



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Paré

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

August 12, 2025

Thank you for reading my newsletter for legislative updates and District 37 news.

This is a BIG newsletter. Since the last newsletter, the General Assembly overrode eight of Governor Stein's vetoes, passed in to law a continuing budget bill, and many new laws took effect.

There is also a lot of local news to report. Please enjoy reading this week's newsletter, and feel free to contact me for more information!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

-Representative Erin Paré



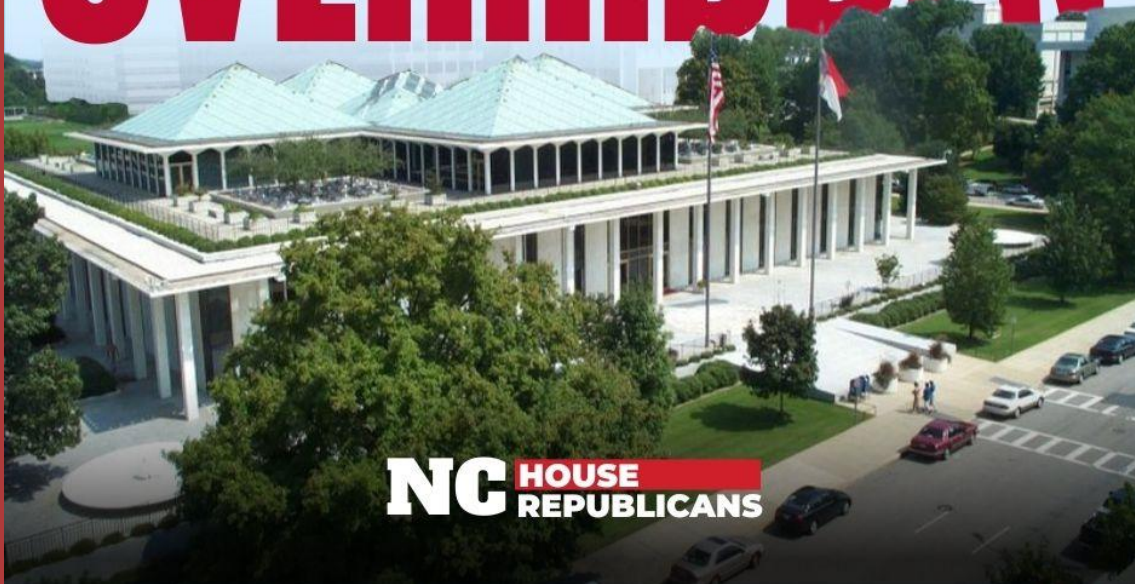
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RepErinParé.com



**VETO OVERRIDES: The General Assembly
Successfully Overrode Eight Vetoes**

EIGHT GOV. STEIN VETOES **OVERRIDDEN**



The NC House of Representatives voted to override Gov. Stein's veto of the following bills. Each override passed with bipartisan support - at least one Democrat voted with the Republicans in support of the override.

HB 805 - "Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women & Minors."

- Defines male/female in law;
- Bans taxpayer-funded gender transitions for inmates;
- Protects girls' spaces;
- Stops child exploitation;
- Empowers parents.

HB 318 - "The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act."

Enhances public safety measures to remove criminal illegal aliens from our streets.

HB 402 - "Limit Rules with Substantial Financial Cost."

Delivers government accountability by ensuring that major agency rules with a costly price tag are voted on by our state representatives - not unelected bureaucrats.

SB 266 - "The Power Bill Reduction Act."

Lowers energy costs by about \$15 billion for North Carolina families and businesses.

HB 549- "Clarify Powers of State Auditor."

Strengthens government accountability.

SB 254- "Charter School Changes Act."

Improves educational options for NC families.

SB 416 - "Personal Privacy Protection Act."

A bipartisan agreement to safeguard North Carolinians' privacy.

To read each bill, visit NCLEG.GOV

CONTINUING BUDGET AGREEMENT: PASSED INTO LAW

As House budget leaders continue to wait for Senate budget leaders to agree to begin negotiating on a comprehensive budget agreement, the House and Senate did pass a continuing budget agreement at the end of July that the Governor signed in to law.

Some highlights of the continuing budget agreement:

- Statewide Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Funding
- ADM (Average Daily Membership) Enrollment Growth Adjustment Funding for Public Schools k-12 and Community Colleges
- NC Promise Tuition Plan
- UNC Building Reserves
- Medicaid Rebase and Managed Care Administration
- NC National Guard Readiness Centers
- DMV Driver's License Examiner Positions
- New DMV Office Locations (Including in Fuquay-Varina!)
- SBE Software Modernization
- Step Increases for teachers and some state employees (salary increases are on hold as we in the House wait for Senate to come to table and negotiate)
- Capital Improvements and repairs

To read entirety of the bill, visit: <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H125>

ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK DMV MEETING IN FUQUAY-VARINA

Earlier in June, I organized a meeting in Fuquay-Varina at the old Middle School with the new DMV Commissioner Paul Tine, WCPSS Superintendent Robert Taylor, WCPSS Board Chair Chris Heagarty, Holly Springs Mayor Sean Mayefskie, Town of Fuquay-Varina Manager Adam Mitchell, and DOT/DMV/WCPSS key leaders to discuss a possible relocation of the existing Fuquay-Varina DMV to a larger space at the old Middle School media center.

It was a very productive meeting. I am happy that these discussions continue to move forward in order to facilitate a longer term solution for our local DMV site to

operate larger scale to meet the demands of growth.

I want you to know I'm continuing to work hard on this and making meaningful progress. Stay tuned.



MAJOR NEWS ON THE DMV

As a House Appropriations Chair, I am pleased to report that the latest continuing budget agreement includes a provision I fought for which directs the DMV to establish a new larger Fuquay-Varina DMV site, appropriates state dollars to do that, funds examiner positions for this site in addition to over 60 additional examiner positions for the DMV. The language also requires that contracts for the new site be executed by October 1, 2025 and requires that the DMV will report back to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Transportation and the Fiscal Research Division about the terms of the contract by December 1, 2025.

The Senate and the House have passed the bill and the Governor signed it.

I am committed to fixing the DMV mess for the people of Southern Wake and NC. This is a major step forward, and I will continue to work to deliver results.

DMV DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINER POSITIONS

SECTION 2F.1.(a) There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation (i) the sum of one million two hundred two thousand four hundred eight dollars (\$1,202,408) in recurring funds to create 40 additional full-time equivalent (FTE) Driver License Examiner I and II positions in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and (ii) the sum of two million nine hundred ninety thousand three hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$2,990,367) in recurring funds to create 21 additional FTE Driver License Examiner I and II positions in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

SECTION 2F.2.(b) In addition to the funds appropriated in this section, the Department may use existing funds in Personal Services and Purchased Services to fund the positions authorized by this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department may reclassify temporary or vacant positions to create the new positions authorized by this section. Any reclassification pursuant to this section shall be in accordance with the classification system established by the State Human Resources Commission.

NEW DMV OFFICE LOCATIONS

SECTION 2F.2.(a) There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation (i) the sum of one million eight hundred thirty-six thousand two hundred twenty-three dollars (\$1,836,223) in recurring funds in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, (ii) the sum of eleven million four hundred seventy-one thousand nine hundred sixty-six dollars (\$11,471,966) in nonrecurring funds in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and (iii) the sum of two million seven hundred fifty-four thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars (\$2,754,334) in recurring funds in the 2026-2027 fiscal year to be used as follows:

- (1) To establish new Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Offices in: (i) Brunswick County, (ii) Cabarrus County, (iii) the Town of Fuquay-Varina in Wake County, and (iv) the Town of Garland in Sampson County.
- (2) To create 24 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and 12 additional FTE positions in the 2026-2027 fiscal year within the new offices established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

SECTION 2F.2.(b) No later than October 1, 2025, the DMV is directed to execute contracts that provide for the operation of the new DMV offices established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. No later than December 1, 2025, the DMV shall report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the terms of the contracts required by this subsection, including the staffing, capital, and operational needs of the new offices.



STATE AUDITOR DAVE BOLIEK COMPLETES

AUDIT OF THE DMV: HERE ARE FINDINGS

As promised, State Auditor Dave Boliek completed and released an agency audit of the DMV. I attached links to the two audit documents below and attached some key findings and recommendations from the report.

[Performance Audit](#)

[Information Systems Audit](#)

What We Found

The audit identified four systemic challenges stemming from DMV's governance structure as a division of DOT. These structural barriers have directly impeded DMV's ability to deliver timely, efficient, and citizen-centered services:



Limited Strategic Input: DMV has lacked influence in statewide strategic decision-making that affected its operations and future direction. DMV played a minimal role in shaping DOT's 2023–2025 Strategic Plan and has not maintained its own strategic plan since 2019. Without a standalone, DMV-specific strategic plan, DMV cannot proactively address urgent service issues such as extended wait times, uneven staffing, and customer dissatisfaction.



Restricted Budgetary Autonomy: DMV has historically not been able to submit its budget requests directly to policymakers and has relied on DOT to advocate for its needs. As a result, critical requests for additional staffing and resources have routinely been reduced or omitted before reaching the General Assembly. For example, from 2019 to 2025, only **31%** of DMV's requested examiner positions were advanced by DOT, despite a **29% growth in the state's population** and corresponding service demand.



Insufficient Performance Data: DMV has not consistently tracked or reported key service metrics, including true customer wait times, customer satisfaction, and staffing capacity. Available metrics understate the total customer experience as reported wait times exclude hours customers spent waiting before check-in. In fiscal year 2025, **13.8%** of customer visits exceeded **2.5 hours**, a **78.8% increase** since 2019. Without robust, accurate performance data, DMV leadership cannot manage operations effectively, advocate for resources, or maintain public transparency.

What Our DMV Audits Found:

OSA's performance audit shows the DMV experience for both customers and employees has gotten worse over the years, and that the relationship between the DMV and North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) is a contributing factor.

Customer service has been declining, with wait times on the rise:

- Average DMV wait times are up 15.5% since 2019.
- Data shows visits exceeding 2.5 hours are up about 79% since 2019.

Employees are struggling with workload and burnout:

- Only 47% of DMV workers believed DMV fostered open communication.
- 43% expressed negative views of prior leadership support.
- Employees cited low salary, burnout, security concerns, lack of support, and inadequate training.
- Average salaries are below \$50,000 for examiners in both rural and urban areas.

Staffing levels are unsustainable:

- North Carolina's population has grown by 2.5 million (29%) in the last 20 years, but driver license examiner positions have only increased by 52 positions (10%).
- Only 505 of the 710 driver license examiner positions are filled, roughly 160 vacancies remain.
- In Harnett County, there is only one examiner serving over 56,000 residents.

IT modernization efforts have struggled:

- Since 2014, the DMV and Department of Information Technology – Transportation initiated 46 projects that resulted in a cost of approximately \$42 million.
- But even with all the projects, IT modernization efforts have not produced meaningful customer service improvements, and the current DMV mainframe systems are outdated and overdue for replacement.

What Our DMV Audits Recommend:

1. Policymakers should consider establishing DMV as an autonomous agency or authority with direct control over its budget, strategic planning, and operations.
2. DMV leadership should adopt a comprehensive strategic plan independent of DOT.
3. DMV should conduct an in-depth staffing analysis to inform a multi-year, phased staffing plan that addresses examiner shortages and ensures service equity statewide.
4. DMV should build and maintain a centralized performance dashboard to track and report key service metrics.
5. DMV should partner with an industry expert to develop and implement evidence-based improvements to customer experience and service delivery.

Additionally, OSA made four recommendations for the DMV and DIT-T to take to improve its IT operations.

NC HOUSE PASSES SB50 "FREEDOM TO CARRY" AND HB 811 "CC FIREARM SAFETY INSTRUCTION 18 AND OLDER"

Today, the House passed SB50 "Freedom to Carry" for which I voted.

The House also passed my bill HB811 which makes available to any individual 18

years old and older firearm safety instruction at NC Community Colleges, and appropriates recurring general fund dollars to the Community Colleges for the program.

As a gun owner and second amendment supporter, I believe firearm safety instruction is very, very important. The bill passed with near unanimous support. This is a common-sense measure.



SB 55 - ANTI-SQUATTERS BILL IS NOW LAW

Good news everyone! North Carolina's anti-squatters bill is officially law! This new law strengthens property rights by making it easier for homeowners to remove illegal occupants from their property. It ensures quicker enforcement, holds squatters accountable, and protects law-abiding citizens from lengthy and costly legal battles.

A big win for property owners across the state!

NORTH CAROLINA NAMED #1 IN THE NATION FOR BUSINESS...AGAIN!



Once again North Carolina ranks #1 in the country for business thanks to the smart economic policies of the Republican-led General Assembly. Republicans in North Carolina are leading the way. Read more [HERE](#)!

SOUTH WAKE TRAGEDIES IN THE NEWS

Friends,

Sadly, we have had two tragedies hit our Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina communities over the last week. I ask that you please keep in your prayers the family of Brooklyn Carroll, the family of Giovanni Pelletier, and please keep in your prayers Ms. Jennifer Stehle.

https://www.wral.com/.../body-found-florida-pond-missing.../ Click [HERE](#) for article
https://www.wral.com/.../person-killed-harris-lake.../ Click [HERE](#) for article

If you would like to be connected to opportunities to help these families, please contact me on my cell phone at 919-906-4462.

2025 SOUTHERN WAKE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES

With the new school year starting soon and 2025 high school graduates moving to an exciting new phase in life, I want to share with you photos from the 4 high school graduation ceremonies I had the privilege of attending in June: Fuquay-Varina High, Holly Springs High, Willow Spring High, and the Wake Young Men and Women Leadership Academies. Congratulations graduates! As Mr. Morrison (former HSHS now the new Felton Grove High School Principal) always says “be kind, make good choices!”







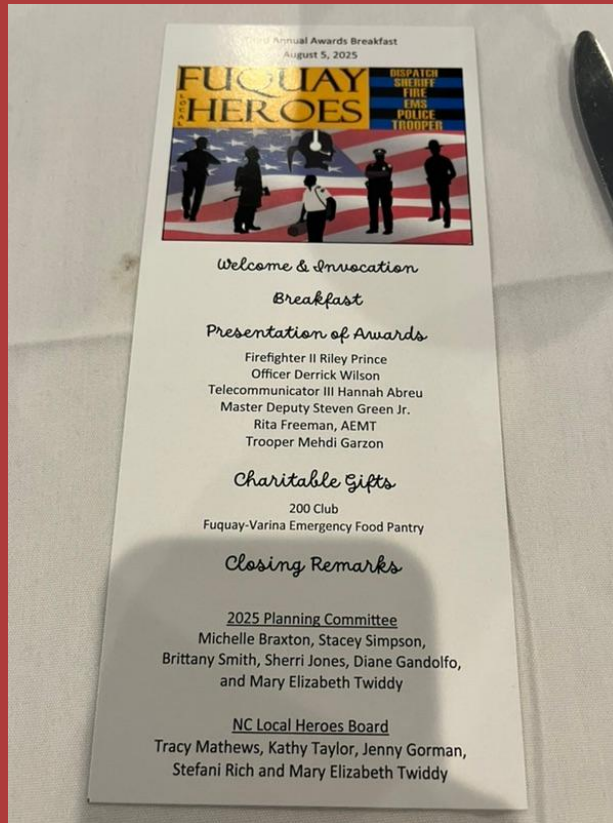
FUQUAY-VARINA LOCAL HEROES BREAKFAST

The annual Fuquay-Varina Local Heroes Breakfast last week was tremendous! I look forward to this event every year. Another outstanding job well done by the organizers who not only recognize our community's first responders with their stories of heroism and excellence in service, but they also give back to community causes that directly impact people deserving of help.

It was truly an honor to be there and celebrate our police, fire and emergency response community - those that literally save lives each day they go to work. "Thank you" seems not an adequate enough phrase! It was an honor to hear the stories of these award winning heroes:

Firefighter II Riley Prince
Officer Derrick Wilson
Telecommunicator III Hannah Abreu
Master Deputy Steven Green Jr.
Rita Freeman, AEMT
Trooper Mehdi Garzon





MY BILL HB173 "Wake ETJ" IS NOW LAW

My bill HB173 which halts ETJ expansion in Wake for 3 years passed the Senate, and the House has concurred to Senate changes to the bill. The bill is now law.

This bill was very important to property owners of District 37's unincorporated areas who oppose the expansion of municipal regulatory jurisdiction over unincorporated areas where their property is located. These residents oppose being regulated by a municipality that their property is not located in and where they have no vote. Since Wake County has zoning authority, this bill fosters a more collaborative environment between the county, municipality and property owners.

This is a local bill so it did not go to the Governor. Thank you Senators Jim Burgin and Amy Galey for helping with this bill in the Senate!

MY BILL HB 59 "MODIFY HOMESTEAD EXCLUSIONS" PASSES COMMITTEE

On June 25, I presented my bill HB59 "Modify Homestead Exclusions" to the House Committee on Pensions and Retirement, and the bill received a favorable report - it passed the committee and is headed to the next committee - Finance, for consideration.

This bill will provide game-changing relief to senior citizens, who are longer-term tax paying residents, and are sadly being pushed out of their homes due to sky-high county property tax increases. Seniors deserve our attention and relief. My bill provides this relief.

John Adcock - native of Southern Wake, attorney, public official, and Candidate for Wake Commissioner District 2 in 2026, gave powerful remarks in Committee.



THANK YOU HOUSE PAGES!

Thank you to House Pages Haven Woodard and Srimedha Kaligotia I sponsored this long session! I hope you had a great time and learned a lot!



Opportunity for High School Students

NC HOUSE PAGE PROGRAM

The program offers high school students a firsthand look at the legislative process.

- ✓ 4-DAY LONG EXPERIENCE
- ✓ OPEN TO GRADES 10-12
- ✓ FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE

APPLY NOW

[ncleg.gov/House/PageProgram](https://www.ncleg.gov/House/PageProgram)



The 2025 Long Session House Page Applications are available online beginning **Monday, January 6, 2025**. The Page website can be accessed by visiting the following: <https://www.ncleg.gov/House/PageProgram/>.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Pages may only serve one time in the House.
- Each Representative is allotted **up to 5 Page appointments** during the 2025 Long Session.
- **Current sophomore, junior, and senior high school students will be eligible to apply.**
- Check the House Page website for participant eligibility requirements and available dates to serve as a House Page.
- House Pages are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- House Page applications are accepted until all weeks are full.

2025-2026 General Assembly Biennium

Rep. Pará introduced, sponsored, or co-sponsored the following bills.[Please](#)

Introduced bills:

HB 14 "Gambling Losses Tax Deduction"
HB 56 "Publish Central Office Employment Information"
HB 59 "Expand Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion"
HB 94 "Dis. Veteran Homestead Excl. Prequalification"
HB151 "SchCalFlex/Wake/CC"
HB156 "Increase Access for Small Employers/Insurance"
HB 173 "Wake County ETJ"
HB 189 "Red Light Camera Interval"
HB 192 "Raise Teacher Pay & Dollar Allotment Study"
HB 352 "Modify Water and Sewage Project Bid Req."
HB 571 "Funds for PTSD Treatment for Police Officers"
HB 672 "Physician Assist. Omnibus/Team based/Compact"
HB 811 "Taxpayer Transparency Act"
HB 837 "Study Alternative Methods for Highway Funding"
HB 896 "Jesse's Law"

Sponsored bills:

HB 4 "Sam's Law"
HB11 "No Tax on Tips, Overtime, Bonus Pay"
HB 15 "Support Private Property Rights"
HB 46 "Make Health care Affordable"
HB 76 "Protect Access to In Vitro Fertilization"
HB124 "Adopt Official State Cookie"
HB125 "Adopt Official State Star"
HB137 "Gabe Torres Act"
HB 35 "Establish Military Appreciation Month"
HB 39 "Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exclusion"
HB 67 "Interstate Medical Licensure Compact"
HB118 "Disabled Veterans Tax Relief Bill"
HB133 "NC Farmland and Military Protection Act"
HB 137 "Gabe Torres Act"
HB 186 "Stars and Stripes Commitment Act"
HB 309 "Bldg. Code Fam. Child Care Home Class"
HB 364 "STIP Grant Anticipation Notes"
HJR 379 "Application for a Convention of States"
HB 389 "Child Care Workforce Pilot Program/Funds"
HB 402 "NC REINS Act"
HB 406 "Clarify Motor Vehicle Dealer Laws"
HB 412 "Child Care Regulatory Reforms"
HB 418 "K-5 Performing and Visual Arts Requirement"
HB 465 "Waive Renewal Fee/Military Drivers Licenses"
HB 480 "Medical Board Licensing Efficiency Act"
HB 488 "Modify School Performance Grades"
HB 523 "School Social Workers/Master's Pay"
HB 542 "Child Care Mental and Behavioral Services/Funds"
HB 581 "Career Pathways Transparency Act"

HB 588 "School Psychologist Omnibus"
HB 610 "Study Year-Round School"
HB 611 "Increase AP's in Public School"
HB 794 "Study Highway Patrol Staffing/Salary Scale"
HB 800 "Review Effectiveness & Delivery of Child Care"
HB 814 "Power Infrastructure Resiliency & Eff. (PIRE)"
HB 854 "Require Licensure of Educational Interpreters"
HB 877 "Childcare Pilot"
HB 912 "The Hometown Opp. for Mentoring Educators Act"

Do You Have Unclaimed Cash with the State Treasurer's Office?



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



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