



# From the Desk of **Representative**

*Erin Pate*

**District 37**

**Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!**

**June 21, 2024**

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

**ALERT!** Governor Cooper has vetoed three bills. One of them is HB 237 which prevents violent protestors from masking their identity, and updates campaign finance law to equal the playing field between both political parties. The House will swiftly override this veto next week.

I am happy to report that a very important measure to protect our youth from dangerous non-FDA certified vaping products, many from out of the country and sold here in NC, has passed the Senate as part of my bill HB 900 "Certain CIHS Partners/Regulate Tobacco Products". I was proud to work on this provision and will be advocating for its passage next week on the floor of the House.

Of note - my bill, HB 909 "Various Local Provisions I", received a favorable report in the Senate Rules Committee and a favorable vote on the Senate floor on Thursday. This bill, among other provisions, will modernize the City-County Bureau of Identification "CCBI" enabling legislation of 1937. This legislation is an agreement between the City of Raleigh and Wake County and impacts the funding and management functions of the organization.



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

*-Representative Erin Paré*

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*our official website*

**RepErinParé.com**



## **2024 N.C. House Budget Highlights**

*Provided by the Office of House Majority Leader  
John Bell*

The House budget is a fiscally responsible budget that meets our state's critical needs in education, health care, infrastructure, and child care without tapping into our rainy-day reserve fund.

This budget fully funds the Opportunity Scholarship backlog to ensure all families in North Carolina are empowered to make the best education choices for their families, regardless of income status.

In addition to fulfilling our commitment to universal school choice, the House budget plan increases investments in public education, teacher pay, school safety, and school construction. By restoring master's pay and raising teacher pay, including starting salary to \$44,000, the House budget also seeks to ensure every public school classroom has a qualified educator who is properly compensated.

Furthermore, as North Carolinians continue to struggle in this economy, the House budget provides an additional across-the-board raise for state employees, as well as a cost-of-living bonus for state retirees.

In light of two other critical needs in our state, the House budget directs additional compensation for correctional officers to fill vacant positions and funding to keep childcare centers open to ensure parents can remain in the workforce.

At a time of economic uncertainty, the House budget responsibly restrains spending while also putting forth important investments toward our state's most pressing needs.

# NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE 2024 BUDGET

- ☑ FULLY FUND OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS
- ☑ RAISE STARTING TEACHER SALARY TO \$44,000
- ☑ 4.4% AVG. RAISE FOR TEACHERS
- ☑ RESTORE MASTER'S PAY FOR TEACHERS
- ☑ \$135 MILLION FOR CHILDCARE STABILIZATION GRANTS
- ☑ 4% RAISE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES
- ☑ 9% RAISE FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS
- ☑ 2% COLA BONUS FOR STATE RETIREES
- ☑ \$41 MILLION TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC
- ☑ \$68 MILLION FOR SCHOOL SAFETY



## Salaries and Benefits

- Raises starting teacher salary to \$44,000 (12.8% increase).
- 4.4% average raise for teachers.
- 4% raise for state employees.
- 9% raise for correctional officers.
- Restores master's degree pay for teachers.
- 2% cost-of-living bonus for state retirees.

## Education

- \$18.5 billion in overall education funding (58% of entire budget).
- Eliminates waitlist for Opportunity Scholarships program.
- \$68 million for school safety equipment and training.
- \$4 million in financial aid for students in high-demand training programs.
- \$2 million for career pathways programs serving students with intellectual

disabilities.

- \$10.5 million to aid students at risk of dropping out due to unexpected financial hardships.
- \$8 million for a new College of Applied Science and Technology at UNC Chapel Hill.
- \$16.5 million to expand the data analytics program at UNC Charlotte.
- \$180 million for renovations to NC State's Poe Hall
- Establishes a forgivable loan program for students pursuing degrees.
- \$48.4 million for UNC system campus repairs and renovations.
- \$50 million for public school construction.

### **Health**

- Allocates \$7.75 billion in overall funding for health care programs and services.
- \$135 million to extend childcare stabilization grants.
- Fully fund unexpected one-time increases in Medicaid costs.
- Increases certain Medicaid provider reimbursement rates.
- Enhances reimbursements for freestanding psychiatric hospitals.
- \$41 million to combat the opioid epidemic.

### **Public Safety**

- Allocates \$3.87 billion overall for justice and public safety initiatives.
- \$2.4 million for the N.C. State Highway Patrol.
- Increases the benefit paid to firefighters diagnosed with cancer.
- Increases retirement pay for N.C. National Guardsmen.
- \$1.9 million for 14 public defender positions across the state.
- \$4.85 million for training local first responders on rescue operations.
- \$20 million to enhance cybersecurity initiatives across state agencies.

### **Transportation**

- Allocates \$5.85 billion in overall transportation funding.
- \$73.3 million for highway and road maintenance programs.
- \$64.5 million for continued development of the state's transportation infrastructure.
- \$40 million for local street-related financial assistance, such as paving and resurfacing.
- \$12.3 million for ferry operations.
- \$150 million to complete work on Randolph County (Toyota) Megasite.

### **Other**

- \$55 million to Golden LEAF for rural economic development projects.
- \$58.6 million for multi-family affordable housing units.
- Extends the date for implementation of fish harvest reporting by one year.
- \$30 million for parks and land conservation.
- \$5 million to support outdoor student learning experiences.

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**HB 900 "Certain CIHS Partners/Regulate Tobacco Products"**



HB 900 "[Certain CIHS Partners/Regulate Tobacco Products](#)" was passed by the Senate on Thursday. The first part of this bill is an agreement between Wake County Public Schools and the Department of Public Instruction (State Board of Education) to allow the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy and the Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy to maintain their status as Cooperative Innovative High Schools to expedite the substitution of a new higher institution partner for the programs as soon as possible.

The second part of HB 900 creates a new regulatory system for the certification of consumable tobacco products and vapor products, including the creation of a public directory of these certified products. It also provides enforcement mechanisms for violations of this new regulatory system.

"This is a great bill that not only helps families with students enrolled in the Wake Leadership Academies, it will also help protect all North Carolina youth from unregulated vaping products. This is a win for families," said Rep. Paré.

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## HB 903 "Add Tianeptine to the Controlled Substance List"





Last week, the NC House passed a bill that Rep. Paré sponsored, HB 903 "[Add Tianeptine to Controlled Substance List](#)" which makes Tianeptine a Schedule II controlled substance. Tianeptine, or “gas station heroin”, has opioid-like effects, can be highly addictive, and has resulted in significant health problems in people who use it. Tianeptine can easily be purchased in products marketed as mood enhancers and dietary supplements, with no age requirement, at convenience stores in NC.

Link to the video of Rep. Paré's remarks[here](#).

"I first learned about the dangers of Tianeptine from families in my district whose kids have become addicted to it. This is an important bill to protect our kids from accessing this dangerous substance. The bill passed unanimously in the House. I am very proud to lead on this bill." said Rep. Paré.

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## High School Graduation Ceremonies



Rep. Paré enjoyed attending Southern Wake high school graduation ceremonies over the last few weeks.

She said, "It was awesome to see all the graduates starting the next chapter in their lives! Congratulations families! As Holly Springs High School Principal Morrison says 'Be kind, make good choices!' " Above: Willow Spring High School Graduation Ceremony. Below: Fuquay-Varina High School Graduation Ceremony.



## Week in Review



# NC HOUSE REPUBLICANS **WEEKLY RECAP**



**APPROVE BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN EDUCATION, PAY RAISES, CHILD CARE AND SCHOOL CHOICE (HB 263)**



**CRACK DOWN ON MONEY LAUNDERING AND STRENGTHEN RETAIL THEFT LAWS (HB 495)**



**MAKE PERMANENT PROGRAM ASSISTING FIREFIGHTERS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER (SB 319)**



## 2024 General Assembly Short Session

The 2024 General Assembly Short Session began on April 24th. Rep. Paré has introduced, sponsored, or co-sponsored the House Bills below.

### Introduced bills:

HB 900, [Substitute Certain CIHS Partners/Wake](#).

HB 909, [Town of Fuquay-Varina/Deannexation](#).

HB 1056, [PA Licensure Interstate Compact](#).

### Sponsored bills:

HB 903, [Add Tianeptine to Controlled Substance List](#).

HB 942, [SHALOM Act](#).

### Co-Sponsored Bills:

HB 905, [Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption](#).

HB 966, [Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons](#).

HB 971, [Hotel Operation and Personnel Education Act](#).

HB 984, [Removal of Squatters from Private Property](#).

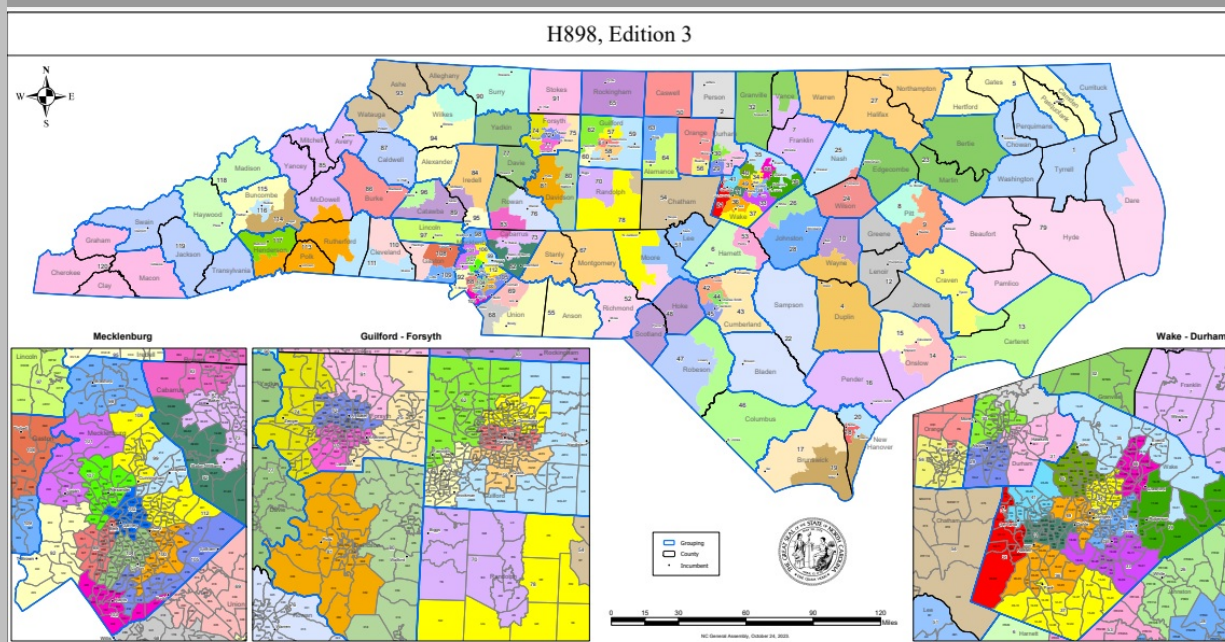
HB 1003, [Jt Caucus for IDD/Omnibus](#).

HB 1029, [Right To Try Individualized Treatments](#).

HB 1044, [County Tier Designation Study Bill](#).

HB 1074, [Constitutional Amendment/Citizens-Only Voting](#).

# 2024 House, Senate and Congressional District Maps



[HB 898](#): House Redistricting Plan 2023/H898 Ed 2. (above).

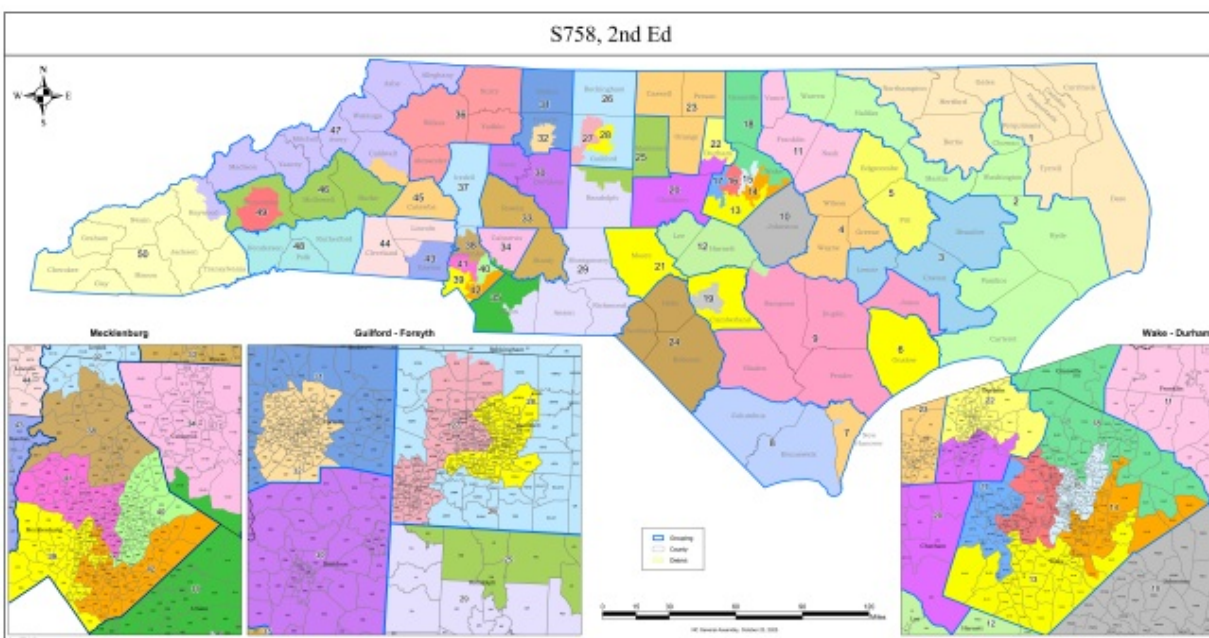
[SB 758](#): Realign NC Senate Districts 2023/SB758,2 Ed.

[SB 757](#): Realign Congressional Districts 2023/CST-4.

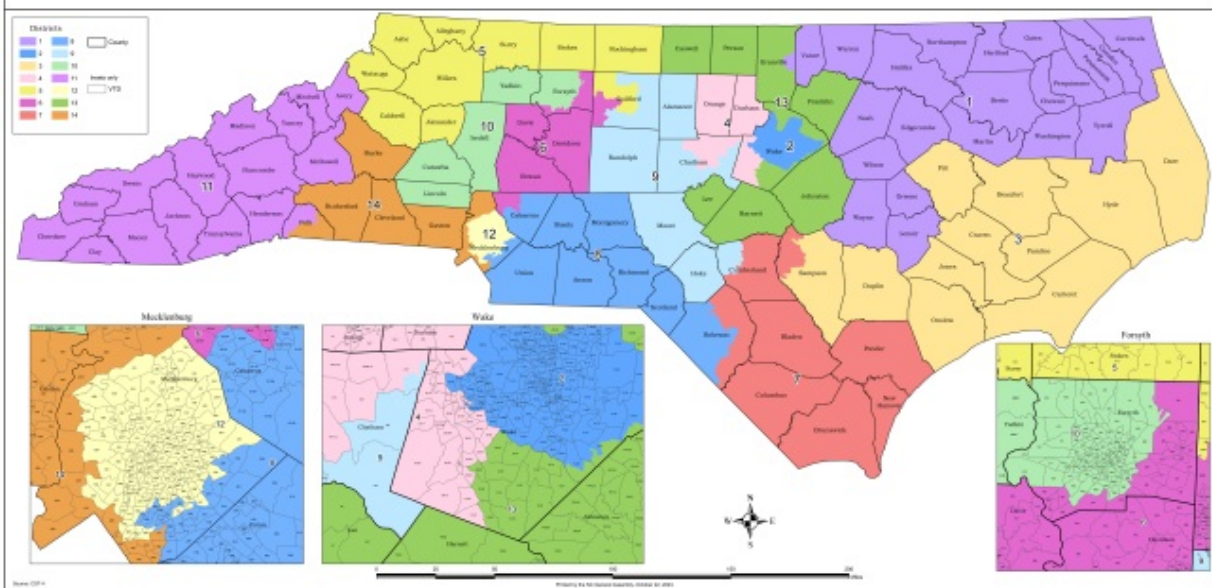
To drill down to precinct levels, please click the links above, and click on "19 x 36 Map."

Click [here](#) to check your 2024 voting districts by name.

Click [here](#) to check your current and 2024 districts by address .







## News Clips

[North Carolina House Budget Gets Initial OK as Senate Unveils Stripped-Down Plan](#) – US News & World Report

[N.C. House budget promotes STEM at UNC Chapel Hill](#) – Business NC

[House reveals budget proposal with large focus on education appropriations](#) – Carolina Journal

[Dwindling flounder population means no recreational fishing season](#) – North State Journal

[NC youth behavior survey reveals improvements in student mental health](#) – Carolina Coast Online

[‘It’s a bad substance’: NC House votes to ban supplement nicknamed ‘gas station heroin’](#) – msn.com (WBTV)

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



**Click Here to Find Out!**

Contact



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