



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Paré

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

January 5, 2026

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

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday break with your family!

Good news - effective January 1, 2026, North Carolina's income tax rate dropped to 3.99%. As our state continues to grow, Republicans in the General Assembly will continue to lower your taxes.

In this newsletter, you will read about highlights of the 2025 legislative long session, priorities that are continuing in to 2026, legislative priorities of the 2026 session, and District 37 news.

I would like to announce that I have filed for re-election to continue to serve the people of District 37 for another term in the House. We have accomplished a great deal so far, but there is still work to do. I appreciate your support. Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

-Representative Erin Paré



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.



RECAP OF THE HOUSE PASSED BUDGET

Although the House and Senate were not able to come to an agreement on a comprehensive budget package in the long session, I am hopeful that we can come to an agreement in the short session. The differences of opinion between the two chambers involve the timing of tax cut triggers and salaries for teachers and state employees.

The good news is that the state of North Carolina does not operate like Congress and shut down while an updated budget document is being negotiated. We have a budget that is funding the state right now during the impasse - it is the budget that passed in 2023. This ensures that in the event of an impasse on a new revised budget document, no state employee or teacher goes without pay while it is getting worked out.

Nevertheless, I want to recap for you key highlights of the House passed budget.

Key Highlights of the NC House Budget:

Raises starting teacher pay to \$50,000, making NC #1 in the Southeast for entry-level teacher compensation.

Increases teacher compensation by 8.7% over the biennium.

Restores master's pay, rewarding teachers who pursue advanced training.

Delivers a 2.5% across-the-board raise for state agency employees, community college staff, and UNC System personnel.

Grants state retirees a 1% cost-of-living bonus in year one and a 2% bonus in year two.

Keeps taxes low while offering targeted tax relief to North Carolinians.

Reinstates the back-to-school sales tax holiday starting in 2026.

Exempts the first \$5,000 in tips from state income tax, supporting service industry workers.

Increases the standard tax deduction by \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for married couples.

Holds down the growth of net general fund expenditures to a historically low 5% over the biennium.

Restores the Rainy Day Fund to \$4.75 billion.

Eliminates wasteful spending by cutting nearly 3,000 vacant government positions.

Funds dozens of new positions at NC DMV and authorizes a privatization pilot program for license renewal.

Redirects NCInnovation funding toward ongoing Hurricane Helene disaster relief and recovery efforts.

Delivers \$50 million in school safety grants.

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>

SUCCESSFUL OVERRIDES OF GOV. STEIN VETOES

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

FUQUAY-VARINA AND HOLLY SPRINGS CHRISTMAS PARADES!



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 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.

7 **DMV DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINER POSITIONS**

8 **SECTION 2F.1.(a)** There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department
9 of Transportation (i) the sum of one million two hundred two thousand four hundred eight dollars
10 (\$1,202,408) in recurring funds to create 40 additional full-time equivalent (FTE) Driver License
11 Examiner I and II positions in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and (ii) the sum of two million nine
12 hundred ninety thousand three hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$2,990,367) in recurring funds to
13 create 21 additional FTE Driver License Examiner I and II positions in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

20
21 **NEW DMV OFFICE LOCATIONS**

22 **SECTION 2F.2.(a)** There is appropriated from the Highway Fund to the Department
23 of Transportation (i) the sum of one million eight hundred thirty-six thousand two hundred
24 twenty-three dollars (\$1,836,223) in recurring funds in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, (ii) the sum of
25 eleven million four hundred seventy-one thousand nine hundred sixty-six dollars (\$11,471,966)
26 in nonrecurring funds in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and (iii) the sum of two million seven hundred
27 fifty-four thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars (\$2,754,334) in recurring funds in the 2026-
28 2027 fiscal year to be used as follows:

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

35 **SECTION 2F.2.(b)** No later than October 1, 2025, the DMV is directed to execute
36 contracts that provide for the operation of the new DMV offices established pursuant to
37 subsection (a) of this section. No later than December 1, 2025, the DMV shall report to the Joint
38 Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the terms
39 of the contracts required by this subsection, including the staffing, capital, and operational needs
40 of the new offices.
41



OUT AND ABOUT IN THE DISTRICT

A couple months ago I was able to tour the Johnson Concrete Facility in Willow Spring. It was great visiting with the group and learning more about the Johnson Concrete operation. As a southern Wake business owner myself, I know what it

takes to start and grow a business, and to stay competitive. Pro-jobs is my middle name. Thanks for having me!

This fall I had the pleasure of speaking to the DECA group at Holly Springs High School and the Women's Heath Outreach Advocates Club at Fuquay-Varina High School. Wayne joined me at Holly Springs High as we talked about what it's like starting a small business in town. Great questions from the groups. Impressive students. Thanks for having us!

Had another great time as a chili cook-off and barbeque judge this fall at the **American Legion Post 116, Fuquay Varina**. It was hard to choose the best entries; everything was so delicious!









LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

The General Assembly passed a number of important pieces of legislation this past session. I want to highlight a few pieces of legislation that were not mentioned earlier in this newsletter.

1. 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!

2. 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.

3. My bill HB59 "Modify Homestead Exclusions" passed the House Committee on Pensions and Retirement. 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.

4. Iryna's Law went in to effect on December 1, 2025. This bill restricts cashless bail, holds magistrates accountable and ensures mental health evaluations. The bill is

named in honor of Iryna Zarutska who was brutally murdered on a light rail train in Charlotte this past fall by a career criminal who was out on the street.

5.The General Assembly passed in to law a provision requiring school districts statewide to implement policies banning social media access and cell phones at schools.

6.My bill "Publish Central Office Employment Information" is now law. Public school districts will now be required by law to publish on their website the salary information for every central office staff position. This is a taxpayer transparency bill. Just like every other taxpayer funded government job, the salary information for public school districts central office jobs should be publicly viewable by the taxpayer. My original bill HB56 got rolled in together with S375 and Gov. Stein signed it in to law.

7.The General Assembly passed recovery aid to Western NC totaling nearly \$2 billion. Thanks to Republican leadership for creating NC's "Rainy Day Fund," this fund was instrumental in being able to provide significant relief to WNC.

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!](#)

REP. PARE APPOINTED CO-CHAIR OF THE NEW HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND REFORM

Rep. Erin Paré has been appointed Co-Chair of the new Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform by Speaker Destin Hall.

"I'm proud to lead on property tax reform and co-chair this much-needed committee. Sky-rocketing property taxes are killing family budgets, pushing seniors out of their homes, and making it much harder for hard-working North Carolinians to own a home and achieve the American Dream. The House is now going to do something about it," - Rep. Paré.



Office of the Speaker North Carolina House of Representatives

DESTIN HALL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION AND REFORM TO THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. The House Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform (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 2025 General Assembly.

Section 2. The Committee consists of twenty-three 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.

Co-Chair Julia Howard	Representative Nasif Majeed
Co-Chair Mitchell Setzer	Representative Larry Potts
Co-Chair Erin Pare	Representative Dennis Riddell
Vice-Chair Brian Echeverria	Representative Mike Schietzelt
Vice-Chair Neal Jackson	Representative Brian Turner
Representative Eric Ager	Representative Harry Warren
Representative Jonathan Almond	Representative Sam Watford
Representative Becky Carney	Representative Diane Wheatley
Representative Maria Cervania	Representative Jeff Zenger
Representative Tricia Cotham	
Representative Carla Cunningham	
Representative Frances Jackson	
Representative Abe Jones	
Representative Keith Kidwell	

Section 3. The House Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform shall study options to reduce the property tax burden on taxpayers in North Carolina. The Committee shall consider reforms that provide property tax relief to taxpayers while balancing potential impacts on local government revenues. In conducting the study, the Committee may:

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

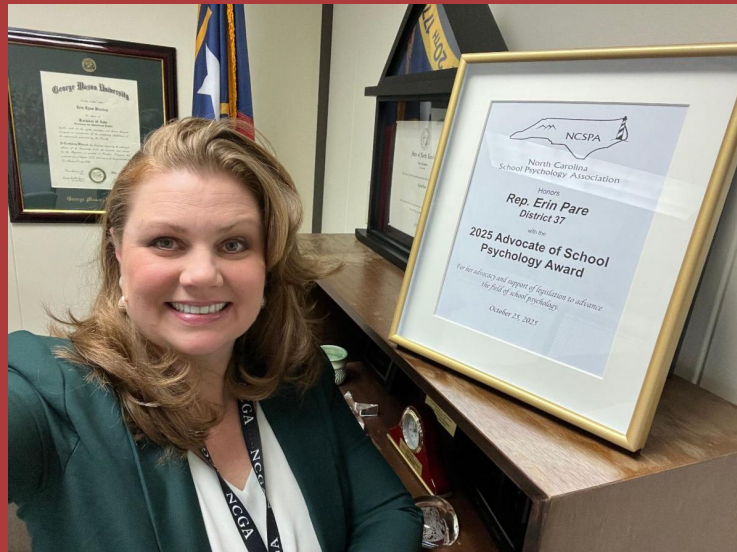
Very proud to receive the following recognitions for my work at the General Assembly: 2025 Defender of Public Safety Award from the NC Sheriffs' Association and the 2025 Advocate of School Psychology Award from the NCSPPA. Thank you!



Representative Erin Paré

2025 Defender of
Public Safety

North Carolina
Sheriffs' Association





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



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

Rep. Erin Pare, District 37 | 300 N. Salisbury St. Rm. 306B2 | Raleigh, NC 27603 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!