



**Chatham County Democratic Party
News You Can Use
December 16, 2024**

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Upcoming Events

Board of Elections Regular Meeting, December 17, 2 p.m., Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its regular meeting on December 17, 2024, 2 p.m.

The public may view the meeting online at <https://meet.goto.com/992385749>.

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News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

Republicans just enacted revenge on the people of North Carolina for electing Democrats instead of extreme GOP candidates.

We won Governor. We won Attorney General. And we won the head of Public Schools. We won the right to the powers and duties of those offices. That's what the people wanted, what they chose at the ballot box.

Instead of respecting the will of the people, the GOP went into a smoke-filled backroom and crafted a vengeful bill that gutted the powers of those offices and gave them to Republicans instead - and in their cowardice, they hid it behind the guise of a Hurricane Helene relief bill.

They seized a majority of the power, despite winning a minority of the votes. This is nothing short of authoritarian.

I am livid - and you should be, too. You were cheated of your power to vote on who is in charge of your governmental departments.

While this isn't necessarily surprising from the party of insurrectionists, it is an entirely new low. We're not going to let this stand.

North Carolina deserves better.

Thank you,
Chair Anderson Clayton

North Carolina Democratic Party Statement on SB382

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement:

"The wake of Hurricane Helene brought out the best in our state. Across Western North Carolina, neighbors helped each other access resources, less impacted communities sent aid by the truckload to harder hit areas - our state truly came together to help.

As the wait for meaningful congressional action continues to stall, now was the time that Western North Carolina needed their legislature to deliver for them the most.

Unfortunately, Western North Carolina had to watch as every Republican in the General Assembly shamelessly put their desire to strip political power away from recently elected Democrats ahead of the aid and relief their communities need. Using the guise of Hurricane Helene relief is a new low, even for General Assembly Republicans."

Happy Thursday North Carolina Democrats!

Yesterday, as we packed the gallery, the NCGA GOP voted to override Governor Cooper's veto on SB382. Not only have Republicans stolen power from elected Democrats, they have silenced the voices of North Carolina voters. The races they couldn't win, they stripped power away from. **The work continues.** Thank you for sticking with us.

Join NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton and special guests in **Raleigh on Sunday, January 5 at 1pm** to rise together to defend our democracy. We'll celebrate our victories, protest power grabs, and organize for the work ahead. Democrats nationwide had tough losses in the 2024 election. But North Carolina's wins show the way forward. Let's rise to meet this moment, together. See you in Raleigh! Sign up at ncdp.org/rally.

Our digital messages this week are:

Sincerely, The Voters - SB382 is just one more example that when N.C. Republicans can't win elections, they have to pull political stunts to manipulate the system in their favor. This is a direct attack on our democratic principles. North Carolinians voted for their candidate to do the job they have, not to have powers stripped and moved to someone else. The new North Carolina Republican motto has become "If you can't beat them, you can cheat them."

See You in Court - Justice Allison Riggs earned a majority of votes and won to keep her NC Supreme Court seat. Jefferson Griffin refuses to concede and continues to challenge 60,000 votes - votes from veterans, teachers, seniors, and neighbors.

We won't let them get away with this. We have filed a lawsuit to combat this insane attempt to manipulate an election that NC Republicans couldn't gerrymander their way to a win. This is a democracy, and we're willing to fight for it. Fighting isn't easy, and it sure isn't cheap. Join us in protecting your voice, and your vote by donating to NCDP today at ncdp.org/defense.

Job Growth - The Biden Administration overwhelmingly delivered on their promise to create jobs for hardworking Americans. November saw **227,000 jobs** added to keep our economy alive and thriving. President Biden is committed to continuing the fight to bring costs down until the very last day.

See y'all on the Internet,
NCDP digital

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPUBLICANS OVERRIDE GOVERNOR COOPER'S VETO OF SB382, STRIPPING POWERS AWAY FROM ELECTED DEMOCRATS UNDER THE GUISE OF HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF **NEW**

Every Republican just enacted revenge on the people of North Carolina for electing Democrats instead of extreme GOP candidates.

We won Governor. We won Attorney General. We won Lieutenant Governor. We won the right to the powers and duties of those offices. That's what the people wanted, what they chose at the ballot box.

Instead of respecting the will of the people, the GOP went into a smoke-filled backroom and crafted a vengeful bill that gutted the powers of those offices and gave it to Republicans instead - and in their cowardice hid it behind the guise of a Hurricane Helene relief bill.

When three House Republicans voted against the original bill, Republicans launched an all-out pressure campaign against them including having Donald Trump call them to lobby them directly and Speaker Tim Moore appeared on Steve Bannon's show to urge people to let those Republicans know that they need to override the veto. Tim Moore didn't even feel the need to pretend anymore in the interview that the bill was for Hurricane Helene relief. Ultimately, all three of them caved and voted to override the veto.

They seized a majority of the power, despite winning a minority of the votes. This is nothing short of authoritarian.

Statement from Chair Clayton:

"The wake of Hurricane Helene brought out the best in our state. Across Western North Carolina, neighbors helped each other access resources, less impacted communities sent aid by the truckload to harder hit areas - our state truly came together to help.

As the wait for meaningful congressional action continues to stall, now was the time that Western North Carolina needed their legislature to deliver for them the most.

Unfortunately, Western North Carolina had to watch as every Republican in the General Assembly shamelessly put their desire to strip political power away from recently elected Democrats ahead of the aid and relief their communities need. Using the guise of Hurricane Helene relief is a new low, even for General Assembly Republicans."

> NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REJECTS JUDGE JEFFERSON GRIFFIN'S ATTEMPTS TO THROW OUT MORE THAN 60,000 VOTES NEW

The North Carolina State Board of Elections rejected all of Judge Jefferson Griffin's election protests, which sought to toss out the votes of more than 60,000 North Carolinian voters, including active-duty servicemembers and Republican and Democrat elected officials.

Judge Griffin brought these challenges after losing the contest for NC Supreme Court, Associate Justice Seat Six, to Justice Allison Riggs.

After all ballots were counted, Justice Riggs won the election by 734 votes.

Griffin requested a machine recount, **which confirmed once again that Riggs won by 734 votes.**

An additional sample hand recount this week confirmed Riggs' victory.

"Judge Griffin's attack on these votes was an unprecedented attempt to overturn the verdict already delivered by North Carolinian voters: they chose Justice Allison Riggs to continue serving on the North Carolina Supreme Court. We are grateful that the State Board of Elections made the right call and will stand strong in defending the will of North Carolinian voters. Judge Griffin must immediately concede," **said Embry Owen, campaign manager for Justice Riggs.**

Judge Griffin has ten days to appeal the State Board of Election's decision once the order is served.

Justice Allison Riggs has served on the North Carolina Supreme Court since 2023, when she was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper after serving on the Court of Appeals. Prior to her judicial service she was a civil rights and voting rights attorney who worked with communities across the South to ensure free and fair elections and safe and healthy environments.

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Reives Report

[Power Grab Becomes Law](#)

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

House & Senate Override Veto of SB 382

On Wednesday, the House overrode the governor's veto of [Senate Bill 382 - Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes](#), therefore making it law. SB 382 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 occur as a result of this bill becoming law.

Bill Summary:

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."

NCCU Announces \$1 Million Grant from Google To Fund the Nation's First HBCU AI Institute

[North Carolina Central University \(NCCU\)](#) announced a \$1 million grant from [Google.org](#), Google's philanthropic arm, to establish the Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Equity Research (IAIER). The Institute will serve as a first-of-its kind program for a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the nation.

To celebrate the announcement, NCCU hosted an event on its campus, bringing together representatives from other grant recipients along with university and Google leaders, local elected officials and students. The support from Google.org for NCCU's program is designed to enhance research and educational opportunities and position students and the state as leaders in AI innovation and equity, and workforce development.

The Google.org grant for the NCCU AI Institute will support opportunities for as many as 200 students to engage in AI-related fields through interdisciplinary courses, research and mentorship within the first two years of its launch. The institute, which will open in 2025, is also set to become the leading hub for AI within the HBCU network, advancing diversity, inclusion and equitable representation of AI-related industries.

Local and state leaders at the event spoke about the transformative power of AI in education and its critical role in preparing the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers. The event highlighted how the state is committed to advancing AI research, fostering collaboration between universities and industry and ensuring that students have access to cutting-edge technology and educational opportunities.

The grant to NCCU is part of nearly \$2 million in grants to North Carolina universities and organizations across the state. Grant recipients and the programs and initiatives that the funding will support are listed below:

NCCU AI Institute - \$1 million

- NCCU AI Tutors Program - \$45,000
- NC School of Science and Math AI Summer Institute - \$408,000
- NC Business Committee for Education - \$385,000
- Appalachian State University Cybersecurity Program/AI Professional Development - \$100,000
- NC Growth AI and Tech program for rural communities - \$100,000
- Durham Public Schools Foundation - \$25,000

Changing of the Guard

NC Senate Democrats Leadership Election Results

(Raleigh) – Monday evening, 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."

CDC Emergency Operations Center Tour

This week, I, along with legislators from across the country, had the opportunity to tour the Centers for Disease Control Emergency Operations Center.

During the tour, I met many experts who offered insight into the relationship between public health infrastructure and local, state, tribal, and territorial law, and received updates on emerging infectious diseases.

State Innovation Exchange National Conference

This week I joined State Innovation Exchange (SIX) for the annual conference in Atlanta Georgia! While there, I participated on two panels; the first of which centered around agriculture and rural issues.

This session I worked closely with Representative Ray Jeffers and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to amplify the voices of small and minority farmers. During the panel, we talked about what strategies we have in our toolbox to accomplish our goals and what challenges we face as progressive legislators.

In addition to our annual Black Farmer Advocacy Day, we stayed in touch with farmers and advocates year-round so that we could develop a comprehensive understanding of their policy needs and budget asks.

I also had the opportunity to watch "Elected and Unsafe", a short impact film produced by the Women's Democracy Lab, and participate in an informal discussion about building solutions to address the escalating threats faced by public officials, especially Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and other women of color.

Energy Funds for All Resource Library

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!](#)

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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](#)

[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: [Mercy, Redemption – and Cold Revenge](#)

Axios Raleigh: [Five Key NC Races Are Still Outstanding](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [NC House Republicans Override Cooper's Veto of Bill That Takes Power from Newly Elected Democrats](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Recount Confirms Riggs Victory in NC Supreme Court Race, as Focus Shifts to 60,000 Challenged Ballots](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Griffin's Attempt to Invalidate 60,000 Votes in NC Supreme Court Race 'Simply Cannot Be Tolerated,' Elections Official Says](#)

Carolina Forward: [Overdraft Kings – the Cost of Sports Betting](#)

Carolina Public Press: [State Board Dismisses Election Protest, But Appeals Possible](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Holdout NC House Reps Get in Line With GOP, Override Veto](#)

Framelab: [As MAGA Republicans Unite, Democrats Spar Over 2024 Failures](#)

Heather Cox Richardson: Letters From an American: [December 9](#); [December 11](#); [December 13](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [A Russian-Backed Monster Falls, More Notes on What Comes Next, Our Final 2024 House Tally](#); [Elaine Kamarck on Reinventing Government and DOGE, Closing the Loudness Gap, Fighting Trump's Dangerous Delusions](#); [My Interview With Senator-Elect Ruben Gallego, Assad's Fall = Disaster for Putin, Trump Wins and Inflation Rises](#); [A Syrian Man Emerges from the Darkness, House Dems Look to Expand the Map, Fighting the North Carolina Power Grab](#); [My Interview With Ben Wikler, Fighting the Unacceptable 4, What's Happening in NC is Wrong and Our Leaders Should Say So](#)

Lucid: [In the Shadow of Dictatorship: Prisons as Archives of Resistance Stories, and the Toll of Silence and Fear](#)

NCSBE: [State Board Will Not Order Full Recount in NC Supreme Court Contest](#)

NC Newslines: [NC Republicans Pass Law Shifting Government Power, Overriding Cooper's Veto](#)

NC Newslines: [Cooper, Stein Sue To Block New GOP-led Law Stripping Governor-Elect of Powers](#)

New Branchhead: [Republican Grievances Are No Excuse for Gutting the Executive Branch](#)

NY Times: On Politics: [A Test for the System](#)

NY Times: On Politics: [So Much Losing](#)

NY Times: On Politics: [The Texas Millennial Trying to Rebrand the Democrats](#)

NY Times: The Morning: [Making Sense of Trump's Team](#)

Politics NC: [2014 Thom Tillis Wouldn't Vote for 2026 Thom Tillis](#)

Politics NC: [Stealing an Election in Broad Daylight](#)

Politics NC: [Accountability May Be the Greatest Casualty of Republican Rule](#)

Public Notice: [Trump Plots to Steal Congress's Budget Authority](#)

The Assembly NC: [Young People Cast Fewer Provisional Ballots in 2024. Many Still Didn't Count.](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Return of Minisoldr](#)

The Carolina Journal: [NC Democrats Earned Every Right to Brag](#)

The Carolina Journal: [Notable NC Figures To Speak at 'No Labels' National Conference](#)

The Hill: [North Carolina Dem Chair 'Absolutely' Worried State Court Could Overturn Election Results](#)

The Message Box: [Why Republicans Are Winning the Message War](#)

The 9th Street Journal: [Ahead of a Key Vote, Protesters Rail Against a Bill That Would Reshape State Power](#)

Time: [Trump's and Biden's Advisors Had the Same Problem: A Stubborn Candidate](#)

Washington Post (Gift Article): [LGBTQ+ Americans Stockpile Meds and Make Plans To Move After Trump's Win](#)

Washington Post: [The Campaign Moment](#)

WRAL: [NC Elections Officials Reject GOP Request to Throw Out 60,000 Votes. Races for Supreme Court, State Legislature Affected.](#)