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The Carolinian

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Black Wealth Falls 25% As Racial Wealth Gap Widens

By Kate Amistoso

The Emancipator

The median wealth of Black American families plunged 25% between 2022 and 2025, while White family wealth climbed 6%, widening an already stark racial wealth gap, according to a new Federal Reserve report.

Wealth for every other race and ethnicity increased over the same period of time.

Significance. The median net worth of Black American families fell 25% from $49,100 in 2022 to $36,800 in 2025, according to the new report with data from the most recent Survey of Consumer Finances. In 2025, the median net worth of Black households was $179,000 below the national median of $215,900.

Over the same period, the median net worth for White American families grew 6% from $311,900 to $332,100.

White families had nine times the wealth of Black families in 2025. This difference is the largest ratio recorded between the two races since 2016, according to the Federal Reserve.

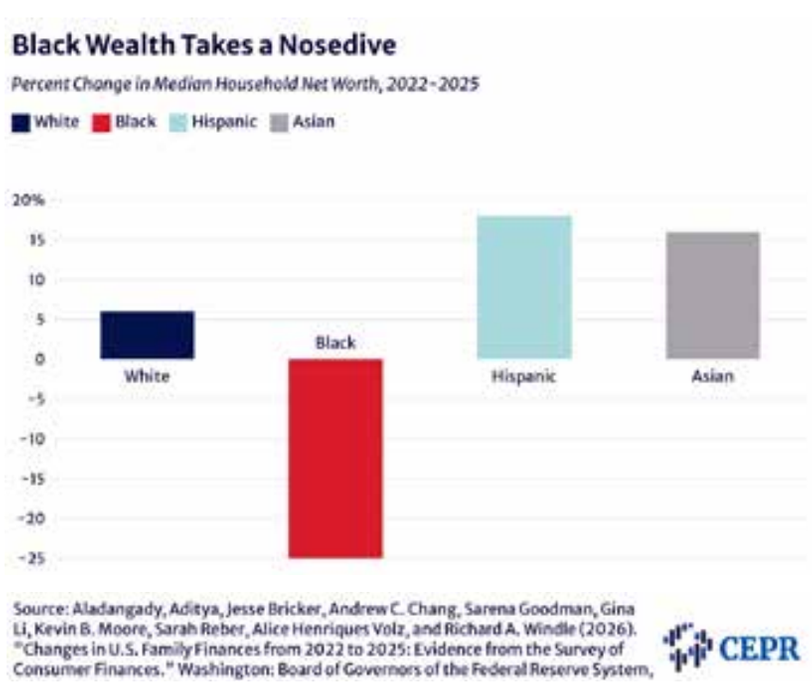
Hispanic American families saw an 18% increase in their median household net worth. The median amount of wealth for Hispanic families in 2022 was $67,400, and grew to $79,600 in 2025.

Asian American families had the highest median net worth from 2022 to 2025, according to the Federal Reserve data. In 2022, the Federal Reserve found that Asian households had a median net worth of $586,600. The median net worth later increased to $677,600 in 2025 for Asian households.

The results did not reflect independent data on the wealth of Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian demographics.

The results found that the median net worth of families it classifies as "mixed race" and "other (non-Asian)" increased 42% from $68,800 in 2022 to $97,500 in 2025.

The Federal Reserve adjusted figures for inflation and compiled this data through surveys conducted every three years called the Survey of Consumer Finances.



Overlooked angle. Black Americans were already the group with the lowest median wealth in 2022 at $49,100. This is largely because Black Americans have long faced inequitable barriers to building wealth compared to Americans of other races and ethnicities.

Previous reporting from The Emancipator highlighted that owning property is a major builder of generational wealth, but historically many Black and Brown people were barred from buying and owning property. While legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1866 was supposed to guarantee the right to buy and own property, other racist laws continued to limit this right.

Through redlining and restrictive covenants, many Black and Brown people were limited to buying homes in often undesirable neighborhoods and conditions. The value of these homes was often significantly lower than the value of homes owned by White families.

Remnants of this systemic racism contribute to the racial wealth gap.

Power structure. An analysis by Dr. Algernon Austin, the Director for Race and Economic Justice at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, suggests that the decline in Black median net worth may be partly due to "declines in the value of Black homes, vehicles, and retirement accounts."

"In the Survey of Consumer Finances, young people, people without a high school diploma, and Black people all had big declines in net worth," said Austin in a statement to The Emancipator.

"Interestingly, in a different Federal Reserve Survey, these three groups also indicated declines in their finances. It could be that the groups with the weakest financial standing – young people, people without a high school diploma, and Black people – are the canaries in the coal mine for declining economic conditions."

Austin went on to explain that the decline may be remnants of removing COVID-19 era policies.

"Also, a lot of COVID emergency relief policies led to big reductions in poverty and likely an increase in wealth. 2022 marks the high point in Black wealth in the [Survey for Consumer Finances]," he said. "Those policies are all expired now, I believe. So, Black people may be returning to their pre-COVID wealth situation," Austin explained.

Austin also said he noticed declines in "housing wealth, retirement accounts, and vehicles" when looking at the newly released data from the Federal Reserve.

"My guess is that more people are putting off buying a new vehicle, so the value of their vehicles are depreciating. The value of Black retirement accounts could decline if people are withdrawing money from retirement accounts to pay bills," Austin further explained.

The Role of Midterm Elections in the Demise of the Reconstruction Period

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The end of Reconstruction is usually remembered as a single political event: the Compromise of 1877, an informal agreement that resolved the disputed presidential election between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, who won the popular vote but fell one electoral vote short. Contested electoral returns forced the resulting compromise to help secure Hayes's inauguration in exchange for concessions that included the withdrawal of the remaining federal troops protecting Republican governments in Louisiana and South Carolina.

But the idea that Reconstruction suddenly ended with a presidential deal misses the larger story.

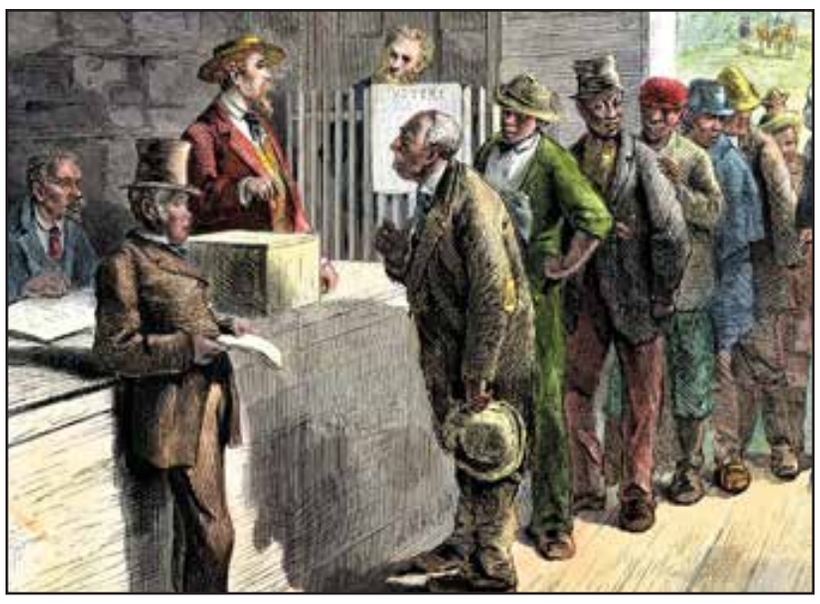
Across the South, elections, legislative maneuvering, economic turmoil, organized intimidation, and declining Northern commitment to federal intervention had steadily weakened the post-Civil War political order for years.

In North Carolina, the retreat had begun in earnest in 1870, while the national political reversal accelerated with the Democratic landslide in the 1874 midterm elections. The Compromise of 1877 was less the beginning of Reconstruction's collapse than the final confirmation.

In North Carolina, Black men voted in substantial numbers beginning in 1867 and helped elect delegates to a constitutional convention that produced the state's 1868 constitution. The new political order expanded male suffrage, established a statewide public education system, and opened political offices to Black citizens who had previously been excluded from government.

One of the clearest turning points came in 1870. The Ku Klux Klan had launched a campaign of violence against Black political organizers and Republican officials, including the murder of Wyatt Outlaw, a Black town commissioner and Union League organizer in Alamance County. Republican state senator John W. Stephens was also murdered that year in the Caswell County courthouse.

In response, Republican Governor William W. Holden invoked state authority to suppress the Klan. Conservative Democrats portrayed Holden's actions as an abuse of executive power and used public anger over the militia campaign to rally support ahead of the August 1870 elections. The Conservatives won the legislature, giving them the power to turn their opposition to Holden into official state policy. In March 1871, the Democratic-controlled Senate



convicted Holden in an impeachment trial and removed him from office.

Holden's removal mattered because it weakened the state government's willingness and capacity to confront organized political violence, while demonstrating that the legislature could be used to reverse the policies of its predecessors. Conservative lawmakers subsequently repealed important anti-Klan measures and enacted protections that helped shield former Confederates and suspected Klansmen from prosecution.

Reconstruction in North Carolina did not end immediately in 1871, and Republicans continued to hold offices and win elections in parts of the state. Nevertheless, the defeat of Holden marked a decisive setback: it moved beyond the question of who could win votes to the question of who controlled the institutions responsible for enforcing laws.

(See *MIDTERM ELECTIONS* P. 2)

STATE NEWS BRIEFS



NC STATE FAIR DRAWS THOUSANDS AS RISING COSTS, FOOD TRENDS AND AGRICULTURE TAKE CENTER STAGE

By Dominique Heath

Columnist

RALEIGH, N.C. — The smell of freshly fried doughnuts, the sounds of carnival rides and lines stretching around food stands could only mean one thing: the North Carolina State Fair was back. The 2026 fair welcomed 910,584 visitors over its 11-day run, bringing another year of food, entertainment and a celebration of North Carolina agriculture.

Although attendance fell from 946,811 in 2025, according to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, you wouldn't have guessed it from the crowds surrounding some of the fair's most popular food vendors. Peachey's Baking Co., known for its freshly made doughnuts, drew lines that wrapped around its stand, sometimes two or three times over.

One thing fairgoers may have noticed, however, was the price tag. Food and other attractions appeared more expensive this year, with families already feeling the effects of inflation. Still, that did not seem to discourage visitors from lining up for their annual favorites.

Turkey legs, funnel cakes, roasted corn and barbecue remained staples, but the fair also introduced more than 80 new food creations, according to WRAL. Among them were deep-fried Hawaiian sweet rolls, strawberry cheesecake churro nachos, hot honey and pimento cheese fried pickles, and even liquid cotton candy.

Another noticeable trend was the appearance of food advertisements that looked AI-generated. Some featured exaggerated, picture-perfect dishes that seemed more digitally rendered than photographed as negatively commented by many fair goers.

Beyond the food, visitors enjoyed carnival rides, games, live performances and exhibits throughout the fairgrounds. The fair also introduced a new 32,000-square-foot food hall near Dorton Arena, which housed five vendors during the event.

Agriculture remained front and center, with livestock competitions, farming exhibits and educational displays showcasing the state's agricultural industry. This year's Junior Livestock Sale of Champions set a record, according to state agriculture officials.

(See *NC STATE FAIR,* P. 6)

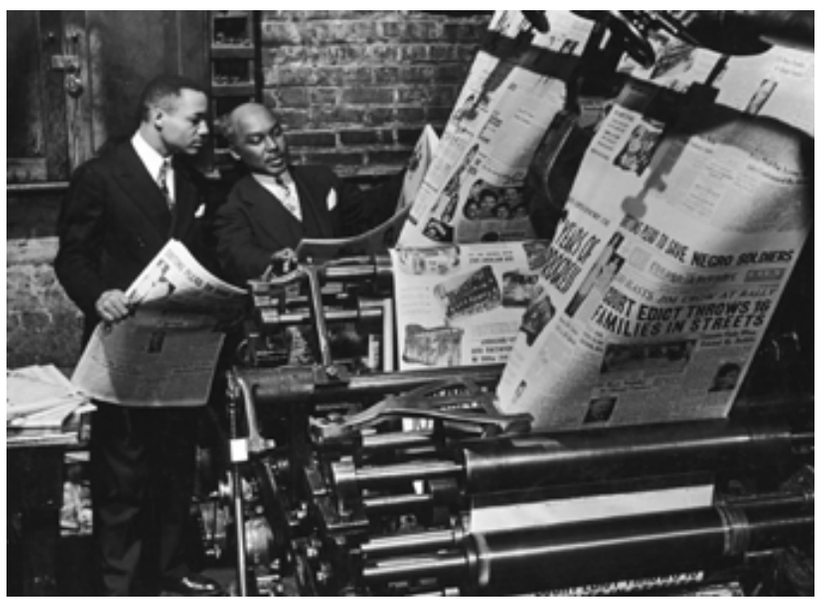
What Is The Reason For Black Journalism?

THE GUARDIAN - This week, I had the great honour of delivering the Claudia Jones memorial lecture, hosted by the UK National Union of Journalists. It is partly inspired by the Long Wave and the extraordinary response it continues to receive from readers. As the newsletter turns two, I reflect, in the abridged version of the lecture below, on the importance of making space in an embattled political climate.

It feels like a particularly difficult time to say anything with much certainty. We stand today in the shadow of the Black Lives Matter Movement – as well as the wreckage brought about by neoliberalism, the rise of the far right, and ongoing culture wars. In the last decade, several moments have swelled with possibility and then melted away – not quite into nothing, but certainly, less than we would like. Where do we go from here?

It feels to me, as someone who began writing as a columnist and journalist proper less than a decade ago, that I broadly could always tell what my marching orders were – who the antagonist was. In Britain, a Conservative government enacted large-scale cuts to public services, and the police and Security Service institutionalised Islamophobic and anti-Black policies such as the Prevent duty and stop and search. It was a hostile environment that meted out treatment so cruel that I am still haunted by some of the stories I heard from victims I met while reporting on it. And it was a broader political culture that refused to acknowledge that institutional racism existed. Things were said to us, and about us, while we lived an entirely different reality. The sense was of a particular sort of psychological agony, one which powered much of my writing.

I remember when the lies began, after what appeared to be giant breakthroughs in 2020. There were always lies but these had a different quality – a coordinated feel. The Daily Mail would print something, and then Tory ministers would run with it, conveying outrage and dismay at the special treatment Black people were supposedly demanding and receiving. Then, the airwaves and social media would hum with



discourse and debate for days in the aftermath. One particular episode comes to mind: when the BBC shortened its Last Night of the Proms broadcast due to Covid-related precautions, and the rightwing media claimed Land of Hope and Glory was cancelled because of the BLM movement. Even then-prime minister Boris Johnson joined the condemnation.

What happened after 2020?

After the death of George Floyd, similar stories followed. Trying to

(See *BLACK JOURNALISM* P. 6)

A Record Number of Women are Running For State Leg.

NC NEWSLINE - A record number of women are running for state legislative seats this November, more than two-thirds of whom are Democrats.

Across the 46 states with legislative seats on the ballot, a total of 3,824 women are running — up from 2022's previous record of 3,621 women candidates, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. Women make up 35.5% of all state legislative candidates this cycle.

Currently, women hold about one-third of state legislative seats across the country — a record level of representation but nowhere near parity.

While some election cycles have seen spikes in the numbers of women running, the long-term trend has been defined by incremental progress, said Debbie Walsh, director of the research center.

"It is a step towards change, but it's not going to happen in any one cycle," she said. "Our system is set up in many ways for this kind of slow, steady progress."

And she noted that Republicans still lag significantly. Of the women nominated this cycle, 68% are Democrats. Currently, about 64% of the women in state legislatures are Democrats.

"If the goal is for there to be gender equity in these legislatures, it's not going to happen by only electing Democratic women. The Republican Party has to do more," she said. "For women to be exercising political power, they need to be there on both sides of the aisle."

Across the political spectrum, research shows lower levels of political ambition among women. Women tend to underestimate their own qualifications, are more averse to competition and receive less recruitment and encouragement to run for office. Many women work full-time and are primary caregivers — adding more complexity in the majority of states with part-time legislatures.

But Republicans face unique challenges: Experts say playing political defense this year, a lack of organizational support for GOP women and a rejection of identity-politics has hampered efforts to recruit conservative women.

Still, the number of women serving in legislatures has increased nearly 40% over the past decade, according to government relations firm MultiState. But representation varies wildly: Women hold more than half of seats in Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico, but fewer than 15% of seats in West Virginia, South Carolina and Mississippi.

In many ways, this cycle resembles the 2018 elections — when a wave of women ran for state and



federal offices during President Donald Trump's first midterm election. Like that year, the political climate again has soured for Republicans, who could lose control of Congress and hundreds of state legislative seats.

'Women are just really sick and tired'

Midterm elections typically favor the party that doesn't control the White House. And the current focus on affordability offers an extra boost for women candidates, said Republican pollster and consultant Amanda Iovino.

Polling has shown men tend to think of the economy in terms of income — wages, jobs growth and investment performance, she said. Women, though, have long framed discussions in terms of costs focusing on household budgets and grocery expenses.

"When cost of living is the top issue, and not the economy more broadly, it's going to favor the people who instinctively talk to the cost side of the equation," she said. "Of course, you can teach male candidates how to talk that way. I think it just comes a little bit more naturally to the women candidates."

Former teacher Stefanie Bord, who is running for the Texas state House, said women are able to speak to those issues more credibly than many other politicians.

"Women are sort of like on the front lines of managing their homes and their families, and like the regular everyday life that needs to get done," she said. "And they see firsthand the problems that happen because of laws that are passed without women involved."

A Democrat, Bord found her way into politics after volunteering with the gun control group Moms Demand Action.

She said women have become even more interested in running for office since the Supreme Court's 2022 reversal of Roe v. Wade that had guaranteed the federal right to abortion.

"I think women are just really sick and tired," she said, "especially in Texas, where you know my two daughters have less rights than I had."

Bord is running in a predominantly conservative district in the Houston area. She faces Stan Stanart, the previous Harris County Clerk who enjoys support from GOP Gov. Greg Abbott.

Though it's an uphill battle, she said the district could flip this cycle.

Her campaign is being supported by The First Ask, a political action committee working to elect pro-choice Democratic women to statehouses across the country. That group supports first-time candidates by investing early in campaign

(See ***WOMEN RUNNING,*** P. 8)

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Continued from page 1

In 1873 and again in 1875, constitutional changes helped concentrate power in Raleigh by allowing the legislature to exert greater control over county governments. These changes reduced the ability of local communities to choose their own officials and made it easier for the Conservative majority to influence local administration, including in areas where Black voters had considerable political strength. This was particularly consequential in eastern North Carolina, where Black voters formed a substantial share of the electorate and continued to elect Republican officials.

Black political participation did not disappear, and figures such as John A. Hyman continued to represent North Carolina in Congress. But the growing power of the state legislature meant that winning at the local level did not necessarily guarantee control over local institutions.

The national turning point came in the 1874 midterm elections. President Ulysses S. Grant had won reelection in a landslide in 1872, and Republicans entered the next election cycle with a commanding majority in the House. But the Panic of 1873 triggered a severe economic depression, bringing business failures, unemployment, and financial hardship.

Democrats capitalized on public dissatisfaction and gained 94 House seats, one of the largest flips in U.S. midterm history. More importantly, it changed the political environment in which Reconstruction had to survive.

That shift in congressional power is essential to understanding why Reconstruction was so vulnerable by 1877.

North Carolina's 1876 gubernatorial election completed another important stage of the transition. Former Confederate officer and Democratic leader Zebulon B. Vance defeated Republican incumbent Curtis H. Brogden, restoring Democratic control of the governorship. With Democrats controlling the governorship and legislature, the state's political transformation was substantially complete before the Compromise of 1877 settled the national presidential dispute.

By 1877, North Carolina did not need the removal of troops from its statehouse to begin returning to Democratic rule. That process had already advanced through the ballot box, the impeachment of a governor, changes to the state constitution, and the consolidation of legislative authority.

The end of Reconstruction enabled Southern Democratic governments to pursue policies that systematically weakened Black political participation and dismantled many of the period's gains. Over subsequent decades, poll taxes, literacy tests, discriminatory election rules and other restrictions helped suppress Black voting, while segregation and racial exclusion became entrenched across the region.

That history offers a useful perspective as Americans approach the 2026 midterm elections, although the comparison should not be mistaken for an assertion that today's political circumstances are identical to those of the 1870s. Midterm elections can determine who controls the House of Representatives, the Senate and state legislatures, and those majorities influence government spending, oversight, legislation, public policy and the rules under which future elections take place. A president may enter office with a substantial agenda, but the midterms can strengthen that agenda, constrain it, or redirect it.

The real story of Reconstruction's end is that 1877 was a conclusion, not a beginning. The Compromise of 1877 settled the presidential crisis at the expense of the remaining Reconstruction governments.

As the 2026 midterms approach, that history reminds us that elections determine who holds the levers of government, how those levers can be used, and which political priorities will endure once the votes are counted.

Anita Earls' High-Profile Race For The North Carolina Supreme Court Bench

\By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Justice Anita Earls, the North Carolina Supreme Court's senior associate justice, is asking voters to keep her on the bench for another eight-year term, arguing that the court's decisions reach everyone from public school students to ratepayers, whether or not they ever set foot in a courtroom.

Earls, a Democrat, faces Republican Sarah Stevens, a longtime state legislator, in a race that will decide whether Republicans keep their 5-2 majority on the state's highest court.

In an interview with The Carolinian, Earls laid out how she introduces herself to voters.

"I was first elected in 2018 after 30 years as a civil rights attorney. I wanted to be on the court because I understand that our state constitution is actually a very rich source of protection of our rights, and it seemed like federal courts were not going to be as open to the claims of the clients and communities that I had spent my career representing."

She said the court's reach is broad: "Everything from whether we will adequately fund public education to whether your vote will count and count equally. And even how much you pay for electricity is decided by our court."

President Bill Clinton appointed Earls as deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division before her first term. In 2007, she and other organizers founded the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, a nonprofit legal advocacy group. She argued criminal and civil cases before juries and judges in federal appellate courts, the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the state Supreme Court.

Stevens, a family law attorney, served in the North Carolina House from 2009 until she resigned earlier this year to focus on her campaign. She was speaker pro tempore from 2017 to 2025 and most recently sat on the House's Justice and Public Safety, Election Law and Helene Recovery committees.

Earls contrasted her experience with her opponent's.

"My opponent, Sarah Stevens, is a career politician, and has never argued a case in our court," Earls said.

She said Stevens voted for or sponsored more than 15 laws that state and federal courts have found unconstitutional.

The race matters in part because of how close recent contests have been. In 2020, Republican Paul Newby beat Democrat Cheri Beasley by 401 votes, the closest statewide race in modern North Carolina history. Earls noted that was out of more than 5.4 million ballots cast.

"You've got to believe that every vote counts," she said. "That is like four votes per county."

In 2024, just 734 votes separated Democrat Allison Riggs and Republican Jefferson Griffin, sparking a six-month legal fight before Griffin conceded.

The court flipped from a Democratic majority in January 2023. Earls said the next opening is coming.

"In two years, three seats on our court are up, three Republican seats," she said. "That's an opportunity to change the direction that our court is taking."

Redistricting is a central issue in the state. The state Supreme Court has the final say on state-law challenges to electoral maps, and North Carolina has become a battleground in the Republican push for mid-decade redistricting to protect a narrow U.S. House majority. Earls was among the justices who dissented in 2023 when the court effectively returned redistricting power to the legislature and allowed partisan gerrymandering.

"Unchecked partisan gerrymandering allows the controlling party of the General Assembly to draw legislative redistricting plans in a way that dilutes the voting power of voters in the disfavored party," she wrote in that dissent. "In so doing, those who hold political power can guarantee that they remain in office for decades, making them impervious to the popular will."

On the Voting Rights Act, she said the law did not aim to change how people vote.

"We should have structures in place that make sure that everyone gets representation," she said. For justices, she said, the duty is to "apply the law fairly and equally to everyone without fear or favor," without "preferring one partisan group over another" or "one race over another, one gender over another."



Earls also spoke about the court's handling of the 2024 dispute between Riggs and Griffin. She said the court never held oral argument in the case, which she compared to the "shadow docket" at the U.S. Supreme Court, where major questions are decided without full briefing or argument. After a Court of Appeals panel split 2-1 in Griffin's favor, she said the state Supreme Court's majority modified that ruling and ordered that ballots of military and overseas voters be thrown out unless they took additional steps.

"A federal court found it violated due process and equal protection under the U.S. Constitution," she said. "There was never an oral argument in that case. So people couldn't watch the parties make their arguments."

She said the court has continued live-streaming arguments on YouTube since the pandemic, though "I don't think very many people watch our oral arguments," and said media coverage of the court is often thin.

On recusals, a topic that has come up in cases involving her own court, Earls described North Carolina's system as one of self-policing under the Code of Judicial Conduct, enforced by the Judicial Standards Commission. She said the Supreme Court is different from lower courts because all seven justices hear every case and there is no mechanism to appoint a substitute. She cited a case over retired teachers' health benefits in which five of seven justices had relatives in the affected class, forcing the court to invoke the "rule of necessity." She questioned whether the commission remains independent.

"The real question is whether that commission is truly independent or whether it's under the control of partisan interests," she said, noting its composition has changed recently and was once structured so that no single entity controlled a majority.

Earls often sits in the minority on the bench, but she said she must say what she thinks about the law and how it applies to a case.

Adding that she has sometimes parted ways with Democratic Justice Allison Riggs: "We are independent thinkers."

When confronted with the realities of everyday NC residents seeking legal assistance without requisite knowledge, she presented pathways to access legal help, saying many people cannot afford an attorney in an adversarial system built on two represented parties.

She recalled an electrician in Harnett County who told her he could wire a building but did not know how to issue a subpoena in a dispute with a merchant who owed him money.

"That is where our legal system is failing ordinary people," she said. "As justices, we have an obligation to try to make our legal system work the way it's supposed to."

She pointed residents to legal aid, a pro bono resource center and a legal support center at the Wake County courthouse, which people across the state can call and which was funded in part by Wake County commissioners.

Earls said representation on the court is part of what she is asking voters to weigh.

"When I joined the court, I was the third African American on the court, but now I'm the only one," she said. "If I lose, our court will no longer reflect the diversity of the state."

"I understand why people get discouraged. I appreciate that it might seem like you vote and nothing changes," she said. "I'm asking people to believe in our democracy and let their voice be heard."

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Racial Disparities Persist In North Carolina Schools, New Report Finds

NC NEWSLINE - Black students in North Carolina were 3.7 times as likely as their white peers to receive a short-term suspension during the 2024-25 school year, even as the overall number of suspensions continues to decline, according to an analysis of state education data by the Southern Coalition for Social Justice.

The disparity in short-term suspensions was largely unchanged from the previous year.

Black students made up about 25% of traditional K-12 enrollment during the school year but accounted for 51% of all short-term suspensions and 54% of school-based juvenile delinquency complaints, according to the report.

The report also found that white students were 2.4 times as likely as Black students to be considered career and college ready in grades 3-8, and 2.5 times as likely in grades 9-12.

In 82 of the state's 110 reporting districts, white students were at least twice as likely as Black students to be considered career and college ready, according to the report.

In some districts, the gap is much wider, and it's growing.

At Asheville City Schools, 57.6% of white students in grades 3-8 were considered career and college ready. For Black students, the figure was 4%. White students were 14.4 times as likely as Black students to meet that standard, up from 8.6 times the year before.

The district had the state's largest gap in short-term suspensions, too. Black students were nearly 11 times as likely as white students to receive a short-term suspension.

Some of the largest school districts in the state also saw growing disparities this past school year. Black students were 8.4 times as likely as white students to receive a short-term suspension in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, up from 7.5 times the year before. In Durham Public Schools, they were 7.7 times as likely, up from 7 times.

The report found that 9,514 of the state's 36,356 juvenile delinquency complaints in 2024-25 originated in schools, or about 26%.

Nine districts had no Black teachers during the 2024-25 school year, according to state data cited in the report.

In Asheville, where 18% of students are Black, 4.5% of district employees were Black, according to the report.



"Every year we publish these numbers hoping to report progress, and every year we see racial disparities worsen," said Jake Sussman, chief counsel for Justice System Reform at SCSJ.

"North Carolina's constitution promises every child an equal opportunity at a sound basic education," Sussman said. "When a Black student in this state is nearly four times as likely to be suspended and less than half as likely to be counted college or career ready, that promise is being broken, and the failure belongs to the system, not the students."

NC Newsline reached out to the Department of Public Instruction, Asheville City Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Durham Public Schools for comment. None had responded as of publication.

Politics & Election News

Common Ground Issues Among Partisans in Battleground States



By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

In a presentation last Thursday titled Common Ground in the Battlegrounds, researchers from the Program for Public Consultation and the Congressional Management Foundation examined polling showing substantial bipartisan agreement across a wide range of policy issues, challenging the assumption that Americans are as politically polarized as their elected representatives.

The presentation featured Dr. Steven Kull, director of the Program for Public Consultation at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy; Charles Lewitus, the program's associate director; and Jen Daulby, chief executive officer of the Congressional Management Foundation.

The discussion focused on findings from surveys conducted in competitive electoral battlegrounds, with the goal of helping journalists, policymakers, and the public better understand what voters actually support.

Lewitus outlined the breadth of the findings, reporting that researchers identified 101 policies with bipartisan majority support in at least two-thirds of the battleground states and districts surveyed. Of those, 82 policies had bipartisan support in every battleground surveyed. The results suggest that voters who identify with opposing political parties can agree on concrete approaches to addressing national problems.

On abortion, researchers found bipartisan majorities in every battleground surveyed opposed making it a serious crime for doctors to provide abortions before fetal viability. Respondents also supported policies designed to protect access to birth control, including prohibiting states from restricting or banning it.

On policing, bipartisan support extended to requiring officers to intervene when colleagues use excessive force and establishing a national database documenting police misconduct. Researchers also found overwhelming support for allowing people who have completed their sentences to pursue employment and professional licenses without being automatically disqualified solely because of past criminal records.

Voters also supported greater disclosure of campaign-related spending and the creation of independent, balanced commissions to draw congressional districts. Ranked-choice voting received bipartisan majority support in 31 of the 39 battlegrounds surveyed, making it less universally popular than several other proposals but still demonstrating agreement across many politically competitive areas.

Respondents supported requiring congressional authorization for military action, automatically ending funding for a president-initiated military operation after 60 days without congressional approval, and prohibiting a president from authorizing the first use of nuclear weapons without congressional approval. Bipartisan majorities also supported multiple forms of foreign aid, continued U.S. adherence to the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, and continued military assistance to Ukraine.

All 39 battlegrounds for a proposed wealth tax of 2% on wealth exceeding $50 million and 3% on wealth exceeding $1 billion. Respondents also supported taxing capital gains at the same rate as ordinary income for very high-income households.

Kull argued that the findings challenge the widespread perception that the American public is fundamentally as polarized as Congress.

"So, there's a lot of common ground, and it seems that there's basically a kind of coherent public voice on many issues, and that voice is not well heard," Kull said.

According to Kull, members of Congress often rely on feedback from people who voluntarily contact their offices, including highly engaged constituents and interest groups. Such feedback can provide an incomplete picture of the views held by the broader electorate.

Kull also emphasized the role of journalism in addressing this disconnect. Rather than treating public opinion polls as occasional standalone stories, he encouraged reporters to incorporate relevant polling into routine coverage of legislation, policy debates and congressional votes.

"It's all about making the public's view part of the news, part of the story," Kull said during the question-and-answer session. "We know what Republicans in Congress think, we know what Democrats in Congress think, we know what the leadership thinks, we know what a lot of interest groups think. It's important to know what the public thinks as well."

Both major parties face concerns about their credibility and how responsive they are to ordinary Americans. Simply changing policy positions may not resolve that problem if the public continues to feel excluded from the decision-making process.

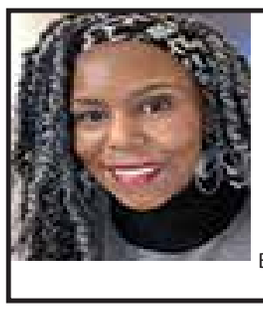
Kull said representatives should communicate openly about how they consider public opinion, without necessarily promising to follow it in every instance.

"The public wants members of Congress, their elected representatives, to have a kind of collaborative relationship with the people they represent," Kull said.

Jen Daulby connected the findings to the practical challenges of governing and the work of the Congressional Management Foundation, an organization that seeks to strengthen Congress through leadership, management, education and bipartisan relationship-building.

Drawing on decades of experience working with congressional offices, she argued that the central question is not simply whether lawmakers know which issues matter to Americans, but why broad public agreement does not translate more consistently into legislation.

Daulby also challenged the perception that Congress operates exclusively through partisan conflict. According to her, more bipartisan bills pass Congress each year than partisan bills, but high-profile coverage often concentrates on major legislation passed along narrow party-line margins.



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

WHY WE VOTE

In North Carolina, early voting began October 15th. That's when I voted. WE were encouraged, implored to vote on that opening day to show our commitment to being seen and heard. Also happening at that time was the State Fair. Did you go? I volunteered Friday with my office and got a look at the throngs of people with and without children spending ridiculous amounts of money. It did make me think: what would have happened if there had been an early voting site at the State Fair?

According to the State Board of Elections, approximately 1.5 million North Carolinian registered voters have cast ballots as of October 24, 2026, either in-person or by mail. There are roughly 8 million registered voters in the state. So around 20% have taken advantage of the opportunity to vote so far. If you're wondering, unaffiliated voters are out-distancing both Republican and Democrats in early voting. Where I am in Wake County, about 191,000 of 868,000 registered voters have voted.

Who are these enthusiastic early voters? Almost half of them is over the age of 65 followed by approximately 37% between 41-65, 11% 26-40, with our young voters, 18-25 at only 5%. Historically, young voter participation tends to surge later than that of seniors. Go, Old Folks! Go, Old Folks! In the Triangle, counties like Durham and Orange have significant Black voter turnout as do Eastern North Carolina counties such as Edgecombe, Halifax, Bertie, Hertford, Northampton, and parts of Pitt and Wilson; well above the state average.

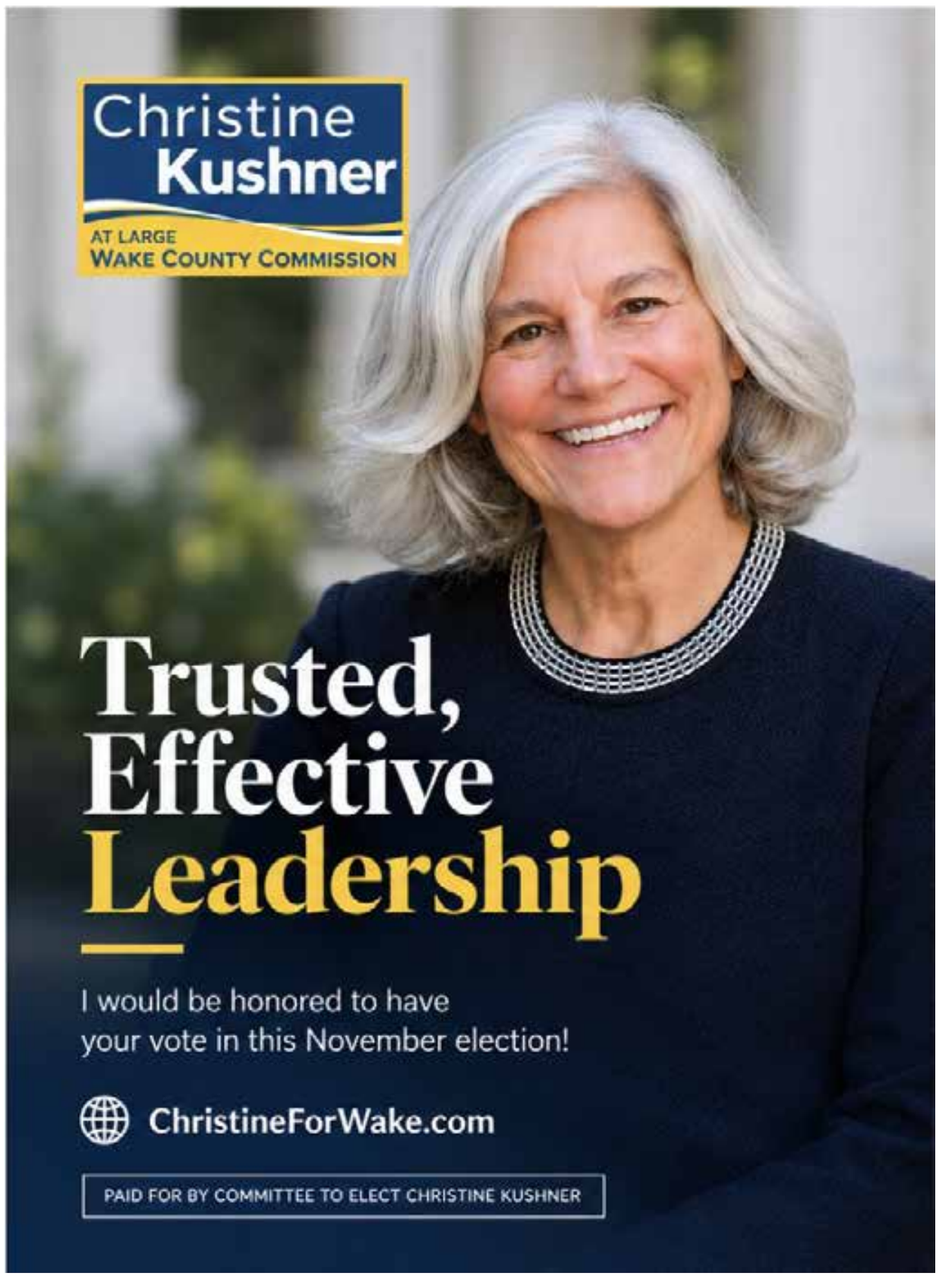
These numbers make me wonder if this trend will continue into Election Day. I also question if social media can drive younger voters to actually vote. I have said for decades if you don't vote, don't complain. Voting is how we fix or create problems. At my job, I get to speak with folks across the state who have legitimate concerns about their local, county, and state governments. They want Superman to jet in and "fire the scoundrels." After patiently listening to their concerns, I remind them that it was their votes that hired those same scoundrels. The citizens of their town or county or district either voted for them or stayed at home and failed to vote against them. Either way, unless these folks are found criminally guilty in violation of the requirements to hold office, there is no entity to police bad behavior. This is the risk and responsibility of a government "by the people." Problem is, when 'the people' become frustrated they often are paralyzed by hopelessness and consider voting a futile waste of time. My advice is always instead of complaining to their family, friends, neighbors, and ME, get together, identify and vet a potential candidate, and do the work of getting someone else elected.

Here's the caveat: complaining is a lot easier than doing the work.

I understand. And my 50+ years in election-adjacent work tells me you almost have to be nuts to run for office. A candidate for most local, county, and many state offices needs to have time for a full-time job that pays part-time money. Personally, I believe that fact is fertile ground for corruption. Regular folks, not career criminals, can be tempted to misspend public money, take shortcuts, request favors not available to the rest of us. If you could ever get one of these folks to tell the truth, I bet they would say at first, they were just trying to make ends meet.

I digress.

Back to the importance of voting. These days, there's a lot to complain about. I'll give you that however, that just means there are even more reasons to VOTE. Tune out the noise. Make decisions in your, your family's, your community's best interest. Even if you don't know how some of these races impact your life, vote. The judicial races matter. The Congressional races matter. VOTE, People! Rain or shine, if you haven't voted by October 31st, the end of early voting, on November 3rd, get your umbrella and go vote. Don't get distracted by campaign tricks. We will live with the results of your voting or failure to vote. Call the grandchildren. Those registered to vote should. Do whatever you have to do to make it important to them. Many can be coerced with the threat of financial exile. Make them understand. Yes, I said what I said.



Bishop Barber Leads "March to the Polls" Across The State

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer


NC NEWSLINE

Bishop William J. Barber II and a coalition of civil rights, faith, and voting rights organizations started an early voting mobilization effort Thursday, leading marches to polling places across North Carolina.

The marches marked the first day of in-person early voting in North Carolina, with members of Barber's Love Forward Together Voter Mobilization Initiative gathering in northwest Charlotte on Thursday for a "March to the Polls."

Organizers are supplementing the marches with text messaging campaigns, phone banks and door-to-door canvassing designed to reach voters where they live and make sure they know when, where and how to vote.

Dr. Hannah R. Broome, Repairers of the Breach's director for religious affairs, said the effort is particularly important in a state where changes to voting rules can leave people uncertain about the process.

"In this state, the rules keep changing, and confusion is its own kind of suppression," Broome said. "When people aren't sure of the rules, some of them stay home. We are here to interrupt the confusion."

Repairers of the Breach, the organization Barber leads, is coordinating a nationwide initiative known as "1,000 Marches to the Polls," encouraging people to march, drive, and gather at polling places during the early voting period.

In Durham, Barber returned to North Carolina Central University, his alma mater, where voters and organizers marched from St. Joseph's AME Church to the Turner Law Building, one of Durham County's 10 early voting locations.

Barber spoke with gatherers outside the university's law school, where early voting was underway, and encouraged students to understand how their ballots connect to the policies that affect their education, families and communities. He said the march was intended to inspire students and other voters while reminding them that the right to vote was not won through silence or inaction.

"We marched for it. We fought for it, mobilized," Barber said.

North Carolina voters have fought to preserve access to same-day voter registration and early voting, Barber said, making participation especially important now that those opportunities are available. He urged voters not to treat their political power as something to hold onto but as something to put into action.

"Now that we've held onto the power, it's no good if we don't use it," Barber said. "One of our mantras is, it's time to get our power out of our pocket. Don't hold on to it. Get it out of your pocket."

Barber also challenged students to consider how elected officials influence issues that may appear far removed from the voting booth but directly affect their lives. Healthcare, funding for historically Black colleges and universities, and wages for working families, he said, are all shaped in part by the decisions of people elected to public office.

"Everything is on the ballot," Barber said. "Any issue you pick — if you're concerned about healthcare, if you're concerned about whether or not HBCU's are going to be funded equally and equitably, if you're concerned about your moms and dads making a living wage — politicians who get elected determine all of those matters."

In Wilson, Barber and the Rev. Della Owens-Barber joined St. James Christian Church and Repairers of the Breach for another march to the polls Thursday afternoon. About 50 participants gathered before walking and shuttling the three-block stretch from the First Christian Church parking lot to the Wilson County Board of Elections.

The mobilization also brought together voting rights organizations in Raleigh, where Barber was scheduled to join Forward Justice, Democracy North Carolina, Common Cause North Carolina and Brava NC for an early morning march and news conference at Fulfilled Promise Tabernacle.

The event featured remarks from Barber, Broome and representatives of participating organizations, including Caitlin Swain of Forward Justice, Joselle Torres of Democracy North Carolina, Sailor Jones of Common Cause North Carolina and Illiana Santillan of Brava NC.

North Carolina's in-person early voting period ends Oct. 31 at 3 p.m.

Wake County Scam Incident Spotlighted During Cybersecurity Awareness Month

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

During October's Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the Wake County Board of Commissioners' Growth, Sustainability, and Economic Development Committee drew attention to the growing threat of cybercrime after county contractors were targeted by fraudulent emails that appeared to contain legitimate permitting and payment information.

The September incident, in which scammers impersonated county communications to target contractors with active permit applications, showed commissioners how criminals are exploiting public information and trust in government to carry out financial scams.

During the county's discussion of the incident, Wake County Chief Security Officer Lisa Jones explained that Planning and Development staff received emails and calls from contractors who had questions about fee assessments associated with their active permit applications. The fraudulent emails contained legitimate details, including submission numbers, attached invoices, and county contact information, making the payment requests appear authentic.

Jones credited the contractors' decision to question unexpected payment requests and contact county staff with helping officials respond quickly.

"The contractors' willingness to question the unexpected and bring that to the attention of county staff made it possible for us to address this quickly and efficiently," Jones said.

By verifying the unexpected requests instead of immediately acting on them, the contractors helped county staff identify the fraudulent activity and respond.

Jones also noted that earlier in the year, the FBI warned state and local governments about this type of fraudulent payment scheme.

"This incident reinforces that local governments and the individuals and businesses interacting with them are attractive targets for financially motivated scams," she said.

A key takeaway from the Wake County incident is that criminals do not necessarily need to break into a government agency's computer systems to impersonate the agency successfully. Publicly available information, including permit details, business records, and contact information, can help scammers create convincing messages. When combined with official-looking invoices, familiar terminology and legitimate application numbers, that information can make it difficult for recipients to distinguish fraudulent communications from authentic county correspondence.

The county's experience comes as Wake County, Raleigh and Cary work together to improve cybersecurity awareness among residents and local businesses. October's Cybersecurity Awareness Month provides an opportunity for local officials to address online threats and offer practical guidance to people who may be vulnerable to scams. The three local governments are partnering to provide free cybersecurity workshops throughout the month, with a particular focus on older adults and small businesses.

Wake County Board of Commissioners Chair Shinica Thomas said the initiative is intended to help participants recognize threats and access resources that can reduce their risk of becoming victims.

"We know that cybercrime is a growing concern, especially for our seniors and small business communities," Thomas said. "October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and we hope that attendees of these sessions can take away vital resources and information that can help them stay safe online and reduce the number of victims impacted each year."

In 2023, people aged 60 and older collectively lost $3.4 billion to cybercrime, while 41% of small businesses reportedly experienced a cyberattack. Older adults can be targeted through fraudulent messages, fake technical support offers, and increasingly convincing impersonations, while small businesses may face phishing emails, fraudulent invoices, and attempts to redirect payments.

In Raleigh, the city's Adult Technology Education program offers courses to help adults develop their digital skills, whether they want to learn how to use a cellphone, tablet or computer or become more comfortable with specialized software. The program also promotes online safety through educational opportunities designed to help residents recognize scams and protect themselves online.

As part of its October programming, the city promoted "Outsmarting AI Scams: A Guide for Savvy Seniors," with sessions that took place on October 11 and October 26 at the Five Points Center for Active Adults.

Other digital literacy initiatives, including "Click with Confidence," focus on helping older adults navigate technology, recognize suspicious online activity, and use the internet safely.

Earlier in 2026, Attorney General Jeff Jackson warned residents about scam text messages falsely claiming to come from the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles. The messages tell recipients they have unpaid traffic tickets and threaten license suspensions, fines, or other penalties unless they take action. They then direct recipients to websites that look official but are not connected to the state government.

The similarities between the scams are significant. Contractors may fear that failing to pay an alleged permitting fee will delay their applications, while drivers may worry that ignoring a purported traffic fine will result in additional penalties. In both cases, scammers rely on pressure and familiarity to influence their targets. Unexpected requests for money, threats of immediate consequences, and unfamiliar payment links are warning signs that warrant independent verification.

According to an Associated Press analysis of Federal Trade Commission data provided to Enlace Latino NC, consumers in the state reported more than $1 billion in scam-related losses between 2021 and 2025. Reported losses increased each year, rising from approximately $95 million in 2021 to just over $342 million in 2025. The number of reports grew much less dramatically, from approximately 71,000 in 2021 to 74,000 in 2025, with a decline during the intervening years.

Some victims may not report their losses, while others may not realize they have been targeted. The data also reveal differences in scam patterns across the state. Durham County, for example, recorded only seven reports classified as immigration services scams over the five years, yet those reports were enough to give the county the highest per-capita rate in North Carolina for that category. Mecklenburg County, meanwhile, had the highest per-capita rate in eight of the 47 scam subcategories tracked by the FTC, including online shopping, diet products, and debt counseling.

The challenge for the county and the state is not only to respond to cybercrime but also to make fraudulent communications easier to recognize and legitimate transactions easier to verify.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELIGIBLE HUB BUSINESSES CAN BECOME SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFIED STARTING OCTOBER 26

For a limited time, owners of small businesses previously certified under the Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) can become certified in the NC Small Business Enterprise Program (NCSBE) through a streamlined approval process.

Businesses that were HUB certified on July 7, 2026, can log into the state's electronic vendor portal through November 30 to verify that they meet the current criteria for the state's NCSBE program. Once they submit the simple attestation, the owner will immediately be sent confirmation that their organization is NCSBE certified.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our state, and they deserve a seat at the table for government work," said NC Department of Administration Secretary Gabriel J. Esparza. "We want to encourage more small businesses to join this program to learn about contracting opportunities and to encourage more government agencies to work with small businesses."

North Carolina is home to 1.1 million small businesses that employ 1.8 million people—44% of the state's workforce—and account for 99.6% of all North Carolina businesses, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. The NCSBE program helps small businesses compete for state contracts. It is currently open to any for-profit business headquartered in North Carolina with 100 or fewer employees and an annual net income that does not exceed $1,500,000, after cost of goods sold is deducted.

To apply for certification, visit the NC DOA Small Business Enterprise Program website.

As of July 7, when the state legislature eliminated the 27-year-old program as part of the state budget, approximately 6,000 businesses were HUB certified. HUB businesses were thoroughly vetted when they applied for HUB certification, and many of them are likely to meet NCSBE certification criteria. This time-limited opportunity provides a simple, streamlined process for former HUB vendors who meet NCSBE criteria to quickly become certified.

Sec. Esparza and other leaders from the NC Department of Administration remain committed to supporting and creating opportunities for all small businesses and have been seeking input from small business owners and advocates as we reimagine the future of the Small Business Enterprise Program. State officials partnered with local legislators and business leaders to host a series of community meetings to better understand the needs of those companies who want to compete for state contract work. DOA also is soliciting input through an online feedback portal and periodic roundtable discussions with subject matter experts as the department explores how to best support small businesses across North Carolina.

"When small businesses thrive, families, communities, and our entire economy benefit," explained Esparza. "We're taking this opportunity to reconsider how the state can best support small businesses that are eager to work with government."

The NCSBE Program is housed within DOA's Division of Purchase and Contract which leads the state's procurement services.

For more information, visit the NC DOA Small Business Enterprise Program website.



Support Small & Local Businesses

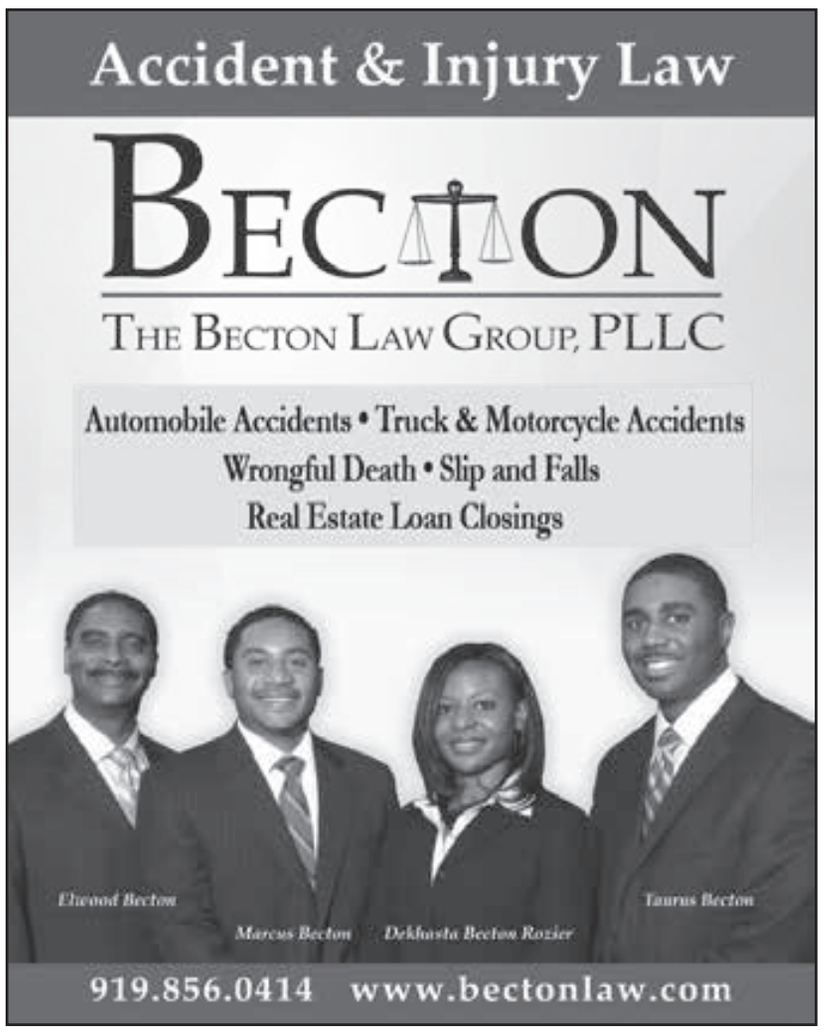
















Health & Wellness

How To Ask Your Doctor Embarrassing Medical Questions

By Heidi Godman
Harvard Health Publishing

Most of us have a health issue or question that seems just too mortifying to discuss with anyone, even a doctor. Sex problems, gut issues, body odor - it's tough to divulge personal details that compromise dignity.

While that's understandable, keeping concerns to yourself might cause you to suffer needlessly, go without treatment, or even risk serious health consequences.

So take a deep breath and drum up some courage. We have advice to help you ask the tough questions.

Some things are just hard to talk about, particularly with your doctor. It's natural that you might not want to discuss flatulence, bad breath, hair loss, weight gain, strange-looking bowel movements, fecal or urinary incontinence, diarrhea, constipation, erectile dysfunction, vaginal dryness, an itchy rear end, new lumps or growths, mood disorders, or difficulty walking or hearing.

However, your doctor actually does want to talk about those things and help you with them. The job is about more than protecting you against serious illnesses, like heart attacks. And it's likely that you're dealing with something your doctor has seen many times.

"I can't imagine anything that would shock me after almost 40 years. Nothing surprises me anymore," says Dr. Suzanne Salamon, associate chief of gerontology at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Even if you can accept that body function talk is just business-as-usual for the doctor, it might still be awkward to share such personal details.



This could be because it feels uncomfortable talking to a professional you see rarely and don't really know, or a doctor who's the same age as your grown grandkids. Perhaps you feel that the doctor won't care about your problem or take you seriously, especially if the doctor seems to be on a tight schedule.

Maybe you're embarrassed about being older and don't want to raise the question of whether it's time to consider a hearing aid or a walker. "People often feel like they cross over into old age if they need one of those tools, so they don't want to bring it up," Dr. Salamon says.

Or it could be that you're too shy to discuss a subject that can lead to an intimate physical exam, such as a vaginal exam.

Try some workarounds

If you know what's keeping you from talking to your doctor about a particular problem, consider taking action so that you can address the issue. Here are some ideas.

Talk to someone you're comfortable with. If it's awkward talking to your primary care doctor, but you're at ease chatting about your health with a nurse in the practice, start there. Or maybe you'd feel better speaking about women's issues with a woman, or men's issues with a man.

Don't begin the conversation face-to-face. It might be less embarrassing if you initially describe your problem or ask a question on the phone or in a message on your patient portal.

See a specialist. "Go right to the expert," Dr. Salamon says. "You don't need a referral if you have Medicare, and you'll consult with someone who sees your type of problem every day."

Leave your buddy in the waiting room. It can be important to bring a buddy along as another set of eyes and ears during an appointment, but it's okay to ask that person for a few minutes of privacy so you can speak with your doctor alone.

Use a simple opening line. "Say, 'I'm kind of embarrassed to bring this up, but it's really bothering me and I hope you can help me,'" Dr. Salamon advises.

Use medical terms. It might make you feel better to describe your problem in a more professional, matter-of-fact way. For example, say "stool" or "bowel movement" instead of "poop."

Write it down. Hand the doctor a brief note if you're shy about asking something during your appointment. That will also give your doctor time to do a little research and get back to you.

Get it over with. "The longer you wait to talk about something embarrassing, the worse the particular health issue can become," Dr. Salamon says. "Find the courage to talk to your doctor and remember that he or she is there to help you. That's the whole point of medicine: doctors want to fix the problems that bother you the most, whether they are 'serious' or not. I know I would reassure someone that whatever is going on, we'll try to make it better."

The Percentage of People Without Health Insurance Is Still Growing

NC NEWSLINE - The percentage of working-age adults without health insurance has increased in the past two years, largely because many people can no longer afford Obamacare coverage after Congress allowed federal subsidies to expire at the end of last year.

The uninsured rate for adults ages 19-64 rose to 11.2% this year, up from 8.9% in 2024, according to a new analysis by the Commonwealth Fund, a health policy and philanthropic nonprofit.

Nearly half of the 7,362 working-age adults who participated in the group's biennial health insurance survey said they were uninsured, underinsured, or experienced a gap in coverage this year. Half said they delayed or avoided getting medical care because of the cost, compared with 46% in 2022.

The subsidies significantly lowered the cost of Obamacare coverage — making it free or nearly free for some people with low incomes. But the aid was designed as a temporary pandemic-era measure, and Congress allowed it to expire at the end of last year.

As a result, the percentage of working-age adults with health insurance from the marketplaces created under Obamacare, officially known as the Affordable Care Act, declined to 6% this year, from 8% in 2024.

The percentage of working-age adults enrolled in Medicaid also declined, to 13% this year from 16% in 2022, as many states removed people from the rolls at the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The increase in the uninsured rate almost certainly will accelerate in January, when the Republican tax and spending law known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act takes effect. That law will require many Medicaid recipients to prove they are working or engaging in approved community service activities for at least 80 hours a month.

The law also mandates that states verify enrollees' Medicaid eligibility every six months.

Another factor in the growing percentage of people without coverage is the rising cost of healthcare, which is pushing up premiums for private insurance.

"It's affecting people's ability to pay off bills right away, and it's having an effect on health plans," said Sara Collins, a senior scholar at the Commonwealth Fund and the lead author of the report.

Almost a third of the survey respondents, whether insured and uninsured, said they currently had medical or dental bills or were paying off medical debt. And more than 70% of uninsured adults said they had cost-related problems getting care.

"I think it's very concerning," Collins said. "We know from our survey data that not going to get care isn't and just generally is not good for people's health over the long run."

The rise in the uninsured rate comes after a long period of progress: Between 2010 and 2025, the overall uninsured rate in the United States fell by half, to 8% from nearly 16%, largely because of the Affordable Care Act.

If Jalen Hurts Can Get Dangerous Blood Clots, Then So Can You...



THE CONVERSATION— Jalen Hurts is 28, a Super Bowl MVP and an elite athlete in peak physical condition. He was also recently diagnosed with blood clots in his leg and both lungs.

After a cleat to the left calf during a game against the Los Angeles Rams on Oct. 4, 2026, and after a team flight to London, the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback was given an ultrasound and diagnosed with a superficial vein thrombosis, which is a blood clot in the vein near the skin, in his left leg.

He played that Sunday. A follow-up ultrasound showed the superficial vein clot had progressed to a deeper vein, and he was diagnosed with a deep vein thrombosis, or DVT.

By Oct. 19, he was diagnosed with a bilateral pulmonary embolism, which means he had blood clots in both lungs. He started treatment with blood thinners, and his prognosis was described as "very good," according to a statement from the team and his agent, but he will likely be out for the rest of the season.

For me, as a pulmonary vascular disease specialist who treats patients with blood clots and pulmonary embolisms, this case highlights an important teaching moment. If this can happen to an elite athlete, it can happen to anyone. And too often, it can be prevented.

Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism are grouped under one name: venous thromboembolism.

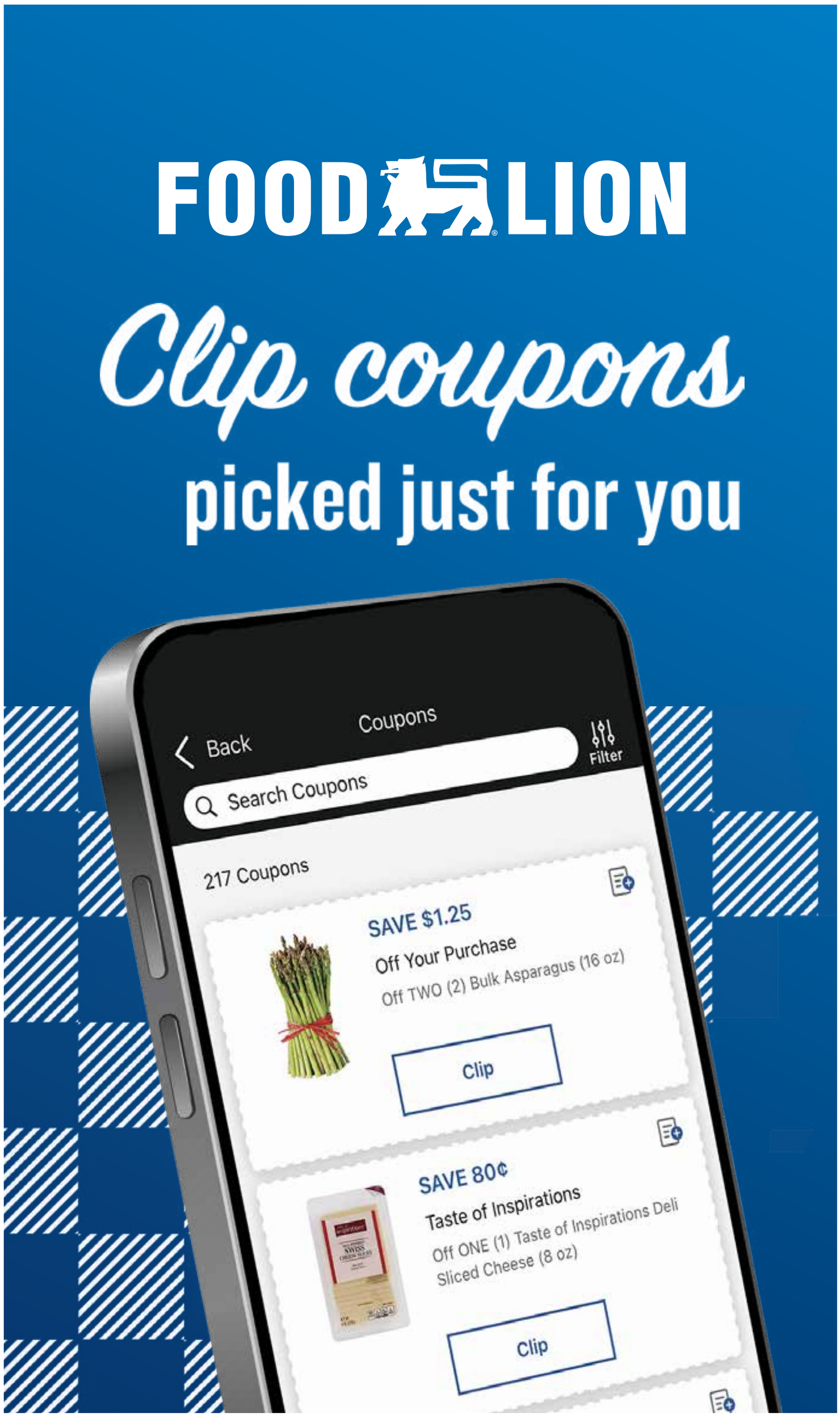
When a deep vein thrombosis develops, the clot can break off and a piece of it can travel through the body and lodge in the arteries in the lungs, where it obstructs blood flow and lowers oxygen in the blood, causing shortness of breath and strain on the heart. This is known as pulmonary embolism. If the blood clot in the lungs is large enough, it can sometimes kill within hours.

Clots that happen near the skin, like the one first found in Hurts' leg, are often treated as minor but are not always harmless. It is estimated that a quarter of people diagnosed with superficial clots can also have deep vein thrombosis, so health providers order follow-up imaging.

In the United States, up to 900,000 people are affected by venous thromboembolism each year. An estimated 60,000 to 100,000 die from it annually. Survivors often have long-term symptoms such as persistent leg swelling, shortness of breath, chronic clots, or elevated blood pressure in the arteries in the lungs, which is known as chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension.

The three main factors that drive formation of blood clots are injury to the vein wall, slow or stagnant blood flow in that injured region, and blood that clots easily due to inflammation or other factors. This is called Virchow's triad, and Hurts' story touches every corner of this triad.

The injury to the left calf bruised the muscle and likely the vein beneath it. Later, prolonged sitting on an overnight flight from Philadelphia to London and a return flight after the game resulted in stagnant blood flow to the injured leg. Inflammation from the injury along with dehydration from the game and jet lag all may have contributed to increased blood clotting.



Arts & Culture

Here's Why Black People Are Rapidly Arming Themselves

By Angela Wilson

The Root

When white terror tore through Atlanta in 1906, Black families were left defenseless against ruthless racist violence. Today, history is meeting its match. In an exclusive first look at Episode 3 of The Root's original six-part docuseries, America Amended, host Trymaine Lee examines racial violence in a historic Black neighborhood in South Atlanta, its lasting aftermath, and how Black women have statistically become the fastest-growing group of new gun owners in the nation—and for good reason.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Trymaine Lee traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, ground zero for the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre. As Black residents built prosperous lives in communities like Brownsville following emancipation and the Civil War, a mob of 10,000 white men lashed out in hatred, unleashing four days of terror across the city.

"White folks descended upon people in the nearby Five Points neighborhood, and started attacking people in the streets: men, women, and children. By the end of it, the official tally was 25 Black people murdered," Lee said. "But the unofficial tally was more than 100." The youngest victim was a 13-year-old Black boy.

That violence, however, wasn't met with surrender—it was met with strategic self-defense. "They [Black people] were expecting something like this to happen. So even though it was against the law, you had the most prominent and upright citizens of the Black community who armed themselves, who had guns, ready to defend their families, their communities."

Back then, Black folks had to smuggle guns in coffins and hearses just to survive the night. Today, Black people are walking straight into local gun shops to arm themselves in broad daylight.

Data from the National Shooting Sports Foundation shows firearm purchases among Black Americans surged by over 58%. Today, Black women are officially the fastest-growing demographic of new gun owners in the U.S., making up over 20% of all new first-time buyers as they take their safety into their own hands.



In Episode 3, Lee travels to The Vault Gun Store & Range in Marietta, Georgia, to meet with its Black owner. Together, they discuss the range's mission to train people from all walks of life, particularly first-time gun owners and women seeking protection.

"I think a lot of our Black customers that come in, interestingly enough, are Black women. And a lot of the desire is they want the capability to be able to protect their home, to protect their family, to protect their kids," the owner explained. "We see a lot of husbands bringing their wives in."

According to a Black female Vault employee, the reason for the influx is simple: personal safety. "I think it's the statistics of sexual assault, rape. I believe it makes it an even field. [...] Most of my associates either have been or know someone who has been raped or sexually assaulted. [...] A lot of us Black women— we're career women. We're out early. We're out late. We're going to and from the office. We're traveling for work. We are widows. We are divorced. We are older, we're single—just as everyone else is, but we just tend to be a huge target."

But Black women aren't alone in this movement to exercise their right to bear arms, per the Second Amendment. Episode 3 also follows a Black father teaching his young son the fundamentals of firearm safety—a rite of passage weighed down by the constant anxiety of raising a Black boy in "a world that's not always welcoming... and [is] openly hostile," according to Lee.

Additionally, Lee sat down with Aaliyah, a Black woman who tragically watched her fiancé get gunned down in 2022. She opened up about navigating grief in the aftermath of a loss fueled by gun violence, and how his death changed her outlook on guns.

For more episodes of America Amended and stories centering Black history, culture and the conversations shaping our communities, visit The Root's YouTube channel.



A NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP TURNS A COMMUNITY'S VOICE INTO A VOTING ANTHEM

NEW YORK -- We Lift Our Voices is a modern voting anthem created to help make the stakes of the 2026 midterm elections feel immediate, and inspire more young Black voters to vote in Forsyth County and throughout North Carolina. Only 16% of Forsyth County's Black voters aged 18–40 participated in the 2022 midterm election.

The We Lift Our Voices project brings together Robin Lemberg, founder of The Heart Monitors, a marketing strategy and activation company based in New York and Paris, and Gabby Ogelsby, founder of Go Off Productions in Winston-Salem.

Together with a Southern gospel choir, they have created an uplifting, crossover song rooted in gospel and contemporary pop, with musical inspiration ranging from gospel and soul to modern rock.

At its heart, We Lift Our Voices is a story about the powerful combination of marketing creativity, local creators, musicians supported by civic partners using music, digital advertising and grassroots activation to increase voter turnout by making it feel personal, hopeful and shared.

The insight for the lyrics grew from local focus groups. Young people described feeling both disenchanted by the current political environment, unsure how their voices and vote matter, and unaware how midterms elections impact the policies shaping their everyday lives.

The campaign meets that feeling with an inspiring reminder: the choices made in midterm elections help shape the world around us. Voters can connect their own beliefs with the candidates who reflect them and impact change in the local communities. It's on them to exercise that power and not to delegate it, because it matters.

The effort is nonpartisan and intended for everyone. It was made possible by Lift Every Vote, a local nonprofit, and V.O.T.E. -Voices of the Electorate, a newer PAC committed to empowering change and civic duty with a cutting edge way to target and activate voters—not on demographics but belief based personas.

Bodycam Footage Revealed In Incident Involving 3-Year-Old Soccer Prodigy

By Brandon Caldwell

The Grio

Body cam footage from a viral incident involving the parents of a 3-year-old soccer prodigy and youth sports organizers in Florida highlights how the parents advocated for their child and how many are pouring into the child after the incident.

Nevada Pierre, who has gone viral for his skills as a budding soccer player at age 3, was removed from a youth league game that included older kids. As his father, Don Pierre, continued filming his son scoring goals and showcasing his footwork on the field, tension grew.

In body cam footage from the Winter Park Police Department in Florida, an organizer can be seen speaking to police about Nevada, saying that the 3-year-old was "pushing the kids" and asking for him and his parents to leave and that he'd offer them a full refund for the season.

"The kid is good. He's great. Really good," the organizer for i9 Sports tells responding officers. "He's very advanced compared to the other ones, so he's scoring a lot of goals.



But he's pushing the kids. ... So, I try to tell him, don't push; we want to play without pushing, right?"

According to the organizer, things changed when Nevada's mother, Martasia Griffin, joined Don in questioning why their son was benched.

"I just want him out. Immediately," the organizer tells officers. "Just give me their names so I can give them their refund."

Griffin and her husband argued that everyone was "just playing a game," but no one was passing the ball.

"They have issues with a 3-year-old, they're mad at a 3-year-old because me and him [Nevada's father, Don Pierre] haven't done nothing," she said. "We stand on the other side; we don't ever stand with the other parents, so we're not getting into it with other parents, we're always on the other side."

In the aftermath, a GoFundMe has been established to help continue funding Nevada's soccer journey, and former United States Men's National Team member Eddie Johnson confirmed that he would train the child at his soccer academy in Orlando. The GoFundMe has raised over $42,000 since it was launched.

"This fundraiser is about more than one painful experience," Griffin wrote. "It is about protecting Nevada's passion for soccer and making sure this moment does not define his journey. As his mother, it has been incredibly hard to see the emotional impact this has had on him. We believe every child, regardless of abilities, background, or potential, deserves the chance to learn, grow, and enjoy the game they love in a safe and supportive environment."

In a post on Instagram, Johnson wrote about Nevada, "His situation has brought light to a lot of the things that still exist in youth soccer in this country. Entitlement, Jealousy, Envy, Nepotism, Gatekeeping and profiling especially against people of color."

The help isn't stopping there. According to Loren Lorosa of "The Breakfast Club," Roc Nation Sports has committed to sending Nevada to Spain in December and plans to make the trip "an impactful athletic experience."

What is Black Journalism for? —CONTINUED FROM PG 1

correct and counter media coverage, rightwing myths, and mainstream discourse about race became like playing whack-a-mole. The right and those influenced by them worked together to produce a blanketting account of Blackness. If you challenged or complained, you were labelled as entitled, and addicted to a victimhood that the government had disproved once and for all in the form of an official report. Even if you said or did nothing, stories would be made up about you for sport.

The progressives were the most infuriating of all. Posting black squares and taking the knee when the cost was low and reward was high, but then retreating to the pompous and disingenuous argument of "going high" in the face of Black vilification because culture wars aren't "salient" to voters. They were pretty salient to Black people. I experienced this time as one of almost physical savaging.

In hindsight, I see we were rapidly boxed in, with no room for manoeuvre. I felt a sinking realisation in my work: every objection I wrote or spoke was happily gobbled up by the very ecosystem it fought. Journalism regarding Black concerns and public figures became a matter not of reporting and opinion, but instant recruitment into a war. Our opponents were a disparate bunch, but were the product of a majority white establishment that just did not want to listen to the experiences of Black people, to the facts about disproportionate policing and racial profiling, and vastly unequal maternal health, unemployment, education and income. It felt like a trap. In responding to this climate, our orientation was not towards each other, even though it felt like we were defending each other. We needed to turn away from white-facing discourse and into Black-facing and intra-communal discourse. A step back became necessary. What was journalism for?

How can multi-faceted Blackness take up space?

In 2024, we began publishing the Long Wave. I have learned a lot in the past two years, but the main lesson is just how much more distinctive the Black experience is, even more than I thought or intuited, because no other people were enslaved, traded and removed from their lands in such numbers and over such a long time. The Black diaspora is among the largest and most sprawling of them all, connected by similar histories that often shock myself and the team with the specificity of practices, ways of living and challenges on entirely different continents. Whether it was in common linguistic heritage, musical influences, resistance politics, and in one particularly bewildering report, shared mystical pre-Abrahamic practices.

Diaspora is not a people scattered from a homeland, but a homeland that has travelled with the people and remains, in different forms, still within them. It makes space for a multifaceted form of Blackness, which can incorporate co-existing identities. For me, these identities have included being Sudanese, from a certain tribe, and Muslim. Following that, I have found other ways of self-defining – African, pan-African, and Black. I have found that Black can mean belonging to part of something bigger. Acknowledging this follows the legacy of Claudia Jones herself, who inspired this speech. Jones's journalistic endeavours at the West Indian Gazette supported anti-racism in the UK, but also fostered dialogue between West Indians and international freedom movements. And in establishing the precursor to Notting Hill Carnival, she also galvanised a form of Black culture that insists on its endurance on its own terms.

In these forms of thinking, writing, organising and community-building, we might find that space for manoeuvre. That breathing space as a Black British journalist, and a Black Briton who gives a damn. That space to be Black and care and write about racism – because it is simply a fact of one's life. That space to do so without being limited by it and defined by it. And that space to be confident and ambitious and global with our own stories, without having to worry about how this looks to "them". This feels all the more pressing to me as a Black journalist who is also Muslim and Arab. None of this will change the media or the environment we live in, but it will help us navigate it without being subsumed by it.

This is the process of identifying with a diaspora, and actively seeking ways in which we can re-connect with it. It is also a process of divesting from the particular, and embracing something more whole. To think in different strategies and approaches to surfacing Black life beyond its treatment by white majorities and hegemonic histories. To understand that wherever we feel kettled in, suffocated and disempowered, so much exists beyond the reach of the online troll or rightwing columnist. There is history, literature, political activism, carnivals, music, travel and, wherever we stand – community and gathering in the spirit of what Claudia Jones created. There are also vast opportunities for journalism that reports the diaspora not simply as an addendum to a western white experience. What is journalism for? For me, it is to exist on your own terms.

NC STATE FAIR

Continued from page 1



The fair also featured a mock tobacco auction in Heritage Circle, recreating a tradition that played an important role in North Carolina's agricultural history.

But while fairgoers were busy deciding what to eat next or which ride to get on, some vendors were doing a different kind of math.

Rising Costs Raise Concerns for Fair Vendors

While thousands of visitors looked forward to their favorite fair foods, vendors faced some changes of their own this year.

For the first time, food and beverage vendors were charged 15% of their gross sales, excluding sales tax, instead of the previous flat fee of $180 per foot of stand frontage. Businesses were also required to use a Clover point-of-sale system to record transactions.

The changes brought mixed reactions, particularly among longtime vendors who were accustomed to the previous arrangement.

According to WRAL Investigates, some business owners expressed concerns about the additional expenses and whether participating in the fair would remain profitable.

Among them was Preston Ray, owner of Ray's Coffee in Wendell, who has attended the fair for 45 years. Ray estimated that the new fees had doubled or possibly tripled his previous costs, leaving him uncertain about returning next year.

Others were more accepting of the changes, noting that percentage-based fees are already common at state fairs across the country.

Fair Director Kent Yelverton defended the decision, explaining that the new structure was intended to bring North Carolina in line with industry standards. Several states, including South Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee, also charge food vendors 15% of sales.

The additional costs come as businesses continue navigating higher prices for ingredients, supplies and labor. For smaller vendors, those expenses can make participating in an 11-day event a considerable financial commitment, even with thousands of potential customers.

Fair officials have not yet released the total revenue generated through the new fee structure. Organizers said they plan to review vendor feedback and discuss possible improvements ahead of the 2027 fair.

With attendance down approximately 3.8% from last year, the financial results may influence which businesses decide to return next October.

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Community

Leading Ladies of Harnett County Celebrate Five Years!

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Lillington, NC — On October 22, the Leading Ladies of Harnett County celebrated a milestone fifth anniversary. Leading Ladies of Harnett County, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was born out of a vital need to bring women of color from all walks of life together for the greater good of the Harnett County community.

The vision began taking shape in May of 2021 when founder Pamela Williams approached co-founder Frances McNeill with an idea she had been developing since March 2021. Williams asked McNeill to join forces to create an organization dedicated to empowering women of color across Harnett County. McNeill enthusiastically agreed, laying the initial foundation. It was McNeill who suggested the name "Leading Ladies of Harnett County," and it stuck immediately.

"At the time, let me tell y'all, we had no idea how we were going to do it, but we knew what we wanted to do," Francis recalled during the anniversary gathering, describing the spark that ignited the organization. "God didn't give us the final product; He gave us just a portion of it. My vision was huge, hers was enormous, and when we came together, it catapulted into five years of what we have today."

Brainstorming sessions continued through the summer of 2021, culminating in the official founding conception on October 22, 2021, at Cornerstone Cafe and Coffee in Coats, NC. Shortly after, on Saturday, November 13, 2021, the founders hosted a Meet and Greet Brunch at DeBorah's Restaurant in Dunn, NC. The inaugural attendees—Frances McNeill, Pamela Williams, Barbara Abney, Darlette McCormick, Kittrane Sanders, Tiffany McNeill, Dr. Della Newkirk, Anitra Hart, Tasha McDowell, Ann Fairley, Sharon Baker, and Dr. Consuela Blaizes—were presented with the group's purpose and founding principles.

From those humble beginnings, a powerful coalition of women of color has come together in harmony, leveraging their talents and resources to learn, grow, and serve. Holistically, the organization strives to enact goodwill through impactful service projects across Harnett County.



The organization held its first official meeting on January 8, 2022, at the Harnett County Cooperative Extension Center. It achieved official recognition as a corporation from the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State on March 10, 2022, and subsequently received its tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status on June 7, 2022.

The founding charter class comprised a distinguished group of leaders: Frances McNeill, Pamela Williams, Darlette McCormick, Kittrane Sanders, Tiffany McNeill, Dr. Della Newkirk, Anitra Hart, Sharon Baker, Sandra Abney, Sharon Gainey, Lakela McLean, Chondrika McKoy, Nekecha McKoy, Brittany Jones, Monique Tuset, April Gaulden, Pastor Dr. Shelia McKoy, Rev. Hanna Broome, Jeannie Hicks, Yolanda Geddie, Tasha McKoy, Barbara Abney, C. Christina Surles, and Bonita Guy.

Driven by a mission to empower women to assume leadership roles in their communities, the organization provides a unified platform where women support one another in achieving excellence in their respective callings. By actively challenging negative stereotypes surrounding women of color, the Leading Ladies of Harnett County envision a world where women provoke positive change and foster lasting impact. "One of our models is to dispel the myth that Black women can't get along," the founders emphasized. "We're going to knock that out of the park, because that myth only exists to keep us divided, weak, and separated. There cannot be competition among us, because we're fighting the exact same fight. Yours may not look like mine; it may not sound like mine, but we are the architects in our homes, on our jobs, getting it done."

As their motto proudly proclaims: "Unity... breaking the myths and setting the stage." Now under the leadership of President Lakela Bell-McLean, the organization continues to flourish. President Bell-McLean shared exclusively with The Carolinian that, "Harnett County has a lot of moving pieces right now. But if we continue to support those that are putting themselves out there, there's no limit to what we can do as Black women. That's right. I love it. Thank you, ladies."

Rep. Garland Pierce, North Carolina Black Alliance, Partners In Ministry Feed Scotland County Families



LAURINBURG, N.C. — Always looking to meet needs around here, Garland Pierce, who represents Scotland and Hoke counties in the North Carolina General Assembly, exchanged dress shoes for sneakers earlier this month at Partners In Ministry, a nonprofit organization addressing poverty and providing mentorship to youth.

"Food insecurity in this part of the state of North Carolina that we live in is very challenging for people," Pierce said. "Some people almost have to work almost a week just to put gas in their car."

Necktie off, shoes tied tight, Pierce loaded boxes of food into vehicles pulling up to the site over on Third Street.

The eggs went over easily.

"Everybody wants eggs for those families in the morning time for a good, hearty breakfast," said Pierce, who pastors a church in town.

About 14% of North Carolinians experience food insecurity. In Scotland County, that number is higher, and the gap between what families need and what federal assistance covers is significant.

Partners In Ministry executive director Melba McCallum, Ed.D., has been working to close that gap for two decades.

"We've been here now going on 20 years, partnering with our community, partnering with churches to make a better space for our young folks," McCallum said.

The ministry supports about 200 children through an after-school program staffed by certified teachers. It's where they get in some extra reading time. And they're developing political chops, informing Pierce that he represents them in District 48.

North Carolina Black Alliance collaborated with Partners In Ministry to make sure 200 families would have something to eat days after the Oct. 12 food distribution. Pierce, state Sen. Lisa Grafstein, and state Rep. Dante Pittman joined Closer to the People: Feed the Need, an initiative that provided food and daily-living resources at no cost to families who need them. Grafstein represents Wake County, and Pittman represents Nash and Wilson counties.

Group Seeks To Help US Small Towns Lead The Clean Energy Transition

NC NEWSLINE - As the mayor of tiny Enfield, North Carolina, Mondale Robinson has huge clean energy ambitions. Among them: building a solar farm to power the entire town of about 2,000, replacing the town's decrepit substation to distribute those renewable electrons, and building a thermal energy network to provide heating and cooling and reduce exorbitant electric bills.

But Enfield is one of the poorest towns in the state, where the average household income hovers around the poverty line. As mayor, Robinson earns $500 a month. There are no sustainability officers, no grant writers, no policy teams to help him push this plan forward.

One way Robinson is trying to overcome these hurdles is by working with allies from the closest major metro area. Lawyers from Chapel Hill's Southern Environmental Law Center, for instance, are negotiating the town utility's next electricity contract so that it can produce its own solar energy. Researchers at Durham's Duke University are helping design the geothermal project.

Yet too many doors remain closed to Robinson. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, which has galvanized city leadership on climate solutions, doesn't extend full membership to leaders of towns as small as Enfield. And most foundations tend to overlook such communities.

So Robinson, a longtime political organizer, decided to do what he's always done: Join together with his cohorts to fight for change. At a Canary Media summit on clean energy in rural America in September, he announced that he's launching a new small-town coalition. If towns like his work together, he believes, they can help get new federal policies enacted, attract new donors, and have greater access to experts who can help them



confront a host of challenges, from the climate crisis to housing and food insecurity.

"One small town can be ignored," he said. "Thousands of organized small towns become a national constituency."

Robinson's National Conference of Small Cities and Rural Mayors is designed for officials of locales with fewer than 30,000 people. The figure is not arbitrary: the U.S. Conference of Mayors serves mayors of cities with populations above that benchmark.

"The national organization that speaks for mayors doesn't even allow us to be full members," he said. Yet census data shows that towns like Enfield make up 93% of all incorporated municipalities and house some 60 million people, he said. "America is a nation of small towns."

At the same time, Robinson points out that 90% of philanthropy goes to urban areas. "If you consider rural people as a collective, we will be bigger than the largest populated state in this country," he said, referring to California. "And yet, we are not being invested in in a way that makes sense."

Unpacking North Carolina's Hidden War Economy Ties

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Across North Carolina, we take immense pride in what our hands build. From the furniture factories that anchored the Piedmont to the textile mills that shaped generations, our state's working class has always been the engine of its prosperity. Today, when state leaders talk about North Carolina's modern manufacturing prowess, they point to biotech in the Triangle, automotive plants in the Triad, and aviation facilities in the east. Quietly, woven directly into our assembly lines, tech corridors, and university laboratories, lies an economic infrastructure that rarely gets discussed in polite conversation: the war industry.

While public attention often fixes on federal military bases like Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, an interconnected network of private defense contractors, weapons sub-assemblers, and higher-education institutions has turned North Carolina into an indispensable gear in the global defense machine. To understand the scale of this footprint—and how it quietly recruits the next generation of students—we have to examine the hard numbers and see how our state stacks up against national benchmarks.

To grasp the defense footprint, let's look at North Carolina's manufacturing muscle. North Carolina is home to more than 10,000 manufacturing facilities, employing roughly 465,000 to 475,000 workers, the largest manufacturing workforce in the southeastern United States according to the North Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NCMEP) and the NC Department of Commerce. Manufacturing generates between 12% and 15% of North Carolina's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), standing as the second-largest overall contributor to the state's economy behind the combined finance, insurance, and real estate sector. By comparison, the national average for manufacturing's share of U.S. GDP hovers around 9.5% to 9.8%, and nationally, manufacturing accounts for less than 8% of non-farm employment. In North Carolina, industrial production punches significantly above the national benchmark, providing the physical foundation upon which the defense sector relies.

When evaluating the defense sector as a whole, combining active installations, military personnel spending, and industrial production, defense represents an economic impact between $66 billion and $80 billion annually. That accounts for 9% to 11% of North Carolina's total GDP, making it the state's second-largest economic sector, surpassed only by agriculture, as shared by the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission (NCMAC). Nationally, defense spending accounts for roughly 3.4% of the United States' GDP. In North Carolina, the military and defense footprint constitutes nearly three times the national average in terms of overall state economic reliance. Within private industry, North Carolina does not typically build the final, headline-grabbing battleships or assemble nuclear warheads. Instead, the state specializes in the critical, high-tier supplier network. Between 250 and 400 manufacturing establishments in North Carolina are directly categorized under arms, tactical equipment, munitions, military aerospace components, and combat systems.

More than 3,600 registered defense contractors and suppliers operate statewide, capturing between $6 billion and $8.5 billion annually in direct federal Department of Defense (DoD) procurement awards and prime subcontracts. Direct employment in weapons, tactical systems, and military aerospace manufacturing sits between 40,000 and 60,000 skilled workers, a figure that expands to over 578,000 jobs when accounting for direct, indirect, and induced defense-tied employment statewide.

From RTX (Pratt & Whitney) producing military jet engine components in Asheville, to GM Defense rolling out Infantry Squad Vehicles in Concord, to Corvid Technologies modeling missile-intercept ballistics in Mooresville, North Carolina's workshops are deeply integrated into frontline military hardware.

Perhaps the least understood dimension of the war industry is where it draws its intellectual capital. It actively cultivates talent inside North Carolina's high schools, community colleges, and university lecture halls. Nationwide, defense contractors report major workforce shortages as an older generation of defense engineers and machinists retires. North Carolina has stepped in as an educational pipeline, funneling an estimated 1,500 to 3,000 college and trade students annually into defense, intelligence, and weapons-support careers through co-ops, sponsored capstones, apprenticeships, and direct hiring.

A key example is the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) consortium, which partners with regional community colleges to train young technicians in precision machining, non-destructive testing, and naval welding for submarine and missile construction. The program boasts an approximate 80% job-placement rate into defense contractors within two months of graduation.

At the university level, North Carolina A&T State University, the nation's largest Historically Black University (HBCU) was designated as one of only four national pilot institutions for the DoD's Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC). Other pilot universities include Purdue University, University of Arizona, and Virginia Tech. The initiative offers full tuition scholarships, monthly living stipends, and guaranteed summer internships that convert directly into full-time civilian defense and acquisition roles upon graduation.

Similarly, NC State University's Defense and Security Institute (DSI) and the UNC System's formal partnerships with the XVIII Airborne Corps (Army Pathfinder) ensure that undergraduate and graduate researchers work hand-in-hand with military personnel on tactical software, drone autonomy, and battlefield robotics.

At least 12 to 16 North Carolina institutions, including N.C. State, Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and N.C. A&T, UNC Charlotte, East Carolina University, Wake Forest, and regional community colleges collect hundreds of millions of dollars annually in Department of Defense research contracts and federal grants. While public marketing often highlights "dual-use technology" or general innovation, federal budget ledgers show these funds are earmarked for concrete, mission-critical military objectives: Lethal Systems, Hypersonics & Advanced Materials, Autonomous Swarms & Battlefield AI, Trauma Medicine & Counter-WMD Defense, Supply Chain Retooling and more. Through the Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program, entities like NC State's Industry Expansion Solutions receive multi-million-dollar grants specifically to upgrade the cybersecurity, quality assurance, and tool-and-die infrastructure of small, rural North Carolina machine shops so they can produce certified components for naval ordnance and nuclear submarines.

Overall, North Carolina's economic health is tied closely to national defense spending. Our state is not alone; the AI sector is also pivoting to defense contracts.





WOMEN RUNNING

Continued from page 2

organization and staffing support.

Executive Director Caroline Welles said she wants to help build lasting political infrastructure to identify and support a pipeline of women running for office every cycle — not just spikes during times of political upheaval.

She pointed to Nevada, which made history in 2018 by becoming the first state to elect women to a majority of legislative seats. Women have maintained a majority since, now holding about 62% of seats.

"What we're hoping to do is make this something like a Nevada where women keep winning," she said.

She said women are more likely to get legislation passed, compromise with opponents and focus policy-making that benefits families. While her organization is solely focused on the left, she said she welcomes more Republican women running for legislatures, too.

"I wouldn't see it as a loss if a large number of Republican women were encouraged to run, encouraged to to take up leadership roles. I would see that ultimately as a good thing because I do think they prioritize better legislation than their male counterparts."

Republicans say they are investing in recruiting women.

In 2021, the Republican State Leadership Committee, which works to elect conservatives to state legislatures, redoubled a longstanding effort to recruit and train women candidates. This year, its Right Leaders Network included a class of 67 women running for legislatures in a dozen states.

Officials with that organization were unavailable for an interview.

Iovino, the Republican pollster, said this year's tough political climate has likely hampered Republican recruitment efforts.

"If they're sitting here defending a supermajority, then they're not necessarily going out and recruiting a new batch of women and minority and veteran candidates," she said.

But she believes Republican organizations will redouble efforts to recruit women in upcoming election cycles.

In 2020, a record number of Republican women ran for Congress and 2022 set a record for Republican women serving in state legislatures.

"I look back to our trends in 2020 and 2022, and look forward to that next batch of women, especially in state legislatures and kind of refilling that pipeline," Iovino said.

What women bring to public office

This year, women in Georgia are more politically engaged than during Trump's first term, said Melita Easters, executive director of Georgia WIN List, a political action committee working to elect pro-choice women to the legislature.

A record 127 women are running for legislative seats in Georgia. The organization has endorsed 76 of those candidates. Plenty of those races are considered long shots, but Easters said getting women onto the legislative ballot can be an accomplishment in its own right — especially in the South, where representation lags other parts of the country.

"When you have a woman who is running against a Republican incumbent for the first time in a decade, and that Republican hasn't had a Democrat run against him in more than 10 years, then she attracts some attention," Easter said. "She attracts some voters who had given up on having a candidate they could vote for, and so that rising tide lifts the rest of the ticket, too."

Aside from increasing levels of representation, Easters said women bring a different perspective to politics. While many men run to gain power or financial advantage, she pointed to research showing women tend to run with more altruistic motivations focused on public service.

"Women bring a different skill set to holding public office, a skill set that is more collaborative," she said. "And last but not least, women have generations of experience in cleaning up men's messes, and the current political landscape is a very messy place."

Research consistently shows lower political ambition among women. Experts say that means many women only launch a campaign after being specifically recruited.

"It took three asks for me to raise my hand and say, 'Okay, I'll do it,'" said Democrat Michelle Schreiner, who is running for the Georgia House. "I had, frankly, some terms and conditions and that is really needing support early and often."

Schreiner, a psychologist and researcher, is challenging Republican Rep. Sharon Cooper, who has represented suburban Atlanta in the state House for 29 years. Cooper did not respond to Stateline requests for comment.

To run was "a sobering decision," Schreiner said. It has meant working on her birthday, missing her daughter's soccer games and her son's baseball games.

"It has a real impact on families," she said. "My decision to run is not merely to challenge the incumbent. My decision to run is fundamentally an act of gratitude and appreciation for my community, and saying I'm willing to step up to do the work if you're wanting a choice."

Church

A Sacred Foundation, An Enduring Faith: Lillington First Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates Its 89th Year of Fellowship

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer



Lillington, NC - Gathering under the warmth of fellowship, ancestral remembrance, and unyielding faith, members, visiting clergy, and lifelong friends converged on Lillington First Missionary Baptist Church to celebrate its 89th Church Anniversary and Homecoming.

The service brought together generations of believers to honor nearly nine decades of Christian service and community leadership in Harnett County. Welcoming the congregation into worship, Reverend Dr. Floyd Wicker Jr. set a tone of gratitude, urging attendees to recognize the enduring goodness of God and the sacred lineage carried inside the church walls: "All of this is important because it tells the story of how we got to where we are right now. You are sitting on sacred ground."

Tracing the church's origins, Reverend Wicker recounted how the first spark of Lillington First Missionary Baptist was kindled in 1937 by two dedicated citizens: Deacon W.G. Fuller and Miss Carrie Lampley Atkins. On April 7, 1937, a missionary Sunday school was organized with the Rev. G.T. Moore of Raleigh meeting in a house offered by Mr. John D. Spears. Over the following year, the Sunday school membership rapidly expanded from 12 to 29 members, forming the bedrock of the church fellowship alongside charter families such as the Fullers, Lampleys, Atkinses, Richardsons, McLeans, Parkers, Pattersons, Streets, and Councils.

Among those honored in the sanctuary was 95-year-old Miss Annie Margaret Johnson, celebrated as the church's oldest and longest-standing member, whose life predates the very construction of the current sanctuary. Following uplifting praise and worship by TAP Ministries, the congregation welcomed back former interim pastor Reverend Barry Gray (currently serving at Rocky River Missionary Baptist Church) to deliver the anniversary sermon.

Rev. Gray challenged the room to look past superficial church appearances, urging believers to maintain genuine faith during personal heartbreak, health crises, economic pressures, and societal breakdown, "John was down in that prison for doing what was right. And in the dark places, we sometimes ask, 'Lord, where are you? Are you the one?' Faith isn't about when everything is easy. Faith is holding on when the breakthrough hasn't shown up yet, trusting that God always knows the end from the beginning."

Addressing modern spiritual complacency, Rev. Gray called on the church to reclaim its witness through humble character, authentic love, and community service rather than self-centered living, "The world doesn't come to church anymore because we have set such bad examples. You can't say you love God and be mean, hateful, and selfish. When our grandparents had nothing, they washed windows, scrubbed floors, and shared a cup of sugar. We must give meaning and purpose back to Christian living. If you want to win somebody, it will be by your character and by your love."

Following an altar call of rededication and healing, visiting pastor Rev. McDuffie of Davis Chapel Holiness Church offered closing reflections and blessed the homecoming table, reminding the congregation to keep company with those who build their spiritual walk, "Surround yourself with the right people and the spiritual love of God. Do what God says do, and not just what you want to do."

The anniversary concluded with handshakes, embraces, and a festive fellowship dinner in the church hall. As Lillington First Missionary Baptist Church steps into its 90th year, its foundation remains as steady as the sugar maples that shade its grounds—rooted in prayer, dedicated to community, and standing firmly on the rock of ages.

Practical Biblical Principles

A MISCONCEPTION OF REALITY
Matthew 13:10-17
By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

When you are under stress or nervous, or downright ignorant, can you really see or understand things clearly? We need to guard our minds so that we can see what we really are supposed to see and hear what we are supposed to hear lest we fail to understand what we are supposed to know.

The other day while going home to prepare for a doctor's appointment, I had a slight fender bender while driving my truck. No one was hurt. After the police came, processed the sideswiping incident, and handed both drivers his police report, we both got in our vehicles to go our parted ways.

I got in my truck to go home but I could not find my keys. I looked everywhere, inside the truck, outside the truck, no keys. There were three sets of keys lying in the passenger seat, but I didn't identify them as the keys to the truck. The nice policeman came to the truck to help me look for my keys. He took one set of keys lying in the passenger seat and put it in the ignition and "shazam," the truck started. I thanked the officer and we parted our way. I was too stressed to identify my own set of keys to the truck. I had several other sets of keys in the passenger seat. In short, I recognized I was too stressed to be blessed. The Bible teaches to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 4:2)

Always under stress and emotional pressure from the crowds He faced, Jesus never "lost his cool, so to speak. Jesus was always under pressure to get the Word out to the people. But He didn't misconceive anything in His mind or with His mind. He sought the truth and what He didn't know, He asked the Father. He saw what He saw, understood, and spoke in detail what He talked about.

The scripture says," In all your ways "get" some understanding. Do not get drunk, thus avoiding reality; do not get angry, lest you realize the consequences of hate. Don't get nervous, lest you won't see what you are supposed to see, Don't get out of church, lest your pathway will lead you to hell's front gate. Get saved, get truth, get Jesus. Get to know yourself through the Bible, thus you learn of your true nature and who you really are. Having the ability to understand gives one the ability to accept and see reality.

Fantasy is the opposite of reality. Living in a world of fantasy, ignorance and unnecessary high expectations are unreal and in addition it will and can lead one into serious trouble. No one can afford to misconceive reality. That's where the devil lives.

An old Mother Goose Story can help us illustrate this point: The scene is farmer Jake's barnyard. Early in the morning an old hen (Henny-Penny) came out from under the henhouse from her nightly egg-laying duty, not being fully awake. Now an acorn from an overhanging oak tree limb fell from the tree and hit the hen on her head. Not taking the time to investigate what had just happened, Henny-Penny got excited, stressed out, and thought that a piece of sky had fallen. Henny-Penny struck out across the barnyard to spread the frightening news in the barnyard. Henny-Penny met up with Mr. Duck (Ducky-Lucky). Being that Henny-Penny was a soul force in the barnyard, Ducky-Lucky believed Henny-Penny when she told him the sky was falling. Out of fear and ignorance, Henny-Penny and Ducky-Lucky soon were running around the barnyard yelling to all the barn animals that the sky was falling and it was the "end time." The two soon met up with Mr. Goose (Goosy-Loosy). It didn't take long for the two of them to convince Goosy Loosy that the sky was falling and the world was coming to an end.

The oleo fox who had been watching from the outside heard the commotion and decided to snag a hole in the fence and yell out to the excited three, come out this way and be safe. In their excitement Henny-Penny, Ducky-Lucky and Goosy Loosy went out from the barnyard through the hole in the fence. To make a long story short, Mr. Fox had a three-course dinner that day. All but the fox had been caught up in some kind of misconception of reality and paid dearly for it.

God's prophet of fire, Elijah from Mt. Carmel, who was hiding in a dark cave to conceal his own fear and ignorance, after having called down fire from heaven destroying the sacrificial offer of the false god and priests of Baal. These false worshippers also had a misconception of who the real God of heaven and earth was.

Elijah was in fear of losing his life due to the threat put upon him by the woman, Jezebel. Elijah thought he was the only prophet preaching at the time. Only to find out from God the He had several hundred prophets like Elisha preaching at the same time in other places.

Saul, then Paul, thought initially he and his high office were the only true followers of God. But on the high road leading to Damascus Saul met Jesus in a blinding light. Here Jesus let Saul know that he had a very bad case of misconception. Saul didn't know his real name, Paul.

Our daily prayers must include asking God to guard our minds to think straight. We need wisdom to know what's going on around us.



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A Different Voice



By Dorothy Shaw Thompson

AMERICA IS JUST A WORD

You know, Shakespeare was brilliant (some say he was a Black man). For the purpose of this discussion, I think that people who speak truth are brilliant, whether they be babies, elders or somewhere in between. Shakespeare said, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," and that was a cautionary statement about getting too caught up in labels. My name is Dorothy Evangeline Shaw Thompson. According to some books, Dorothy means "gift of God." Evangeline means "teacher of God." Shaw is my father's last name, and Thompson is my husband's.

My mother named me Dorothy after Dr. Dorothy Fereber, who saved my life by insisting that I be born at home instead of at a hospital where Black babies were dying because they found that someone was poisoning the formula. Evangeline was the name my grandmother wanted to give a girl if she had another, so my mother honored her by giving me Evangeline. Those last two names are legalities, or were at the time. None of them define who I am or, as Shakespeare says, change the way I smell.

So now Donald J. Trump wants to name New Mexico "New America" because he says it will give the state prestige, lower prices and make it a greater state than it is now. We might wonder how New Mexico got its name in the first place. A search revealed that the name was not given because of the country of Mexico, but because Spanish explorers called it that very early in its history. It was even once called New Spain until 1821, after Mexico won independence from Spain. Even before that, in the 1500s, it was New Mexico. New Mexico has one of the highest percentages of Native Americans in the country and one of the highest total Native American populations.

In other words, New Mexico has a very strong Indigenous American culture, revealed in its population, housing, church designs, art and jewelry. Because Donald is ignorant of so much of this history, he wouldn't know why New Mexico is named as it is and probably wouldn't agree with someone attempting to explain it to him. He and many of his followers think of America as a white country and disregard the history, contributions and presence of other races. It's all in how words are defined.

Donald Trump thinks the name "rose" defines the smell. He believes in the naming of stuff and that a name gives it power, prestige and control. He believes that just putting a name, especially his name, on something makes it great. Before we get too cute about this, think about all the ways we believe naming something defines it.

Christian nationalists believe, I think falsely, that naming themselves that makes them Christian. But when asked if their policies and treatment of others are compatible with the teachings of Christ, they typically give misinterpretations of Old Testament scripture. Some New Testament followers do the same thing. For example, when Jesus says, "I am the way," they presume that Jesus is going to be standing in front of the door or gate to heaven, and when we get there, we can choose to go into that door. I have a different interpretation.

I think Jesus focused on the words "I am," and "the way" means living according to the way He taught. I think our way has been revealed in our lives and will be our passport before we ever get to a symbolic gate. We also focus on what we call Jesus or God, and whether or not we refer to God as Father or Mother, male or female. My thought is that the physical is not the issue. I trust God to know who I'm talking to when I pray, whether or not I call Him Allah, God, Jesus, Savior or whatever. He knows. To argue about it is to miss the point.

When we get caught up in words and their meanings, we forget that humankind progressed to labeling things and using words as we grew toward communicating with one another. We name things, label things and decide what they mean based on physical appearance. We define a chair, for example, give it a name and then argue about what makes it a chair. Those who have studied A Course in Miracles will get there.

I'd like to share with Trump that he can name lakes, gulfs and states all he wants to, but it's the essence that makes the rose smell as sweet. Nothing changes with a name, but everything changes with purpose and intention, and the Golden Rule.

If he wants to be a great leader, he must care for and serve people instead of seeking control and power over them, defining them negatively and rejecting them. Our friends and family members care much more about how we treat them than what our last name is.

SERMON of the WEEK



NO ORDINARY LOVE
(By Any Means Necessary)
By Elder Demetrius Hunter

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." — John 3:16 (KJV)

John 3:16 is one of the best-known scriptures in the Bible. For many of us, it was among the first verses we learned in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School. In one verse, we find the good news of the gospel.

The setting is a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews who came to Jesus at night. Jesus told him, "You must be born again." Nicodemus knew the law, but he needed to understand the love of God and what it means to be born again.

God Wants You

Please know that there is nothing you can do to make God stop wanting you. We often think we must do something special to get God's attention. I stopped by here to tell you: God wants you!

We were made for Him and created for a relationship with Him. Sin separated us from that relationship, but sin did not make God want us less. God made a way for us to be reconciled to Him. Just know that God still wants you!

No Ordinary Love

We must understand that God's love is not like our love. Our love has limits. Our love often has conditions. But God loves us unconditionally. When you discover how much God loves you, it becomes easier to dedicate yourself to Him.

His love goes beyond what words can fully express. We cannot earn it or repay it. David asked, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?" (Psalm 116:12). God's love does not fade. His love is everlasting. This is no ordinary love; it is extraordinary love!

By Any Means Necessary

God wanted us and loved us so much that He gave His best. He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so that we could be reconciled to Him.

Think about what Jesus did on Calvary. He endured the beating. He endured the ridicule. He knew the price He would pay, yet He went through it all to save us. That is love by any means necessary!

And because He was willing to give so much, we ought to be willing to give Him our praise. As the familiar expression reminds us, even ten thousand tongues would not be enough to thank Him for all He has done.

So when it comes to my praise, I will praise Him by any means necessary! If I have to run, I will run. If I have to shout, I will shout. If I were speaking Spanish, I would say, "Gracias." In French, "Merci beaucoup." In German, "Danke schön." In Japanese, "Arigatō."

And if I cannot say a word, I will wave my hand! But because I am here, I will say, "Glory, Hallelujah!" I will offer Him praise by any means necessary.

Because the love that sent Jesus to Calvary is No Ordinary Love!

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and associate ministers, please visit the church's YouTube channel.



Classifieds

CHATHAM COUNTY

North Carolina Chatham County
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001231-180
To: SALOMON CINTURA ROBLES, Defendant.
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 25, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, GENOVEVA IDOLINA CABALLERO-ESCANDON, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.
This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

North Carolina Chatham County
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001230-180
To: GUADALUPE DEYANIRA LOZOYA-CABALLERO and JOHN DOE, Defendants.
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 25, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, GENOVEVA IDOLINA CABALLERO-ESCANDON, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.
This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

North Carolina Chatham County
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001222-180
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
To: OSCAR ORLANDO ROSALES LAMOTHE, Defendant.
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought
is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 25, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, RICSY MORELIA CUBAS VELASQUEZ, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.
This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001321-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR & CO-EXECUTOR of the Estate of SUE HESTER GARNER, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 29th day of October, 2026.
Linda Garner Phillips, Executor
601 W. Rosemary St., Unit 315
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Randall Waid Garner, Co-Executor
1566 Munns Rd.
Creddmoor, NC 27522
10/29, 11/5, 11/12, and 11/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001279-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR & CO-ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WILBERT GRAY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 29th day of October, 2026.
Katrina Boykin, Administrator
4103 Amber Stone Way
Durham, NC 27704
Nakia McLendon, Co-Administrator
2224 Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27707
10/29, 11/5, 11/12, and 11/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001286-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JUDY THORNE, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 29th day of October, 2026.
Rachel McNeil, Executor
4632 Pinedale Dr.
Durham, NC 27705
10/29, 11/5, 11/12, and 11/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001269-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of URAI SILPRAKOB JONES, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Winfred Samuel Jones Jr.
Administrator
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3200 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 403
Durham, NC 27705
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
26E001209-310
Robin Lewis Wilson, having qualified as Executor of the estate of SUSAN MARIE WILSON late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wish to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 22nd day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.
This is the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Robin Lewis Wilson, Executor
314 Andover Road
Durham NC 27712
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
File #: 26E000708-310
In The Matter Of The Estate Of:
Carla Lynette Boynton,
Decedent.
Administrator's
Notice To Creditors
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Carla Lynette Boynton, late, Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of Leitner, Bragg &. Griffin, PLLC, 6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210, Charlotte, NC 28210, on or before the 29th day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 16th day of October, 2026,
/Adrienne R. Cherry/
Leitner, Bragg & Griffin, PLLC
6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210,
Charlotte, NC 28210
On behalf of Imani Shah, (Personal Representative)
Administrator of the Estate of Carla Lynette Boynton
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
File #: 26E000707-310
In The Matter Of The Estate Of:
Andre Orlando Boynton,
Decedent.
Administrator's
Notice To Creditors
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Andre Orlando Boynton, late, Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of Leitner, Bragg &. Griffin, PLLC, 6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210, Charlotte, NC 28210, on or before the 29th day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 16th day of October, 2026.
/Adrienne R. Cherry/
Leitner, Bragg & Griffin, PLLC
6135 Park South Drive, Suite 210,
Charlotte, NC 28210
On behalf of Imani Shah, (Personal Representative)
Administrator of the Estate of Andre Orlando Boynton
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of October 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF RANDY LEON ROBERTS, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of January 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 22nd day of October 2026.
CINDY LOU BOAK, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF RANDY LEON ROBERTS
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
PO Box 51549
Durham, NC 27717
File No. 26E001264-310
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF KEVIN BARRY WATERS
26E001186-310
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Kevin Barry Waters, late a resident of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to present them to the undersigned by January 20, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Anyone indebted to said estate should make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 22nd day of October, 2026
Katie Morgan Hawes
Theodora A. Vaporis, Attorney
c/o Tuggle Duggins, P.A.
P.O. Box 2888
Greensboro, NC 27402
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th of October 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF DAVID BARRETT JORGENSEN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd of January 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 22nd of October 2026.
CLARA B. JORGENSEN
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF DAVID BARRETT JORGENSEN
c/o E. J. Walker, Jr., Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV010778-310
DIANE JOY HAWTHORNE, PLAINTIFF VS. MARIO LAMONT McPHERSON, DEFENDANT
TO: MARIO LAMONT McPHERSON
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows:
Complaint for Absolute Divorce
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than December 1, 2026 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Alexander S. Perry
PERRY, PERRY & PERRY, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
601 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001258-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARTA VELEZ, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Uroyoán R. Walker, Executor
E3 Calle Teresa Walker
Canóvanas, PR 00729
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against CATHERINE DICKENS HOLLAND, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 15th day of October, 2026. Catherine Elizabeth Holland Sargent and Sarah Lynn Holland McGovern, Executor, Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A., c/o Sandra Clark, 4131 Parklake Ave, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27612.
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000869-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM CHASE MANSON, deceased, of 2702 Newquay Street, Durham, NC 27705, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 16, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 15th day of October, 2026.
Christian Manson
Administrators of the Estate of William Chase Manson
c/o N. Vail Gardner, Esq.
Vail Gardner Law, PLLC
732 9th Street #621
Durham, NC 27705
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001245-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILLIE LEE HAYNES, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Matthew Haynes, Executor
c/o Hicks, Preddy, Washburn & Brummitt, PC
135 College Street
P.O. Box 247
Oxford, NC 27565
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001246-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBERT STEVEN SCHERE, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Kenneth L. Schere, Executor
120 Sailfish Ct.
Durham, NC 27703
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001157-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DENNIS ROBERT SHIPMAN, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
William John Shipman, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001118-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of JUDITH BEIGHLEY CROSS, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Susan Teschner, Administrator CTA
709 Sewgrass Lane
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001223-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY VIRGINIA BROWN AK/A MARY VIRGINIA W. BROWN, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 15th day of October, 2026.
Rebecca W. Fitzgerald, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3200 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 403
Durham, NC 27705
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO. 26CV001868-310
AMERICAN CREDIT ACCEPTANCE, LLC Plaintiff, vs. JADE HARRIS, Defendant.
TO: Jade Harris
2920 Chapel Hill Rd. Apt 1C
Durham NC 27707

Jade Harris
1400 E Cornwallis Rd Apt 1304
Durham NC 27713

Jade Harris
719B Winfrey St
Clinton NC 28328-3325

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:
1. Judgment for possession of a 2023 Hyundai Elantra bearing VIN# KMHLS4AG8PU425670;
2. Judgment for the sum of $25,103.49 plus interest at the contractual rate of 21% Per annum from November 10, 2025 until date of judgment and at the statutory rate of 8% thereafter until paid in full;
3. Judgment for Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $3,765.52;
4. Judgment for Plaintiff's costs;
5. All other relief to which Plaintiff is entitled.
You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 30, 2026 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This 8th day of October, 2026.
By: David S. Belisle
State Bar No. 60242
SMITH DEBNAM NARRON
DRAKE SAINTSING & MYERS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
PO Box 176010
Raleigh, N.C. 27619
(919) 250-2000
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E001146-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MICHAEL LEWIS KELLY, deceased, of 923 Carroll Street, Durham County, Durham, NC 27701, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 9, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 8th day of October, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
Public Administrator of the Estate of Michael Lewis Kelly
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000766-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DEGUI YUAN (a/k/a DE GUI YUAN), deceased, of 1 Barwinds Circle, Durham County, Durham, NC 27713, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 9, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 8th day of October, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
Public Administrator of the Estate of DeGui Yuan
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/8, 10/15, 10/22 and 10/29/2026
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF NICOLAS MARTSCHENKO
FILE NO. 26E001142-310
ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against NICOLAS MARTSCHENKO, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 8, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 8th of October, 2026. Alice Mask, Executor of the Estate of Nicolas Martschenko, c/o Richard Long, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division

DURHAM COUNTY

Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000013-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CLYDE DOUGLAS PERRY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 8th day of October, 2026.
Candice Donnica Perry
Administrator
42 Holly Berry Lane
Durham, NC 27703
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of September 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF DONG HWA TAYLOR, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of January 2027 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 8th day of October 2026.
CECILIA KYUNG CHU, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF DONG HWA TAYLOR
c/o SHIRLEY M. DIEFENBACH, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E003096-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of EDWARD DEVON BALLENTINE, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 29th day of October, 2026.
Wesley Rashaun Myatt-Ballentine
Administrator
6650 Cresent Moon Court
Raleigh, NC 27606
10/29, 11/5, 11/12, and 11/19/2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
26E002923-910

Estate of Jennifer Downing Edwards, deceased, Wake County, NC. Creditors must present claims by 1/31/27, or be barred, to Kathryn Shah, Administrator, 1121 Queensdale Dr., Cary, NC 27519.
10/29, 11/5, 11/12, and 11/19/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 26CV037395-910

AMILYA MEDLIN, Plaintiff, vs. JERMAINE A. THORPE, Defendant.

TO: JERMAINE A. THORPE

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 29th day of October, 2026.
AMILYA MEDLIN
Plaintiff, Pro Se
General Delivery
Raleigh, NC 27611
10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E003787-910

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GLORIA ELLEN BROWN A/K/A GLORIA T. BROWN AKA GLORIA BROWN, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Curtis Brown, Executor
c/o Christopher Hill
311 E. Main street
Durham, NC, 27701
10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E003834-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOEL BAYNES LONG, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of January, 2027, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 8th day of October, 2026.
Elisabeth L. Burlee, Executor
1207 Balustrade Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23226
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

GUILFORD COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: CALVIN F. McCAIN, Defendant

Take notice that a Complaint for Absolute Divorce has been filed against you in the District Court of Guilford County, North Carolina, seeking an absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony.

You are required to make defense to the Complaint within forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice, exclusive of the date of first publication. You must file your response with the Clerk of Superior Court of Guilford County, North Carolina, within that time.

If you fail to file and serve a response within the required forty (40) days, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought in the Complaint, including entry of a judgment by default for an Absolute Divorce.

This the 22nd day of October, 2026.
Sharrie McCain
Plaintiff, Pro Se
Address: 329 Henry Steel Dr.
Gibsonville, NC 27249
Telephone: (336) 965-5328
10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 26CV005967-640

DEBORAH DARNISE GERALD, Plaintiff, vs. JUSTIN JEROME GERALD, Defendant.

TO: JUSTIN JEROME GERALD

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is an Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 29th day of October, 2026.
DEBORAH DARNISE GERALD
Plaintiff, Pro Se
817 Queen Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 26CV005969-640

DEBORAH DARNISE GERALD, Plaintiff, vs. JUSTIN JEROME GERALD, Defendant.

TO: JUSTIN JEROME GERALD

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is an Child Custody.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 29th day of October, 2026.
DEBORAH DARNISE GERALD
Plaintiff, Pro Se
817 Queen Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
10/29, 11/5, and 11/12/2026

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE RESALE OF REAL PROPERTY
Durham County, NC
26 SP 00343-310

THIS NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE RESALE OF REAL PROPERTY (this "Notice") is given under and by virtue of an order of the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County, NC entered April 28, 2026, authorizing foreclosure in the Special Proceeding entitled "In the Matter of the Foreclosure of the Deed of Trust from Ramarama Inc., Grantor" (the "Foreclosure Proceeding") which deed of trust was recorded in Book 9463, Page 454in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, NC (the "Deed of Trust") and the power and authority contained in the Deed of Trust; and after a hearing pursuant to the provisions of Article 2A of Chapter 45 of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina; and further given under and by virtue of an order of the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County, NC entered October 20, 2026, authorizing the resale of the Property (as defined below); and under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the above-referenced Deed of Trust; and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust and failure to carry out or perform the stipulations and agreements therein contained and pursuant to the demand of the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust, the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc., will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 3:00p.m. on the courthouse steps of the Durham County Courthouse, or otherwise at the customary place within such courthouse, located at 510 South Dillard Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701, the real property more particularly described as follows (the "Property"):

BEING all those certain lots, parcels, or tracts of land lying and being in Durham County, North Carolina, being more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference

Said real property being believed, without representation or warranty, to be located at 2306 S. Roxboro Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707. The record owners of the real property as reflected on the records in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, NC not more than ten (10) days prior to the posting of this Notice is Ramarama Inc.

TERMS OF SALE:

The purchaser of the real property must pay, in addition to the amount bid, the following items: (i) the fee required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-308(a)(1) of Forty-Five Cents (45¢) per One Hundred Dollars ($100) or major fraction thereof of the bid amount up to a maximum fee of Five Hundred Dollars ($500), (ii) the excise tax on conveyances required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-228.28 et seq. of One Dollar ($1) per Five Hundred Dollars ($500) or fractional part thereof of the bid amount, and (iii) unpaid ad valorem taxes and assessments.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.10(b), and the terms of the Deed of Trust, any successful bidder, other than the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust (the "Lender"), may be required to deposit with the Substitute Trustee immediately upon conclusion of the sale a cash deposit not to exceed the greater of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or $750. If the Lender is the successful bidder, the Lender shall not be required to make any deposit with the Substitute Trustee. Any successful bidder, other than the Lender, shall be required to tender the full balance purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to such successful bidder a deed for the real property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, such successful bidder shall remain liable on the bid as provided for in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.30(d) and (e).

The real property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the Lender, nor the officers, attorneys, employees, agents, or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the Lender make any warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health, or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the real property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed. The real property is being sold subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, matters of survey, restrictions, leases and easements of record, unpaid assessments, and other matters of record, if any, which in each case may exist and be senior and superior to the lien of the Deed of Trust pursuant to applicable law.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASEHOLD TENANTS: If you are a tenant in the real property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the real property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving this Notice, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in this Notice, provided that the grantor/mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination

This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

This the 16th day of October 2026.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE
/s/ C.L. Leader, President
Substitute Trustee Services, Inc.
201 S. Mcpherson Church Rd., Ste 201
Fayetteville, NC 28303-4995

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

LYING at the southwestern intersection of Roxboro Street and Pinecrest Drive, containing 9343.0 square feet, more or less, and being all of CITY TRACT NO. 950 as per plat and survey thereof on file in Plat Book 115 at Page 153 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, to which plat reference is hereby expressly made for a more particular description of the same.
October 29 & November 5, 2026

Classifieds

PROCESS DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER WANTED

Process Development Engineer, restor3d, Inc., Durham, North Carolina (in-person) Position will lead design & development of digital processes for manufacturing patient-specific products processes. Role requires extensive collaboration w/ cross-functional teams, including Digital Production, Product Development, Digital Automation, Technology Development & Information Technology, to develop efficient & quality driven production processes. Req: Bachelor's degree (or foreign equiv) in Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or clsly rltd fld & 5 yrs exp as Product Development Engineer working in regulated medical device field. For full job descr. & reqs. & apply at https://www.restor3d.com/company/careers/ under "Process Development Engineer"

NC Leaders Call The Chemours Deal Historic, Well Owners Still Skeptical



NC HEALTH NEWS - Cedar Creek resident Vickie Mullins and her family have dealt with PFAS-contaminated water for years, and she doubts that a new $590 million agreement between the state, affected governments and the chemical companies will make any real difference.

That agreement, announced on Sept. 10 by N.C. Attorney General Jeff Jackson, involved Chemours, DuPont and Corteva and centered around air and water PFAS contamination tied to the Chemours Fayetteville Works plant.

"When I see some action and I have water coming out of my faucet that I can drink safely, I'll believe it," Mullins said. "Until then, I'm not getting my hopes up."

Mullins said her daughter, Stephanie, died of liver cancer at age of 44 on Aug. 29, 2025. She also believes years of PFAS contamination may have contributed to multiple health problems she has seen in her community.

"For many decades, a chemical plant outside Fayetteville knowingly discharged PFAS, or forever chemicals, into the air and water," Jackson told a crowd made up mostly of news media and public officials.The releases "led to downstream contamination of drinking water for over half a million people in our state."

Mullins is among Lower Cape Fear residents who said the settlement brings renewed attention to contamination they have lived with for years. But the announcement does not resolve their questions about safe drinking water, enforcement of Chemours' existing obligations or the potential health effects of PFAS exposure.

Lack of trust

Jackson was joined in making the announcement by N.C. Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Reid Wilson and Cumberland County officials at the site of the Gray's Creek Water Project, which is intended to extend public-water service to residents whose private wells have been affected by PFAS contamination.

"Forever chemicals like PFAS, including GenX, pose serious harms to human health," said Wilson, referring to the form of PFAS found predominantly in Chemours' discharges. "Roughly 3.5 million North Carolinians currently drink water with PFAS levels above federal health standards in drinking water. That's one out of every three people in this state. ... These are people and families and communities."

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which are called forever chemicals because of their persistence in the environment, are a class of thousands of identified synthetic compounds linked to cancer, reproductive harm and hormone disruption. Prized for their ability to resist water, grease and stains, the compounds are found in a host of products across multiple industries, including cosmetics, clothing and food packaging, even mascara and dental floss.

In 2017, reporting revealed that Chemours, a company spun off from chemical industry giant DuPont, had discharged GenX and other PFAS into the Cape Fear River from the Fayetteville Works plant near the Cumberland-Bladen county line. The companies' PFAS releases also contaminated air, soil and groundwater in surrounding communities.

Although research has linked exposure to some PFAS with a number of health harms, it is difficult to draw a straight line from PFAS exposure to any individual illness.

After outlining the settlement's payment structure, Jackson said, "There is nothing more important than ensuring that people have access to drinking water that is clean, and that these companies that polluted it are held accountable."

Of the new settlement's $455 million in guaranteed payments, $75 million will go to the state. The remaining $380 million will be divided among the 11 local governments that joined the agreement. Cumberland County will receive $161.5 million.

Residents were not impressed.

"Well, as far as the settlement announcement — it's a joke," said Gray's Creek resident Jamie White. "That should have been in the billions, not this little $500 million."

Because of the harms they've experienced, some drinking well water owners don't trust filtration systems that were installed by Chemours. Mullins said she only uses water from her well for laundry and washing dishes. Through the consent order, her family receives 36 gallons of bottled water every two weeks, she said.

Out of an abundance of caution, Mullin said her youngest grandson has never experienced what many take for granted each day.

"He doesn't know what it's like to drink water from a spigot," she said. "That's sad — and he's not the only one, I know."

Consent order was supposed to fix things

In February 2019, Chemours, the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and Cape Fear River Watch entered into a court-enforceable consent order. It requires Chemours to sample private drinking-water wells, provide replacement drinking water to qualifying properties, reduce PFAS releases to the Cape Fear River, control air emissions and assess and remediate groundwater contamination.

Under the order and subsequent DEQ direction, a private well with GenX concentrations above 10 parts per trillion qualifies a household, business, school or public building for permanent replacement drinking water, usually through a public-water connection or whole-building filtration system. Chemours must offer bottled water while the permanent supply is arranged. Other properties can qualify for up to three under-sink reverse-osmosis systems when a well contains combined levels of certain listed PFAS above 70 ppt or an individual listed PFAS above 10 ppt.

Gray's Creek Elementary and Alderman Road Elementary schools recently were connected to Fayetteville's public-water system. Officials said the next phase is to expand water infrastructure so more homes and other properties in the district, including private-well owners, can connect to the system.

"For years, Cumberland County residents have lived with the consequences of contamination they did not create," said Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kirk deViere in a release.

Cedar Creek resident Mike Watters is one of those residents.

In 2019, a blood test showed Watters' combined PFAS level was 29.2 nanograms per milliliter. That level was above the 20-nanograms-per-milliliter category in National Academies guidance, which associates PFAS blood levels above that amount with an increased risk of adverse health effects and recommends clinical follow-up. The guidance does not determine whether PFAS caused an individual illness.

Watters is being treated for polycythemia vera, a rare blood cancer.

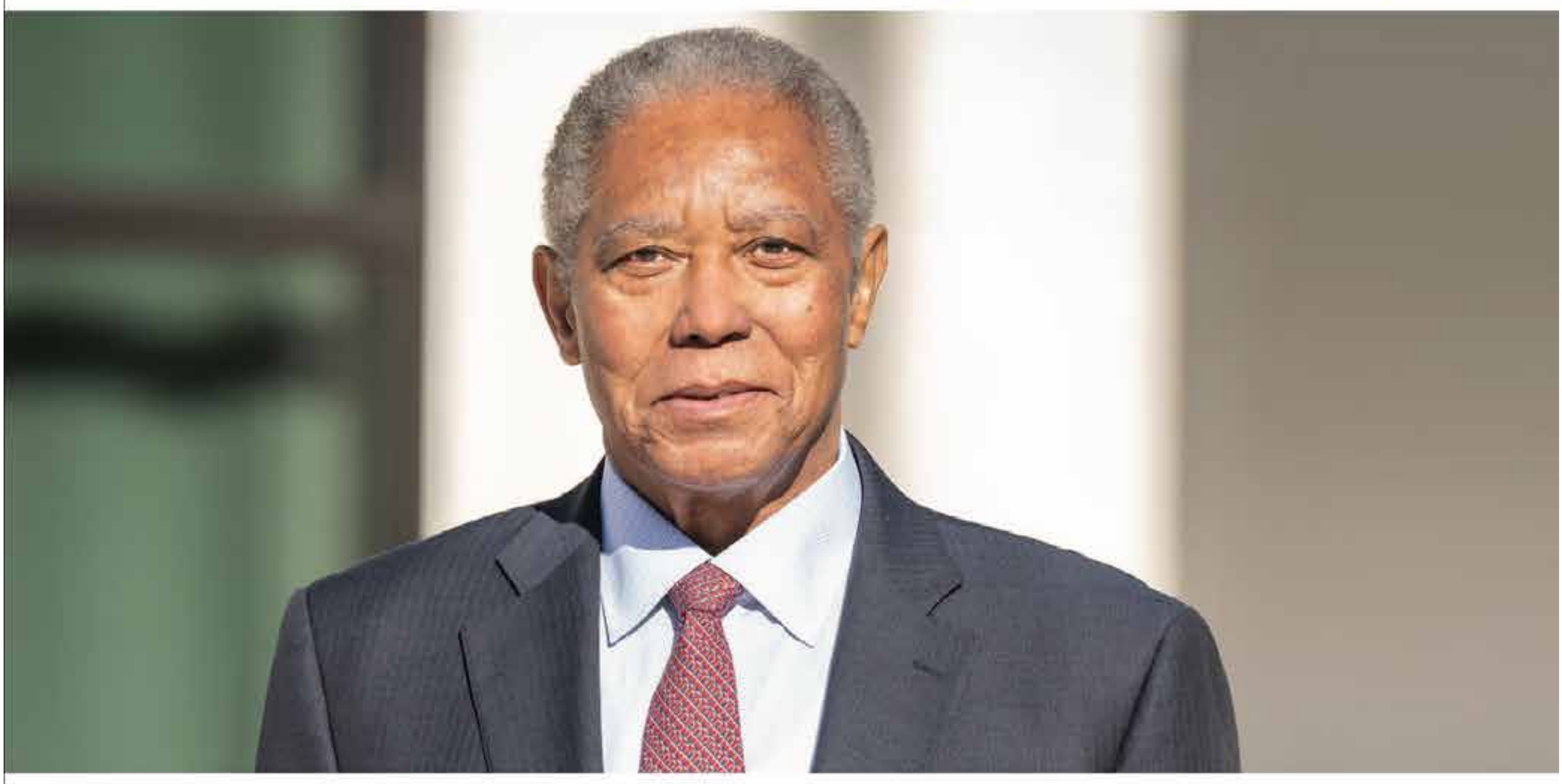
A 2021 Pet and Equine PFAS Exposure Study found PFAS in the blood serum of Watters' dogs.

Because of the consent order, Watters is among residents who have filtration systems installed on their wells.

At a Sept. 17 meeting at the Stedman Recreation Center, representatives from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services briefed local residents on the 2019 consent order with Chemours and its 2020 addendum. DEQ focused on Chemours' obligations for well sampling, replacement water and PFAS controls at the Fayetteville Works plant, while DHHS discussed the potential health effects of PFAS exposure and how residents and their doctors can get guidance and testing resources.

PAYING CASH AND BUYING ALL OLD RAP MUSIC CASSETTE TAPES AND MIXTAPES. CALL MARVIN 919-268-7476.

Strong Schools. Stronger Economy.



WORKING HARD FOR WAKE COUNTY'S WORKING FAMILIES

Dan Blue brings a proven record of service, a reputation for delivering results, and an unwavering commitment to making government work better for the people it represents. For Dan, that work begins with the opportunities every family deserves: an excellent public education, a good-paying job, and the chance to build a secure future. He understands that Wake County's success depends on the success of the people who live and work here.

★ INVESTING IN EDUCATION

Strong public schools are the foundation of strong communities. Dan supports better pay for educators, the resources students need to succeed, and keeping public dollars in public classrooms. He also supports greater funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

★ STANDING UP FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Government should work better for working families. Dan supports funding for affordable housing, making childcare more affordable, and restoring tax credits that help families keep more of what they earn. Every family deserves the opportunity to build a better future.

★ BUILDING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

A strong economy starts with a prepared workforce and opportunities to build a business. Dan supports investments in community colleges, workforce training, and apprenticeships that connect people with good-paying careers. He also supports opportunities to start and grow small businesses while helping businesses of all sizes find the talent they need to succeed

"It's our responsibility to use the state's resources wisely — to give every child the best education possible, to help families secure good-paying jobs, and to foster a business climate that encourages growth and innovation."

DAN Blue
N.C. SENATE

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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