Good afternoon:

In the three years since Ranking Member Rodney Davis took over Republican leadership at House Administration, we’ve gotten to know each of you, both in D.C. and in your states (17 states + territories and counting!) and have benefited from learning from your experience. You’ve told us that Congressional Republicans needed to do a better job at staving off election nationalization. You’ve told us that simply defeating H.R. 1 and H.R. 4 wasn’t enough, that we needed Republican legislation to protect federalism and reaffirm the Constitution’s structure: States have primary authority over federal elections, and congressional authority is not only secondary but very limited.

As you know, those conversations led us to explore with you and your teams how we might fill this void with solid legislation that not only meets the moment, but, more importantly, respects federalism and our conservative principles. This has led us to the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act, a bill we have drafted together with Republican Secretaries of State, Lt. Governors, state elections directors, state elections commissioners, state legislators, local officials, and other key stakeholders over the past two years.

At the suggestion of Secretary Warner (WV) and following a recent meeting with Secretary Ardoin (LA), we will be facilitating a detailed bill review session for a final examination of the draft text. This virtual bill review session will be held Thursday, June 16, beginning at 11:00 a.m. EDT.

Each of you has been a vital partner in this process, and now that we are nearing introduction this summer, we would appreciate the further benefit of your experience to review the near-final text to ensure nothing has been missed. This working review session will be driven by the participation and conversation between attendees. Senior Committee staff will be online to facilitate and to answer questions or to discuss policy considerations.

Republican Bill Review: American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act

When: Thursday, June 16, 2022
Beginning at 11:00 a.m. EDT

Where: Via Zoom (https://ushr.zoomgov.com/j/1609380279?pwd=Z0ViM283SXhVVFVRWbG1VNa2tIuzRadz09
&https://ushr.zoomgov.com/j/1609380279

<pwd=Z0ViM283SXhVVFVRWbG1VNa2tIuzRadz09
&https://ushr.zoomgov.com/j/1609380279

Who: Secretaries of State
State Elections Directors
State Elections Commissioners
State Legislators
Local Elections Officials
Key Staff

Please feel free to forward this invitation to others who may fit within these categories.
Caleb Hays

Topic: [House Admin GOP] American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act—Secretaries of State Bill Review

Time: Jun 16, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting

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—

Caleb J. Hays
General Counsel & Deputy Staff Director
Committee on House Administration, Republican Staff
Ranking Member Rodney Davis (IL-13)
(202) 225-8281 main
(202) 226-3572 direct
(202) 641-5098 cell
Good afternoon:

In the three years since Ranking Member Rodney Davis took over Republican leadership at House Administration, we’ve gotten to know each of you, both in D.C. and in your states (17 states & territories and counting) and have benefited from hearing from your experiences. You’ve told us that Congressional Republicans needed to do a better job at staving off election nationalization. You’ve told us that simply defeating H.R. 1 and H.R. 4 wasn’t enough, that we needed Republican legislation to protect federalism and reaffirm the Constitution’s structure: States have primary authority over federal elections, and congressional authority is not only secondary but very limited.

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Beginning at 11:00 a.m. EDT

Who: Secretaries of State
State Elections Directors
State Elections Commissioners
State Legislators
Local Elections Officials
Key Staff

Please feel free to forward this invitation to others who may fit within these categories.

Caleb Hays

Topic: [House Admin GOP] American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act—Secretaries of State Bill Review

Time: Jun 16, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
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Join by H.323
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161.199.136.10 (US East)
Meeting ID: 1609380279
Passcode: 538796

—
Caleb J. Hays
General Counsel & Deputy Staff Director
Committee on House Administration, Republican Staff
Ranking Member Rodney Davis (IL-13)
(202) 225-8281 main
(202) 226-3572 direct
(202) 641-5098 cell
Dear Colleagues,

I am looking for fellow election researchers interested in discussing an initiative to expand the number of federal surveys that include questions about voter registration and voting. Attached is a two-page memo on the general idea and potential value (also at https://bit.ly/HessMay9memo). Of course, I would also welcome hearing from "consumers" of election administration research with thoughts on or interest in this proposal.

Including electoral participation questions in additional federal surveys—i.e., beyond the November Current Population Survey (CPS) in even-numbered years—would significantly expand what we know about voter registration and turnout, including barriers to participation and the effects of election policies. For instance, the November CPS lacks questions about health, vehicle ownership, transit use, participation in government programs, social isolation, neighborhood characteristics, time use, and other topics related to registration and turnout.

Consider this concrete example: Six states and D.C. recently adopted automatic voter registration for Medicaid. Based on my exploratory analysis, I believe these reforms may result in an impressive number of voter registration applications, perhaps far more than social service agencies have produced in the past. Federal health and program participation surveys could advance our understanding of this reform in ways that state administrative data alone cannot. Data from these surveys would also substantially benefit the growing political science literature on policy feedback and health policy.

Regarding the feasibility of this proposal, this expansion would further the goals of President Biden's Executive Order 14019—Promoting Access to Voting (https://bit.ly/EO14019). The memo also provides examples of recent, analogous additions to federal surveys.

If you wish to discuss this idea further—or offer an opinion or suggestion—please drop me a note at dougrhess@gmail.com. I plan to contact policy research centers, advocacy organizations, and friends in the federal survey community about this idea in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Doug

-Douglas R. Hess, Ph.D.
http://www.douglasrhess.com  @douglasrhess
https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglasrhess/
Director Bell,

Please see the attached public records request, regarding your position as North Carolina’s Chief Election Officer. Should you or your office have any questions regarding the nature of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Jase Panebianco

NOTICE: The information contained in this electronic mail and any attachments is intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and may contain confidential, privileged, and/or proprietary information from an attorney or attorney’s office. Any other use of these materials is strictly prohibited. If you have received these materials in error, please notify me immediately by telephone and destroy all electronic, paper, or other versions. No representation is made by the sender that any e-mails and/or attachments are virus free and are used at the intended recipient’s sole risk. Unauthorized interception of this e-mail is a violation of federal criminal law.
Hello. Thank you again – so very much – for lending your time and expertise. As mentioned, we’re seeking your input on the implementation of the President’s Executive Order promoting access to voting, in two sessions – one session with White House officials, and one session with representatives of various federal agencies. The Executive Order does not, of course, create any responsibilities for state or local officials. It does direct federal agencies to consider ways in which they might disseminate information about voting and the election process, and foster registration and participation – and we know, as agencies develop their plans, that they would benefit from hearing from officials who run elections.

I mentioned last week that we’ll be holding the first session, remotely on Zoom, on June 25, from 2-3pm Eastern, and the second session (with the agencies), also remotely on Zoom, on July 1, from 2-3:30pm Eastern. I will send calendar invitations momentarily with the relevant logistical information.

As an agenda for the first meeting, we’d like to hear your views on:

- Ways in which federal agencies can best provide information for the public about the elections process, including the mechanics of registering and voting (and including information in multiple languages)
- Ways in which federal agencies engaging with the public can best facilitate access to the election process, including facilitating registration and applications for voting by mail, where applicable
- Ways in which federal agencies can help issue identity documents that satisfy state requirements
- Ways in which a modernized vote.gov website might facilitate providing information about the elections process and/or delivering interested citizens to your websites
- Ways in which the Department of Defense might better facilitate registration and voting for servicemembers on active duty, including those voting absentee and those voting in person
- Ways in which the Department of Justice might provide information about the voting process (and where feasible, registration), for those under federal supervision or emerging from supervision

Other portions of the Executive Order -- including recommendations for serving Native American communities and voters with disabilities -- are equally important but have a longer lead-time, and we recognize that we may not have time to develop them fully in these particular meetings (though your thoughts are certainly welcome).
The Executive Order is attached, for your convenience. But we want to emphasize that we’re not purporting to assign any “homework,” nor are we expecting you to do research or preparation for these upcoming meetings: your experience and expertise will be more than sufficient.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Justin
--
Justin Levitt
Senior Policy Advisor for Democracy and Voting Rights
Domestic Policy Council
Justin.M.Levitt@who.eop.gov
202-881-6765
Genetic testing company picks Morrisville for 374-job, $114M expansion

By Sonia Waraich / The public company is planning a new facility in Morrisville and said the jobs will have average salaries of more than $90,000.

Read Full Article

MORE HEALTH CARE NEWS

- Morrisville drugmaker raises $21.7M to push ahead with hypertension treatment
- Morrisville firm with device for tracking your medication targets $3M raise
- TBJ’s 2021 Health Care Heroes Awards: Lifetime Achievement Award winner Dr. Ralph Baric with UNC
Good Morning Damon,

As requested, please see a draft of a potential designation letter, as well as a list of target federal agencies and programs that we think would be good opportunities for voter registration. The list of federal agencies and programs are not meant to be exclusive, but can serve as a good starting point. Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to your thoughts!

Thank you,

Mitch

Mitchell D. Brown
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Equal Justice Works Fellow
Sponsored by the Ottinger Foundation
919-323-3380 ext. 116

*Licensed in North Carolina and New York

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Triangle physicians group to be test case for new Medicare cost-sharing model

By Sonia Waraich / A group of independent Triangle physician practices is set to serve as the test case for North Carolina in a new Medicare compensation model intended to reduce costs and increase quality of care.

Read Full Article
FVAP Releases 2020 Post-Election Report to Congress
09/28/2021
The Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) 2020 Post-Election Report to Congress confirms that the program's efforts continue to contribute to voter success among absent military members, their families, and U.S. citizens abroad in the 2020 General Election. During the presidential election year, FVAP continued to expand awareness and use of voting assistance resources while reducing voting obstacles for active duty military personnel and overseas citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*.

After every federal general election, FVAP conducts post-election surveys and analyzes state and federal election data to evaluate the experience of military and overseas voters — and the impact that FVAP and DoD voting resources have on their experience. This
research provides key indicators about military voters, U.S. citizens living overseas, Voting Assistance Officers, and election officials during the 2020 General Election.

“The 2020 election cycle represented a unique set of challenges and opportunities for FVAP, just as it did for the community of election administrators across the United States,” said FVAP Director David Beirne. “We were pleased to see that FVAP assistance continued to bolster UOCAVA voters’ success and that voters heeded calls to request and return their absentee ballots earlier.”

**Highlights from the 2020 Report to Congress**

- The 2020 voter registration rate for ADM was 69 percent, a three-point increase from 2016.
- The 2020 voter participation rate for ADM was 47 percent, on par with the 46 percent voter participation rate for the 2016 General Election.
- The 2020 estimated voter participation rate for overseas citizens was 7.8 percent, equivalent to the estimated voter participation rate for the 2016 General Election.
- Active duty military (ADM) who received assistance from a DoD resource (FVAP, Unit Voting Assistance Officers, Installation Voter Assistance Offices) were significantly more likely to submit an absentee ballot than ADM who did not receive DoD assistance. This consistent finding across the last five General Elections (2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020) speaks to the importance and effectiveness of efforts by FVAP and the military Services to raise awareness of available resources and provide direct assistance.
- UOCAVA voters requested their ballots earlier than they did in 2016, and general election voted ballots were returned earlier than they were in the 2016 and 2018 General Elections.
- The most frequently reported challenge experienced by U.S. voters living overseas was difficulty with international mail systems.

For 2022, FVAP will continue its work to reduce barriers for UOCAVA voters to successfully vote absentee and increase awareness about voting among the UOCAVA population. Pursuant to Executive Order 14019, FVAP will support expanded opportunities to raise awareness on voting resources for all DoD personnel to include both absentee voting and traditional registration and voting opportunities, including offering assistance materials in alternative languages as appropriate.

**View the full 2020 Post-Election Report to Congress** here.

###

*For more information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process, visit [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), call FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCONUS), or email vote@fvap.gov. Remember, you also can contact your unit or installation voting assistance officers for assistance during any step of the process. Find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DoDFVAP](http://Facebook.com/DoDFVAP), on Twitter [@FVAP](http://Twitter/@FVAP), and on Instagram at [fvapgov](http://fvapgov).*
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FVAP logo + Voting assistance for Service members, their families and overseas citizens

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Paul—

Please let us know how we can assist with this matter.

Thanks,

Jim

JAMES (JIM) C. WRENN, JR.  |  PARTNER
jwrenn@smithlaw.com  |  bio
do: 919.821.6645  |  m: 919.939.1012
vcardsmithlaw.com  |  map

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Get Outlook for Android
Good afternoon,

Attached is a HAVA Complaint and Exhibits that were submitted to the State Board of Elections on 2/20/2024. The potential duplicate registrations affecting Granville are in Exhibit A – but these are from the 2/3/2024 voter registration list & it hasn't been compared against the current voter rolls to see if these have already been resolved. In the “Missing SSN-Missing DL#” column, those that are marked “unknown” have registrations dates after the last time the NCSBE filled the public records request for this information. We’re waiting for the updated list that was requested on 2/5/2024; no doubt they’re very busy.

For an explanation for how these are identified, please see Exhibit B. I realize the State Board of Elections won’t allow you to act on a list of potential duplicates they may not be locating, but at least wanted to make you aware of the issue.

Thank you for your service to the legal voters of Granville County.

Carol Snow
Morganton, NC
Burke Co

p.s.
Please forward this to the Granville Co BOE members and copy me on your forward. I don’t see their email addresses online, but I certainly could have missed them. Thank you!

**Board Members:**
Sharyn C. Alvarez, Chair
Debby Butler, Board Member
Doug Smith, Board Member
Elizabeth Torres-Evans, Board Member
(vacant)
Please see attached HAVA Complaint, along with 2 Exhibits.

Thank you so much for your consideration and your service to the State of North Carolina,

Carol Snow
Morganton NC
Burke County

IMPORTANT: This e-mail message is intended solely for the individual or individuals to whom it is addressed. It may contain confidential attorney-client privileged information and attorney work product. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are requested not to read, copy or distribute it or any of the information it contains. Please delete it immediately and notify us by return e-mail or by telephone (919) 821-1220.
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* Ways in which the Department of Justice might provide information about the voting process (and where feasible, registration), for those under federal supervision or emerging from supervision

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Levitt, Justin M. EOP/WHO
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 6:05 PM
Subject: Input on implementation of EO 14019

When: Friday, June 25, 2021 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1603745036?pwd=UFN3dVppNUFSSmpjdDNCWWtdGzd09 <https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1603745036?pwd=UFN3dVppNUFSSmpjdDNCWWtdGzd09__;!!HYmSToo!IKlpsT29CEazHZGpeaRQ1Xhn_qW3kQm1yj5KXJyvQj6dSYGqbw7TqXn8hGmqTJDIs__>

Hi there,

Justin Levitt is inviting you to a scheduled ZoomGov meeting.

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Voter Fraud

Daily update · October 11, 2022

NEWS

California voter fraud: What you need to know - CalMatters
CalMatters
While there isn't widespread California voter fraud, officials are ramping up efforts to protect the 2022 election.

What you need to know about voter fraud in California | KPBS Public Media
KPBS
Since the 2020 election, the issue has been fueled by the “Big Lie” — the baseless claim still touted by former President Donald Trump and his ...

Many voters from both parties say election fraud could cause midterm losses, poll says
Raleigh News & Observer
More than a third Republicans and a quarter of Democrats say that voter fraud would likely be to blame for party losses in 2022 midterms.

How much voter fraud has there actually been in Kern County? - KGET.com
KGET.com
BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (KGET) — Only about one third of ballots that go out come back. That's when county officials start looking for fraud, ...
Nearly 40 percent of Republicans will blame election fraud if GOP doesn't win Congress: poll

The Hill

The 2022 midterm race is flooded with GOP candidates who say the 2020 election was stolen, including vocal critics like Arizona's gubernatorial ...

Blame bad candidates, not voter fraud, if Republicans don't win back Congress

Washington Examiner

About 40% of Republicans think the only way their party will not get a congressional majority in the 2022 midterm elections is voter fraud, ...

Paxton Slams Biden's Executive Order Designed to Use Taxpayer Funds to Aid the Left in ...

Texas Attorney General

Attorney General Paxton has joined a Louisiana-led coalition in sending a letter to Joe Biden demanding that he rescind Executive Order (EO) 14019 ...

Georgia prosecutor seeks testimony from police chaplain in election probe - Reuters

Reuters

WASHINGTON, Oct 10 (Reuters) - A Georgia prosecutor investigating former President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 U.S. presidential ...

What You Need To Know About Voter Fraud In California - Patch

Patch

What does 'election integrity' mean? Election workers sort through election ballots at the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters in Sacramento on.

Unfounded claims of election fraud loom large in Secretary of State race | Local News

Santa Fe New Mexican

Incumbent Maggie Toulouse Oliver says idea New Mexico elections are unsecure is misinformation while Republican challenger Audrey Trujillo ...
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“I mean I think it’s pretty apparent, that’s why.”


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Note To Subscribers

THE INSIDER, 5/26/23

The Insider will not publish on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. Publication will resume Tuesday, May 30.

Leadership Resignations

DAWN BAUMGARTNER VAUGHAN, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 5/25/23

Two Republican members of the North Carolina House have resigned from leadership positions within their caucus. Both Reps. Jeff McNeely, R-Iredell, and Keith Kidwell, R-Beaufort, held deputy whip positions in the House Republican Caucus, and both made controversial comments last week.

During a House floor debate over private school scholarships, McNeely, who
is white, asked Rep. Abe Jones, who is Black, if he got into Harvard University because he was a minority or an athlete. Jones responded to the racist line of questioning with his academic record, and accepted McNeely’s apology.

Kidwell was heard by a WRAL reporter — and by teenagers who serve as pages in the legislature — making a joke about the “church of Satan” while Democratic Rep. Diamond Staton-Williams was giving a speech about her faith during the abortion debate. Staton-Williams told The News & Observer on Thursday that Kidwell has not apologized. Jones told The N&O on Thursday that McNeely apologized twice, as did several other House Republicans.

Republican House Majority Leader John Bell announced the resignations during a non-voting House session on Thursday morning. Neither lawmaker is resigning from the legislature.

There are six other whips within the caucus. McNeely and Kidwell are part of the unofficial ultraconservative Freedom Caucus, and Kidwell chairs that caucus, which is a group within the Republican caucus. Kidwell also holds a powerful committee position: He is senior chair of the House Finance Committee.

House Republican Caucus Director Stephen Wiley said the decision for their resignations happened Tuesday or Wednesday. Asked to confirm if McNeely and Kidwell lost their positions because of what they said last week, Wiley said: “I mean I think it’s pretty apparent, that’s why.”

Rep. Jon Hardister, R-Guilford, the House majority whip, said McNeely and Kidwell “said things that were outside the bounds of what most people consider to be professional conduct.”

Hardister said that Republican leaders had a discussion with them about how they are held to a higher standard because they had caucus leadership positions. “At the same time, politics can invoke passion. Topics being discussed when those comments were made were deeply personal, and when that happens sometimes it’s best to take a deep breath and think about what you’re saying,” Hardister told The N&O on Thursday. “My assessment is, in this case that didn’t happen. But there has to be accountability. That’s what it comes down to, accountability,” he said.

Hardister said he still counts McNeely and Kidwell as friends.

He said a decision has not been made about replacing Kidwell and McNeely’s deputy whip positions.
In a statement, Bell noted the announcement on the floor and said: “As elected officials, we must serve by example and be accountable for our actions, especially as leaders in the caucus.” “While apologies have been made and accepted, we believe this is an appropriate action and step forward. The House Republican Caucus remains united as we work towards our shared goals this legislative session,” Bell said.

Jones told The N&O on Thursday that McNeely apologized multiple times that day and later at an event. He also said that several House Republicans came to him individually to share their disapproval of McNeely’s comments. Jones said it made him feel better that other House Republicans did not feel the same way.

Jones said he didn’t know the caucus had planned for McNeely to resign his leadership position, and he didn’t ask them for it. “I’m satisfied with what I hear has happened and I think its appropriate, and we can move on. And it showed on their side of the line that they didn’t like it either,” Jones said.

Staton-Williams told The N&O that Kidwell has not apologized to her. She said she doesn’t have a “big reaction, really,” to the Republican caucus leadership changes. “I think I believe the GOP leadership did what they thought was best and I stand behind their decision,” she said. Asked if there should have been other repercussions, Staton-Williams said those “decisions that were made are outside of my control, and whatever the leadership came up with is appropriate.”

House Minority Leader Robert Reives, D-Chatham, said he thinks the House Republican Caucus decision to remove McNeely and Kidwell from leadership was appropriate and that there’s “just no place for certain types of conduct.”

“We’ve got to respect the institution, we’ve got to respect each other and we’ve got to be respectful of other members, especially,” Reives told reporters in his office on Thursday. “I’m glad to see that there at least has been an addressing of it at this time,” he said. Reives said a majority of the House Republican caucus “don’t think like this,” but that the growth of the House’s Freedom Caucus has “changed the tenor of the caucus.” He also pointed to a change in that tenor since the 2022 elections, and said that “in politics, we have just set a really bad tone in the way that we relate to each other.”

“And ultimately, no matter what it’s based on, that’s what it gets to. So it’s not just about racial undertones. It’s not just about misogyny, it’s not just about, you know, disparate treatment of other minority groups. It is about a general
consensus, that it’s OK to treat badly, people who are not like you,” Reives said.

Senate leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, told reporters on Thursday that he thinks “everybody was concerned” about the comments by Kidwell and McNeely. “I’ll leave it up to the speaker as to how to deal with the members of his caucus. It would be my expectation that our members would not do those sorts of things,” Berger said.

Reives said that while House Speaker Tim Moore decides who chairs committees, Kidwell’s role as Finance chair “is one of the most powerful positions in the House. There’s no ifs, ands or buts about that. And so I think if you ask most members, whether or not they could be a whip, or they could be chair of Finance, they would choose to be chair of Finance.” [Source]

Voter Data
RUSTY JACOBS, NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC RADIO, 5/25/23

Sen. Jay Chaudhuri, D-Wake, told his colleagues he was puzzled. “You know, the best way for us to fight voter fraud is for our state to join the Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC,” Chaudhuri said during floor debate at the North Carolina General Assembly a week ago, noting the organization was started in 2012 by seven states, four of them politically dominated by Republicans. Chaudhuri was urging his colleagues to amend a GOP-drafted budget bill that, like a House spending plan, would prevent North Carolina from joining the multi-state consortium through which members share information and data on the movement and deaths of voters.

Just last year the Republican-controlled General Assembly authorized funding for North Carolina to join ERIC.

“The value of ERIC in the beginning was when it had 31 or more member states that could collaborate and have cross-data base referencing,” said Sen. Warren Daniel, R-Burke, a co-chair of the Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee, explaining his opposition to joining ERIC.

In the past 18 months, eight states, all deeply red or Republican-leaning, have pulled out of ERIC, reducing the membership from 34 to 25 states and the District of Columbia. The departing states include Florida and Ohio. In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis previously extolled the virtues of ERIC and is trying to position himself for a GOP presidential primary. In Ohio, too, Secretary of
State Frank LaRose praised ERIC in the past, but pulled his state out as he mulls a Republican primary run for U.S. Senate.

Despite the departures, ERIC remains a “valuable” and “irreplaceable” tool in maintaining clean voter rolls, according to John Catalano, public information officer for the South Carolina State Election Commission. South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia — all states where Republicans hold the reins of state government — are still members of ERIC. “If we want voter rolls to be up to date, if we want inactive people or people who are disqualified off of our active voter registration rolls, then we have to accept that partnerships are necessary,” Catalano told WUNC. Catalano said membership provides his state with two big benefits. One is the access it gives South Carolina to federal Social Security Administration data on South Carolina voters who have died out of state.

“And we don’t have another way of getting that data at this time,” Catalano added.

The other benefit is the information it gets from other ERIC members on South Carolina voters who have moved and registered in other states. “We know that most of the time voters don’t come back and tell their original jurisdiction that they left,” Catalano said.

State legislators’ turnaround on whether North Carolina should join ERIC comes just as the 11-year-old organization endures partisan attacks from the right. Among them, baseless claims that ERIC serves liberal interests. Part of that had to do with one of the founders of ERIC: David Becker. In 2008, when he was with the Pew Charitable Trusts, Becker helped conceive and establish ERIC. In the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election, Becker vociferously fought against the lie that Donald Trump actually won. Becker’s current organization — the non-partisan Center for Election Innovation & Research — focuses on countering false narratives about voter fraud and works to improve election security.

Until recently, Becker was a non-voting, ex-official member of ERIC’s board, but stepped down amid the conspiracy theories.

Daniel said his and other GOP lawmakers’ attitudes changed as they’ve learned more about ERIC’s bylaws, which includes a requirement that member states send automatic notices to residents who become eligible to vote. “Also, that’s an expensive provision too,” Daniel added.

For Catalano, it’s clear the nationwide effort to disparage ERIC is coming from
partisan groups who subscribe to the falsehood that elections are being stolen. “I would say that it’s probably those that are on the far, far right or just believe that elections have been compromised,” Catalano said.  

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**Rural Health**

**KORIE DEAN, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 5/25/23**

Leaders of the UNC System on Thursday praised legislative proposals that would expand the reach of the state’s two major public university-affiliated health care systems, saying the changes offer a rare chance to vastly improve medical care for people across the state — especially in rural areas.

The state Senate this session has passed legislation — both Senate Bill 743 and a budget proposal that included some of the same language — that supporters say would increase Chapel Hill-based UNC Health’s and Greenville-based ECU Health’s capacity to provide health care in underserved areas of the state, starting in Eastern North Carolina.

“On just about any map tracking health challenges in North Carolina — from infant mortality to insurance eligibility to food insecurity — there are dark patches across significant portions of our state,” UNC System President Peter Hans said during a meeting of the system Board of Governors Thursday. “These are the places our statewide health systems must serve.”

The Senate’s budget proposal would provide tens of millions of dollars to the UNC System over the next two fiscal years for initiatives focused on rural health care, including training and education at each of the system’s medical schools and financial support of the system’s hospitals.

The proposals have been criticized, including by state Treasurer Dale Folwell, for provisions that would make the university health care organizations immune from state and federal antitrust laws and allow changes to their involvement in state employee benefits plans.

The proposals, as written in the legislation, would allow the two health care organizations to acquire or merge with “hospitals or any other health care facilities or health care provider, without regard to their effect on market competition.”

“Over the last five years, we have seen more consolidation of health care in the hands of fewer and fewer of these multibillion-dollar corporations that
disguise themselves as nonprofit,” Folwell, who has been an outspoken critic of large hospitals, told The News & Observer Thursday. “The result of that is that it leads to lower quality, lower access and higher cost of health care,” he said.

Folwell said the proposed changes would result “in more monopolistic activity in North Carolina.”

Speaking to The N&O at Thursday’s Board of Governors meeting, UNC Health CEO Wesley Burks said the systems being immune from antitrust laws would help them “be able to serve a region of the state rather than county by county.”

“The way the laws are set up now, is that it precludes us, either individually or working together across a region, because of the antitrust issues,” Burks said. Asked by The N&O if the health systems had plans to use the immunity to antitrust laws, Burks said the power would eventually help the systems “go into rural areas that we couldn’t right now.” The systems will “work with the local communities to really do a needs assessment, and find out where are the right places that we want to partner, they want to partner with us to help provide that high quality care,” Burks said.

Antitrust laws are generally viewed as a way to protect competition and prevent the formation of monopolies.

ECU Health CEO Michael Waldrum told The N&O that competition in health care services and providers isn’t a large concern in Eastern North Carolina or other rural areas of the state, because access to any medical care is generally more limited than it is in more urban areas. “People aren’t rushing in to provide health care,” Waldrum said. “This is the state’s problem.”

A powerful group that represents hospitals says it would be “ill-advised” to go ahead with a budget provision that would further reduce state laws regulating hospital competition.

The state Senate budget passed last week included further rollbacks of certificate of need laws, which regulate hospital competition. The law has been a point of contention between the Senate and the House, with the House...
opposing cuts but in March agreeing to some adjustments, which were built into the Medicaid expansion bill.

While it is now law, Medicaid expansion is contingent on passage of the state budget, which has passed both chambers separately, with a compromise version in the works.

It’s unclear whether the House will accept new certificates of need cuts included in the Senate budget.

Cynthia Charles, a spokesperson for the North Carolina Healthcare Association, told The News & Observer in a written statement that the group supports the Medicaid expansion bill “that included monumental CON law changes” and that the association and its members were still assessing the potential impacts of those provisions.

Charles wrote that they needed “time to finish the work and to plan for the operational and financial impacts to come. We do not support any further changes and think it would be ill-advised to proceed, especially since the impacts to the hospitals are unknown.”

POLICY COVERAGE IN NORTH CAROLINA SUPPORTED BY

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Sports Betting

BRIAN MURPHY, WRAL NEWS, 5/25/23
The North Carolina Senate is planning to vote to legalize mobile sports wagering and, in some select locations, in-person sports betting next week, putting a timeline on legislation that has been discussed for more than two years. A Senate committee passed its version of House Bill 347 with several significant changes Wednesday.

The bill is expected to be in two Senate committees, finance and rules, on Tuesday and then hit the floor for votes on May 31 and June 1, Senate leader Phil Berger said. Because the legislation contains a tax, the Senate must hold two roll call votes on different days. “They’re reasonable changes,” said Berger, R-Rockingham. “I think they’re changes that make the bill better.”

The basics of the bill remain the same: If it becomes law, bettors in North Carolina could gamble on college, professional and other sports on mobile apps on their phones or other electronic devices. The start date for the legislation is January 8.

The Senate bill raised the tax rate paid by operators to 18% from 14% in the House version and it did away with any deductions for the promotions and credits used to attract new customers, changes that should result in more tax revenue for the state. “The 18% that is in the Senate bill currently is about right,” Berger said when asked about the tax rate.

The Senate bill also allows betting on horse racing and would allow sports books at certain professional sports venues around the state to accept in-person cash bets, two features that were not in the House-passed version. More amendments are forthcoming, Berger said. “Hadn’t counted votes on the House side, but I think they’ll be well received,” Berger said.

Rep. Jason Saine, the lead sponsor of the bill in the House, told WRAL that the Senate has kept House proponents aware of their changes throughout the process. The House would have to approve the legislation with the change or work them out with the Senate.

Berger declined to specify the exact changes still being considered. Bill sponsors indicated Wednesday that there would be more clarifying language around licenses and whether teams, venues or operators have priority in acquiring the 12 licenses available.

The current version requests additional information on operator applications that seem to benefit teams and venues, something North Carolina’s professional teams and facilities had asked for previously.
The Senate passed a bill to legalize sports wagering in 2021. Berger was among 26 “yes” votes in the 50-member chamber on SB 688. That legislation failed in the House in 2022 by a single vote. This year, the House passed HB 347 in late March with Republicans and Democrats alike voting yes and no. [Source]

**Pollution Regulation**

ADAM WAGNER, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 5/25/23

Sherri White-Williamson started to fully understand how different sources of pollution can interact when she returned home to Sampson County in 2019. After years living out of state, including a lengthy stint working for the EPA and then law school, she saw that the hog and poultry industries had spread across the rural county. On top of that, the state’s largest landfill had grown there and a wood pellet plant had opened just off of Interstate 40.

At the modest office suite where White-Williamson’s Environmental Justice Community Action Network is headquartered, it’s easy to smell the nearby Smithfield Fresh Meats Corp. processing plant, a strong odor of cooking pig. “It can be pretty overwhelming at times. When you’re smelling all of that stuff in the air and then realizing that there’s some stuff you aren’t smelling that’s harmful, too, it is very concerning,” said White-Williamson, who also works as the N.C. Conservation Network’s director of environmental justice strategy.

White-Williamson chairs the cumulative impacts subcommittee of the Department of Environmental Quality’s Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board. That group is a focal point for much of the push by environmental advocates to push the regulatory agency to consider existing pollution in the vicinity when they evaluate environmental permit applications.

The subcommittee is in the midst of drafting recommendations that will urge DEQ to consider the combined effects of pollution and other burdens often carried by communities that have low incomes or high proportions of residents who are American Indian, Black or Hispanic. The environmental justice board may endorse them.

Whether DEQ will ever do so isn’t certain, however. DEQ officials argue that statutory changes are necessary for the agency to fully consider existing pollution when crafting permits, something the Republican leadership of the General Assembly has shown no sign of embracing. But some environmental lawyers believe that authority already exists and the agency is simply unwilling...
Environmental regulators' path to approving an updated permit for Enviva's wood pellet plant in Sampson County is indicative of DEQ's process and where advocates believe it should be improved. The agency is responsible for approving permits that limit the release of pollution to levels that have been approved by state and federal regulators. There are different sources of pollution, including air emissions, landfills and water discharges, among others. DEQ's standard approach to addressing cumulative pollution impacts in the vicinity of a facility applying for a new or revised environmental permit is evident across a number of recent permitting decisions.

Typically, the agency holds a public hearing for facilities that have a significant amount of public interest. Before that hearing, it makes documents available that describe what's in the permit and what actions the company must take to limit pollution. Sometimes this information includes what's called an environmental justice analysis. It contains demographic characteristics of people living near a proposed facility, including data on age, disability rates, income and ethnic and racial makeup.

The mapping analysis also shows what nearby facilities already hold DEQ permits. In Sampson County, that analysis found a high proportion of Hispanic people live in the area immediately around the Enviva plant. Per capita income in that area was lower than Sampson and adjacent Duplin County averages.

At the October 19, 2021, public hearing, environmental advocates argued the permit could increase the pollution burden borne by the nearby community. Those focused on the 47.8 tons of tiny particulate matter that Enviva was proposing to release and how that could impact a nearby community already grappling with impacts from a dense concentration of hog and poultry farms. Enviva maintains that it undergoes a “rigorous and thorough” permitting process despite not using chemicals as part of its process. The company takes trees and other biomass, dries them and then turns them into pellets for use as fuel in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

“Each of our facilities has valid environmental permits and operates to comply well inside the U.S. federal and state regulatory emission standards, while maintaining rigorous monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting. In addition, our North Carolina facilities have undergone a full Environmental Justice review and assessment as part of the permitting process with NC DEQ,” an Enviva spokesman said in an email.
After a public hearing, a DEQ hearing officer assigned to the project reviews public comments and recommends what, if any, technical changes are necessary to the permit. For the Sampson County project, the hearing officer concluded that disparities revealed by DEQ’s mapping exercise and the concerns expressed by advocates and residents weren’t enough. DEQ could not do anything to directly address adding to the pollution burden in considering the permit.

“While NCDEQ is committed to EJ [environmental justice] and equity, there is no authority that either mandates or directs NCDEQ to perform the more expansive type of cumulative impact analysis envisioned by the commenters,” wrote Melinda Wolanin, a DEQ engineer who was serving as the permit’s hearing officer. The language Wolanin used is standard in DEQ hearing officer’s reports. It was also used in April 2022 to dismiss cumulative impact concerns raised about a power plant that wanted to burn poultry litter in Robeson County, also in eastern North Carolina. This is a stance that bothers many people working in and studying environmental justice across the state who argue DEQ’s mapping efforts often show granting a permit will worsen pollution in communities that are already struggling.

But they don’t affect permit decisions, they say. “We continue to hear that DEQ’s hands are tied, they don’t have any grounds for denying the permit,” said Courtney Woods, a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill environmental engineer. “But it does beg the question: What role does that EJ report serve if there’s not going to be any sort of action, whether that’s denying the permit or requiring additional monitoring?” Woods continued. “It just feels like extra information that’s not being used.” [Source]

Nash School Board
TRAVIS FAIN, WRAL NEWS, 5/25/23

Republican lawmakers pushed changes to the Nash County school board through the state Senate Thursday over objections from the school board’s majority and chamber Democrats. Senate Bill 248 would shrink the board from 11 members to seven, redraw the board’s election districts and install a new deadline for the Nash and Edgecombe county school systems to finish their plan to shift roughly 1,700 students from Nash schools to Edgecombe. These are students who live in the Edgecombe County portion of Rocky Mount.

This de-merger has been in the planning stages for some time. The bill adds a
Nov. 15 deadline for the two school boards and the Nash and Edgecombe county commissions to submit a transition plan to the state. If they can't agree, the State Board of Education would come up with a plan, according to the bill.

The measure cleared the state Senate Thursday on a party-line vote, 27-17. It now heads to the North Carolina House for more debate.

The bill would dictate that Nash school board elections be held using the same election districts as Nash County Board of Commissioners elections. The school board, in an 8-3 vote earlier this month, opposed the plan, saying it should be allowed to set its own district lines.

The Rocky Mount City Council is also against the change, according to a letter from the city manager, which Sen. Kandie Smith, D-Edgecombe, distributed to senators Thursday. Smith tried to amend the bill Thursday, but Republican lawmakers defeated her proposals.

Under the bill, Nash County would elect seven school board members in 2024, three to two-year terms and four to four-year terms so that future elections would be staggered. After that first election under the new system, all terms would last four years. School board elections would remain nonpartisan. [Source]

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**Senate Bill 20**

WTVD NEWS, 5/25/23

Gov. Roy Cooper addressed his efforts to address Senate Bill 20 on abortion. The bill bans the procedure in North Carolina after 12 weeks. Last week, Republicans overrode the Governor's veto on the legislation, which does provide exceptions for rape, incest, fetal abnormalities or if a mother's life is in danger. It adds requirements, ranging from in-person appointments to counseling. The bill also earmarks nearly $160 million towards resources including paid paternity leave, infant and maternal health, foster care, and contraceptives.

On the day of that override vote, the Governor shared there was a plan of action in the event the veto did not hold.

Thursday, ABC11’s Michael Perchick asked him about those efforts. “So first, I want to do everything that we can to increase access to women’s
reproductive healthcare. That’s important. This legislation was complex, and contradictory and confusing. So there’s going to have to be a lot of decisions made so providers and women will know what they can and cannot do. So there will be a process during the next few weeks and months where it’s going to be determined, and I hope decisions are made that give the most access possible,” said Cooper.

The bill is set to go into effect on July 1. [Source]

Davidson Transit

STEVE HARRISON, WFAE RADIO, 5/25/23

Davidson Mayor Rusty Knox is calling for an overhaul of the Metropolitan Transit Commission — the countywide board that’s supposed to set transit policy — because he said the city of Charlotte is ignoring what other municipalities want. He also said that if the city doesn’t offer meaningful change, he and other Mecklenburg town mayors could take more drastic steps, such as studying how to break apart from the Charlotte Area Transit System.

The dispute stems back to the May 2022 derailment of a Lynx Blue Line train. Though the car didn’t tip over and no one was hurt, the North Carolina Department of Transportation criticized the transit system’s safety and maintenance procedures — and imposed tighter restrictions on CATS going forward. In March, Knox and his colleagues on the MTC voted unanimously for the city of Charlotte to hire an independent consultant to investigate what went wrong. But the city of Charlotte said it wasn’t going to do that. Instead, Charlotte asked the Federal Transit Administration to expedite a previously scheduled review.

That angered Knox and other MTC members. “We voted unanimously for this third-party outside investigation,” Knox said in an interview Thursday. “If they had done that, you and I wouldn’t be talking about this.” Knox said he is frustrated “as to what the city of Charlotte says the rules are.”

Mecklenburg Commissioner and MTC member Leigh Altman said change is needed. “There is a concern that the way Charlotte is responding to the interlocal agreement really has restricted the voice of the towns in Mecklenburg County that undermines that partnership,” she said. “So that’s the problem we are trying to solve.”
Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, who is an MTC member, said she is OK with a review of the MTC’s structure. She did not respond Thursday as to whether she would reconsider the city’s decision not to hire the outside investigator.

The MTC will discuss Knox’s overhaul plan next month. [Source]

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**CATS Security**

**STEVE HARRISON, WFAE RADIO, 5/24/23**

The Charlotte Area Transit System said Wednesday it will double how much money it spends on security over the next two years and also plan new de-escalation training for drivers after a bus passenger and a driver shot each other last week. In a news conference, interim CATS Chief Executive Brent Cagle gave a detailed account of the May 18 shooting on the Route 56 bus near the outlet mall in Steele Creek.

He said a passenger, Omarri Sharif Tobias, told driver David Fullard to let him off the bus — even though there wasn’t a scheduled stop. The driver refused because that would have prohibited CATS policy. Cagle said the two men began arguing. “That argument lasted several minutes and escalated,” Cagle said. “It continued to escalate to the point that the passenger produced a firearm.” Cagle said the driver stopped the bus and pulled his own gun. The two men fired at each other. Both men are expected to survive. Tobias has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injuries, among other charges.

Cagle said it’s unclear if Fullard will be charged — but that the third-party company that employs CATS drivers and runs the city’s bus system has fired him for violating a CATS policy that prohibits employees from carrying guns.

“Do I think the driver handled this appropriately? I understand everyone’s need to protect themselves,” Cagle said. “I also believe this incident may have been avoided had there been other actions ahead of this, ahead of the gunfire.” He said CATS will make de-escalation training recurring rather than just when drivers are hired.

Last week’s shooting was the second time in two years that an argument with a CATS driver ended in gunfire. In February 2022, CATS driver Ethan Rivera was shot and killed by a motorist after the two men yelled at each other in what police said was a road-rage incident uptown.
CATS currently spends $7 million a year on security. That’s increasing to $10.5 million next year, and to $14 million the year after that. The transit system also said it’s replacing the current security contractor, Allied, with two new firms. [Source]

STEM Workforce
BRENN A FLANAGAN, PORT CITY DAILY, 5/25/23

As the General Assembly’s two chambers confer on the next biennium’s budget, part of the negotiations will be public universities’ allotments. It could mean more state funding for UNCW. The Senate’s version includes an $8 million increase to the university’s $190 million appropriation, complying with the school’s request to fund more “critical workforce programs” and support its Carnegie classification as an R2 high-research activity institution. If passed, UNCW will use the funds to support its healthcare, nursing, education, pharmaceutical chemistry, data science, coastal engineering, marine sciences, shellfish and finfish aquaculture, cybersecurity, and intelligent systems engineering programs.

“Additional graduates from these programs will benefit the people, economy, and employers of North Carolina,” UNCW spokesperson Krissy Vick told Port City Daily. She added the funds would contribute directly to student success and economic development. The money will be used for applied-learning opportunities, financial assistance to in-state students, faculty recruitment and retention and interdisciplinary research and teaching.

The university could also gain an increased ability to secure funding and support from the federal government and the private sector and cover more of the costs to commercialize research projects. [Source]

Lumbee Amendment
TOMEKA SINCLAIR, THE ROBESONIAN, 5/25/23

The Lumbee Tribal Council is calling on North Carolina congressmen and the Commission of Indian Affairs to protest the possible amendment of a law that currently protects Lumbee artists and crafters. At a recent business meeting, the Lumbee Tribal Council approved a resolution in support of the current Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1935.
As it stands, the law prohibits misrepresentation in the marketing of Indian art and craft products within the United States. It is illegal to offer or display for sale, or sell, any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian or Indian tribe or Indian arts and crafts organization, resident within the United States.

Currently, the law extends to state and federally-recognized tribes but a proposed amendment would exclude state-recognized tribes like the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina if approved. “There are efforts within the Indian Arts and Craft Board to revise the definition within the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1935 to the detriment of Lumbee artists by excluding its protection only to federally recognized tribes within the Bureau of Indian Affairs within the Department of Interior,” Lumbee Tribal Councilman Alex Baker read in part from the Resolution.

“The Lumbee Tribal Council is vehemently opposed to any legislation that would remove state-recognized tribes or tribes terminated after 1940 from the Federal Arts and Crafts Act of 1935,” Baker continued.

Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery told council members he also sent a letter to congressional leaders about the matter and welcomed a proclamation on behalf of the Lumbee Tribal Council as well. “I think the more noise we can make on this, on this law, on this congressional action, the better the chance they’re going to hear us,” Lowery said. “The same people who are hating on us on our full federal recognition are hating on us on this Indian arts and crafts.” [Source]

Topsail Rezoning
TRISTA TALTON, COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE, 5/25/23

The Topsail Beach Planning Board on Wednesday denied a request to rezone a portion of the undeveloped southern end of the town to build a family compound. The board’s unanimous recommendation now goes to Topsail Beach commissioners, who will decide whether to uphold the planning board’s vote or approve the application to conditionally rezone roughly a quarter of the property known as The Point from its current conservation zone.

Commissioners are expected during their June 14 meeting to schedule a public hearing, which is anticipated to be held during the board’s July 12 meeting.
Raleigh software entrepreneur Todd Olson’s rezoning request has been met with a flurry of opposition from property owners in the town, throughout the island and tourists who frequent the town for family vacations and day trips. After the planning board cast its vote Wednesday, one man in the audience called out, “Hallelujah!” A majority of people filling the chairs set up in The Historic Assembly Building in the heart of the Pender County town’s business district applauded the decision. Representatives of the Olson family declined to comment after the meeting.

The Olson family wants to build seven houses, a pool and pool house, decking, beach and sound accesses and a six-slip private marina on the sprawling nearly 150-acre site that has steadily grown over the years as the southern end of Topsail Island at New Topsail Inlet has accrued sand. The Olsons are under contract to buy the land pending whether or not the footprint in which building would occur – fewer than 30 acres – gets rezoned.

They have also signed a letter of intent with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust to grant the organization a conservation easement for a minimum of 80% of the property. If that deal were to go through it would mean that more than 115 acres would forever stay undeveloped.

For months now, town residents, property owners and tourists have expressed opposition to the rezoning request in public meetings and hearings, and on social media. A grassroots group called Conserve the Point is working with nongovernmental organizations to try and cull public and private funding to buy the land from the McLeod family, which has owned the property for decades.

Prospective buyer Laura Olson said Wednesday that she is an environmentalist, one who can be found at beach cleanups and who works on water quality issues. “I do believe we’re on the same team. What makes me worried are the options that would come after us,” she said, alluding to developers who might eye the land if it remains on the market. [Source]

Gene Editing

BRIAN GORDON, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 5/25/23

A Durham gene editing company is in line to receive more than $1.92 billion through a new partnership with the global health care firm Novo Nordisk. Headquartered in Denmark, Novo Nordisk has a significant presence in the
Triangle, employing around 1,800 people across two facilities in Clayton and another in Durham.

The company manufactures medications and devices with a focus on treating diabetes. On Wednesday, Novo Nordisk announced it will collaborate with Life Edit Therapeutics in Durham to develop seven treatment programs for rare genetic disorders as well as cardiometabolic diseases, which include obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular issues.

Life Edit was founded in 2020 and is part of ElevateBio, a biotech firm based in Massachusetts. Through a process called base editing, Life Edit alters the human genome by adjusting a single base while leaving the rest unchanged. This can correct for certain mutations that often lead to genetic diseases.  

Shell Buildings

REBECCA SITZES, THE SHELBY STAR, 5/25/23

City and county leaders are optimistic it will soon house new industry and bring with it new high-paying jobs. The construction of the building is the result of a partnership between the city of Shelby and Cleveland County. Work on the 108,500-square-foot building began in February 2022 and was finished in April. Utility services - public water, sewer, electric and natural gas - are provided by the city of Shelby. WHN Architects, Hickory Construction Company and McGill & Associates handled the design, engineering and construction.

“The city and county are confident the new building, referred to as Job Ready Shell Building #4, will soon have a buyer as well,” stated a press release from the city of Shelby. The building allows for the expansion of another 148,000 square feet in the future. The modern structure sits on more than 31 acres of land.

“It started in 2009, and this is the fourth shell building we’ve been able to successfully build,” said Rick Howell, Shelby city manager. He said it was “a leap of faith” but around the time the first building was constructed, the unemployment rate hovered around 16%. Since then, the shell buildings have attracted new industries and jobs into the county. The three previously constructed shell buildings house Greenheck, Ivar’s Display and Steffes Inc.  

[Source]
The following bills were introduced or co-sponsored by U.S. House members from North Carolina.

Rep. Randy Feenstra, R-Iowa, introduced the “Access to Credit for Our Rural Economy Act” on May 9, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 23. **H.R. 3139.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by rural or agricultural real property; to the Committee on Ways and Means. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. Wiley Nickel, D-N.C.

Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., introduced the “Justice for Victims of Open Borders Act” on May 9, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 23. **H.R. 3140.** A bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 with respect to crime victim compensation program eligibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Rep. Zach Nunn, R-Iowa, introduced the “Protecting American Benefits Act” on May 9, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 23. **H.R. 3157.** A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue obligations to make Medicare and Social Security payments, veterans disability benefits, and military benefits, despite the debt limit being reached; to the Committee on Ways and Means. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. Don Davis, D-N.C.

Rep. Jodey C. Arrington, R-Texas, introduced the “Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act” on March 30, 2023. The text and summary of the bill was released on May 23. **H.R. 2407.** A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C.

Rep. Glenn R. Grothman, R-Wis., introduced the “Hmong Congressional Gold Medal Act” on March 30, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 23. **H.R. 2427.** A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Hmong people, in recognition of their highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the
fight against communism; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C.

Rep. Gregory F. Murphy, R-N.C., introduced legislation on March 30, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 23. **H.R. 2437.** A bill to revise the boundaries of a unit of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Topsail, North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. David Rouzer, R-N.C.

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., introduced the “Women’s Health Protection Act” on March 30, 2023. The text and summary of the bill was released on May 20. **H.R. 12.** A bill to protect a person’s ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider’s ability to provide abortion services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. Alma S. Adams, D-N.C., Jeff Jackson, D-N.C., Kathy E. Manning, D-N.C., Wiley Nickel, D-N.C., Deborah K. Ross, D-N.C. and Valerie Foushee, D-N.C.

Rep. James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., introduced the “Enhanced Background Checks Act” on March 30, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 20. **H.R. 2403.** A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee; to the Committee on the Judiciary. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. Kathy E. Manning, D-N.C.

Rep. Randy Weber, R-Texas, introduced a resolution on April 28, 2023. The text of the resolution was released on May 16. **H. Res. 346.** A resolution reaffirming the support of the United States to our strongest ally in the region, Israel, and recognizing the authoritarian and extremist regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a threat to Israel, the region, the United States, and global stability; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The resolution is cosponsored by Reps. Gregory F. Murphy, R-N.C. and Richard Hudson, R-N.C.

### Senate Bills
The following bills were introduced or co-sponsored by U.S. Senators from North Carolina.

Sen. Ted Budd, R-N.C., introduced the “Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act” on May 2, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 16. S. 1398. A bill to prohibit agencies of the government from soliciting or entering into agreements with nongovernmental organizations to conduct voter registration or voter mobilization activities on the property or website of the agency or from using Federal funds to carry out activities directed under Executive Order 14019, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., introduced the “Minority Entrepreneurship Grant Program Act” on May 2, 2023. The text of the bill was released on May 16. S. 1402. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development, to establish a grant program to create or expand programs at minority-serving institutions and historically Black colleges and universities that promote minority business ownership and entrepreneurship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. The bill is cosponsored by Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

Federal Contracts


N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

ITEMS IN RED ARE NEW LISTINGS.

Tuesday, May 30
1:30 p.m. | The Accountability Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets via Zoom.

11 a.m. | State Building Commission Monthly Meeting, 116 West Jones St., Raleigh.

**Friday, June 9**

10 a.m. | The Finance and Audit Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets via Zoom.

**Monday, June 12**

10 a.m. | NC Global TransPark Authority Finance Committee Meeting, 2780 Jetport Rd., Kinston.

**Tuesday, June 13**

8:30 a.m. | The Fund Development Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets via Zoom.

**Tuesday, June 20**

10 a.m. | The North Carolina Partnership for Children Board of Directors meets via Zoom.

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**UNC Board of Governors**

23 S. WEST STREET, SUITE 1800, RALEIGH.

**Thursday, July 20**

T.B.A. | The UNC Board of Governors, UNC System Office.

**Thursday, Sept. 14**

T.B.A. | The UNC Board of Governors, UNC System Office.

**Thursday, Oct. 19**

T.B.A. | The UNC Board of Governors, UNC System Office.

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**N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule**
Monday, June 5

- Staff Conference

Wednesday, June 21

- 7 p.m. | Hearing - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, For Adjustment of Rates and Charges Applicable to Electric Service in North Carolina. Burke County Courthouse, 201 S. Green St., Morganton.

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

ITEMS IN RED ARE NEW LISTINGS.

Friday, May 26

- 1 p.m. | Gov. Roy Cooper to visit Canton to meet with local leaders and highlight small businesses. Maddie’s Gift Shop, 53 Main St, Canton.
[External] ITL Newsletter April - June 2022

Information Technology Lab (ITL) at NIST
April - June 2022 Newsletter
NIST Updates Cybersecurity Guidance for Supply Chain Risk Management

A vulnerable spot in global commerce is the supply chain: It enables technology developers and vendors to create and deliver innovative products but can leave businesses, their finished wares, and ultimately their consumers open to cyberattacks. A new update to the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST’s) foundational cybersecurity supply chain risk management (C-SCRM) guidance aims to help organizations protect themselves as they acquire and use technology products and services. The revised publication, formally titled *Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations* (NIST Special Publication 800-161 Revision 1), provides guidance on identifying, assessing
and responding to cybersecurity risks throughout the supply chain at all levels of an organization. It forms part of NIST's response to Executive Order 14028: Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity, specifically Sections 4(c) and (d), which concern enhancing the security of the software supply chain.

CULTIVATING TRUST IN IT AND METROLOGY

FEATURE STORIES

U.S. Department of Commerce Appoints 27 Members to National AI Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced the appointment of 27 experts to the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (NAIAC), which will advise the President and the National AI Initiative Office on a range of issues related to artificial intelligence (AI). The appointments are the first for the recently established committee, created in response to the National AI Initiative Act of 2020. The initiative directs the NAIAC to provide recommendations on topics including the current state of U.S. AI competitiveness, the state of science around AI, and AI workforce issues. The committee is also responsible for advice regarding the management and coordination of the initiative itself, including its balance of activities and funding.

NIST Publishes Review of Digital Forensic Methods

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has published Digital Investigation Techniques: A NIST Scientific Foundation Review. This draft report, which will be open for public comment for 60 days (comments due July 11, 2022), reviews the methods that digital forensic experts use to analyze evidence from computers, mobile phones and other electronic devices. The purpose of NIST scientific foundation reviews is to document and evaluate the scientific basis for forensic methods. These reviews fill a need identified in a landmark 2009 study by the National Academy of Sciences, which found that many forensic disciplines lack a solid foundation in scientific research. To conduct their review, the authors examined peer-reviewed literature, documentation from software developers, test results on forensic tools, standards and best practices documents, and other sources of information. They found that “digital evidence
examination rests on a firm foundation based in computer science,” and that “the application of these computer science techniques to digital investigations is sound.”

“Copying data, searching for text strings, finding timestamps on files, reading call logs on a phone. These are basic elements of a digital investigation,” said Barbara Guttman, leader of NIST’s digital forensics research program and an author of the study. “And they all rely on fundamental computer operations that are widely used and well understood.”

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Ram Sriram**  
*Chief, Software and Systems Division*

Congratulations to Ram Sriram who has been elected to the 2022 Class of the AIMBE College of Fellows. Dr. Sriram was nominated, reviewed, and elected by peers and members of the AIMBE College of Fellows for outstanding contributions to federal health information technology research and programs.

**PAO, ITL Receives 2022 Communicators Award of Distinction for Video Animation**

Congratulations to José Ricardo García, David Stewart, Jenny Wang, Leon Geršković (NIST Public Affairs Office) and Matt Scholl (Information Technology Laboratory) who were individuals recognized by the AIVA for this video. NIST’s video "Post-Quantum Encryption: the Good, the Bad, and the Powerful" received a Communicators Award of Distinction in the Technology for Online Video category from the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts (AIVA).

**ITL IN THE NEWS**

- [NIST Seeking Feedback for a New Cybersecurity Framework and Supply Chain Guidance](#) | CySecurity News
- [NIST's Vision for the Future of Smart Health Care Systems](#) | GovCio Media & Research
- [What to Know About NIST Compliance](#) | The Next Tech
Biden Issues Executive Order Bolstering National Quantum Initiative and Cybersecurity | HPC Wire

- NIST’s Supply-Chain Security Guidance Tells Agencies: Look to FedRAMP First | FedRamp
- NIST Releases Updated Cybersecurity Guidance for Managing Supply Chain Risks | National Cyber Security News Today

PUBLICATIONS


LOOKING AHEAD

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

On June 6th - 8th, NIST will host 12th Annual NICE Conference and Expo.

On June 23rd, NIST will host Iris Experts Group (IEG) Meeting 2022. Register Now.
SUCCESS STORIES

NIST Finalizes Recommendations on Removing Barriers for Voters with Disabilities
To help improve access to voting, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has finalized its publication outlining barriers that limit the ability of people with disabilities to vote privately and independently — as well as recommending approaches for addressing them. The publication, titled Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities (NIST Special Publication 1273), constitutes NIST’s response to the March 7, 2021, Executive Order (EO) 14019 on Promoting Access to Voting.

NOTABLE QUOTES

“AI systems do not operate in isolation. They help people make decisions that directly affect other people’s lives.”

- Reva Schwartz, ITL Fellow
50 Cybersecurity Video

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News

NIST Draft Publication Addresses Removing Barriers for Voters With Disabilities
As part of the federal government’s effort to improve access to voting, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a draft publication outlining barriers that voters with disabilities may encounter during the election process — as well as potential approaches for addressing them. NIST is requesting comments on the draft by Nov. 22, 2021, to inform a final version expected in December.

The draft publication, formally titled *Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities* (NIST Special Publication 1273), forms part of NIST’s response to the March 7, 2021, Executive Order (EO) 14019 on Promoting Access to Voting.
NIST Seeks Public Input on Removing Barriers to Voting for People With Disabilities

June 16, 2021

To help foster wider access to voting, NIST is requesting information from the public about barriers that limit the ability of people with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

Read More
If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com. Technical questions? Contact inquiries@nist.gov, (301) 975-6478.

This service is provided to you at no charge by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1070 · Gaithersburg, MD 20899 · 301-975-6478
NIST Finalizes Recommendations on Removing Barriers for Voters With Disabilities

The publication is a response to a White House executive order.
To help improve access to voting, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has finalized its publication outlining barriers that limit the ability of people with disabilities to vote privately and independently — as well as recommending approaches for addressing them.

The publication, titled *Promoting Access to Voting: Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Private and Independent Voting for People with Disabilities* (NIST Special Publication 1273), constitutes NIST’s response to the March 7, 2021, Executive Order (EO) 14019 on Promoting Access to Voting. NIST developed the report following an initial request for information and a subsequent request for comments on the draft version, both of which drew many responses from the public.
NIST Draft Publication Addresses Removing Barriers for Voters With Disabilities

Oct. 21, 2021

As part of the federal government's effort to improve access to voting, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a draft publication outlining barriers that voters with disabilities may encounter during the election process — as well as potential approaches for addressing them.

Read More
NIST Seeks Public Input on Removing Barriers to Voting for People With Disabilities
To help foster wider access to voting, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is requesting information from the public about barriers that limit the ability of people with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

The request for information (RFI), which appears today in the Federal Register, is part of NIST’s response to the March 7, 2021, Executive Order (EO) 14019 on Promoting Access to Voting. NIST will use the responses it receives to inform a report planned for December 2021 offering recommendations on how to overcome barriers that these voters experience.
Hi Karen, I hope you're doing really well. Please see the below from a former US Senate colleague of mine and let me know if this might be of interest. If it is, I can connect you directly. Many thanks!

Sarah

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Michael Dannenberg <michael.dannenberg@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 11:50 AM
Subject: Re: Karen Brinson Bell
To: Sarah Bolton <sarahwbolton@gmail.com>

Hey, Sarah. As I mentioned, I’m reaching out about a voter access and higher ed effort led by a collection of 40 odd groups. We’ve been pitching the administration on a series of ideas and have had some success. Am looking to build on that in a way that would be very useful to state and local election folks, non-party affiliated non-profits, and well, the country. I think Karen Brinson Bell might be interested.

Summary: In response to our "College Motor Voter" coalition's 2021 request and associated advocacy, last year the U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued a “Dear Colleague” guidance letter to financial aid administrators making clear that colleges can pay students for non-partisan voter registration work with Federal Work Study (FWS) funds when the students are working directly for their colleges. That’s not insignificant. There are 800,000 work study students nationally that access $1.2 billion in aid each year for authorized paid work.

The problem is all too many colleges provide limited civic engagement work study opportunities (many would rather have students work in the cafeteria or college administration offices) and many students have off-campus work study jobs with government offices or 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

Request: We're hoping Karen in her new role with the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) might consider joining, maybe even leading, a non-partisan effort to get state and local officials to urge ED Secretary Cardona to make clear that government entities, notably offices that NASED members lead, and non party-affiliated, non-profit 501(c)(3)
organizations like the *League of Women Voters* can pay work study students with Federal Work Study funds for non-partisan voter registration work just as colleges now can for identical work.

The work study law, ED regulations, DOJ interpretation, a Biden Executive Order, etc... all back that position. Over 40 groups, including AFT, Ed Trust, NAACP LDF, NASFAA, NEA, SEIU, The NewDEAL Forum, UnidosUS, and Young Invincibles among others support the view and sent a separate January 31, 2023 letter urging the same (see attached). Here’s a draft letter from state and local leaders that takes a more down-the-middle messaging approach (attached as well). I’m hoping Karen might be willing to discuss the latter.

Michael Dannenberg  
Senior Fellow, College Promise  
Consultant, Foundation for Civic Leadership  
LinkedIn: [bit.ly/3H76DfV](https://bit.ly/3H76DfV)  
Tel.: 917-653-3417 (c)
Hello. I would like to make a public records request for the following information.

1. Communications between federal employees and employees and board members with the North Carolina State Board of Elections between March 1, 2021 to the present that relates to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14019 on voting and elections.

2. Communications between any employees/board members with the North Carolina State Board of Elections between March 1, 2021 to the present that relates to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14019 on voting and elections.

3. Documents or correspondents from federal employees of federal agencies regarding a "strategic plan" in relation to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14019 on voting and elections between March 1, 2021 to the present.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Fred Lucas
The Daily Signal
(202) 875-9090
Twitter: @FredLucasWH
Email: Fred.Lucas@DailySignal.com

Fred Lucas
Chief News Correspondent and Manager, Investigative Reporting Project, The Daily Signal
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 875-9090
heritage.org
Hi all,

Zoom information for tomorrow included below. The calendar invitation has also been updated.

Let me know if you have questions. Mr. Davis and his team are looking forward to tomorrow’s conversation.

Caleb

Topic: [House Admin GOP] American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act—Secretaries of State Bill Review
Time: Jun 16, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting
https://ushr.zoomgov.com/j/1609380279?pwd=Z0ViM283SXhVVFRWbG1VN2tlUzRadz09

Meeting ID: 160 938 0279
Passcode: 538796
One tap mobile
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Dial by your location
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Passcode: 538796
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Join by SIP
1609380279@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323
161.199.138.10 (US West)
161.199.136.10 (US East)
Meeting ID: 160 938 0279
Passcode: 538796
In the three years since Ranking Member Rodney Davis took over Republican leadership at House Administration, we’ve gotten to know each of you, both in D.C. and in your states (17 states + territories and counting!) and have benefited from learning from your experience. You’ve told us that Congressional Republicans needed to do a better job at staving off election nationalization. You’ve told us that simply defeating H.R. 1 and H.R. 4 wasn’t enough, that we needed Republican legislation to protect federalism and reaffirm the Constitution’s structure: States have primary authority over federal elections, and congressional authority is not only secondary but very limited.

As you know, those conversations led us to explore with you and your teams how we might fill this void with solid legislation that not only meets the moment, but, more importantly, respects federalism and our conservative principles. This has led us to the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act, a bill we have drafted together with Republican Secretaries of State, Lt. Governors, state elections directors, state elections commissioners, state legislators, local officials, and other key stakeholders over the past two years.

At the suggestion of Secretary Warner (WV) and following a recent meeting with Secretary Ardoin (LA), we will be facilitating a detailed bill review session for a final examination of the draft text. **This virtual bill review session will be held Thursday, June 16, beginning at 11:00 a.m. EDT.**

Each of you has been a vital partner in this process, and now that we are nearing introduction this summer, we would appreciate the further benefit of your experience to review the near-final text to ensure nothing has been missed. This working review session will be driven by the participation and conversation between attendees. Senior Committee staff will be online to facilitate and to answer questions or to discuss policy considerations.

**Republican Bill Review: American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act**

- **When:** Thursday, June 16, 2022
  - Beginning at 11:00 a.m. EDT
- **Where:** Via Zoom (link to be provided)
- **Who:** Secretaries of State
  - State Elections Directors
  - State Elections Commissioners
  - State Legislators
  - Local Elections Officials
  - Key Staff

Please feel free to forward this invitation to others who may fit within these categories.
Caleb Hays

—

Caleb J. Hays
General Counsel & Deputy Staff Director
Committee on House Administration, Republican Staff
Ranking Member Rodney Davis (IL-13)
(202) 225-8281 main
(202) 226-3572 direct
(202) 641-5098 cell
Hi John,

Thanks again for the info. Attached is the list by percentage. We do blow away everyone else with our percentages.

Have a great day,
Matt

---

From: Noce, John <John.Noce@ncsbe.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 8:34 AM
To: Matthew.Snyder <Matthew.Snyder@watgov.org>
Subject: 18-25 Age Group counts by County

Hey Matt,

Here you go. Glad I started because James told me to put in a help ticket.

Looks like Watauga is ranked #20 in 18-25 year olds.

Hope this helps.

John

John M. Noce, CERA
Security & Support Technician – District 1 & 3
(919) 538-0279 (C)
(828) 777-7610 (H)
john.noce@ncsbe.gov
Would you be able to provide a spreadsheet of the following voter information:

Sampson County, Commissioner District 2 registered unaffiliated and Republican Hispanic voters. Please include, name, address and phone number if available.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 18, 2023, at 11:37 AM, Loftin, Colin <colin.loftin@ncsbe.gov> wrote:

Hi Marcus,

Thank you for your interest in the NC State Board of Elections data. I have attached four files, one for each of the different datasets you requested. Please let me know if you have any questions or problems with any of the files and I will be happy to help.

Thanks,
Colin Loftin

Colin Loftin
Elections Data Analyst
M: (919) 819-2809
Terrific. Thanks for the e-intro, Sarah.
Karen, will follow up. Spoiler: The topic is "Free, Paid Staff for Non-Partisan Voting Rights Work." --Michael

Michael Dannenberg
Senior Fellow, College Promise
Consultant, Foundation for Civic Leadership
Tel.: 917-653-3417 (c)

On Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 2:32 PM Sarah Bolton <sarahwbolton@gmail.com> wrote:
   Hi Karen, as I mentioned in my previous email, I'm introducing you here to Michael Dannenberg. He's working with an impressive group of organizations working on the intersection of post-secondary institutions and non-partisan voter registration.

   Michael, you already know of the fantastic Karen Brinson Bell. Karen can be reached via email or phone - her direct line is (919) 814-0747 and her work mobile is (919) 909-2648. I'll leave it to you to take it from here!

Sarah

--
Sarah Bolton
sarahwbolton@gmail.com
Hello Standards Board Members,

We are looking forward to seeing you virtually tomorrow, April 14, at 1:30 p.m. for the Standards Board annual meeting. You should have received a calendar invite for this meeting on March 15. We have attached important materials for this meeting so we would greatly appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this email.

- Election Information
At the meeting, Standards Board members will elect two representatives to fill two vacancies on the Executive Board. Included in the attachments are instructions on how to cast your ballot. After roll call, present members will receive a link to the ballot from “Kim Smith app@us.checkbox.com.” The link will not be active until the election process is discussed under the “Executive Board Election” agenda item at the meeting. The password for the ballot is:

   HmqfzFAC3jzDPRqwddQD

Please note, on March 30 members received an email with all nominee biographies. Secretary John H. Merrill has withdrawn his nomination. The remaining nominees are:

   - Bryan Caskey, Appointed Director of Elections (State), Kansas, Party Affiliation: Republican
   - Brian Newby, Appointed State Election Director (State), North Dakota, Affiliation: Unaffiliated
   - Janine M. Petty, Appointed Senior Director of Voter Registration (Local), Maricopa County, Arizona, Affiliation: Republican
   - James E. Tatum, Elected Judge of Probate (Local), Bullock County, Alabama, Affiliation: Democrat

- Zoom Information
The Zoom information for the meeting is copied below. THIS INFORMATION IS FOR MEMBERS AND EAC STAFF ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE THE STANDARDS BOARD.

Please ensure your Zoom name is recognizable, so we can make sure we are only letting members
into the meeting and keeping this meeting is as secure as possible. If you need to join the meeting by phone, please respond to this email with the phone number you are using to call in so we can let you into the meeting.

The meeting will be livestreamed for the public on the EAC’s YouTube page. Please be aware, the livestream will begin as EAC staff admit members into the meeting. If you have any issues joining or during the Zoom meeting, please email or call Kristen Muthig at 202-897-9285 or kmuthig@eac.gov. Thank you!

Attached are materials for your review for the annual meeting:
- Updated 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda
- 2021 Meeting Minutes
- FACA Presentation
- Ballot Instructions

Topic: EAC Standards Board Annual Meeting
Time: Apr 14, 2022 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting
https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614123813?pwd=Ujg4S2tibzROWHZjajlHMDh6aVRDUT09

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+1 551 285 1373 US
833 568 8864 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 161 412 3813
Find your local number: https://www.zoomgov.com/u/amPl44nIm

Kimberly Smith | Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO), EAC Standards Board
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200 | Washington, DC 20001
www.eac.gov
Dear Standards Board Members,

On behalf of DFO Commissioner Donald Palmer, please find attached the 2022 Executive Board Nominations Ballot Package, which includes a letter explaining the election process, HAVA Section 213, Biographical Information of Nominees, and the By-Laws as well as the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting. The list of Nominees in alphabetical order is as follows:

- **Bryan Caskey**, Appointed Director of Elections (State), Kansas, Party Affiliation: Republican
- **John H. Merrill**, Elected Secretary of State (State), Alabama, Party Affiliation: Republican
- **Brian Newby**, Appointed State Election Director (State), North Dakota, Affiliation: Unaffiliated
- **Janine M. Petty**, Appointed Senior Director of Voter Registration (Local), Maricopa County, Arizona, Affiliation: Republican
- **James E. Tatum**, Elected Judge of Probate (Local), Bullock County, Alabama, Affiliation: Democrat

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Commissioner Palmer or myself at your convenience.

Kimberly Smith | Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO), EAC Standards Board
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200 | Washington, DC 20001
[www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)
Hello Standards Board Members.

We are looking forward to seeing you virtually on Thursday, June 17 at 1:30 p.m. ET for the Standards Board annual meeting. You should have received a calendar invite for this meeting. We have attached important materials for this meeting so we would greatly appreciate it if you could confirm receipt of this email.

At the end of this email is the Zoom information for the meeting. THIS INFORMATION IS FOR MEMBERS AND EAC STAFF ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE OF THE STANDARDS BOARD. We hope you will be able to join the meeting with Zoom so you can see the material being presented. If you have to join by phone, please email Kammi Foote with the phone number you are using to call in so we can identify you and help with roll call.
The meeting will be livestreamed for the public on the EAC’s YouTube page.

You will be receiving a test email from the software we are using to conduct this year’s elections. You will get an email from “Kammi Foote noreply@checkbox.com” with a link to complete a test ballot. This is a legitimate email that we are using to identify any issues with this software before the annual meeting. The password to cast a test ballot is: TestBallotEAC2021!

Please email ADFO Kammi Foote at kfoote@eac.gov if you do not receive this email or are unable to use the link to cast your vote.

Attached are materials for your review for the annual meeting including:
- Revised 2021 Annual Meeting agenda
- July 31, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- VVSG 2.0 Lifecycle/Manual slides
- FACA overview
- NIST handout on the Executive Order
- CISA Cybersecurity Briefing Slides
- Ballot instructions

If you have any issues joining or during the Zoom meeting on Thursday please email or call Kristen Muthig at 202-897-9285 or kmuthig@eac.gov or Peter Bowles at 202-924-0820 or pbowles@eac.gov for assistance. Thank you!

EAC Standards Board Annual Meeting – June 17, 2021, 1:30pm ET

Join Zoom Meeting
https://eac-gov.zoom.us/j/82569486338?pwd=cTNITlFic2pKNWlOZnV3dW9yb1IoUT09

Meeting ID: 825 6948 6338
Passcode: 189724

One tap mobile
+13126266799,,82569486338# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,,82569486338# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
877 853 5247 US Toll-free
888 788 0099 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 825 6948 6338
Find your local number: https://eac-gov.zoom.us/u/kebj73Xy71
From: Bell, Karen B
To: Levitt, Justin M, EOP/WHO
Subject: Accepted: [External] FW: Input on implementation of EO 14019
From: Bell, Karen B
To: Levitt, Justin M. EOP/WHO
Subject: Accepted: [External] FW: Input on implementation of EO 14019
Thank you for your email. Your message is being reviewed to ensure a prompt response.
Thank you for your email. Your message is being reviewed to ensure a prompt response.
Julie Wells would like to speak with someone about the Executive order 14019 that Joe Biden is trying to pass. Is there someone available to speak with Julie about this?

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/07/executive-order-on-promoting-access-to-voting/

757-619-0124
juliemartinwells@gmail.com

Regards,

Christopher Elliott
Operations Support Lead
Christopher.Elliott@ncsbe.gov
You don't often get email from jpanebianco@americafirstpolicy.com. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Report suspicious emails with the Report Message button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.
Director Bell,

Please see the attached public records request, regarding your position as North Carolina’s Chief Election Officer. Should you or your office have any questions regarding the nature of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Jase Panebianco
We did get a letter on 4/15. I had to do a search on my email to find.

Karen Brinson Bell, CERA, PMP
Executive Director, NCSBE
(919) 814-0700 Main Line

You don't often get email from jpanebianco@americafirstpolicy.com. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Report suspicious emails with the Report Message button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.

Director Bell,
Please see the attached public records request, regarding your position as North Carolina’s Chief Election Officer. Should you or your office have any questions regarding the nature of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Jase Panebianco

JASE PANEBIANCO
Associate Attorney
631-710-8306
AMERICAFIRSTPOLICY.COM

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Katelyn and Kelly,

I wanted to share with the two of you in case you had any food for thought. I’ll of course also be thinking through these bullet points before the meeting on Friday.

Karen Brinson Bell  
*Executive Director, NCSBE*  
(919) 814-0700

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Hello. Thank you again – so very much – for lending your time and expertise. As mentioned, we’re seeking your input on the implementation of the President’s Executive Order promoting access to voting, in two sessions – one session with White House officials, and one session with representatives of various federal agencies. The Executive Order does not, of course, create any responsibilities for state or local officials. It does direct federal agencies to consider ways in which they might disseminate information about voting and the election process, and foster registration and participation – and we know, as agencies develop their plans, that they would benefit from hearing from officials who run elections.

I mentioned last week that we’ll be holding the first session, remotely on Zoom, on **June 25, from 2-3pm Eastern**, and the second session (with the agencies), also remotely on Zoom, on **July 1, from 2-3:30pm Eastern**. I will send calendar invitations momentarily with the relevant logistical information.

As an agenda for the first meeting, we’d like to hear your views on:

- Ways in which federal agencies can best provide information for the public about the elections process, including the mechanics of registering and voting (and including information in multiple languages)
• Ways in which federal agencies engaging with the public can best facilitate access to the election process, including facilitating registration and applications for voting by mail, where applicable
• Ways in which federal agencies can help issue identity documents that satisfy state requirements
• Ways in which a modernized vote.gov website might facilitate providing information about the elections process and/or delivering interested citizens to your websites
• Ways in which the Department of Defense might better facilitate registration and voting for servicemembers on active duty, including those voting absentee and those voting in person
• Ways in which the Department of Justice might provide information about the voting process (and where feasible, registration), for those under federal supervision or emerging from supervision

Other portions of the Executive Order -- including recommendations for serving Native American communities and voters with disabilities – are equally important but have a longer lead-time, and we recognize that we may not have time to develop them fully in these particular meetings (though your thoughts are certainly welcome).

The Executive Order is attached, for your convenience. But we want to emphasize that we’re not purporting to assign any “homework,” nor are we expecting you to do research or preparation for these upcoming meetings: your experience and expertise will be more than sufficient.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Justin

--

Justin Levitt
Senior Policy Advisor for Democracy and Voting Rights
Domestic Policy Council
Justin.M.Levitt@who.eop.gov
202-881-6765
Karen Brinson Bell  
*Executive Director, NCSBE*  
(919) 814-0700

**From:** Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 6, 2021 9:32 PM  
**To:** Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>  
**Cc:** Dodd, Stacy <sdodd@sso.org>; Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>; Lindsey Forson <lforson@sso.org>; Milhofer, John <jmilhofer@sso.org>; Allison Waltz <awaltz@sso.org>  
**Subject:** [External] NASS Elections Committee: No Call 8/11, 8/05 Notes, Census to Release Data on 8/12, John Lewis Voting Rights Enhancement Act Coming, Senate Activity this Weekend re Elections  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.

Dear NASS Elections Committee, IT Directors and Communications Directors,

**No Elections Committee Call on August 12**
Many will be traveling to Des Moines next Thursday, so there will be no call next week.

**Notes from 8/05 Elections Committee Call Attached**

**Census Now Says Redistricting Date will be Released on Thursday, August 12**
While an earlier projection from Census was that redistricting data for the states would not be available until August 16, we learned via twitter that the 2020 Census Redistricting data will now be released on Thursday, August 12. They will have a press conference on the 12th to discuss the data release. [News Conference on Release of 2020 Census Redistricting Data](https://www.census.gov/news-room/releases/archives/census2020/R2021-0001.html)

**House Admin Subcommittee on Elections Hold Press Conference today and Released Report to prepare for John Lewis Voting Rights Enhancement Act**
Today, House Admin Subcommittee on Elections Chair Butterfield (D-NC) held a press conference to release a report based on hearings held over the past several months. He said this report will be the
foundation for the reintroduction of HR 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Enhancement Act in the next few weeks.

**Senate Announcements on Election Legislation and Possible Funding Included in $3.5 Trillion Reconciliation Package**

So many moving parts, but also a lack of clarity on activity happening over this weekend in the Senate. The Senators will be addressing the roughly $1 trillion infrastructure bill over the weekend. Votes are scheduled to begin tomorrow, but this could spill into next week. Any additional business, including some kind of compromise between For the People Act and Senator Manchin’s proposed alternative are unclear. Senate staff have told us there is no language yet to share, which means it seems unlikely it will be addressed before Senators go on their August recess. I’m still not clear on when the recess will happen. It will depend a lot on how things go this weekend.

I also reached out to Senate staff about possible election funding in the $3.5 trillion reconciliation package (again, not entirely clear when that will come up). Senator Klobuchar was quoted in at least one news outlet as saying that election funding in conjunction with some requirements was something under consideration. Her staff was not able to share any additional information on this when I reached out.

Finally, yesterday Sen. Klobuchar, along with Senators Padilla, Ossoff and Merkley introduced the Protecting Election Administration from Interference Act (no bill number assigned yet). Attached you will find a NASS summary, along with the legislative text. The bill addresses chain of custody/audit issues and threats to election officials.

**NASS 2021 Summer Conference Agenda Attached – Please do not share outside your office**

Attached you will find the NASS 2021 Summer Conference detailed agenda (as opposed to what is on the website). For security purposes, we are asking that you NOT share this outside your office. As you can see, we have a packed agenda and we look forward to seeing many of you there! While in-person registration is now closed, you can still register to attend virtually here until Tuesday, August 10th.

Have a great weekend!
Leslie

Leslie Reynolds
Executive Director
National Association of Secretaries of State
444 N Capitol Street, NW
Suite 401
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-3525
Hello. I would like to make a public records request for the following information.

1. Communications between federal employees and employees and board members with the North Carolina State Board of Elections between March 1, 2021 to the present that relates to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14019 on voting and elections.

2. Communications between any employees/board members with the North Carolina State Board of Elections between March 1, 2021 to the present that relates to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14019 on voting and elections.

3. Documents or correspondents from federal employees of federal agencies regarding a "strategic plan" in relation to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14019 on voting and elections between March 1, 2021 to the present.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Fred Lucas
The Daily Signal
(202) 875-9090
Twitter: @FredLucasWH
Email: Fred.Lucas@DailySignal.com

Fred Lucas
Chief News Correspondent and Manager, Investigative Reporting Project, The Daily Signal
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 875-9090
heritage.org
Hello Standards Board Members,

We are looking forward to seeing you virtually tomorrow, April 14, at 1:30 p.m. for the Standards Board annual meeting. You should have received a calendar invite for this meeting on March 15. We have attached important materials for this meeting so we would greatly appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this email.

Election Information

At the meeting, Standards Board members will elect two representatives to fill two vacancies on the Executive Board. Included in the attachments are instructions on how to cast your ballot. After roll call, present members will receive a link to the ballot from “Kim Smith app@us.checkbox.com.” The link will not be active until the election process is discussed under the “Executive Board Election” agenda item at the meeting. The password for the ballot is:

HmqfzFAC3jzDPRqwddQD

Please note, on March 30 members received an email with all nominee biographies. Secretary John H. Merrill has withdrawn his nomination. The remaining nominees are:

- **Bryan Caskey**, Appointed Director of Elections (State), Kansas, Party Affiliation: Republican
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- **Janine M. Petty**, Appointed Senior Director of Voter Registration (Local), Maricopa County,
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**Zoom Information**
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Please ensure your Zoom name is recognizable, so we can make sure we are only letting members into the meeting and keeping this meeting as secure as possible. If you need to join the meeting by phone, please respond to this email with the phone number you are using to call in so we can let you into the meeting.

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Attached are materials for your review for the annual meeting:

- Updated 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda
- 2021 Meeting Minutes
- FACA Presentation
- Ballot Instructions

**Topic:** EAC Standards Board Annual Meeting
**Time:** Apr 14, 2022 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting
[https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614123813?pwd=Ujg4S2tibzROWHZjajIHMdh6aVRDUT09](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614123813?pwd=Ujg4S2tibzROWHZjajIHMdh6aVRDUT09)

Meeting ID: 161 412 3813
Passcode: 429393
One tap mobile
+16692545252,,1614123813# US (San Jose)
+16468287666,,1614123813# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)
+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)
+1 551 285 1373 US
833 568 8864 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 161 412 3813
Find your local number: [https://www.zoomgov.com/u/amPl44nIm](https://www.zoomgov.com/u/amPl44nIm)

**Kimberly Smith** | Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO), EAC Standards Board
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**Time:** Apr 14, 2022 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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[https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614123813?pwd=Ujg4S2tibzROWHZjajlHMDh6aVRDUT09](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1614123813?pwd=Ujg4S2tibzROWHZjajlHMDh6aVRDUT09)

Meeting ID: 161 412 3813  
Passcode: 429393  
One tap mobile  
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+16468287666,,1614123813# US (New York)

Dial by your location  
  +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)  
  +1 646 828 7666 US (New York)  
  +1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)  
  +1 551 285 1373 US  
  833 568 8864 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 161 412 3813  
Find your local number: [https://www.zoomgov.com/u/amPl44nIm](https://www.zoomgov.com/u/amPl44nIm)

**Kimberly Smith** | Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO), EAC Standards Board
Good morning all,

I hope you all had a weekend! A few quick things to start off our weeks...

- **NASED Call:**
  - Join us Friday at noon ET! Calendar appointment attached and info below. I’ve asked one of the states whose DMV was impacted by the MOVEit vulnerability to share some information on their experience.
    - Webex: [Link](https://nased1.webex.com/nased1/j.php?MTID=m1e2b7fed8f83acadcc705f76a930df533) (password: UhxK4mYs$47)
    - Dial-in: 1-844-621-3956, 25565988493#84954697#

- **EAC:**
  - At the Senate Rules EAC Oversight hearing, one of the EAC Commissioners mentioned that the EAC Office of the Inspector General [conducted an audit](https://www.eac.gov/audit) earlier this year of the EAC’s Testing and Certification program. I thought the audit provided a very good layman’s overview of the lab accreditation process and the voting system certification process that may be of use to you in explaining the process to your relevant audiences.
  - The audit also notes a [Notice of Clarification](https://www.eac.gov/notice-of-clarification) published by the EAC in July 2021
describing a change to the Voting System Test Lab (VSTL) accreditation documentation – the certificates no longer include an expiration date and instead say “Accreditation remains effective until revoked by a vote of the EAC.” This change was presumably made in light of the rumors that one of the lab’s accreditation had lapsed. Perhaps you’ve already seen this, but I hadn’t, and I thought it may be helpful to have in your pockets moving forward, especially as I know several of you have dealt with litigation on this point.

- **NASED Workshop:**
  - Reminder that **TODAY at 2pm ET**, NASED will host a workshop with Ariel White, Assistant Professor of Political Science at MIT, Engaging the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated. This workshop is open to all state and territorial election office staff but should not be shared with local election officials. The workshop will be recorded, but I’d encourage you to attend.
    - Webex: [https://nased1.webex.com/nased1/j.php?MTID=m713b51a66f70df37ccd8954007faa796](https://nased1.webex.com/nased1/j.php?MTID=m713b51a66f70df37ccd8954007faa796) (password: kMmT9ZSYM48)

- **Congress:**
  - Last week, the US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations passed the [Financial Services and General Government](https://appropriations.house.gov/) spending bill (summary) for FY24. There are no election grants included in this bill. The EAC is budgeted $20M (their FY22 enacted funding level and $8M below FY23), with $1.5M passing through to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). If your office has opinions on this, now is the time to be reaching out to your House and Senate representation.
  - The bill also prohibits funds from being used by federal agencies to implement [Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2021/01/26/president-biden-directs-hhs-to-promote-access-voting), except for sections 7, 8, and 10 which cover access for voters with disabilities, access for UOCAVA voters, and establishing an interagency Native American Voting Rights Steering Group.
  - As a reminder, the Appropriations Committee is the first step in the Congressional budget process. Any budget bill will need to be approved by the entire House, and then reconciled with the version passed by the full US Senate, which also has an Appropriations Committee.

Stay hydrated – it’s getting hot out there.

Amy Cohen  
Executive Director  
National Association of State Election Directors  
Direct: 202-434-8972  
Follow us on Twitter [@NASEDorg](https://twitter.com/NASEDorg)!
Good afternoon, all!

I hope everyone had a safe July 4th.

- **NASED Call:**
  - Attached please find the notes from Friday’s conversation. Our next call will be Friday, **July 14 at noon ET** and we will be joined by **Cait Conley**, Senior Advisor to CISA Director Jen Easterly, who is taking on an expanded role on election security as Kim Wyman departs for the private sector. Cait will join us for the first ~30 minutes to introduce herself to you and take questions. I believe she is also planning to attend the conference in Charleston later this month.

- **EAC:**
  - The EAC released the [2022 Election Administration and Voting Survey](https://www.eac.gov/survey) (EAVS) on Thursday.
  - The EAC will hold a Local Leadership Council meeting in DC on Thursday July 20-21. The meeting will not be livestreamed but it is [open to the public](https://www.eac.gov/local-leadership-council-meeting). The agenda is available here.
As a reminder, the Local Leadership Council was established in June 2021 and is comprised of 100 local election officials who are appointed by each state’s association of local election officials. The current list of membership designees is available here.

- **Meta:**
  - Meta (Facebook’s parent company) announced their new Twitter competitor app, Threads, yesterday. Threads is currently only available if you have an Instagram account. If your Instagram account is verified, your Threads account will also be verified. If your office needs to get its Instagram account verified, and by extension a Threads account, please contact Eva Guidarini (eguidarini@meta.com) and she can get that take care of for you.
    - If any of your offices are using Threads, I’d be interested in hearing about your experiences.

- **Congress:**
  - House Admin Majority staff shared the attached text of the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act and bill summary. I believe this will drop next week. If you have questions or feedback on the bill, please share them with Caleb Hayes (Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov).
  - On July 10 at 2:30pm ET, House Admin will hold a field hearing in Atlanta, GA, The Path to Election Integrity Across America. The current witness list (subject to additions) is:
    - Hans von Spakovsky, Manager, The Heritage Foundation Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow, Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies
    - Dr. Kathleen Ruth, Vice Chair, Fulton County Elections Board

- **Misc:**
  - One of the US Supreme Court decisions that came down last week was Counterman v. Colorado, a case I flagged for you a few months ago because, while it’s not directly elections-related, many of you have run into the issue of whether threats you/your office report meet the definition of a “true threat.” Counterman repeatedly contacted a musician via Facebook, and the musician reported him to law enforcement; Counterman was convicted of stalking. He appealed on the grounds that the threats were not “true threats.” I won’t pretend to be a lawyer, but the Supreme Court found that Counterman’s First Amendment rights had been violated and said that a person sending threats must intend to do harm.
  - Reminder that now is a good time to look at your state statutes around the Electoral Count Act and make sure that they comply with the Electoral Count Reform Act in advance of the presidential election next year. Kansas and Indiana both made modifications, North Carolina has some in progress.

Tomorrow (July 7) is the last day to register for the NASED conference at the early bird rate!

That’s all for today,

Amy
The contents of this message, together with any attachments, are confidential and intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message, or any attachment, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by email and delete this message, along with any attachments, from your computer.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "All Communciations" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to allcomms+unsubscribe@nased.org.
Several things in this email that I wanted to share. A few I’ll bring up at Strategy Team meeting – particularly working with Vet the Vote. Copying @Holland, Parker for this reason, too. Also note the upcoming Help America Vote Day on Aug. 16.

Karen Brinson Bell, CERA, PMP
Executive Director, NCSBE
(919) 814-0700

From: acohen@nased.org <acohen@nased.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 7:14 PM
To: acohen@nased.org
Subject: [External] Update, 7/26: NASED Call Friday @ Noon ET, CISA Call 7/28 @ 3:30pm ET w/Crowdstrike and Microsoft, DOJ Task Force Briefing Monday @ 1pm ET, Help America Vote Day is 8/16, EAC Accessibility Research, Vet the Vote, and lots of Congressional Ac...
Importance: High

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.

Good afternoon, everyone,

So wonderful to see so many of you and your staff last week in Madison. I’m working now to get slides on the website and we recorded all of the open sessions, so I will let you know when they’re posted. I’ve attached the final agenda, too, since I know how annoying it was that I didn’t send it out. We did have some last-minute changes due to illness (the NSC was unable to join, I played the part of Mark Wlaschin), but this is what was shared with all members in attendance.

- **NASED Call:**
  - Join us Friday at noon ET! **Dial in:** 1-844-621-3956,,25541431347#42577462#
  - At the conference, we did not have enough people present during the allocated time to vote on a renewal of the **NASED resolution in favor of National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)**. On **Friday, August 12 at noon ET**, part of our biweekly meeting will be an opportunity to review the attached language and, if you all deem appropriate, vote.
The changes, tracked in the attached, are to make the date less specific, since they’re moving NVRD this year to account for Rosh Hashanah. We will also need to discuss a term for the resolution if we do choose to vote on it.

- Consistent with Section 7.02 of the Bylaws, a resolution must be approved by 3/5 of the total membership, or 33 states/territories. I will reach out to the members on our roster about this early next week.

- **CISA:**
  - On Thursday, July 28 at 3:30pm ET, CISA will host a briefing for election officials from Crowdstrike and Microsoft called Enhancing US Election Security: The Current State of Cyber Threats to the 2022 Midterm Elections. The speakers will discuss the type of malicious cyber activity they’ve observed during previous US and international elections and how the lessons learned can be applied to this year’s midterms. This is similar to efforts in 2020 and 2018 to share private sector expertise with election officials in a non-salesy way; this is not an endorsement by CISA. Please feel free to share this information with your locals.
    - Link: Click here to join the meeting (Meeting ID: 217 004 403 961, passcode: BLVTGh)
    - Dial-in: +1 202-516-6093,,116885827#

- **DOJ Task Force:**
  - The DOJ Task Force on Threats to Election Officials will hold a short briefing (30 minutes) on Monday at 1pm ET to provide data and analysis on the first year of the Task Force. I’m told that this will not be recorded, that they are working to get approval to share the analysis itself, and there will be time for Q&A. Please share this with your local election officials:
    - Link: [https://usdoj.webex.com/usdoj/j.php?MTID=mf3acc4dcca14b1f5b5b8fecd2178da](https://usdoj.webex.com/usdoj/j.php?MTID=mf3acc4dcca14b1f5b5b8fecd2178da) (PW: Update2022!!)
    - Dial-in: +1-202-600-2533,, 27635902189#87328320#

- **EAC:**
  - The EAC announced that August 16, 2022 will be Help America Vote Day to help election offices recruit poll workers. Towards the bottom of the page, there are a variety of toolkits and resources for election officials.
  - The EAC released a new study done by Rutgers, Disability, the Voting Process, and the Digital Divide.

- **Vet the Vote:**
  - A few weeks ago, you may have read about a non-partisan effort to encourage recently returned veterans and military spouses to serve as poll workers called Vet the Vote. I attached their one-pager and their overview slide deck. While their current plan is to leverage Power the Polls, I emphasized the concerns I’ve heard from you regarding third party sites and strongly encouraged them to reach out to states and territories directly. I know that local election officials are responsible for recruitment of election workers, but the Vet the Vote staff is small, so they likely need to work through states and this could be a good state/local partnership effort. If your office is interested in learning more, please contact Ingrid Sundlee, Director of Civic Engagement at ingrid.sundlee@wetheveterans.us.

- **Congress:**
Last week, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced two bills, the Enhanced Election Security and Protection Act and the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act of 2022. Both bills have a substantial list of bipartisan cosponsors. Senate Rules Minority staff says they expect a hearing in early August. It sounds like the Electoral Count Reform Act is the one that will have the most legs. If you have feedback on the language for either bill, please feel free to reach out to Senate Rules directly: Jackie Barber (Jackie_Barber@rules.senate.gov) and Greta Bedekovics (Greta_Bedekovics@rules.senate.gov).

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  - This bill has four parts: increased penalties for crimes against federally protected activities related to voting; the Postal Service Election Improvement act; reauthorization of the EAC; and instructing CISA to provide “informal guidance” regarding the retention of electronic records in compliance with 52 U.S.C 20701 (the 22 month retention law).

- The Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act focuses specifically on the Electoral Count Act and the Presidential Transition Act. It covers the timeline for appointing electors, meetings of electors, and other items around the electoral college and presidential transition.

- Congressman Rodney Davis (R, IL-13) and Ranking Member on the US House Committee on House Administration shared the attached draft of the American Confidence in Elections Act. Please share feedback with Caleb Hayes (Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov).

- On Wednesday, the US House Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing, The Changing Election Security Landscape: Threats to Election Officials and Infrastructure. Witnesses were:
  - Maggie Toulouse Oliver, New Mexico Secretary of State
  - Neal Kelley, Chair, Committee for Safe and Secure Elections, and Former Registrar of Voters, Orange County, CA
  - Liz Howard, Senior Counsel, Brennan Center
  - Frank LaRose, Ohio Secretary of State

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  - John Cohen, Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University
  - Jiore Craig, Head of Digital Integrity, Institute for Strategic Dialogue
  - Renee DiResta, Research Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
  - Mark Juergensmeyer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Global Studies, UC – Santa Barbara

I think that’s it for today. Sorry for all the attachments!!

Amy

Amy Cohen
Executive Director
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Good afternoon, everyone,

So wonderful to see so many of you and your staff last week in Madison. I’m working now to get slides on the website and we recorded all of the open sessions, so I will let you know when they’re posted. I’ve attached the final agenda, too, since I know how annoying it was that I didn’t send it out. We did have some last-minute changes due to illness (the NSC was unable to join, I played the part of Mark Wlaschin), but this is what was shared with all members in attendance.
• **NASED Call:**
  - Join us Friday at noon ET! **Dial in: 1-844-621-3956,,25541431347#42577462#**
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I think that’s it for today. Sorry for all the attachments!!

Amy

Amy Cohen
Executive Director
National Association of State Election Directors
Direct: 202-434-8972
Mobile: 203-536-3660
Follow us on Twitter @NASEDorg!

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Hi Adam,

Here’s the Congressional Report for the No Labels.

---

From: Kelly, Bret <bret.kelly@ncsbe.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Holden, Tiffany <tiffany.holden@ncsbe.gov>; Cox, Paul <paul.cox@ncsbe.gov>
Subject: RE: No Labels Petition

Tiffany/Paul, here is the valid/OK signatures for the No Labels Party. Some (219) do not have a congressional districts listed because the counties have not entered a street number/name range for the voter’s address in the geocode application yet (typically new housing developments/streets). Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Bret Kelly
Chief Information Officer
North Carolina State Board of Elections
(o) 919-814-0748
(c) 919-906-1329

---

From: Holden, Tiffany <tiffany.holden@ncsbe.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 4:16 PM
To: SBOE_Grp - HelpRequest.SBOE <HelpRequest.SBOE@ncsbe.gov>
Cc: Holden, Tiffany <tiffany.holden@ncsbe.gov>
Subject: No Labels Petition

Good afternoon Data Team,

I hope all is well. I would like to request a report that lists the approved names for the No Labels Petition. Additionally, please include the congressional districts for these names as well. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Have an awesome evening!

Tiffany Holden
Candidacy & Canvass Program Specialist
North Carolina State Board of Elections
430 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27603
M: (919) 441-3595 O: (919)-814-0719
www.ncsbe.gov
Have you been getting these monthly? I was wondering if you could send the older emails from the past few months my way before I reached out to DMV.

Best,

Noah Grant
Voter Registration Program Specialist
O: (919) 814-0727
M: (984) 344-3307

Good morning,

Please see the attached NVRA/OVA Reports for October 2021.

Thank you.

Marta T. Hester, M.A.
Acting Impact Center Operations Manager
Strategy, Research and Planning
NC Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles
3101 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-3101

919-397-6383 Cell
mtheester@ncdot.gov

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________________________________________________________________________

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Hi everyone,

A few updates for today.

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    - Dial-in: 1-844-621-3956,,25516937515#85759372#

- **EAC:**
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    - NASED member Brittany Westfall (WV) will be on the second panel.
  - As a reminder, the EAC will hold a Local Leadership Council meeting in DC on Thursday July 20-21. The meeting will not be livestreamed but it is open to the public. The agenda is available here.
The Local Leadership Council was established in June 2021 and is comprised of 100 local election officials who are appointed by each state’s association of local election officials. The current list of membership designees is available here.

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That’s all for today!

Amy

Amy Cohen
Executive Director
National Association of State Election Directors
Direct: 202-434-8972
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Karen Brinson Bell  
Executive Director  
North Carolina State Board of Elections  
(919) 814-0700

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Amy

Amy Cohen
Executive Director
National Association of State Election Directors
Direct: 202-434-8972
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Good afternoon,

Please see the attached reports for the month of November 2021.

Thank you.

**Marta T. Hester, M.A.**
Acting Impact Center Operations Manager
Strategy, Research and Planning
NC Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles
3101 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-3101

919-397-6383 Cell
mthester@ncdot.gov

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Good morning,

Please see the attached NVRA/OVA Reports for October 2021.

Thank you.

Marta T. Hester, M.A.
Acting Impact Center Operations Manager
Strategy, Research and Planning
NC Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles
3101 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-3101

919-397-6383 Cell
mthester@ncdot.gov
Good afternoon,

Please see the attached NVRA/OVA Voter Registration Reports as outlined below:

- 6-2022 OVA Summary Report
- 6-2022 Audit Voter Registration Summary Report
- Voter Registration Audit Report – June 2022 (word document)

Thank you.

Marta T. Hester
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Please see the attached NVRA/OVA Voter Registration Reports as outlined below:

- 5-2022 OVA Summary Report
- 5-2022 Audit Voter Registration Summary Report
- Voter Registration Audit Report – May 2022 (word document)

We agreed to submit the attachments only since the settlement agreement has been fulfilled.

Thank you,
Marta

Marta T. Hester
Acting Impact Center Operations Manager
Strategy, Research and Planning
Division of Motor Vehicles
3101 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-3101

919-397-6383 Cell
mthester@ncdot.gov
We are in receipt of your email. By copy of this email, I am requesting our PIO and legal department review and respond.

Karen Brinson Bell, CERA, PMP
Executive Director, NCSBE
(919) 814-0700 Main Line

Director Bell,

Please see the attached public records request, regarding your position as North Carolina’s Chief Election Officer. Should you or your office have any questions regarding the nature of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Jase Panebianco

NOTICE: The information contained in this electronic mail and any attachments is intended for the

JASE PANEBIANCO
Associate Attorney
631-710-8306
AMERICAFIRSTPOLICY.COM
exclusive use of the addressee(s) and may contain confidential, privileged, and/or proprietary information from an attorney or attorney’s office. Any other use of these materials is strictly prohibited. If you have received these materials in error, please notify me immediately by telephone and destroy all electronic, paper, or other versions. No representation is made by the sender that any e-mails and/or attachments are virus free and are used at the intended recipient's sole risk. Unauthorized interception of this e-mail is a violation of federal criminal law.
The main one I can think of ideas for is about felons and voting:

- We don’t get notice from DOJ when a felon completes their sentence. This would be helpful information for us to have so we know that the person is eligible to register again. Also, I know this is not what they’re asking but it would also be good if we could get access to data about federal felony convictions rather than having to rely on individual reports received from U.S. Attorneys offices.
- If they don’t already, DOJ could provide information to NC felons when they start probation or when they are placed on supervised release (it’s not called parole anymore) that they are not eligible to register and vote until they complete their sentence; recommend that this be a signed notice so there is documentation it happened (similar to how DPS does it).
- Also, the person should receive notice when they complete their felony probation/supervised release that they are now eligible to register and vote in NC, and should be provided with a voter registration form.

Katelyn Love  |  General Counsel
\[919-814-0756  |  F: 919-715-0135

Katelyn and Kelly,

I wanted to share with the two of you in case you had any food for thought. I’ll of course also be thinking through these bullet points before the meeting on Friday.

Karen Brinson Bell
Executive Director, NCSBE
(919) 814-0700

From: Bell, Karen B <Karen.Bell@ncsbe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 11:07 PM
To: Love, Katelyn <Katelyn.Love@ncsbe.gov>; Tornow, Kelly <Kelly.Tornow@ncsbe.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Agenda for meeting on implementation of Executive Order 14019

From: Levitt, Justin M. EOP/WHO <Justin.M.Levitt@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Levitt, Justin M. EOP/WHO <Justin.M.Levitt@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Vail, Justin W. EOP/WHO <Justin.W.Vail@who.eop.gov>; Schwartztol, Larry M. EOP/WHO <larry.m.schwartztol@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [External] Agenda for meeting on implementation of Executive Order 14019
Hello. Thank you again – so very much – for lending your time and expertise. As mentioned, we’re seeking your input on the implementation of the President’s Executive Order promoting access to voting, in two sessions – one session with White House officials, and one session with representatives of various federal agencies. The Executive Order does not, of course, create any responsibilities for state or local officials. It does direct federal agencies to consider ways in which they might disseminate information about voting and the election process, and foster registration and participation – and we know, as agencies develop their plans, that they would benefit from hearing from officials who run elections.

I mentioned last week that we’ll be holding the first session, remotely on Zoom, on June 25, from 2-3pm Eastern, and the second session (with the agencies), also remotely on Zoom, on July 1, from 2-3:30pm Eastern. I will send calendar invitations momentarily with the relevant logistical information.

As an agenda for the first meeting, we’d like to hear your views on:

- Ways in which federal agencies can best provide information for the public about the elections process, including the mechanics of registering and voting (and including information in multiple languages)
- Ways in which federal agencies engaging with the public can best facilitate access to the election process, including facilitating registration and applications for voting by mail, where applicable
- Ways in which federal agencies can help issue identity documents that satisfy state requirements
- Ways in which a modernized vote.gov website might facilitate providing information about the elections process and/or delivering interested citizens to your websites
- Ways in which the Department of Defense might better facilitate registration and voting for servicemembers on active duty, including those voting absentee and those voting in person
- Ways in which the Department of Justice might provide information about the voting process (and where feasible, registration), for those under federal supervision or emerging from supervision.

Other portions of the Executive Order -- including recommendations for serving Native American communities and voters with disabilities – are equally important but have a longer lead-time, and we recognize that we may not have time to develop them fully in these particular meetings (though your thoughts are certainly welcome).

The Executive Order is attached, for your convenience. But we want to emphasize that we’re not purporting to assign any “homework,” nor are we expecting you to do research or preparation for these upcoming meetings: your experience and expertise will be more than sufficient.

Thank you again for your assistance.
Those are great felon ideas.

For DOD, I would say that with every deployment, temporary duty assignment, or PCS order, the military should provide information to the servicemember about registering to vote, updating their information, and residency requirements (explaining the differences between the state you pay income tax in vs your state for voting residence, etc.). I know there are relocation assistance programs, so maybe part of that program they could have information on voting, if they don’t already.
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As an agenda for the first meeting, we’d like to hear your views on:

- Ways in which federal agencies can best provide information for the public about the elections process, including the mechanics of registering and voting (and including information in multiple languages)
- Ways in which federal agencies engaging with the public can best facilitate access to the election process, including facilitating registration and applications for voting by mail, where applicable
- Ways in which federal agencies can help issue identity documents that satisfy state requirements
- Ways in which a modernized vote.gov website might facilitate providing information about the elections process and/or delivering interested citizens to your websites
- Ways in which the Department of Defense might better facilitate registration and voting for servicemembers on active duty, including those voting absentee and those voting in person
- Ways in which the Department of Justice might provide information about the voting process (and where feasible, registration), for those under federal supervision or emerging from supervision.

Other portions of the Executive Order -- including recommendations for serving Native American communities and voters with disabilities – are equally important but have a longer lead-time, and we recognize that we may not have time to develop them fully in these particular meetings (though your thoughts are certainly welcome).

The Executive Order is attached, for your convenience. But we want to emphasize that we’re not purporting to assign any “homework,” nor are we expecting you to do research or preparation for these upcoming meetings: your experience and expertise will be more than sufficient.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Justin

--

Justin Levitt
Senior Policy Advisor for Democracy and Voting Rights
Domestic Policy Council
Justin.M.Levitt@who.eop.gov
202-881-6765
That would be great Karen! Thanks!

Leslie D. Reynolds  
Executive Director  
National Association of Secretaries of State  
202-624-3525  
reynolds@sso.org

On Jun 28, 2023, at 8:56 PM, Bell, Karen B <Karen.Bell@ncsbe.gov> wrote:

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Karen Brinson Bell  
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North Carolina State Board of Elections  
(919) 814-0700

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Attached
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**ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES-** For necessary expenses to carry out the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–252), $20,000,000, of which $1,500,000 shall be made available to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for election reform activities authorized under the Help America Vote 12 Act of 2002.

Second, federal agencies identified in the March 2021 [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-promoting-access-voting/) will not be able to use funds appropriated in FY2024 for these activities, with the exception of Sec. 7 - Ensuring Equal Access for Voters with Disabilities, Sec. 8 – Ensuring Access to Voting for Active Duty Military and Overseas Citizens, and Sec. 10 – Establishing a Native American Voting Rights Steering Group.

SEC. 758. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out Executive Order 14019 (86 Fed. 4 Reg. 13623; relating to promoting access to voting), except for sections 7, 8, and 10 of such Order.

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The Path to Election Integrity Across America

On Monday, July 10 2023, at 2:30 p.m. ET, the Committee on House Administration will hold a full committee field hearing titled, “American Confidence in Elections: The Path to Election Integrity Across America.” The hearing will take place in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Please join us for Tabletop the Vote 2023: National Election Exercise, sponsored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), in coordination with the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED). The purpose of this exercise is to identify best practices and areas for improvement in election planning, identification, response, and recovery.

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Thanks,

Leslie

Leslie Reynolds
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444 N. Capitol Street, NW Suite 401
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-3526
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From: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>
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Thanks,
Leslie
Good afternoon,

Please see the attached reports for January 2022.

Thank you,
Marta

Marta T. Hester, M.A.
Acting Impact Center Manager
Strategy, Research and Planning
NC Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles
3101 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-3101

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mthester@ncdot.gov

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