



**Chatham County Democratic Party
News You Can Use
October 7, 2024**

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Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Meet Justice Allison Riggs, NC Supreme Court and NC Representative Robert Reives, Democratic Leader, October 9, 6 - 7:30 p.m., CORA Food Pantry

Join us for this exciting event to meet NC Supreme Court Justice Allison Riggs and NC House Democratic Leader Robert Reives, two of NC finest, running to keep their seats.

Justice Riggs was appointed to the NC Supreme Court in 2023 by Governor Roy Cooper. She has spent her entire career fighting for equal justice under the law for every person, regardless of wealth or skin color. Justice Riggs is an accomplished litigator, having argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in several landmark redistricting cases. Prior to her current position on the NC Supreme Court, she served on the NC Court of Appeals, and beforehand, served as Co-Executive Director for Programs and

Chief Counsel for Voting Rights at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice in Durham. She's a strong advocate for our constitutional and voting rights.

Minority Leader Reives has served in the NC House of Representatives since 2014. He represents House District 54, which includes all of Chatham County and portions of Randolph County. Rep. Reives is known for his skills working across party lines and has sponsored legislation to strengthen public schools and to help protect children, the disabled, the environment, and property rights. He listens to the needs of constituents and has championed specific legislation to help Chatham meet its vision of tomorrow.

At this event you can hear more from both of them (they are great speakers!) and ask questions in a relaxed informal setting. There will be refreshments too!

Sign up at: [Meet NC Supreme Court Justice Allison Riggs and Rep. Robert Reives](#)

Holla' for Kamala (and Ice Cream), October 12, 2 – 5 p.m. (Rain Date October 13, 2 – 5 p.m.), CCDP Community Engagement Center, 628-A East Street, Pittsboro

Come socialize with your fellow Chatham County Dems and 2024 candidates, without any speeches! The first 100 attendees will receive a \$2 ice cream coupon.

Goldston Old Fashion Day, October 12, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 374 Bellevue Street, Goldston

Staff a shift at our booth at Goldston Old Fashion Day on October 12. The event, in its 37th year, features local arts, crafts, pottery, jewelry and live music. Food vendors serve funnel cakes, shaved ice, polish sausage, lemonade, kettle corn, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken on a stick, ice cream, and more. Don't miss classic car and tractor display.

Sign up at: [2024 Goldston Old Fashion Day CCDP Tent](#)

Canvassing, Canvassing, and More Canvassing

Chatham County Dems have knocked on over 10,000 doors this year, but we have a lot more doors to knock on before Election Day to achieve all of our goals for this election year. This is the most important election of our lifetime. We don't want to leave a single vote on the table in Chatham this year. We definitely don't want to learn on Election Night that one of our candidates lost a state-wide race by just a few hundred votes and wish we had knocked on just a few more doors.

CCDP is launching 5 canvasses a week, right up to noon on Election Day, November 5. We will be focusing on several higher density precincts, many of the same ones we have been canvassing intensively this year. Our lists will be updated each day as people vote. So, tell everyone to vote and we will stop knocking on their door!

All canvasses will be launched from one of two sites, either the CCDP Community Engagement Center at [628 East St](#) in Pittsboro or our West County Office at [235A East Raleigh St.](#) in Siler City.

All canvass volunteers will sign up for shifts via Mobilize. There will be morning and afternoon shifts each weekend day and some evening shifts 5-6:30 on Tuesdays.

For more information and to sign up, go to: [Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Petitions Near Me](#)

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](#)

Join Our Texting Team! October 16, 24 and 31; November 4, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sign up to be a text banker. You need not use your phone, but you can use your computer to text! When you sign up for a date, you'll need to be available to reply to texts for the next day or two. You will text from the comfort of your own home. It's a great way for introverts to help reach voters! Training is provided prior to the text dates.

Sign up [here](#).

Become an Election Influencer

We all influence the results of elections when we vote.

Our Election Influencers kick it up a notch. They make a commitment to educate themselves about the upcoming election (for example, when Early Voting starts and where folks can vote) and the candidates running for office. They also make a commitment to help spread the word – making sure other people they know:

- Are registered to vote (if eligible)
- Know how to vote
- Are able to either get to the polls or vote by mail, and
- Have accurate information about all the candidates on the ballot so that they can make informed choices too.

We make it easy for Chatham County residents to become Election Influencers. We will send you information about: important election rules (for example, Photo ID); days, times, and places people can vote; and candidates we endorse. Your job is to share the info with family and friends, and encourage them to become Election Influencers too!

Sign up at: [Become an Election Influencer](#)

CCDP Volunteer Trainings

[Canvassing Orientation and Training](#), October 8, 7 p.m. @Zoom

[Volunteer Orientation](#), October 9 and 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#/>

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Other Upcoming Events

Chatham County Board of Education Meeting, October 7, 6 p.m., Central Services Building, [468 Renaissance Dr, Pittsboro](#)

Please come to this meeting to add your voices to the discussion of important issues facing our schools. To sign up to speak, people must arrive before 5 p.m. The meeting begins with a closed session at 5:30 p.m. The public meeting begins at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Brittany Sandefur at bmsandefur@gmail.com.

Board of Elections Business/Absentee Meeting, October 8, 5 p.m., Board of Elections Office, Board of Elections Office, [984 Thompson Street, Suite D Pittsboro](#)

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its business/absentee meeting on October 8, 2024, 5 p.m.

The public may view the meeting online at <https://meet.goto.com/876166869>.

Televised NC State Treasurer Debate between Wesley Harris (D) and Brad Briner (R), October 8, 7 p.m.

Hosted by Spectrum News 1 and the NC Institute of Political Leadership.

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News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

Hurricane Helene relief and solidarity

When you are in the rural counties that are hundreds of miles from the coast—on tops of the Appalachian Mountains that sit thousands of feet above sea level—one of the furthest things from your mind is the threat of a hurricane. Hurricane Helene struck North Carolina last week and decimated some of the western counties in our state. This storm separated families, left over a million power and hundreds of thousands without water, destroyed cellular service, and claimed the lives of over fifty North Carolinians—a number we expect will rise. Our hearts go out to every single person that has been and continues to be affected by this disaster. The threat of floods and mudslides still lingers.

- You can donate to the **North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund** at nc.gov/donate. This fund is managed by the United Way and disperses 100% of raised funds to verified charities helping disaster victims, with no money going towards administrative fees.
- The most comprehensive government resource for people in the disaster zone is ncdps.gov/helene. Resources available at this link include missing persons support, reunification requests, power outage information, and more.
- If you are in one of the 25 Helene-impacted counties, information about how this disaster is impacting the administration of the 2024 general election in your area can be found at ncsbe.gov/helene. As of 10/2, 15 of 25 county Boards of Elections in the affected area are open, with closures updated regularly at this link.

A note on Donald Trump, Mark Robinson, and the GOP

Since the onset of Hurricane Helene, there has been alarming amounts of misinformation shared on social media, especially in the roughly 72-hour period when local and national news crews were unable to get reporters in or footage out of the disaster zone. Some Republican elected officials and personalities have taken this opportunity to deliberately spread misinformation about the speed and nature of the state and federal response to the storm.

Mark Robinson is trying to rescue his campaign by using this disaster as a wedge issue, but as of right now, most other Republican leaders are taking a much more principled position and are not following him down that path. As we wait for the full government response to take shape, uplift the good work by all elected officials and leaders acting in good faith to assist the rescue, recovery, and rebuilding efforts. Take care not to make generalizations as we endeavor to persevere beyond partisanship in this divided time.

Democrats have done the work to support disaster mitigation and recovery work at the state, local, and federal level. The time will come for us to bring the politics of disaster preparedness and response into focus, **but that time is not now.**

Josh Stein

Despite Mark Robinson once again putting North Carolina on the map for all the wrong reasons, there are many people who are still standing with him despite the chaos he is unleashing on our state post-scandal and mid-disaster. Let's take a moment to consider what North Carolina would look like if Mark Robinson were in charge right now, at a time when we need experience and leadership with limited resources and manpower. No, thank you.

Josh Stein is the leader we need. He is a calm and steady hand who has already defended Western North Carolina by fighting back against the companies who targeted our Appalachian communities with opioids—and he won. Our communities are stronger because of the money his lawsuits returned to our towns to manage this crisis, and he hasn't turned his back on us now. As Attorney General, his role in disaster response is limited, but he's still defending us from corporations who are trying to make a buck off of exploiting hurricane victims. Josh Stein's Department of Justice monitors and prosecutes price gouging claims. His office is investigating the dozens of claims that have already been filed, and if you have one to report you can do so [here](#), or at ncdps.gov/helene. You can learn more about Josh [here](#).

Wesley Harris

If you've been in the weeds of state politics over the past year, you've heard plenty about our budget and the political games Republicans are playing with our state's money. At the Department of State Treasurer, North Carolina's full power as an investor is being held back, preventing us from maximizing returns to fund our infrastructure and

our state pension fund. As State Treasurer, Wesley is committed to ensuring the public understands our state's budget and the economic impact his office has on North Carolinians. Our public employees trust that he'll do right by them, which is why he's been endorsed by the political arms of the State Employees Association of North Carolina, the North Carolina Association of Educators, the Police Benevolent Association, and the Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of North Carolina. You can learn more about Wesley [here](#).

Helene Updates

President Joe Biden pledged 1,000 active-duty troops will be sent to North Carolina to support disaster relief efforts in the wake of the deadly Hurricane Helene. There are over 1,200 FEMA personnel in North Carolina with more resource staff arriving daily to assist in recovery efforts. Many FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance teams are in the areas impacted by Helene assisting at shelters and helping survivors in applying for assistance. Officials said that \$2.6 million has already been distributed to eligible survivors.

Leader Reives Statement on Hurricane Helene Relief Package:

“House Democrats are thinking of and praying for the residents affected by Hurricane Helene, especially in Western North Carolina but also in Eastern North Carolina where a tornado tore through Rocky Mount. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to help rebuild the region over the long term. There is a lot of need on the ground today, as emergency service personnel and everyday citizens are working to help find missing people and clearing roads so supplies can come in. We have to begin planning for the long-term recovery, which will take time. House Democrats have begun working on a package of relief measures and look forward to working with our Republican colleagues and the Governor's team to help get it done. We stand ready to do this work in one of our regularly scheduled sessions or during a special session — whatever is necessary.”

Updates from Governor Cooper (Updated October 2, 2024)

Food, Water and Commodity Points of Distribution

Efforts are underway to provide food, water and basic necessities to residents in affected communities, utilizing both ground resources and air drops from the NC National Guard. FEMA has delivered 18 trailers of food and water this morning and expects to have both a trailer of food and a trailer of water each delivered to 34 counties by the end of today. More than 20,000 people have been registered for assistance.

- Buncombe County – Biltmore Baptist Church, 35 Clayton Road, Arden, NC 28704
- McDowell County – Grace Community Church, 5182 Highway 70 West, Marion, NC 28752
- Watauga County – First Baptist Church, 375 West King Street, Boone, NC 28607

Points of distribution for commodities have been established in each impacted county. These locations are also providing free public Wi-Fi for area residents. Seek information from local governments for counties not listed below.

- Ashe County – Westwood Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School
- Avery County — Newland Baptist Church
- Buncombe County – UNC-Asheville, Asheville Buncombe Tech Ferguson, WNC Ag. Center, Asheville-Buncombe Tech Conference Center, Biltmore Baptist Church, The Greens at Weaverville, Fletcher Nursing and Rehabilitation.
- Henderson County – First Baptist Church Hendersonville, Greens at Hendersonville
- Madison County – Madison County Cooperative Extension Service
- McDowell County – Nebo Crossing Church, Grace Community Church
- Mitchell County – First Baptist Spruce Pine
- Polk County – Polk County High School
- Watauga – Cove Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Zionville VFD, Foscoe Christian Church, Watauga EOC, Holmes Convocation Center, Meat Camp Road, Town of Boone PD, First Baptist Boone.

Power Outages

Across the region, approximately 370,000 customers remain without power, down from a peak of more than one million. Power has been restored to more than 600,000 customers.

Missing Persons

To report a missing person or request non-emergency support, please call NC 211 or 1-888-892-1162 if calling from out-of-state.

Shelters

A total of 25 shelters have been opened in Western North Carolina, housing 1,163 people. Plans are in place to open additional shelters as needed to accommodate additional needs.

Search and Rescue Operations

Search and rescue operations are ongoing in Western North Carolina. Search and rescue teams, including 16 from other states with a total of 57 teams as far west as Colorado and as far north as New Hampshire, plus 18 federal teams, have rescued more than 440 people and evacuated an additional nearly 4,700. More than 400 people have been rescued by the NC National Guard. More than 110 pets have also been rescued.

Road Closures/Rail Service

Travel remains dangerous, with approximately 400 roads remain closed. NCDOT is asking people to refrain from unnecessary travel to or in Western North Carolina. The focus is on restoring primary roads and access to communities that have been isolated by damage. First responders also want to keep the roads as clear as possible to help

ensure they may carry out all response missions. NCDOT has dispatched the following resources to assist with the recovery process:

- 1,500+ employees
- 1,500+ trucks, graders & backhoes/loaders
- 1,000+ chainsaws
- 8,000+ barricades & signs

Cell Phone Provider Coverage

Cell phone providers are working to fix the damage and coverage issues caused by the storm and get stopgap solutions, such as temporary cell phone towers, in place and rapid progress is being made. Restoring communications is critical to saving lives, finding where people are and getting in supplies, and Governor Cooper has been in constant contact with cell phone companies urging action and offering support. Please turn your cell phone off and restart it periodically to allow it to reconnect when a network is reestablished.

Fatalities

Forty-two storm-related deaths have been confirmed in North Carolina by Office of Chief Medical Examiner. We do expect that these numbers will continue to rise over the coming days. The North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will continue to confirm numbers twice daily. If you have an emergency or believe that someone is in danger, please call 911. To report that you have been unable to reach a person in Western North Carolina, please call 211.

North Carolina National Guard Deployed

Gov. Cooper has activated more than 700 North Carolina National Guard soldiers and airmen to both conduct search and rescue operations and deliver critical supplies to Western North Carolina. As of Tuesday morning, 275 vehicles and 15 aircraft had been deployed in Western North Carolina to facilitate these missions.

Volunteers and Donations

Due to dangerous road conditions, and the need to maintain open routes for emergency operations, travel to Western North Carolina is strongly discouraged. Instead, consider the following options for donations and volunteer opportunities:

Donations made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund will go to nonprofits working to meet the immediate needs of storm victims such as food and water, cleaning supplies and other emergency supplies. All of the donations made will go to disaster relief.

- If you would like to donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate.
- If you are seeking information on volunteer opportunities, please visit nc.gov/working/volunteer-opportunities/volunteernc.

To donate by mail, please send your contribution to:
North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund
20312 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699

Storm Damage Cleanup

If your home has damages and you need assistance with clean up, please call Crisis Cleanup for access to volunteer organizations that can assist you at 844-965-1386.

Major Disaster Declaration and FEMA Assistance

President Biden approved Governor Cooper's request for an expedited request declaring a Major Disaster for 25 North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. [This declaration](#) paves the way for Public Assistance to help our hard-hit local governments, as well as access to [FEMA's Individual Assistance program](#).

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs. Homeowners and renters in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians can apply.

North Carolinians may apply for Individual Assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 from 7am to 11pm daily or by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov, or by downloading the FEMA app.

Additional Assistance

There is no right or wrong way to feel in response to the trauma of a hurricane. If you have been impacted by the storm and need someone to talk to, call or text the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990. Help is also available to anyone, anytime in English or Spanish through a call, text or chat to 988. Learn more at 988Lifeline.org.

If you are seeking a representative from the North Carolina Joint Information Center, please email ncempio@ncdps.gov or call 919-825-2599.

If you would like general information, access to resources, or answers to frequently asked questions, please visit ncdps.gov/helene.

If you are seeking information on resources for recovery help for a resident impacted from the storm, please email IArecovery@ncdps.gov.

Reives Report (from NC Representative Robert Reives)

[Disaster Relief for Western North Carolina](#)

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Update from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson

[Helene relief update](#)

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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](#)

###

Selected News and Opinion Stories

America, America: [Patriotism, Crime and The Need for Overwhelming Victory](#)

America, America: [Tim Walz Wins With Humanity and Humility](#)

Axios Raleigh: [How NC will administer an election in Helene's wake](#)

Carolina Forward: [Robert Kennedy Jr. and the Rule of Law](#)

Carolina Forward: [Introducing: "Straight to the Point"](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Noncitizen voting amendment on NC 2024 ballot, an FAQ](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Digital UNC student IDs can't be used to vote, appeals court rules](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Voting in NC disaster areas get emergency flexibility](#)

County-to-County: [Your Candidates, In Their Own Words \(Candidate Videos\)](#)

FWIW: [The Anatomy of an Anti-Harris Ad](#)

Heather Cox Richardson: Letters from An American: (1) [October 5](#), (2) [October 4](#), (3) [October 3](#), (4) [October 2](#), (5) [October 1](#), (6) [September 30](#), (7) [September 29](#)

Hopium Chronicles: (1) [The VP Visits North Carolina](#), (2) [The Hungry Harris Campaign](#), (3) [America Is Working](#), (4) [Why I Am Optimistic We Will Win](#), (5) [Gov Walz Earnestly Made His Case And Landed Meaningful Blows, JD Vance Was An Odious Liar and Extremist](#), (6) [VP Debate Tonight at 9pm](#), (7) [80 Million Postcards About To Hit The Battlegrounds](#), [Harris-Walz Raising Their Game as the Election Enters Much More Intense Phase, Winning the Early Vote and Making Every Day a Good Day](#)

Indy Week: [In Close Election, Contention and Confusion on Triangle Campuses Over Voter ID](#)

Inside Climate News: [Why Isn't the IRA More of a Political Winner for Democrats?](#)

Lucid: [The Age of the Authoritarian Bully](#)

NC Health News: [Insurance commissioner candidates address storm damage](#)

New Branchhead: [The Policy Wing of the NCGOP Has Died Like the Confederacy](#)

NPR: [VP debate fact check: Vance and Walz on the economy, immigration and more](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [Opinion | Kamala Harris is the Only Patriotic Choice for President](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [Judge Unseals New Evidence in Federal Election Case Against Trump](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [How the Last Eight Years Made Young Women More Liberal](#)

NY Times (Gift Article): [In North Carolina Town Hall, Trump Makes a Series of Promises to Appeal to Veterans](#)

NY Times: On Politics: (1) [On Politics: Trump saw 2020 election results as an obstacle, not an outcome](#), (2) [It's not WWII. But foreign conflicts may get uglier](#)

[before the election](#), (3) [It all seemed so conventional. And then came Jan. 6.](#), (4) [The veep debate, or when the opening act becomes the headliner](#), (5) [The politics of disaster](#)

NY Times: The Morning: (1) [The stakes on abortion](#), (2) [How Trump could punish his enemies](#), (3) [A V.P. debate](#)

Politico: [October surprise? Job growth blows away expectations, boosting Harris](#)

Politico: [Obama to hit the campaign trail for Harris in battleground states](#)

Politico: [11 damning details in Jack Smith's new brief in the Trump election case](#)

Politico: [The Coming Trump Revenge Tour](#)

PoliticsNC: (1) [Dispatch from Republicanistan](#), (2) [Finally, an inconsequential debate](#), (3) [Government matters in disasters](#)

Popular Information: [How Republicans could subvert the 2024 election](#)

Public Notice: (1) [Jack Smith's bombshell immunity brief](#), (2) [Trump's decompensation was the big debate day story](#), (3) [Taking Trump's mass deportation vow seriously and literally](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Evolution of Jeff Jackson](#)

The Assembly NC: [Mo Green Makes a Case for Public Education. Will It Work?](#)

The Assembly NC: [Josh Stein Draws Heat for Hands-Off Approach to Region's Largest Endowment](#)

The Assembly NC: [How North Carolina Made Its Hospitals Do Something About Medical Debt](#)

The Bulwark: [Trump Can't Escape Jan. 6th](#)

The Bulwark: [The One Question That Mattered in the VP Debate](#)

The Hill: [Josh Stein leads Mark Robinson by double digits in North Carolina race](#)

The Message Box: [People are Talking about Jan 6th and that's Bad for Trump](#)

Time: [Vance Outperformed Walz in Debate Unlikely to Shift Race](#)

WRAL: [NC Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson didn't vote on state's Helene emergency declaration, records show](#)

WUNC: [Due to Helene, early voting might get late start in western North Carolina](#)

WUNC: [The Art and Alarming Science of Political Ads](#)