



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Paré

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

February 20, 2025

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

Phew! What a busy couple of weeks! I am filing a lot of great bills with the mission to solve problems, cut costs, and provide greater taxpayer transparency. The House passed the latest Helene Recovery bill last week, which is the 3rd recovery spending bill since Helene hit, and one of many more to come.

Big news to read about below, and more to come in my next update. Also, our newly elected State Auditor Dave Boliek has announced his commitment to audit the DMV. I can practically hear the collective reaction "About time!" from all of you as you read that.

Please write me back with your thoughts and opinions. I am working hard for you here at the State House!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

-Representative Erin Paré



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our official website

RepErinParé.com



House Committee on Appropriations Passes 3rd Helene Recovery Bill



On Wednesday, February 12th, the House Appropriations Committee passed the 3rd Helene Recovery Funding bill - HB47 Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 Part 1. This vote followed the House Select Committee on Helene Recovery meeting on Tuesday, February 11th where the Committee made amendments to the bill and passed the package out of Committee.

This bill is the third Helene Recovery bill passed by the House or House Appropriations Committee, and the latest with more funding bills expected. This bill would bring the state's investment in Helene Recovery to approx. \$1.5B for Western NC. Federal dollars are critical for this recovery effort; our work continues with our federal partners to advocate for federal support for the recovery effort to compliment state efforts.

Key provisions of HB 47:

- \$150 million for housing reconstruction, with a goal of setting up a program in the N.C. Department of Commerce that could be reimbursed

- by federal money later. Stein is also seeking \$50 million for affordable housing construction and \$25 million to help storm victims pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills.
- Funding to repair and rebuild private roads and bridges — something that's become a major public safety concern as emergency responders can't quickly reach homes that have been cut off by washed-out roads and bridges. The House bill includes \$10 million for that effort, while Stein wants \$75 million.
 - Funding to state and local government agencies to remove storm debris, also a public safety issue due to concerns that downed trees and other debris could fuel wildfires or exacerbate future river and creek flooding. The House bill calls for \$20 million for the program, while Stein is seeking \$12 million.
 - Funding to repair state government facilities, including state parks and two state prisons that were damaged during Helene. Stein is calling for \$135 million, while the House bill includes \$60 million.
 - Funding for the N.C. Department of Agriculture to back "natural restoration projects that enable farmers in the affected area to resume production and protect communities against additional flood damage," according to the House bill. The House wants \$150 million for those projects, while Stein's plan including \$147 million to help farmers through a wider range of programs, including recovery grants to farmers who sustained crop losses.
 - \$10 million to provide grants to nonprofit volunteer groups working on disaster relief
 - A mandate that the governor avoid using state funds to pay for things that will likely be covered by federal money
 - An extension of the current state of emergency declaration for Helene through June 1.

See link: <https://www.wunc.org/politics/2025-02-05/nc-house-helene-recovery-bill>

Rep. Paré Introduces Bill To Provide Property Tax Relief to Seniors/Disabled

I am happy to file HB59 "Expand Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion". This bill provides relief for seniors on a fixed income who are struggling to pay high property taxes due to (local impact) the Wake County Democrat County Commissioner's tax and spend obsession. This bill will help seniors stay in their homes amidst record property tax hikes. It's time for the state to step in and address the effect of skyrocketing county level tax increases on our seniors, especially those on a fixed income.

Please see this excellent article on my bill:

[https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article299679619.html?](https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article299679619.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawljaf5leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHX3d-ooaytRs-Z0UUO3xYvDS8z9EDSCh-5oQyeCCEtgVX2LF41ZiYzMM3g_aem_TbPrw-bNWOJWmFhtXCXgag)

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Rep. Paré Introduces Bill to Provide Transparency on School System Central Office Salaries

Southern Wake residents - I heard you.

Last week I filed a bill to require NC school districts to publish on their website all central staff salary information. All positions and the corresponding salaries will be posted on the district's website as a transparency measure for taxpayers.

We want more teachers and significantly better paid teachers, not excessive spending on administration.

Please join me in supporting this bill.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025/H56>

Rep. Paré Co-Sponsors Bill to Protect NC Farmland from



This week I was proud to cosponsor (again this session) the Farmland and Military Protection Act (HB 133). It is important to restrict hostile foreign governments from buying land in key locations in North Carolina.

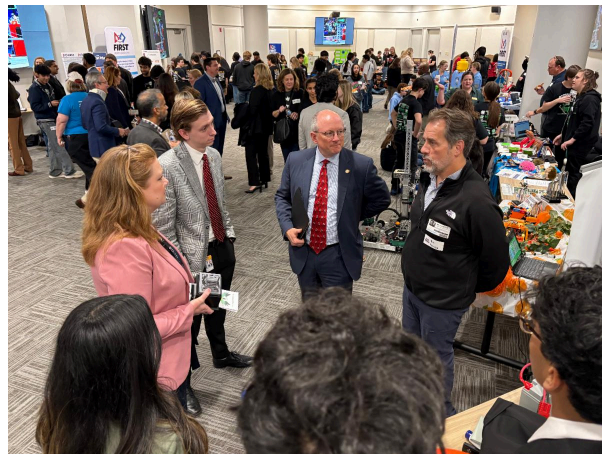
Rep. Paré Elected Wake County Delegation Chairman for House

Very happy to be elected by my Democrat colleagues from Wake to serve as the Wake Delegation Chair for the House! I look forward to working with Senate co-chair Sen. Lisa Grafstein and the delegation in a bipartisan fashion to advance Wake County issues this legislative session.

Rep. Paré Receives STEM Award/Meets with STEM Students from Fuquay-Varina and Wake



"AWESOME opportunity visiting with STEM students from Wake County, including the amazing Fuquay-Varina High School Robotics Club and STEM driven students from Wake to promote their work and talk about STEM advancement in education. I was very happy to receive the Legislator STEM Champion Award today in coordination with FIRST ROBOTICS which does great work. Let's keep working toward supporting education, our students, academic excellence, and building the workforce pipeline here in NC!"



ICYMI - AMGEN Announcement in Holly Springs/Children's Hospital Partnership



Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of attending two exciting events: The announcement of Amgen's second phase expansion in Holly Springs, and the announcement of the partnership between UNC Health and Duke Health to build the first free-standing children's hospital in NC.

Amgen, one of the world's leading biotechnology companies, announced plans to invest \$1billion to expand its manufacturing facility in Holly Springs, creating 370 additional high-paying jobs.

Rep. Paré commented, "It is great to see Amgen's continued investment in NC and the company's creation of additional high-paying jobs. Amgen's success in NC is a testament to the business-friendly environment created by Republican leadership over the last decade+ at the legislature."

UNC Health and Duke Health have partnered together on plans to build the first standalone children's hospital in NC. The 500 bed hospital is expected to be completed by the early 2030s. "Children are different. There is no free-standing children-only hospital between Atlanta and DC which forces patients needing highly specialized care to travel out of state. With a growing population in NC, and not enough beds to address the need, this state of the art facility located here in NC will be key to improving patient care," said Rep. Paré.

Rep. Paré took part in a delegation trip earlier this year with several legislators to tour Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH. The legislature has appropriated \$320M for the project.

Read more HERE:

<https://abc11.com/post/nc-childrens-hospital-duke-unc-health-join-forces-open-new-triangle/15843666/>

<https://businessnc.com/amgen-delivers-double-win-to-wake-county-town-of-holly-springs/>



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 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.

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.

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 4 "Sam's Law"
- HB11 "No Tax on Tips, Overtime, Bonus Pay"
- HB 14 "Gambling Losses Tax Deduction"
- HB 15 "Support Private Property Rights"
- HB 46 "Make Healthcare Affordable"
- HB 56 "Publish Central Office Employment Information"
- HB 59 "Expand Elderly/Disabled Homestead Exclusion"
- HB 76 "Protect Access to In Vitro Fertilization"
- HB 94 "Dis. Veteran Homestead Excl. Prequalification"
- HB124 "Adopt Official State Cookie"
- HB125 "Adopt Official State Star"
- HB137 "Gabe Torres Act"
- HB151 "SchCalFlex/Wake/CC"
- HB156 "Increase Access for Small Employers/Insurance"

Sponsored bills:

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"

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



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



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