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### **Work Session - Tuesday, December 13 - 4:00 P.M.**

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in a scheduled work session at **4:00 P.M.** The agenda for the work session was posted to the electronic agenda management system Thursday.

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the work session.

## INFORMATION:

### **Midterm Elections Analysis**

*Staff Resource: Nyki Hill, City Manager's Office, 996-3070, [nyki.hill@raleighnc.gov](mailto:nyki.hill@raleighnc.gov)*

Included with the *Update* materials is a 2022 Midterm Elections summary covering congressional outcomes of the November elections.

*(Attachment)*

**Wake Bus Rapid Transit: Program Update**

*Staff Resources: Het Patel, Transportation - Transit, 996-5120, [het.patel@raleighnc.gov](mailto:het.patel@raleighnc.gov)  
Cara Russell, Transportation - Transit, 996-4123, [cara.russell@raleighnc.gov](mailto:cara.russell@raleighnc.gov)  
David Walker, Transportation - Transit, 996-3942, [david.walker@raleighnc.gov](mailto:david.walker@raleighnc.gov)*

As the designated sponsor for the Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program, staff continues to advance various aspects of the program. This includes the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor design, procurement of 60-foot articulated buses for service on the Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue and holding a Virtual Industry Day Forum for contractors and subcontractors to learn more about upcoming construction of Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue Project.

**Wake BRT Southern Corridor:** In order to advance design for the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was advertised December 2, 2022. Qualification submittals are due to the City by January 20, 2023. Transit staff anticipates selection of a consultant team to advance the Southern Corridor's final design by Summer 2023. The RFQ advertisement can be found on the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System at the following link: [Wake BRT Southern Corridor Final Design RFQ](#)

**Wake BRT Vehicle Procurement:** Transit staff issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB), which is a call for manufacturers to submit a bid for the BRT, 60-foot articulated buses in March of 2022. The manufacturer New Flyer was awarded the bid in October 2022. A subsequent Purchase Order (PO) was issued October 25, 2022. A total of seven (7) buses are included in the PO. The timeline for delivery of vehicles includes one (1) bus to be programmed in Summer of 2023 to be delivered in Fall 2023, with a proceeding review period before beginning manufacturing and delivery of the remaining six (6) buses by end of 2023 or early 2024.

The buses will be ADA compliant and will accommodate level platform boarding, audible station announcements, automated wheelchair securement stations and will be equipped with bike storage facilities inside the buses.

**Wake BRT Industry Day Forum:** In anticipation for the upcoming construction for Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue Project, City of Raleigh will hold a virtual forum for contractors and subcontractors on December 20, at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams. Interested parties must register using the following link [Industry Day Forum - Registration Form](#). The virtual meeting will provide information on Wake BRT Program, features of BRT construction, federal and city requirements for construction projects, and the City's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) goals in procurement.

Additional information may be found at the Wake BRT program visit: <https://raleighnc.gov/bus-rapid-transit>  
(No Attachment)

**Solarize the Triangle Campaign Currently Leads the Nation**

*Staff Resource: Megan Anderson, Office of Sustainability, 996-4658, [megan.anderson@raleighnc.gov](mailto:megan.anderson@raleighnc.gov)*

As previously reviewed in *Update* issues 2022-39 (October 7) and 2022-25 (June 24), the *Solarize the Triangle* campaign is entering the final month of registration for Year 1 of the program. Residents, businesses, and non-profits have until **December 31<sup>st</sup>** to register for a no-cost, no-obligation solar assessment. Staff are working with our partners to continue to promote the program and encouraging community members, businesses, non-profits, to sign up to receive a free assessment on the main Solarize

campaign website; [solarizethetriangle.com](http://solarizethetriangle.com). A media release is scheduled for next week with information to continue to encourage the community to sign up, and Council is encouraged to continue to share this information with constituents. The group purchasing power, tiered pricing, federal rebates, and best practices implanted in the program make this a unique opportunity for the community to access solar and clean energy.

As of December 5, Solarize the Triangle has **over 1,100 sign-ups** for residents and businesses to receive a free solar assessment. **Raleigh is leading** the 11 participating communities with a total of 242 community sign-ups. In addition, the **Solarize the Triangle campaign has now surpassed all other Solarize programs that have occurred across the country** in community sign ups, moving past the Atlanta total of 1,103. Since the August 2022 launch, 546 kW of renewable solar power – more than half a megawatt – has been purchased through the program, with 59 established homeowner contracts to date. Upon installation and activation, **over 1 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Triangle region will be avoided – the equivalent of 100 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for an entire year.** Creation of the Solarize the Triangle program is a high impact climate action that support the implementation of the [Raleigh Community Climate Action Plan](#) and efforts to promote clean and renewable energy in Raleigh and the region.

Included with the Update materials is a memorandum which provide additional program information.

*(Attachment)*

### **Weekly Digest of Special Events**

*Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, [sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov](mailto:sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov)*

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

*(Attachment)*

## Council Member Follow Up Items

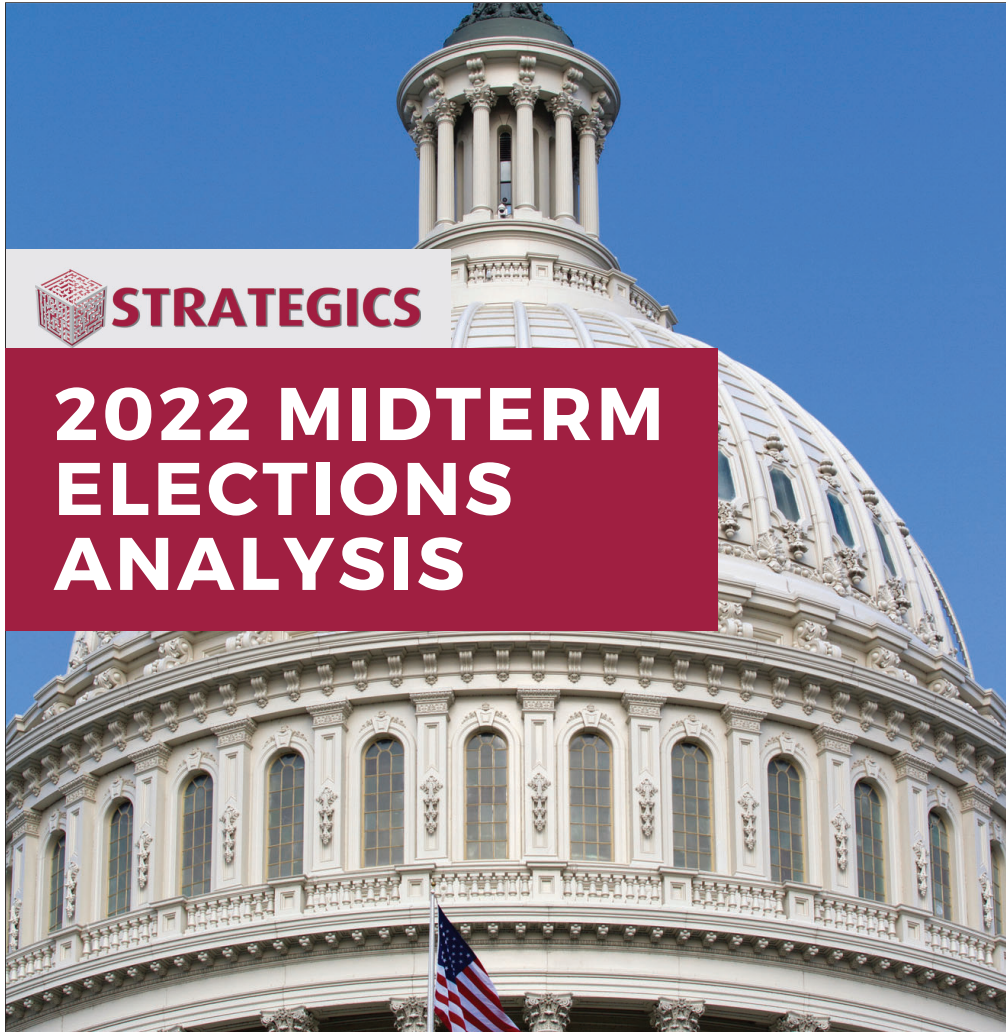
### Follow Up from the December 6 City Council Meeting

#### **Mulch Fire – Gresham Lake Road – Wall Recycling Facility (Council Member Patton)**

*Staff Resource: Herbert Griffin, Raleigh Fire, 996-6115, [herbert.griffin@raleighnc.gov](mailto:herbert.griffin@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting Council requested information on the City's jurisdiction and other matters related to the recent mulch fire at this facility. Included with the *Update* material is a staff memorandum prepared in response to the inquiry.

*(Attachment)*



# 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS ANALYSIS

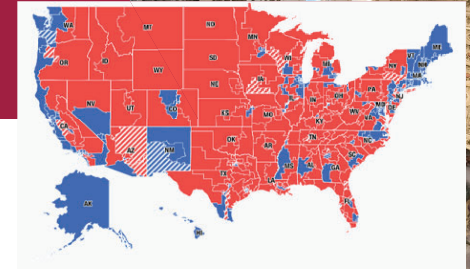
## STRATEGICS CONSULTING

*www.strategics.consulting*

*444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 840, Washington, DC 20001*

*4315 Woodbourne Dr., Clemmons, NC 27012*

## 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.



### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Republicans have regained control of the House, albeit narrowly, with 222 Republicans and 213 Democrats. The balance of the U.S. House in the next Congress is an exact mirror image of the current Congress where Democrats hold the majority at 222 to 213 Republicans.

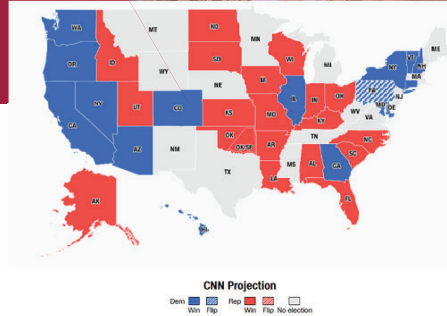
Republican House leadership elections took place on November 15th by secret ballot with the very top positions remaining the same, setting the stage for the current Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to be the next Speaker and current Minority Whip Steve Scalise to be the Majority Leader. North Carolina's Congressman Richard Hudson (R-NC-9) will also remain in the GOP leadership, but moving from Republican Conference Secretary to National Republican Congressional Committee Chair.

The Democratic House leadership elections were held on November 30th. The current House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced she would not run for leadership, but will remain in her congressional seat. As leader-elect of the House Democratic Caucus, New York Democratic Representative Hakeem Jeffries is the first Black party leader in Congress and first member of Generation X in that role. (Gen X defined as 1965-1980; after baby boomers and preceding millennials.)

The Speaker of the House is the only constitutional officer in congressional leadership. Therefore, on the first day of the new Congress, the first order of business is to elect a Speaker which requires a majority vote of the whole House. The 118th Congress will be sworn in on January 3rd, 2023.



## 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.



### U.S. SENATE

Democrats will retain a thin majority in the U.S. Senate, picking up a seat for 51-49 control. Continued control of the Senate means Democrats will still be able to approve President Biden's nominees such as federal judges and any appointees to the Supreme Court should a vacancy open in the next two years. It also gives Democrats the ability to pass bills that are able to advance with a simple majority of votes, without a tie-breaking vote from the Vice President, instead of the 60 needed for most legislation. Additionally, Senate committees do not have to be split evenly.

Senate Republicans met November 16th to elect by secret ballot U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as the Senate Minority Leader. Minority Leader McConnell defeated U.S. Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) for the position to continue leading Senate Republicans, his first challenger in his 15 years at the top of his conference. As a result, he will become the longest-serving Senate party leader in American history. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) is expected to easily win re-election to his leader position.

In the 2024 elections, there will be a minimum of 33 Senate seats (23D; 10R) up for re-election compared to the 34 Senate seats (14D; 20R) that were up for re-election in 2022. North Carolina's Senior Senator, Thom Tillis (R) is up for re-election in 2026.

## 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.

### REMAINDER OF THE 117TH CONGRESS

Congress returned to Capitol Hill on November 28th for a busy, post-election session (called the "lame duck") expected to last until at least December 16, when the Continuing Resolution funding the government expires. There is talk that the session may extend as late as December 22nd. Part of the Senate's agenda will be the confirmation of a long list of Biden's nominees, particularly for the federal judiciary. Awaiting votes are more than 80 nominees, including some 20 federal judges.

A House-Senate conference agreement on the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is a must-pass piece of legislation before adjournment sine die. The final measure is expected to provide a large boost over President Biden's \$813 billion request and may carry a number of unrelated measures. These add-ons could range from a new supplemental spending plan for Ukraine and disaster aid, to unrelated measures such as retirement legislation and tax extenders.

Likely the last item to be considered will be a 12-bill omnibus appropriations package providing roughly \$1.7 billion to cover spending for federal agencies and programs in FY2023. The package may include congressionally directed spending projects, and like the NDAA, is also likely to have many unrelated measures, including any that were not successfully added to the NDAA.

## 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- This year saw the second highest number of House Members opting not to run for reelection since 1996. As a result, the House of Representatives is poised for immense turnover that will make the chamber considerably younger and more diverse.
- Democrat Maxwell Frost will be the first member of Generation Z (born after 1996) elected to Congress. At 25, he will be the youngest Member of the 118th Congress.
- The 2022 midterm elections were the first to be conducted following the apportionment and redistricting that occurred after the results of the 2020 Census.
- Apportionment, the process of determining the number of Members each state sends to the House of Representatives, led to six states – Oregon, Montana, Texas, Colorado, Florida, and North Carolina – gaining additional districts. Seven states – West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, New York, California, and Illinois – lost congressional seats.
- Voters sought stability and voted, in large part, for incumbents or incumbent parties. Of the 28 states with gubernatorial races, 27 elected incumbents, 97.5% of House incumbents won their races, and no incumbent Senator lost an election for the first time since 1914. Therefore, the freshman class for the U.S. Senate will be smaller than usual, with just seven Members, including North Carolina's Ted Budd.
- The House no longer has any remaining Gingrich revolutionaries, the Republican Members who flipped seats in 1994 under the leadership of then Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA). Of this group, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) still serve in the Senate.
- Rep.-elect Chuck Edwards (R-NC) joins Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK) as one of two House Members who have worked as McDonald's franchisees before coming to Congress.
- Sen.-elect Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), a member of the Cherokee Nation, is the first Native American Senator since Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) was in office from 1993 to 2005.
- Michigan elected its first Black Republican Congressman and Maryland elected its first Black Governor.
- Illinois elected its first out gay person to Congress and California has the first out LGBTQ immigrant elected to Congress.

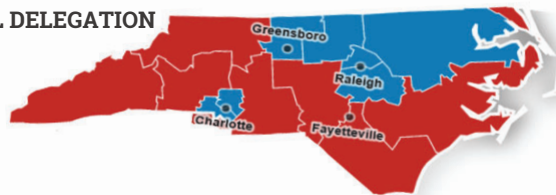
## 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- Arizona elected its first Latino Republican to Congress; Colorado and Illinois elected their first Latinas to Congress; and Oregon elected its first Latinos to Congress.
- Alex Padilla will be the first elected Latino Senator from California. Padilla was appointed to the seat Kamala Harris vacated when she became Vice President.
- Alabama has its first elected female Senator. (Two women have previously represented Alabama in the Senate, but both were appointed to fill vacancies.) New York has its first elected female Governor.
- The U.S. will have a record number of female Governors (12) in 2023. Sarah Huckabee Sanders will be the first female Governor of Arkansas and the first daughter in US history to serve as Governor of the same state her father once led. Massachusetts and Oregon elected the nation's first out lesbian Governors. Arkansas will join Massachusetts as first states to have women serving concurrently as Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
- Vermont elected its first woman to Congress, ending the state's distinction as the only U.S. state never to have sent a woman to Congress. She is also the first out LGBTQ person elected to Congress from Vermont.
- Pennsylvania elected its first Black woman to Congress. Ohio's Democrat Marcy Kaptur will become the longest-serving woman in Congress.
- Texas' House Delegation will welcome a third Member who has a twin sibling.
- Rep.-elect Rob Menendez (D-NJ) and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) will be the first father and son pairing in Congress since Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) and Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX). The two Pauls served together during the 112th Congress from 2011 to 2013. The last time the son was in the House and the father in the Senate was when Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) were together in 2009.
- Maine, Montana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin also represent a record low number of five states that have politically split Senate delegations.
- The S&P 500 increased over the 365 days following every midterm election since 1950.

**2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.**

**NORTH CAROLINA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**



The North Carolina Congressional Delegation for the 118th Congress is 16 seats made up by two Republican Senators, including U.S. Senator-elect Ted Budd, and an even split in the House with seven Democrats and seven Republicans. In the House, NC congressional districts will make state history with five women and three African American Representatives. The House seats are as follows (new House Members in bold):

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| NC 1 <b>Don Davis (D)</b>       | NC 8 Dan Bishop (R)            |
| NC 2 Deborah Ross (D)           | NC 9 Richard Hudson (R)        |
| NC 3 Greg Murphy (R)            | NC 10 Patrick McHenry (R)      |
| NC 4 <b>Valerie Foushee (D)</b> | <b>NC 11 Chuck Edwards (R)</b> |
| NC 5 Virginia Foxx (R)          | NC 12 Alma Adams (D)           |
| NC 6 Kathy Manning (D)          | <b>NC 13 Wiley Nickel (D)</b>  |
| NC 7 David Rouzer (R)           | <b>NC 14 Jeff Jackson (D)</b>  |

Incumbents from both parties held their seats and both parties held seats where incumbents retired (Burr, Price, and Butterfield). A Republican held the seat to replace Madison Cawthorn (R). The two seats open due to redistricting (13th) and the new congressional seat added after 2020 Census (14th) were won by Democrats. All five of the newly elected House Members currently serve in the NC Senate.

**2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.**

**NORTH CAROLINA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**



**Senator-elect Ted Budd (R)** succeeds U.S. Senator Richard Burr, who is retiring. Ted Budd represents North Carolina's 13th Congressional District and, after first being elected in 2017, is serving his third term in the 117th Congress. He sits on the Financial Services Committee.

Budd grew up on a cattle and commercial chicken farm in rural Davie County, where he still lives with his wife Amy Kate and their three kids. He is a small business owner of a previously closed gun store that was reopened for local police to train nearby. A graduate of Appalachian State University, U.S. Senator-elect Budd earned a Master of Business Administration from Wake Forest University, where he was recognized as Mentor of the Year, and holds an MBA from Wake Forest University and a Master of Theology and Educational Leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary.



**Representative-elect Donald Davis (D, 1)** succeeds Representative G.K. Butterfield (D) who is retiring.

Born and raised in Snow Hill, North Carolina, Davis worked in tobacco fields as a kid and went on to attend the United States Air Force Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Science.

He was commissioned into the Air Force where he served in uniform for eight years and reached the rank of major. As part of his service, he coordinated Air Force One operations at Andrews Air Force Base and supported families of military members killed in action as a mortuary officer.

He also earned a Master of Science in administration from Central Michigan University, a Master of Arts in Sociology and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from East Carolina University. He has been an educator for over 20 years, serving as assistant professor of Aerospace Studies at East Carolina University, instructing national security affairs and leadership courses.

U.S. Rep.-elect Davis became the youngest Mayor of Snow Hill at age 29. In 2008, he won his first State Senate election and went on to serve six terms. He lives in Greene County, NC, with his wife Yuvonka and their three sons.



## 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.

### NORTH CAROLINA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION



**Representative-elect Valerie Foushee (D, 4)** succeeds Representative David Price (D). She has represented the 23rd district in the North Carolina State Senate since 2013. She and her husband Stan, a retired Carrboro Fire Marshall, have two sons and one grandson.

Foushee was born and raised in Orange County, North Carolina. She went on to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and African and Afro-American studies.

U.S. Rep.-elect Foushee's early career included working as an administrator with the Chapel Hill Police Department. With 24 years in public office, she started her career in public service on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board and then became the first African American female elected to the Orange County Board of Commissioners. Next, she was elected to serve in the North Carolina State House and then the State Senate.



**Representative-elect Chuck Edwards (R, 11)** has represented the 48th district in the North Carolina State Senate since 2016. He defeated incumbent Representative Madison Cawthorn in the Republican Primary this spring.

Edwards was born and raised in Western North Carolina. At the age of 16 he entered the business world, working at McDonald's in Hendersonville while attending West Henderson High School. Years later, he purchased the very same McDonald's franchise where he began, along with other locations in Henderson, Transylvania, and Haywood counties. He studied business at Blue Ridge Community College, is married to Teresa, and is a parent and grandparent.

U.S. Rep.-elect Edwards has served with numerous non-profit boards and clubs. He is serving his third term in the State Senate, serves on 17 committees, chairs five of them, and serves on two commissions. He has received awards from multiple organizations including the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, and the Blue Ridge Apple Growers.

## 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS SUMMARY: THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.

### NORTH CAROLINA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION



**Representative-elect Wiley Nickel (D, 13)** is an attorney and serves as a member of the North Carolina State Senate from the 16th district. He lives in Cary with his wife Caroline and their two young children, where he is also a criminal defense attorney after opening his practice there in 2011.

After graduating from the Francis W. Parker School in Chicago, Nickel earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Government from Tulane University, and a Juris Doctor from the Pepperdine University School of Law.

U.S. Rep.-elect Nickel worked for Vice President Al Gore from 1996 to 2001 as a member of his national advance staff. He is also a member of Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Nickel later worked for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign and served on the White House national advance staff from 2008 until 2012. Nickel is a member of the Obama Alumni Association and was part of President Obama's first wave of political endorsements in 2018.



**Representative-elect Jeff Jackson (D, 14)** is an attorney, a major in the North Carolina Army National Guard, and serves as the member of the North Carolina State Senate from the 37th district since 2014. He and his wife Marisa have three children.

Raised in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Jackson earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Philosophy from Emory University. He also earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Jackson joined the United States Army Reserve after the September 11 attacks, trained at Fort Bragg, and served in Afghanistan. He continues to serve in the North Carolina Army National Guard as a major in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Jackson also works as a business litigator at Womble Bond Dickinson in Charlotte.

Prior to joining the state Senate, U.S. Rep.-elect Jackson worked as a prosecutor in Gaston County, North Carolina. He resigned upon joining the senate, and gained national attention when he was the only legislator to show up for work on a snow day in February 2015.





**2022 MIDTERM  
ELECTIONS SUMMARY:  
THE NATION AND NORTH CAROLINA  
BOTH EVENLY DIVIDED.**

**OUTLOOK FOR 118TH CONGRESS - COMMITTEES**

With Republicans regaining the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, they will also take over the gavels in House Committees. As result, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC-5) will lead the Education and Workforce Committee (Education and Labor in the 117th Congress) and Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10) will lead the Financial Services Committee if they choose to keep their current positions in those committees. Congressman David Rouzer (R-NC-7) is expected to take over as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

NC loses a cardinal on the Appropriations Committee with Congressman David Price's (D) retirement. It is not yet known if the state will be given another seat on that powerful committee. Also retiring is U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R), who was Ranking Member on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

**STRATEGICS CONSULTING**

*www.strategics.consulting*

*444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 840, Washington, DC 20001*

*4315 Woodbourne Dr., Clemmons, NC 27012*

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Michael Moore, Assistant City Manager
From	Megan Anderson, Sr. Sustainability Manager
Department	Office of Sustainability
Date	December 5, 2022
Subject	City of Raleigh’s Participation in the Solarize the Triangle Campaign – December 2022 Update

This memo provides a program overview, and an update on program progress through December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

For more information about details of the program and its development, we encourage you to review the previous City Manager Updates containing Solarize the Triangle Updates:

[Issue 2022-25](#) – This update provides detail on the overall Solarize the Triangle Campaign and how the RFP was constructed to select a solar vendor to partner with on the project. This update also describes how the campaign was organized, the equity components of the program, and the overall objectives of the regional Triangle initiative.

[Issue 2022-39](#) – This update reports on the registrations in the program as of October 2022, as well as outlines the outreach and education events City staff have planned and participated in for Fall 2022.



**Program Overview:**

The City of Raleigh’s Office of Sustainability partnered with Triangle J Council of Governments and 11 local governments across the Triangle to create the **Triangle Sustainability Partnership (TSP)** to work on regional sustainability initiatives. The first project of the TSP is the **Solarize the Triangle** Campaign in partnership with Solar CrowdSource.

**Solarize the Triangle** is a [community-based group-purchasing program](#) for solar energy, and other clean-energy technologies. This initiative is designed to serve residents, and help Triangle homeowners, businesses and nonprofits within 11 Triangle locales to become more resilient, reduce energy expenses, and save on the cost of renewable-energy systems. Solarize campaigns are driven by community group purchasing by

obtaining volume discounts on materials and installation services. The more participants who enroll, the greater the savings for all.

The creation of the TSP and the Solarize the Triangle Campaign are high impact climate actions that support the implementation of [Raleigh's Community Climate Action Plan](#) and efforts to promote clean and renewable energy in Raleigh and the region. Solarize the Triangle continues to implement community education, marketing and outreach campaigns consisting of public workshops, open house events, media outreach, along with other activities to encourage area residents and businesses to enroll in the program. Solarize the Triangle will collaborate with the Yes Solar Solutions, the selected contractor, to design and implement a clear and informative customer engagement process in order to give participants the best possible customer service.

**Participating Triangle communities include:** City of Raleigh, Durham County, City of Durham, Chatham County, Town of Cary, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Hillsborough, Town of Carrboro, Town of Apex, Town of Morrisville and Orange County.

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### **Solarize the Triangle Progress Update - December 2022**

As of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the Solarize the Triangle campaign has **over 1,100 sign-ups** for residents and businesses to receive a free solar assessment. Raleigh is leading the 11 participating communities with a total of 242 sign-ups. In addition, the Solarize the Triangle campaign has now surpassed all other Solarize programs that have occurred across the country in community sign ups, moving past Atlanta Georgia's total of 1,103. 10 Raleigh residents have already signed solar contracts with Yes Solar Solutions, the program's selected contractor. 12 non-profits and 23 businesses, including 6 in the greater Raleigh municipal area, have also registered for a solar evaluation. Since the program's August 2022 launch, 546 kW of renewable solar power – more than half a megawatt – has been purchased through the program, with 59 established homeowner contracts to date. Upon installation and activation, **over 1 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Triangle region will be avoided – the equivalent of 100 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for an entire year.** This program continues to support the implementation of the [Raleigh Community Climate Action Plan](#).

Enrollment into the program allows residents and business-owners to receive a free, no-obligation assessment of your property's potential for solar. The campaign will continue to accept registrations through **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022** at [solarizethetriangle.com](https://solarizethetriangle.com). Solar CrowdSource, the partner who has organized the campaign, has attested that this Solarize the Triangle initiative is the largest campaign for evaluation registrations to-date, and is on track to reach the maximum pricing discounts for all participants.

The more residents, businesses and non-profits that participate in the Solarize campaign, the more savings that accrue for every participant through price tiers. The Solarize group-discount pricing has **already reached Tier 4 of the total 8 tiers of pricing, reducing the price to \$2.92 per watt.** All homeowners who purchase during the



campaign, regardless of when they sign up, will be provided with the lowest price reached within the tiered pricing. With the current community interest, plans are on track for the program to reach the lowest prices within Tier 8.

In addition, the federal government's newly passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) means that federal tax credits **have increased to 30 percent in savings** for newly installed solar energy systems and batteries, improving the economics of solar energy even further.

Participating communities and partners continue to host webinars and socials for individuals to learn more about the Solarize program. In November, the Office of Sustainability staff co-hosted a social at Trophy Brewing Company. In early January, the campaign will host another webinar focused on residents within HOA communities and the related policy and procedure for installing solar in these communities. Since many Triangle property owners live in communities where homeowner association rules apply, there is often confusion about whether and how solar systems are allowed on residential rooftops. To help clarify the current regulatory landscape involving HOAs, an upcoming free informational event is being organized via the Solarize the Triangle campaign. Date, time and other details about this online event will be available [here](#).

Recordings of previous meetings and webinars can also be found on the Solarize the Triangle website for viewing.

City Council can guide any interested residents, businesses or non-profits to the Solarize the Triangle website. We encourage all who are interested to register here: <https://www.solarcrowdsource.com/campaign/the-triangle/>. Participants who register will be contacted for a free no-obligation solar assessment.

In addition to community outreach, City staff are working with partners to develop the low-income to moderate-income program (LMI) to help reduce the energy financial burden in participating communities. The LMI program will begin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the campaign, with an anticipated kickoff in Spring 2023. In July 2022, Raleigh City Council approved \$210,000 of ARPA funds to be used towards Solarize LMI program components. City staff are currently collaborating with Triangle J Council of Governments to determine how relevant contracts and reporting guidelines need to be federalized in order to administer ARPA funding appropriately. City staff are also working with other collaborating partners to establish qualifying criteria for LMI residents, including income requirements, weatherization standards, and more.

## Weekly Events Digest

Friday, December 9 – Thursday, December 15

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events  
[specialevents@raleighnc.gov](mailto:specialevents@raleighnc.gov) | 919-996-2200 | [raleighnc.gov/special-events-office](http://raleighnc.gov/special-events-office)

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### Permitted Special Events

#### [Illuminate Art Walk](#)

Locations throughout Downtown

Friday, December 9 through Saturday, January 14

Event Time: 5:00pm - 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Off-street plazas and sidewalks will be used from 8:00am on 11-26-22 until 4:00pm on 1-15-23. For more details and a full list of participating locations, [view the event website](#).

#### [WRAL Nights of Lights](#)

Dorothea Dix Park

Friday, December 9 through Saturday, December 24

Event Time: 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Associated Road Closures: During all Nights of Lights events, Dix Park will be closed to the public. To ensure everyone's safety, all park entrances will be closed by 5:00pm and will remain closed through the duration of the event. The Dix Park Dog Park will also be closed during this time. Park visitors, please be mindful to exit the park before this time. As a reminder, the park is open from dawn until dusk daily.

#### [MAKRS Holiday Fest](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Saturday, December 10

Event Time: 11:00am - 6:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Hargett Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Davie Street and Martin Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 7:00am until 9:00pm.

#### [The Rink Featuring the Raleigh Night Market](#)

Lenoir Street & Red Hat Amphitheater

Saturday, December 10 and every Saturday through January 14

Event Time: 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Lenoir Street between S. McDowell Street and S. Dawson Street will be closed from 3:00pm until 11:00pm.

#### [Historic Oakwood Candlelight Tour](#)

Elm Street

Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11

Event Time: 1:00pm - 7:00pm on 12-10-22 and 12-11-22

Associated Road Closures: Elm Street between Lane Street and Oakwood Avenue will be closed from 12:00pm until 7:00pm.

### Other Upcoming Events

#### [Holiday Pops – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, December 9 & Saturday, December 10

Meymandi Concert Hall

#### [Theatre in the Park's A Christmas Carol](#)

Friday, December 9 – Sunday, December 11

Memorial Auditorium

[\*\*The Dessertery\*\*](#)

Friday, December 9 – Friday, December 23  
Kennedy Theater

[\*\*The Rink presented by UNC Health\*\*](#)

Friday, December 9 – Monday, January 16  
Red Hat Amphitheater

[\*\*Disney On Ice presents Frozen & Encanto\*\*](#)

Friday, December 9 – Sunday, December 11  
PNC Arena

[\*\*Storybook Tales presented by Raleigh Dance Theatre\*\*](#)

Saturday, December 10  
Fletcher Opera Theater

[\*\*North Carolina Master Chorale: Joy of the Season\*\*](#)

Tuesday, December 13  
Meymandi Concert Hall

[\*\*Furman vs. NC State\*\*](#)

Tuesday, December 13  
PNC Arena

[\*\*Social Equity Book Club\*\*](#)

Tuesday, December 13 & Thursday, December 15  
Virtual

[\*\*Trans-Siberian Orchestra\*\*](#)

Wednesday, December 14  
PNC Arena

[\*\*Feliz Navidad – NC Symphony\*\*](#)

Wednesday, December 14  
Meymandi Concert Hall

[\*\*Seattle Kraken vs. Carolina Hurricanes\*\*](#)

Thursday, December 15  
PNC Arena

[\*\*The Wait Wait Stand-Up Tour\*\*](#)

Thursday, December 15  
Meymandi Concert Hall

[\*\*Call of Duty League Major I Tournament\*\*](#)

Thursday, December 15 – Sunday, December 18  
Raleigh Convention Center

## **Public Resources**

[\*\*Pilot Text Alert Program\*\*](#): Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.



## Weekly Events Digest

Friday, December 9 – Thursday, December 15

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events  
[specialevents@raleighnc.gov](mailto:specialevents@raleighnc.gov) | 919-996-2200 | [raleighnc.gov/special-events-office](http://raleighnc.gov/special-events-office)

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**[Event Feedback Form](#)**: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

**[Road Closure and Road Race Map](#)**: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

**[Online Events Calendar](#)**: View all currently scheduled events that impact City streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.

# Council Member Follow Up



# CITY OF RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Herbert D. Griffin, Fire Chief

December 9, 2022

**Post Council Follow-Up Assignment:** CM Patton referenced the mulch fire at 3000 Gresham Lake Road Wall Recycling facility. Requesting clarification of City jurisdiction; should city regulate practices to improve operations; and Air Quality issues associated with fires of this type.

**Cause & Determination:** The fire at 3000 Gresham Lake Road fire was determined to be unintentional and has been classified as undetermined under National Fire Incident Reporting.

**Jurisdictional Responsibility:** 3000 Gresham Lake is not located within the incorporated City limits but is within the City of Raleigh's extraterritorial jurisdiction "ETJ". The provisions of the Fire Prevention Code are applicable and shall be enforced by the City within the City's ETJ. See City Code 5-2033 – The Raleigh Fire Department provides fire protection services to the property at 3000 Gresham Lake Drive pursuant to the terms of a Service Level Agreement between the City of Raleigh and Wake County.

The State of North Carolina, through the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (NCEMC) and further through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (NCDEQ's) Division of Air Resources (DAQ), is responsible for regulating air pollution within the State of North Carolina. See N.C. Gen Stat. 143-211c, 143-215.105, 143-215.107, and 143-215.108. At this time, the City does not have the authority to regulate air pollution within the Raleigh City limits or within its ETJ. The NCDEQ Division of Waste Management (DWM) regulated and permits solid waste management facilities, including landfills, in North Carolina. See N.C. Gen Stat. 130A-291 and 130 A-294.

Raleigh Fire Marshall, Wake County Fire Marshall, North Carolina Department of Air Quality, North Carolina Division of Waste Management, and North Carolina Forestry Service are planning to meet in January 2023 to perform an after-action review (AAR) of this incident. After the completion of the AAR, RFD Fire Marshall's Office will meet with Wall Recycling staff upon their reopening to discuss issues, concerns and next steps going forward to reduce future incidents. Raleigh Fire Department will continue to conduct the required inspections for the facility, as it relates to the mandate required inspection schedule according to the North Carolina Fire Code.