



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Pate

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

April 6, 2026

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

Happy Easter! I hope you had a wonderful weekend with your family reflecting on the hope, renewal, and promise of Easter!

As you know, Tax Day is coming up on April 15th. North Carolina's income tax rate dropped to 3.99% on January 1, 2026. As our state continues to grow, Republicans in the General Assembly will continue to take a prudent approach to tax relief so you can keep more of your hard-earned money.

Work on the remaining portion of the state budget continues. The House is looking forward to getting back into session on April 21st and passing an updated budget bill that reflects the needs of the state, particularly with regards to Medicaid, pay raises for teachers and state employees, etc.

In this newsletter you will read about the work I have been doing leading up to the start of the short session on property taxes, education, among other issues, as well as District 37 recognitions.

Please contact my office with questions and thank you for reading my newsletter.



Click to Visit
our official website

RepErinParé.com



REP. ERIN PARÉ

"Proudly Serving Southern Wake County"

2025 End of Year STATS



\$2.5M Secured for Wake County Public School students.



52 Pieces of Legislation Sponsored.



3100+ Phone Calls from Constituents Answered.



450,000+ Legislative Updates sent to Subscribers.



500+ Constituent Service Issues received and solved.



\$73.5 Million+ Taxpayer Dollars returned to District 37.



REP. PARE FILES BILL TO FUND CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP SHORTFALL

This week, I filed a bill for introduction in the short session (which officially begins April 21) to fully fund the Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarships through the next fiscal year.

The bill also provides a technical fix to allow ESA+ funds to be used for student aides.

This legislation is derived directly from constituent input. Let's get it done.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM

The House Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform, of which Rep. Paré is a co-chair, voted to give further consideration last month to a bill draft which provides for a constitutional amendment that would require the General Assembly to enact legislation limiting future increases in the property tax levy. If this bill is enacted into law, there will be a constitutional amendment on the ballot this

November for the people to approve or not approve limitations on property tax increases by the General Assembly.

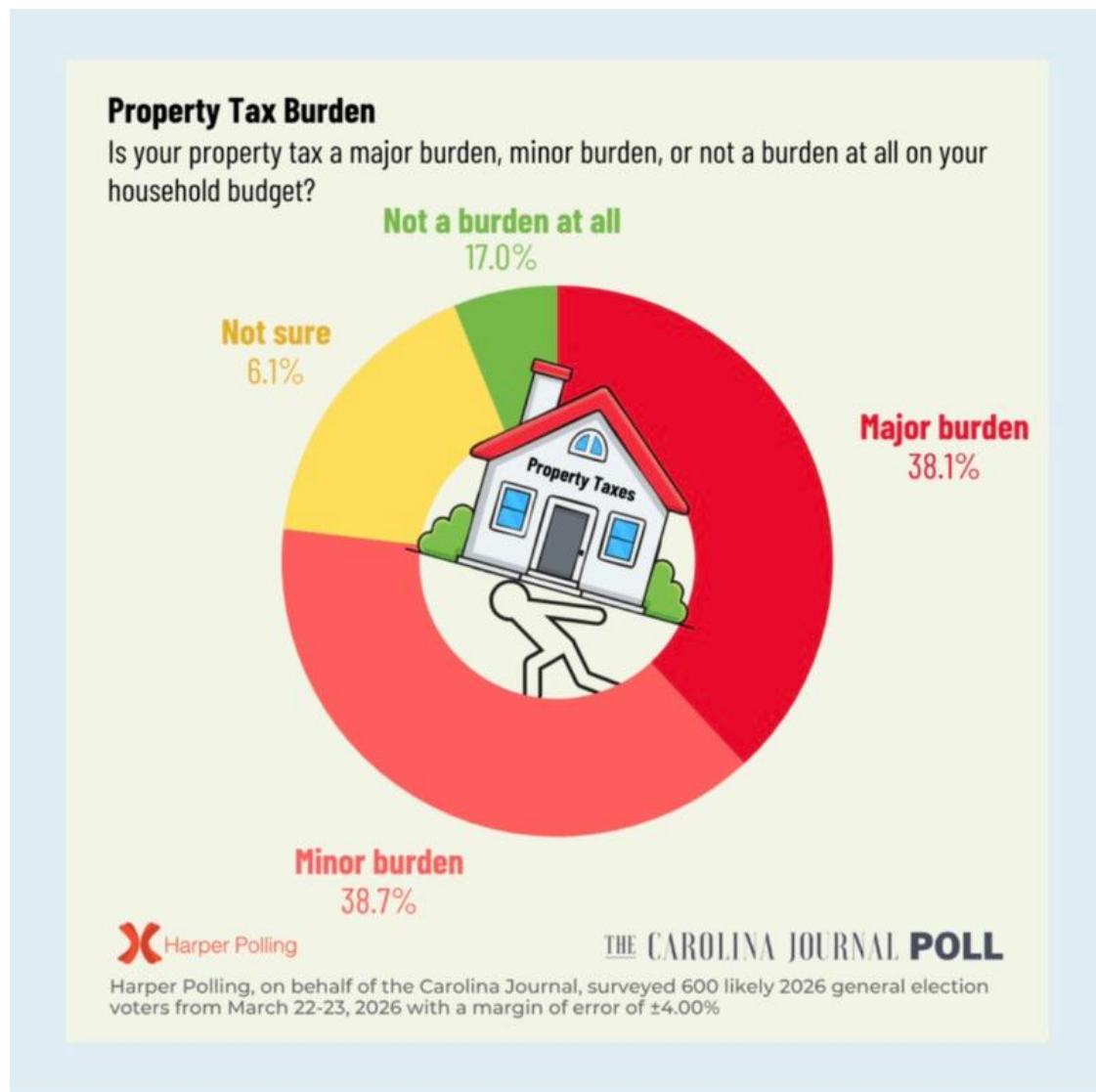
"What's been happening undermines homeownership, and that's been articulated on both sides of the aisle in this committee several times."- Rep. Erin Paré.

Click [HERE](#) for a Carolina Journal article on the proposal: [House committee votes to further consider property tax amendment](#)

Recent poll below about property tax reform.

"I'm not at all surprised by these results. Property tax increases have gotten out of control. Time for reasonable limits," Rep. Paré.

"When asked if they would support limiting property tax increases, 73.2% said they would support such a limitation, and only 11.9% said they would oppose."



Rep. Paré joined Clayton Mayor Jody McLeod for the taping of a PBS State Lines Special on property taxes last month.

To watch the special, click [HERE](#): [Lawmakers want to change property taxes in NC. Here's why.](#) | [State Lines Special](#)



Rep. Paré: It was through the work of the committee that we discovered the recent growing and costly abuse of an affordable housing property tax exemption in statute that impacts Wake County and other areas of the state.

The ambiguity of G.S. 105-278.6(a) left it subject to misuse and has allowed non-government properties to change their ownership structure to become tax exempt as a result of a 2013 appellate court decision referred to as “Blue Ridge Housing”. Closing this “loophole” in the law will recover forgone revenue (tax revenue lost).

I am very thankful for the work of this Committee, and for the collaboration I've had with County staff. Please see the committee presentation slides (attached link) from our committee meeting on January 14.

I understand the Wake County Commissioners were briefed on this recently. I am going to fix this, and I hope the Wake County Commissioners and the Wake Delegation in the House will support my work.

<https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewDocSiteFile/105074>

Sample of Properties Exempted Under Blue Ridge Housing Case

County	Number of Properties	Exempted Value	2025 Foregone County Revenue
Alamance	7	\$112,729,488	556,884
Moore	4	\$13,892,390	\$35,981
Stanly	3	\$7,448,939	\$37,990
Wayne	3	\$16,431,660	\$102,846

Blue Ridge Housing Exemptions



Wake County Properties Exempted Under Blue Ridge Housing

Year	Exempted Value	Forgone County Revenue
2021	\$289,993,674	\$1,739,962
2025	\$2,204,668,044	\$11,400,338

WAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST: REP. PARE RECEIVES CHALLENGE COIN

GREAT morning at **Pam's Farmhouse** Restaurant for the **Wake County Farm Bureau's** annual legislative breakfast. What a happy surprise to be recognized with a challenge coin by my friend and Wake FB President John Burt for the passage of my bill which halted ETJ expansion in Wake for 3 years.

It was a joy to connect with community members and my colleagues of various levels of government, as well as talk with our youth FFA leaders about their ideas and activities.

I will always be a staunch supporter of our agriculture community, our state's agricultural industry, and our farmers. I will continue to work to balance agricultural preservation with smart solutions to growth in southern Wake. **#NoFarmsNoFood**



REP. PARE HELPED FUQUAY-VARINA AND HOLLY SPRINGS RECEIVE HOSPITALITY TAX GRANTS

The Town of Fuquay-Varina has received \$4.25M in Wake County Hospitality Tax funds for Fleming Loop Park, and Holly Springs received \$1.79M in Hospitality Tax funds for the North Main Athletic Complex. I am proud to have been an integral part of these awards.

For a little background, Fuquay-Varina and Holly Springs residents have been paying a 1% prepared food and beverage tax every time they go out to eat for years which has contributed to the county's total hospitality tax pot.

This significant amount of tax revenue generated in Fuquay-Varina and Holly Springs, by mostly local residents, has for the most part been invested in other communities in Wake County over the years and, in particular, not in Fuquay-Varina or Holly Springs.

I felt it was time for a correction to happen here which is why I advocated so strongly for Fuquay-Varina and Holly Springs to be prioritized in this year's competitive grant process. This is a very positive result, and I am very thankful to the County for working with me.

Congratulations!

REP. PARE ATTENDS QUARTLERY MIC3 MEETING - SUPPORTS MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

Last month the MIC3 (Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission North Carolina State Council) held its quarterly meeting in Jacksonville (Onslow County).

As the House appointed Member on the Commission, and also a former military spouse having had military-connected children in the public school system for many years, I traveled to Jacksonville for the meeting where we discussed various

important topics related to addressing the unique educational needs of military-connected students in NC schools.

In addition to a productive business meeting, it was wonderful to have the Northside High School Air Force JROTC present the colors, and the Dixon High School Chorus sing the national anthem.

The MIC3 serves an important purpose for our military families and students and I appreciate being able to contribute to this work!





WCPSS STATE OF SCHOOLS ADDRESS

Rep. Pare: Last month, I attended the Wake County Public Schools State of Schools Address. I was a proud WCPSS parent listening to Superintendent Taylor talk about the district's accomplishments over the last year. If you're like me and are a numbers person, I have extracted stats from his speech for you below. Please read them!

It was also an honor to be recognized by Dr. Taylor for my work leading at the legislature to raise teacher pay. (View video below).

As you know, my bill provides for the largest teacher pay raise in state history. My bill was incorporated in the House budget which passed with bipartisan support. It raises teacher pay across the board by 8.7% and places starting teacher pay #1 in the southeast.

Here's key data points from Dr. Taylor's speech, and WCPSS stats attached:

- * Elementary and middle school math proficiency rose by 1.2 percentage points.
- * Grade 3 Math rose nearly two points.
- * High school Math 3 scores increased by more than 7 points, the largest gain across all tested subjects.
- * Grade 4 reading scores rose 2.9 points.
- * More than half of schools earned an "A" or "B" in School Performance Grades.

* The number of schools receiving an “F” dropped to just two, the lowest since before the pandemic.

* Forty schools are operating as Restart schools this year, which gives them added flexibility in areas like staffing and scheduling so they can better meet student needs.

* Nine Restart schools exited low-performing status last year. Two moved out of recurring low-performing status.

* Graduation rates remain among the highest in North Carolina.

* The four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2025 was 90.6 percent, representing some 12,600 graduates and remaining well above pre-pandemic levels.

* The five-year graduation rate increased to 93.1 percent, the highest in district history.

* In December, 162 Wake County educators were newly certified, and another 356 successfully renewed their certification.

* 3,250 WCPSS teachers have earned National Board Certification while working in Wake County, placing our district among the national leaders in this distinction.

* More than 38,000 high school students and 26,000 middle school students are enrolled in CTE courses across Wake County today.

* Last year, WCPSS students earned more than 33,000 industry-recognized credentials that have real value in the workforce.

* About 70 percent of CTE concentrators graduate with both a diploma and a credential aligned to their chosen college or career pathway.

* Their graduation rate is approximately 99 percent, and more than 99 percent report positive placement within six months, whether that’s employment, higher education, military service, or additional training.

* Pathways span more than 50 career areas, and students are participating in dual enrollment, apprenticeships, and credentialing programs in partnership with Wake Tech and local employers.

* In January, 54 Wake County magnet schools received national merit awards from Magnet Schools of America.

* Of the 24 schools nationwide named Top Schools of Excellence, the highest honor, five are right here in Wake County.

* And last spring, Millbrook Magnet Elementary and Lincoln Heights Magnet Elementary were recognized among the top magnet elementary schools in the entire nation.

* Apex Friendship Middle and Mills Park Middle were named North Carolina Blue Ribbon Schools, two of only four schools in the entire state to receive that honor.

REP. PARE VISITS NC STATE AS GUEST SPEAKER

Rep Pare: I enjoyed spending an afternoon last week at NC State as the guest speaker for two senior seminar classes led by Professor Steven Greene. The students had great questions, and I enjoyed interacting with them about the political and legislative process.

As I was “on the road” that day I was able to participate virtually as the Advisory Member of the Joint Legislative Committee on Education Oversight. Lots of good conversation about our work to improve student outcomes, teacher pay and investing in Advanced Teaching Roles.

Standby for more updates.





And, now for my favorite part...!

LOCAL NEWS AND RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the Holly Springs High School Colla Voce Choral Ensemble for proudly representing Holly Springs High School at the State Capitol building, showcasing exceptional talent during Arts in our Schools month and underscoring the significance of arts in education. Choral Director Ms. Jenny Patchett is amazing!

On Tuesday, March 17th the WCPSS Board of Education officially voted to name the Fuquay-Varina High School baseball field in the honor of Milton Senter, longtime Bengals head coach!

Congratulations to Holly Springs High School Athletic Director Coach Whitesell for receiving the Educator of the Month Award from the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce!





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 2026 Short Session House Page Applications are available online beginning **Monday, January 5, 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. Paré introduced, sponsored, or co-sponsored the following bills. [Please find links to all of these bills here.](#)

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"

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



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



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