument](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: What Omarosa, John Kerry and Michael Cohen Have in Common](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: Why Republicans Are Muddling Their Early Voting Message](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: In the Middle \(Class\) of It All](#)

NY Times: [On Politics: The OB-GYN Running on Abortion Rights in Conservative Wisconsin](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [Poll Finds Harris Rising as She Challenges Trump on Change](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [How the North Carolina Legislature Left Homes Vulnerable to Helene](#)

Politics NC: [Speaking Truth to Power When Power is With the Mob](#)

Popular Information: [Every Problem Trump Wrongfully Blames on Undocumented Immigrants](#)

Public Notice: [Trump's Climate Denial is Appalling And Getting Worse](#)

The Assembly NC: [Election Turmoil Comes to a Rural County](#)

The Assembly NC: [Mark Robinson and the Suspension of Disbelief](#)

The Assembly NC: [The N.C. Election Guide: See Who's On Your Ballot](#)

The Assembly NC: [Western N.C. Lawmaker: 'The Emergency Is Still In Place'](#)

The Message Box: [Why the Press is Mad That Kamala Harris Went on "Call Her Daddy"](#)

Time: [The D.C. Brief: How Democrats Lost Ground on Voter Registrations](#)

USDA: [A Deep Dive Into Indigenous Peoples Day](#)

Washington Post (Gift Article): [No, Biden Didn't Take FEMA Money to Use on Migrants -- But Trump Did](#)

WRAL: [Fact Check: No, Democrats Didn't Withhold Aid to Right-Leaning NC Counties After Helene](#)

#FYP: [The Biggest TikTok Attacks on Harris](#)