



2021 Legislative Agenda

Approved January 25, 2021

Criminal Justice / Courts



- Support efforts to obtain and fund a magistrate for North Mecklenburg.
- Provide that businesses or institutions acting in good faith shall not be liable for the injury or death of any customer or employee who contracts COVID-19 while doing business with or employed by the business.
- Support efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system at the state and local level, specifically, to address technology and staffing issues.
- Support efforts that promote access and use of Public Records and data.
- Support efforts to expedite the Mecklenburg County Conceal Carry License renewal process (move to online renewal) and efforts to ensure mental health data is being properly reported to the Federal Background Check System.

Education

- Support Municipal efforts to solve for public school enrollment increases through activation of HB514. Further fully support no new cap on NC charter schools.
- Support efforts to reform K-12, community colleges and universities to allow for flexibility in managing funding priorities with minimal impact on students.
 - Support continued reform of the teacher compensation system to make N.C. more competitive.
 - Utilizing the efforts of the Lake Norman Education Collaborative, work with our education partners and area business and industry to ensure career ready opportunities and training for students and citizens entering the workforce. Engage the business community in creating new opportunities for internships in the Lake Norman Region for Skilled and technical trade opportunities.
 - Support increasing behavioral health resources allocated to local schools.
- Support state-wide strategy for education construction funding that will address capital needs
- Support policies that will expedite the completion of 2 million North Carolinians having a post-secondary degree or credential.



Employer—Employee Relations

- Support NC's Right-to-work laws for private and public employees.
 - Support efforts to reduce the employee minimum from twenty-five to five which will allow employers to be eligible to self-insure their health insurance coverage for employees.
 - Support local and state wages tied to market demand.
 - Support legislation to facilitate the creation of association health plans for small businesses.



Environmental

- Continue to work with the Lake Norman Marine Commission and local agencies to bring awareness to and support efforts in managing hydrilla and other threats to our lake system, support appropriate allocation of dollars that support this initiative.



- Support efforts for mosquito abatement on Lake Norman
- Work with local officials and agencies to ensure adequate water levels on the lake which maintain the lifestyle, commerce, and quality of life on which we depend as a community and region.
- Support transparency relative to the impact of options to clean up Lake Norman communities coal ash basins.
- Support legislative action to reduce carbon emissions, modernize the grid, and keep energy prices as affordable as possible.

Health Care

- Support for Medicaid reform that allows providers to lead in a truly transformative way, managing patients and costs clinically and not simply by payment denial.
- Support and assist in creation of a formal task force to understand the depth, impact and ways to eliminate the region's Thyroid Cancer cases.



- Support efforts to understand the depth, impact and ways to eliminate the region's Ocular Melanoma Cancer cases.
- Support solutions that adequately fund our health care delivery system while preserving the incentives that have made our country the leader in health care innovation.
- Development of appropriate housing options for patients with chronic psychiatric illnesses and/or for individuals who are homeless—this increases the likelihood of patients following up with outpatient care and thus decreases the probability of patients repeatedly coming to the ER and/or needing expensive inpatient treatment due to lack of follow-through with outpatient treatment.

- Explore and support coverage of expansion populations using Federal funds to find a commercially viable financial option
- Support the Certificate of Need (CON) process.
- Support funding and access to the Government Data Analytics Center for the Health Care Collaborative.

Job Creation

- Support incentives to attract jobs that compete better with surrounding states and to fully fund job recruitment efforts including the Economic Development Partnerships and the Department of Commerce.



- Support actions to ensure adequate supply of energy and promote regulatory tools to manage cost and rate impact to customers.
- Support funding for the arts, travel and tourism, and amateur / professional sports in the Lake Norman region and NC, in a fiscally responsible manner, which spurs economic development.

Job Creation - continued



- The Chamber recognizes that every effort should be maintained to assist Commerce Station and existing business parks as we market to site selectors.
- Support efforts that encourage, and does not limit the growth potential of, small business enterprises such as financial technology, energy (including renewable energy), and craft beer industries (including increasing the production cap)

Municipal / County



- Support and promote “regionalism” between the lake towns in particular as we address infrastructure, economic development, and quality of life issues of common interest to our lake region. The Chamber should also advocate a Charlotte metro regional approach to infrastructure and legislative issues with neighboring counties.
 - Support and actively encourage County and Municipality revenue tax neutral rates.
 - Support retaining existing statewide Tax distribution, where Sales Tax is returned to specific county where it originated.
 - Support reform of local building codes which make the approval process more efficient and makes it less burdensome to applicants.
- The Chamber is opposed to any increase, for any purpose, in the Sales Tax Rates during this adverse economic climate.

State & Federal Issues



- Support efforts to reform business and environmental laws and regulations that encourage growth.
- Support efforts to address reducing the buffer requirements on Lake Norman shoreline

Taxes



- Support efforts to keep state corporate rates at current levels.
- Support efforts to reduce the personal tax rates.
- Support efforts to encourage economic development opportunities in the Lake Norman region while safeguarding current local sales tax and related revenues.
 - The Chamber advocates that any local, county or state tax policy should promote business growth while achieving revenue and budget neutrality and administrative simplicity. Any reform or revaluation should avoid double taxation and should not disproportionately impact the business community.
- Support the ability to decouple from federal tax policy/law if it supports the LKN businesses and is done in a timely manner so that it does not create additional hardships to NC filers.
- Work with NCLEG to remove decoupling of the CARES Act relating to Net Operating Losses and the deductibility of expenses paid with monies coming from this Act

Technology



- Support policies that promote private sector investment in next generation broadband technologies and infrastructure critical to acceleration our 21st century economy for the Charlotte / Lake Norman region.

Transportation

- Continue efforts to encourage NCDOT to Buy-out the CINTRA Contract. The Chamber further advocates the use of “hardened shoulders” to create at least one additional General-Purpose Lane during peak driving hours.
 - Support Frequent Driver Discount on tolling for Lake Norman commuters.
 - Support and Encourage MPO and RPO reform such as the ability to modify the MPO charter with one vote per town instead of a weighted vote.
 - Support the efforts of the local jurisdictions to promote and construct transportation projects that improve mobility in the region and enhance economic development and business activity in the region.
 - Support the study of reasonable transit efforts in the region, and local efforts to provide bike and pedestrian options that are reasonably calculated and expected to lower congestion on roadways and that are financed in a manner that does not put a disproportionate burden on businesses.
- Support regulatory changes that enhance the ability of NCDOT, local jurisdictions to provide the transportation improvements citizens need and desire.
- Work with elected leaders, NC DOT officials, NC Highway 73 Council of Planning and other agencies to expedite road projects slated for region and explore a transportation program similar to “Pennies for Progress for our North Mecklenburg communities.”



United States Senate

[Burr, Richard](#) - (R - NC)

217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-3154

Contact: www.burr.senate.gov/contact/email

[Tillis, Thom](#) - (R - NC)

113 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-6342

Contact: www.tillis.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-me

United States House of Representatives

Rep Alma Adams – (D-NC)

12th District

2346 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-3312

202-225-1510 Washington Office

704-344-9950 Charlotte Office

Link adams.house.gov

Rep Ted Budd – (R – NC)

13th District

118 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-4531 Washington Office

336-858-5013 High Point Office

Link budd.house.gov

North Carolina Senate

Senator Natasha R. Marcus - Democrat

District 41

300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 519

Raleigh, NC 27603

Office Phone: [\(919\) 715-3050](tel:9197153050)

Email: Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.net

Link: [Senate District 41](#)

Senator Vickie Sawyer – Republican

District 34

300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 410

Raleigh, NC 27603

Office Phone: [\(919\) 715-3038](tel:9197153038)

Email: Vickie.Sawyer@ncleg.net

Link: [District 34](#)

North Carolina House

Representative John Bradford - Republican - District 98

300 N. Salisbury Street Rm 530

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Phone 919-733-5828

Email: John.Bradford@ncleg.gov

Link: [House #98](#)