



From the Desk of **Representative**

Erin Paré

District 37

Proudly Serving Southern Wake County!

October 10, 2024

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

This week the General Assembly reconvened to pass the first phase of disaster relief for communities impacted by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. The relief package passed both the House and the Senate unanimously. Amidst tremendous loss and inconceivable destruction that will take the state years to recover from, we also experienced incredible blessings with our entire state coming together to help North Carolinians in need. Remarkable stories of heroism, bravery, kindness, and leadership give us hope for the future and encouragement in the spirit of North Carolinians to persevere.

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

-Representative Erin Paré



Click to Visit
our official website

RepErinParé.com



NC House Passed HB 149 "Disaster Recovery Act of 2024"



On Wednesday October 9th, the North Carolina House of Representatives approved the first hurricane relief package in a unanimous vote. Natural disasters like Hurricane Helene are why the General Assembly keeps a strong rainy day fund. The tragedy and destruction that occurred in western NC will take many years to recover.

Key Provisions of HB 149:

\$273 million is allocated from the Savings Reserve to the Hurricane Helene Fund

- \$250 million to the Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management to provide the state match for federal disaster assistance programs for state agencies and local governments.
- \$16 million to supplement or replace the lost compensation for school nutrition employees affected by school closures due to Hurricane Helene.
- \$2 million to provide grants to entities such as the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments.
- \$5 million is allocated to the North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) to address election-related issues resulting from the disaster.

Election Modifications

- Allows for additional flexibility in appointing election judges and poll workers.
- County election boards can modify early voting plans by bipartisan majority vote, including changing early voting sites, days, and hours of

- operation.
- Election boards are also able to make changes to election-day polling places.
- Extends ballot return options for absentee ballots, enabling voters registered in the impacted counties to return their ballots to any county board of elections, early voting site, or voting place up until 7:30 pm on election day. It also allows for in-person absentee ballot requests up until 5 pm on Nov 4, the day before election day.
- Allows poll observers from outside a county to serve in the affected counties.
- Requires the NCSBE to establish processes for transmitting out-of-county ballots to the appropriate county including documentation of the chain of custody of ballots.
- Mandates education efforts, which include establishing a hotline for voters impacted by the disaster.

The General Assembly is set to reconvene on October 24, and it is expected to pass a second round of disaster relief funding.

[NCGA Passes Disaster Recovery Act](#) – Carolina Journal



**THE N.C.G.A. HAS CREATED A HURRICANE
HELENE FUND FOR WESTERN NORTH
CAROLINA, DRAWING \$273 MILLION
FROM THE STATE'S RAINY DAY SAVINGS
FOR ONGOING RELIEF EFFORTS.**

N C H O U S E R E P U B L I C A N S





DISASTER RELIEF

ELECTION LAW CHANGES

- PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY TO COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTION TO ADDRESS AREA SPECIFIC ISSUES. ANY COUNTY LEVEL CHANGES REQUIRE BI-PARTISAN MAJORITY VOTE.
- INTRODUCES INCREASED ABSENTEE BALLOT SECURITY FOR DISPLACED VOTERS FROM AFFECTED COUNTIES.

[DROPOFF LOGGING AND CLEAR CHAIN OF CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS]

NC HOUSE REPUBLICANS





DISASTER RELIEF

MEASURES PASSED BY N.C. LEGISLATURE

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NC HOUSE REPUBLICANS



Up-to-Date Information on Hurricane Helene
Response Efforts and Relief Resources

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

Unprecedented Response to Hurricane Helene Continues as State, Local and Federal Resources Work to Help those Impacted in Western North Carolina

North Carolina National Guard and Military Response

More than 3,000 Soldiers and Airmen are now working in Western North Carolina. Joint Task Force - North Carolina, the task force led by the North Carolina National Guard is made up of Soldiers and Airmen from 12 different states, two different XVIII Airborne Corps units from Ft. Liberty, a unit from Ft. Campbell's 101st Airborne Division, and numerous civilian entities are working side-by-side to get the much-needed help to the citizens in western North Carolina.

National Guard and military personnel are operating more than 40 helicopters and more than 1,200 specialized vehicles in Western North Carolina to facilitate these missions. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping to assess water and wastewater plants and dams. Residents can track the status of the public water supply in their area through a [website](#) launched on Saturday.

FEMA Assistance

More than \$60 million in [FEMA Individual Assistance](#) funds have been paid so far to Western NC disaster survivors and more than 134,000 people have registered for Individual Assistance. Approximately 2,600 people are now housed in hotels through FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance. Federal partners have delivered approximately 9.78 million liters of water and approximately 7.7 million meals in North Carolina to support both responders and people living in the affected communities.

More than 900 FEMA staff are in the state to help with the western North Carolina relief effort. In addition to search and rescue and providing commodities, they are meeting with disaster survivors in shelters and neighborhoods to provide rapid access to relief resources. They can be identified by their FEMA logo apparel and federal government identification.

The Major Disaster Declaration requested by Governor Cooper and granted by President Biden now includes 27 North Carolina counties (Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay,

Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey) and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

North Carolinians can apply for Individual Assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 from 7am to 11pm daily or by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov, or by downloading the FEMA app. FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs.

Help from Other States

More than 1,300 responders from 35 state and local agencies have performed 118 missions supporting the response and recovery efforts through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This includes public health nurses, emergency management teams supporting local governments, veterinarians, teams with search dogs and more.

Beware of Misinformation

North Carolina Emergency Management and local officials are cautioning the public about false Helene reports and misinformation being shared on social media. NCEM has launched a [fact versus rumor response webpage](#) to provide factual information in the wake of this storm. FEMA also has a [rumor response webpage](#).

Food, Water and Commodity Points of Distribution

Efforts continue to provide food, water and basic necessities to residents in affected communities, using both ground resources and air drops from the NC National Guard. More than 20,000 hot meals a day are being prepared and served by mobile kitchens. Food, water and commodity points of distribution are open throughout western North Carolina. For information on these sites in your community, visit your local emergency management and local government social media and websites or visit ncdps.gov/Helene.

Missing Persons

To report a missing person or request non-emergency support, please call NC 211 or 1-888-892-1162 if calling from out-of-state. NC 211 also has a [registry page](#) for missing persons and welfare check requests.

Shelters

A total of 17 shelters are open in Western North Carolina serving 715 people and 102 pets.

Storm Damage Cleanup

If your home has damages and you need assistance with clean up, please call Crisis Cleanup for access to volunteer organizations that can assist you at 844-965-1386.

Power Outages

Across Western North Carolina, more than 86,000 customers remain without power as of Tuesday, down from a peak of more than 1 million. Overall power outage numbers will fluctuate up and down as power crews temporarily take circuits or substations offline to make repairs and restore additional customers.

Road Closures

Travel remains dangerous, with hundreds of roads closed. Many of these roads are primary routes connecting the region. As connectivity and reporting measures improve, these number may increase.

NCDOT is asking people to avoid unnecessary travel to or in Western North Carolina. NCDOT has posted at ncdot.gov an [interstate detour map](#) for travelers to avoid western N.C. NCDOT currently has more than 2,100 employees and 1,100 pieces of equipment working on approximately 4,700 damaged road sites.

Fatalities

Eighty-eight storm-related deaths have been confirmed in North Carolina by the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. We expect that this number will continue to rise over the coming days. The North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will continue to confirm numbers twice daily. If you have an emergency or believe that someone is in danger, please call 911. To report that you have been unable to reach a person in Western North Carolina, please call 211.

Volunteers and Donations

Due to dangerous road conditions and the need to maintain open routes for emergency operations, travel to Western North Carolina is strongly discouraged. Instead, consider the following options for donations and volunteer opportunities:

- If you would like to donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate. Donations will help to support local nonprofits working on the ground.
- For information on volunteer opportunities, please visit nc.gov/volunteernc.

Additional Assistance

There is no right or wrong way to feel in response to the trauma of a hurricane. If you have been impacted by the storm and need someone to talk to, call or text the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990. Help is also available to anyone, anytime in English or Spanish through a call, text or chat to 988. Learn more at 988Lifeline.org.

If you are seeking a representative from the North Carolina Joint Information Center, please email ncempio@ncdps.gov or call 919-825-2599.

For general information, access to resources, or answers to frequently asked questions, please visit ncdps.gov/helene.

If you are seeking information on resources for recovery help for a resident impacted from the storm, please email IArecovery@ncdps.gov.

These updates were provided by the [North Carolina Department of Public Safety](#).



NORTH CAROLINA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Donate online: nc.gov/donate

You can donate to Helene disaster relief efforts at nc.gov/donate

**National Federation of Independent Business
(NFIB) Endorses Rep. Paré**



**Endorses
Representative
Erin Paré**



Rep. Paré Named 2024 Jobs Champion

NC Chamber *Awards*

REP. ERIN PARÉ



**2024 JOBS
CHAMPION**

NC Youth Legislative Assembly

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, this is a great opportunity for them. Applications will be out in September. 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:

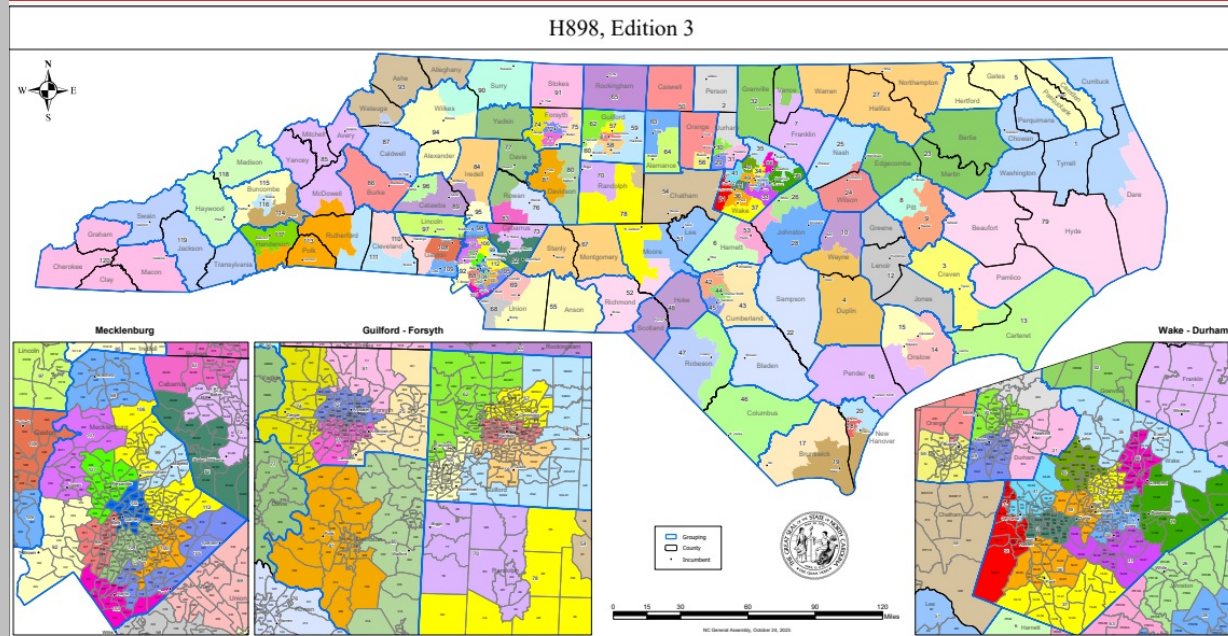
HB 11 "School for the Deaf and Blind."^{*}
HB 29 "Support Private Property Rights."
HB 35 "Expand Definition of Opioid Antagonist."
HB 77 "Drivers License Designation/Autism."
HB 146 "Taxpayer Protection Act."
HB 363 "The Gabe Torres Act."
HB 442 "UI Drug Testing Requirements/Funds."
HB 497 "Funds for 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.

2024 House, Senate and Congressional District Maps



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

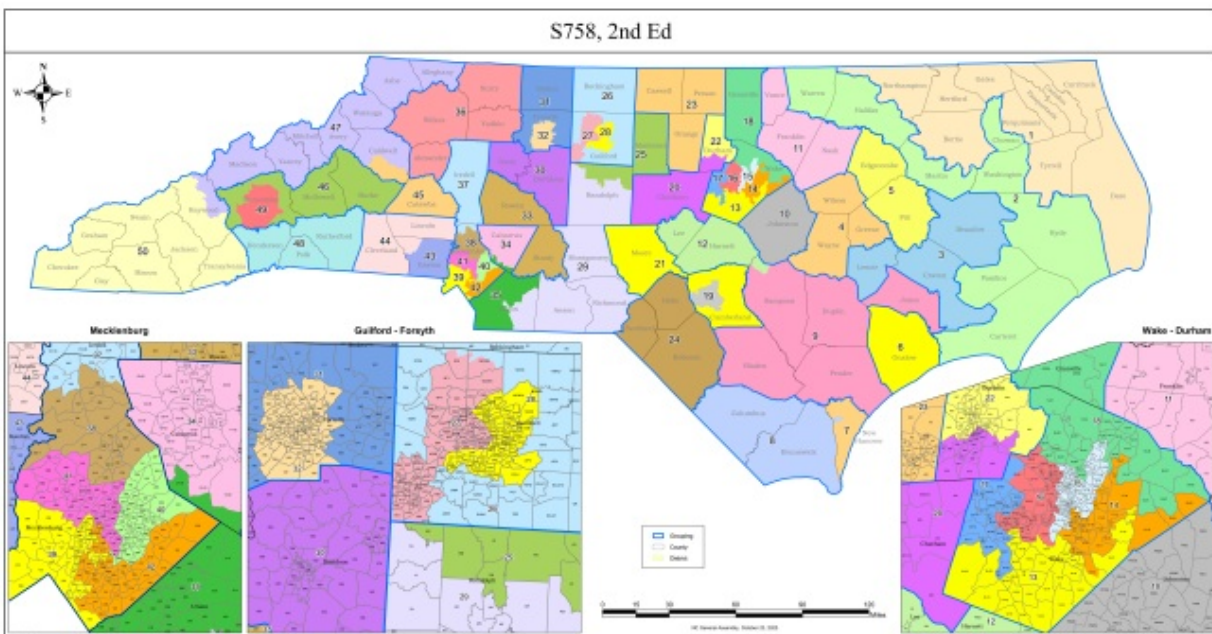
[SB 758](#): Realign NC Senate Districts 2023/SB758,2 Ed.

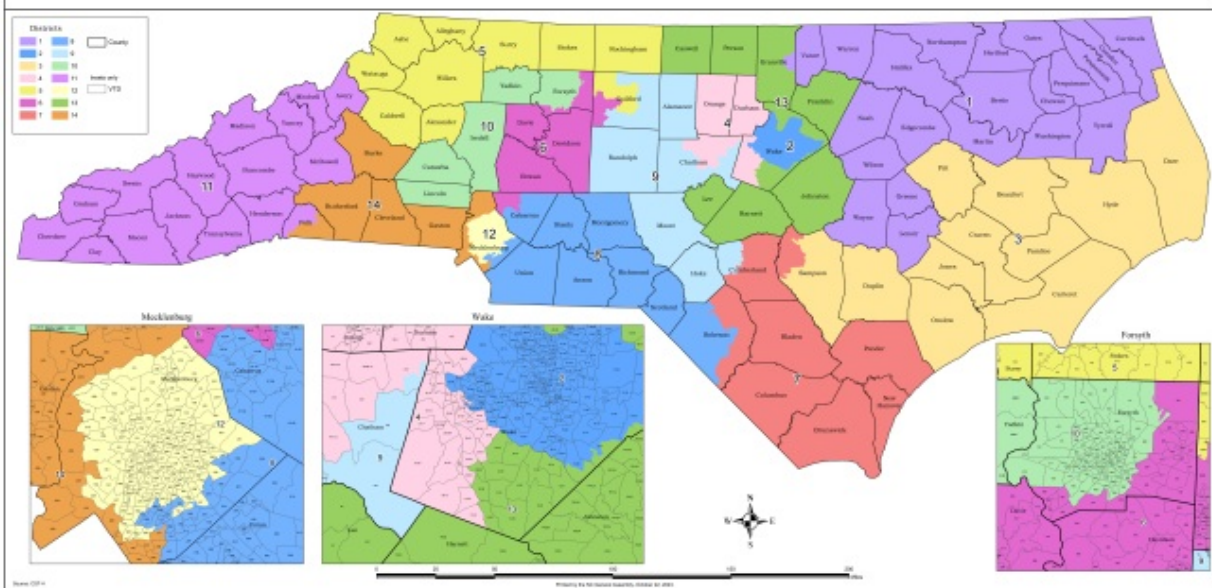
[SB 757](#): Realign Congressional Districts 2023/CST-4.

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 approves \\$273M for Helene victims in first act of many– The Center Square](#)

[Save the dates: Voter registration deadline, early voting beginning soon– Spectrum News](#)

['Neither snow nor rain' nor Helene: USPS getting mail going again in western N.C. – Spectrum News](#)

[North Carolina distributes EpiPens and Benadryl as stinging insects swarm after Helene - \[www.pbs.org\]\(http://www.pbs.org\)](#)

[In-person voting to begin in North Carolina Oct. 17, despite storm damage– The Center Square](#)

[\\$100 million in federal funds released for North Carolina to rebuild roads, bridges damaged by Helene – CBS News](#)

[Fact-checking 5 misleading claims about Helene relief efforts– WRAL](#)

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



Click Here to Find Out!

Contact



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