



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Paré

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

December 22, 2024

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

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In this week's newsletter I will talk about recent events around the district and in Raleigh, as well as provide you with an analysis of SB 382 and my rationale for voting in favor of the veto override.

I am gearing-up for another very busy and productive 2025-2026 legislative session, and for January 8th when the NC House is sworn-in.

It continues to be my absolute honor and privilege to serve the people of District 37 in the North Carolina House. Thank you for your support.

-Representative Erin Paré



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our official website

RepErinParé.com



Electoral College Electors Meet in the State

Capitol Building and Representative Paré Speaks to Students in Raleigh



North Carolina's 16 electors meet at the state capitol. (Source: PBS NC)

North Carolina's 16 Presidential Electors met Tuesday at the State Capitol Building to officially cast votes for President-Elect Donald Trump, who won a majority of votes in North Carolina on Election Day.

Read the Carolina Journal article here: [NC's 16 electors officially go to Trump as debates continue over America's Electoral College system.](#)

[Click here](#) to view the gathering of electors.

On Wednesday, Rep. Paré visited with high school students at Fletcher Academy in the morning and Millbrook High School in the afternoon.

She was able to speak with AP United States Government and Politics students at Mr. Segal's class at Millbrook High School about state government. The students asked excellent questions; they were interested in learning about how state government works and the role of state legislators. The Fletcher Academy students were able to enjoy a discussion with two of the Electors and Rep. Paré about the Electoral College System.

(From article) "When I think of the value of the Electoral College, I think it's a tool to reject radicalism," said Paré. "So if you're going to be the President of the United States, and you think that you can win president by only speaking to maybe hardcore socialists or liberals or Democrats only, or urban concentrated areas that almost always vote Democrat all the time – where's the representation for other people?"

The North Carolina General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto of SB 382' "Disaster Relief-3/Budget/Various Law Changes" this month, which concluded the 2023-2024 Legislative Sessions. Both the NC House and NC Senate adjourned Sine Die on December 13th, 2024.

Here is Rep. Paré's message about SB382:

Many District 37 residents have contacted me about SB382 – many in support and many opposed. Here is my take on SB382 and why I voted YES.

The General Assembly has passed nearly \$1 billion in hurricane relief for Western North Carolina since October, not including the funding in SB382. SB382 sets aside an additional \$252M for Helene relief, from two different savings reserves: SERDF (state emergency reserve and disaster relief fund) and the Savings Reserve (otherwise called the “rainy day fund”). All Helene recovery funding is tracked through the newly formed Helene Fund.

SB382 transfers \$227M from the savings reserve to the Helene Fund, and an additional \$25M from SERDF to the Helene Fund. The \$25M SERDF funding is also appropriated to the Dept. of Agriculture in SB382 for debris removal (roads can't be built overnight, and to build a road you first need to remove debris), and another \$2M is appropriated for soil and water technical assistance. Some of the money transferred to the Helene Fund in SB382 is appropriated for certain uses and the rest is sitting in the Helene Fund to be appropriated, and there is a reason for that. It is important to note that only a fraction of the nearly \$1B that the General Assembly has already appropriated for hurricane relief in WNC has been spent. This is because it takes time to assess needs, and rebuilding infrastructure is a multi-phase process which takes time.

We must get funding out the door and in service to victims and impacted communities in Western NC (WNC) as soon as possible, but we also must be smart about not appropriating too much money too soon for certain projects that would be eligible for federal funding. If the state spends too much state money too quickly for certain projects, the state could disqualify itself from federal assistance. The cost of damages from hurricane Helene in NC is estimated to exceed \$50B, and it will take many years to fully recover. The area of damage in WNC is roughly the size of the state of Massachusetts. The state of NC is not able to cover a bill that high, without assistance from the federal government. *Update as of 12/21/24 (News & Observer) –Congress passed a funding package that includes hurricane relief. NC is set to receive \$9B in federal aid for disaster relief.

Is this bill perfect? No. There are several provisions in this bill that if presented to me in the form of a standalone bill I would not support without a thorough vetting through the normal legislative process. This bill was presented to legislators for a vote in the form of a conference report which is not amendable. Just like every other member of the House, I was asked to vote yes or no on this conference report in its final form. I voted yes because the positive of passing this bill outweighed the parts of the bill I had reservations about.

Below is a short list of example lesser-known provisions in SB382 that are of critical immediate importance to the recovery effort in WNC. Voting “No” on this bill would mean voting “No” on these provisions, as well as the additional \$252M for Helene disaster relief.

1. School calendar flexibility for impacted school districts in Western NC;
2. \$100 million in loans for impacted local governments, among other smaller allocations;
3. Key Regulatory Relief:
 - a. Temporary Housing Solutions The legislation streamlines the placement and installation of temporary manufactured and modular dwellings and allows homeowners to connect temporary housing units to existing wastewater systems, ensuring access to essential utilities without unnecessary delays.
 - b. Faster Rebuilding and Recovery Land-disturbing activities are allowed to begin immediately as long as erosion control measures are installed, and a plan can then be submitted within 30 days. Additionally, the validity of state and local development approvals and permits has been extended to ensure projects delayed by disasters can proceed without costly renewals or reapplications.
 - c. Critical Infrastructure Improvements Temporary public water systems can be operated for up to 59 days in disaster areas and permits for wastewater management systems are valid for 12 months, with the possibility of a one-time extension. This ensures that displaced residents have access to sanitation while permanent solutions are developed.
 - d. Simplified Regulatory Framework Delaying the implementation of the updated Building Code provides local governments and builders time to adjust to new requirements without delaying reconstruction. Local governments in disaster-declared counties are prohibited from enforcing tree ordinances on private property more than 10 feet from the property boundary, removing unnecessary obstacles to clearing debris and preparing land for rebuilding. (NC Chamber)

Good news - There are a number of legislators, myself included, that will return next legislative session and revisit provisions in SB382 that appear problematic; for example, a provision involving local government downzoning. The people of NC deserve a thorough vetting of these provisions through the normal legislative process.

Lastly, I support the provision that moves the State Board of Elections (SBOE) under the State Auditor. There should be equal representation on the SBOE between Democrats and Republicans. Over the years, the Democrats and Gov. Cooper have rejected equal representation, instead insisting on a Democratic majority dominated SBOE. The North Carolina people deserve the utmost in fairness in NC elections. Moving the SBOE under the State Auditor makes logical sense – the Office of the State Auditor is charged with auditing state government; the SBOE is charged with auditing all

state elections. This is a positive step for North Carolinians that have expressed concerns with the lack of equal representation on the SBOE.

I hope that this section answered at least some of your questions regarding SB382. I will keep you updated on legislative activity as the new legislative session gets underway in January.

Representative Paré named to the House Select Committee on Helene Recovery

Rep. Paré is pleased to be appointed to serve on the newly formed House Select Committee on Helene Recovery. The Committee will meet through the end of December. Rep. Paré made a suggestion at the meeting for a formal letter of request to be signed by all Committee members asking Chairman Hall to continue the work of this committee in the 2025-2026 legislative biennium.

"The people of Western North Carolina need help. Let's get to work." said Paré.



Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives

TIM MOORE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HELENE RECOVERY TO THE HONORABLE
MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. The House Select Committee on Helene Recovery (hereinafter "Committee") is established by the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to Rule 26(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 2023 General Assembly.

Section 2. The Committee consists of forty-seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The membership of the Committee shall include legislators as specified below. Members serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives may dissolve the Committee at any time. Vacancies are filled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. A Chair, Vice Chair, or other member of the Committee continues to serve until a successor is appointed.

Rep. John Bell, Co-Chair	Rep. Frank Iler	Rep. Heather Rhyne
Rep. Dudley Greene, Co-Chair	Rep. Jake Johnson	Rep. Caleb Rudow
Rep. Jay Adams	Rep. Keith Kidwell	Rep. Phil Shepard
Rep. Eric Ager	Rep. Donny Lambeth	Rep. Mitchell Setzer
Rep. Jennifer Balkcom	Rep. Donnie Loftis	Rep. Frank Sossamon
Rep. Allen Buansi	Rep. Carolyn Logan	Rep. Sarah Stevens
Rep. Mike Clampitt	Rep. Jeff McNeely	Rep. Larry Strickland
Rep. Carla Cunningham	Rep. Charlie Miller	Rep. John Torbett
Rep. Kevin Crutchfield	Rep. Erin Paré	Rep. Steve Tyson
Rep. Allison Dahle	Rep. Howard Penny	Rep. Harry Warren
Rep. Jimmy Dixon	Rep. Ray Pickett	Rep. Shelly Willingham
Rep. Bobby Drakeford	Rep. Garland Pierce	Rep. David Willis
Rep. Blair Eddins	Rep. Mark Pless	Rep. Michael Wray
Rep. Karl Gillespie	Rep. Lindsey Prather	
Rep. Kyle Hall	Rep. Reece Pyrtle	
Rep. Wesley Harris	Rep. James Roberson	
Rep. Kelly Hastings	Rep. Steve Ross	

Representative Paré Attends NC Department of
Public Instruction Hour of Code



Rep. Paré attended the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's "Hour of Code Student Showcase" on December 12th. She was delighted to make remarks to students, walk around to see what they have accomplished, and learn about their projects.

"I am very proud of these students for their hard work and creativity in coding," said Paré.



Amgen Phase Two in Holly Springs



It was an exciting morning at the NC Biotechnology Center Headquarters to celebrate the phase two announcement of Amgen last Thursday, December 12th. Amgen's additional \$1 billion investment will bring an estimated 370 good-paying jobs to southern Wake and a roughly \$3.5 billion boost to the NC economy. Amgen is located in Holly Springs.

Rep. Paré said afterward, "I am proud to represent Holly Springs in the General Assembly as it becomes a premier destination for the life sciences. Hat tip to Wake Tech for its work partnering with the biotech industry on innovative apprenticeship programs."

[Amgen to add 370 jobs as part of \\$1B investment in Holly Springs, NC officials say](#)

**Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce 2024
Christmas Parade**



The Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce 2024 Christmas Parade took place on December 8th. Rep. Paré was happy to participate again.

"Once again, hands-down I had THE BEST car driving me in the Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade this year! And the best driver/owners Keith and Renee Vest! Thank you to Keith for driving me today. It was great to see everyone! I loved seeing the kid's Christmas outfits and all of the smiling faces! The parade route was PACKED! Merry Christmas everyone!" said Paré.



2024 Happy Holly Days Parade



Saturday, December 14th was both the Happy Holly Days Parade in Holly

Springs and Army-Navy game day.

Rep. Paré stated, "What a GREAT parade! It was chilly but wonderful to see everyone, and, of course, I loved seeing all the kiddos in their Christmas outfits. Cole walked in the parade with the Hawks football team. I appreciated the support from the crowd. It was a great morning!"

"(Go Army Beat Navy!)"



Opportunities 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 will be 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.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

N.C. YOUTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (YLA)



THE YLA IS A THREE-DAY PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO DRAFT, DEBATE AND VOTE ON MOCK LEGISLATIVE BILLS WHILE DEVELOPING SKILLS IN RESEARCH, INTERVIEWING, GROUP FACILITATION AND POLICY WRITING. THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD MARCH 7-9, 2025.

**APPLY AT
NCLEG.GOV/YLA**



If you have a high school student, the NC Youth Legislative Assembly is a great opportunity for them. If you need any information please contact Erica Gallion at erica.gallion@ncleg.gov or 919-301-1372.

2023-2024 General Assembly Sessions

Rep. Paré introduced, sponsored, or co-sponsored the following bills. [Please find links to all of these bills here.](#)

Introduced bills:

- HB 3 "UNC Report on Computer Science Credit."
- HB 4 "Increasing Engagement in STEM Grant Program."
- HB 5 "Fuquay Varina Deannexation."
- HB 8 "Various Statutory Changes.**"
- HB 56 "Safe Firearm Storage/Sales Tax Exemption."
- HB 99 "Wake County Board of Commissioners Elections.*"
- HB 267 "Holly Springs Deannexation/Leland Annexation Moratorium.*"
- HB 594 "Disabled Veteran Homestead Exclusion Prequalification."
- HB 624 "Red Light Camera Delay Interval."
- HB 717 "Study Metropolitan Planning Organizations."
- HB 900 "Certain CIHS Partners/Regulate Tobacco Prod.*"
- HB 909 "Various Local Provisions I.*"
- HB 1056 "PA Licensure Interstate Compact."

Sponsored bills:

HB 11 "School for the Deaf and Blind."^{*}
HB 29 "Support Private Property Rights."
HB 35 "Expand Definition of Opioid Antagonist."
HB 77 "Drivers License Designation/Autism."
HB 146 "Taxpayer Protection Act."
HB 363 "The Gabe Torres Act."
HB 442 "UI Drug Testing Requirements/Funds."
HB 497 "Funds for NC Arts Council."
HB 498 "K-5 Arts and Music."
HB 535 "Solar Capacity Limit Increase."
HB 574 "Fairness in Women's Sports Act."^{*}
HB 576 "Health Care Practitioner Transparency Act."
HB 603 "Temporary Event Venues."
HB 640 "Career Path Options Transparency Act."
HB 747 "No Work Requirement Exemptions for Food and Nutrition Services Benefits."
HB 819 "Medical Ethics Defense (MED) Act."
HR 897 "Support for Israel."^{**}
HB 903 "Add Tianeptine to Controlled Substance List."
HB 942 "SHALOM Act."^{**}

Co-Sponsored Bills:

HB 6 "Uniform Heroes Voting Act."
HB 10 "Require ICE Cooperation & Budget Adjustments."
HB 39 "Kayla's Act: Protecting Domestic Violence Victims."
HB 40 "Preventing Rioting and Civil Disorder."^{**}
HB 86 "School Calendar Flexibility/Statewide."
HB 210 "Reduce Barriers to State Employment."
HB 214 "Add Members to NC Training Standards Commission."
HB 261 "Limited Provisional License Modification."
HB 346 "Reorganization and Economic Development Act."^{**}
HB 347 "Sports Wagering/Horse Racing Wagering."^{**}
HB 426 "Various Environmental Amendments."
HB 440 "Direct Care Work Wage Increases/Innovation Waiver."
HB 447 "Clarify Motor Vehicle Dealer Laws."^{*}
HB 463 "NC Farmland and Military Protection Act."
HB 478 "Support Students with Disabilities Act."
HB 562 "Addressing the Workforce Housing Crisis."
HB 580 "Expand Day/Employment Options/IDD."
HB 583 "Support and Expand Workforce IDD Options."
HB 597 "25-Year Retirement for First Responders."
HB 614 "Amend NC Constitution to Guarantee the Right to Work."
HB 688 "Increase Access for Small Employers' Insurance."
HB 704 "Repeal Giglio Notifications."
HB 823 "Choose Your School, Choose Your Future."
HB 852 "The Rep. Becky Carney Cardiac Arrest Act."
HB 882 "Nonprofit Sales Tax Exemption."
HB 905 "Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption."
HB 966 "Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons."
HB 971 "Human Trafficking Changes."^{**}
HB 984 "Removal of Squatters from Private Property."
HB 1003 "Jt Caucus for IDD/Omnibus."
HB 1029 "Right To Try Individualized Treatments."

* = Bills that have been passed and signed into NC law.

News Clips

[Federal government will cover more Helene recovery costs in NC with new Biden approval](#) – Yahoo! News (The Herald Sun)

[Amgen plans \\$1B investment in North Carolina](#) – The Center Square

[New laws taking effect in North Carolina on Dec. 1, 2024 - www.wxii12.com](#)
[Does banning students from using phones in class work? Some NC school leaders say yes](#) – Gazette Extra

[NC officially calls for Article V convention of states to impose term limits on Congress](#) – Carolina Journal

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



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



The Office of Rep. Erin Paré

Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury St. Rm. 531
Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone: 919-733-2962
Email: erin.pare@ncleg.gov



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