



Trans Activists at September 7 Buncombe County Schools Board Meeting

Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent, informed attendees at the start of the September Buncombe County Board of Education meeting that the State Board of Education is set to vote on the 2022-2023 state assessment results during their October session. Key highlights shared by Dr. Jackson include:

- A record number of twenty schools exceeded growth — the highest since 2015.
- Four schools previously marked as low-performing have improved.
- Seven schools enhanced by a whole letter grade in performance.
- 77% of schools met or surpassed growth expectations.
- The school district achieved its highest-ever cohort graduation rate.

Public Comments:

Numerous parents and community members addressed the recent enactment of the Parent's Bill of Rights in NC law.

Amber Merideth (pictured below), the PTO President of an Owen District school, voiced her strong concerns over the bill, drawing parallels with Nazi Germany.



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Talking Points: Protecting Childhood Innocence

While radical activists want the public to believe that conservatives are pushing for cruel and extremist measures that degrade and distress “transgender youth”, conservatives see such bills as necessary to protect children from procedures and practices that support efforts to normalize radical and unnatural beliefs around sexual identity. These false claims include:

- God and nature made a mistake by creating an abundance of baby girls with penises and baby boys with vaginas.

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Human Relations Commission of Asheville (HRCA) September 21 Meeting

Meetings for the Human Relations Commission of Asheville occur bi-monthly, specifically in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Unless stated otherwise, they are scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

Key Responsibilities of the Human Relations Commission include:

- Recommending policies to the Asheville City Council that bolster human relations and advocate for equity within the City.
- Actively backing the City's Office of Equity and Inclusion.
- Offering a platform for city residents to discuss human relations concerns.
- Engaging with the community about city-funded initiatives aimed at promoting human relations.
- Enhancing human relations and forwarding equity in public safety, education, arts, cultural experiences, economic growth, health services, and housing.



Meeting Updates

In a related development, City Attorney Brad Branham proposed alterations to the membership language in the ordinance (#4663) that founded the HRCA. These changes aim to reflect recent court rulings about admissions practices in institutions like Harvard and UNC-Chapel Hill. The intention is to facilitate equal opportunities for historically marginalized communities while avoiding any discrimination. The proposed amendment details can be found in the September 21 meeting documents.

In the latest meeting, Alyna Schmidt, an Equity & Inclusion Consultant/Analyst for Asheville, briefed members on the Crown Act's status. She emphasized that the City already prohibits discrimination based on hair under its existing laws. However, recognizing its significance, Schmidt, alongside commission chair Alma Atkins, presented their case successfully to the City Council's Equity and Engagement committee on August 15. This effort is to embed more comprehensive language

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“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

- Edmund Burke

Asheville's Accountability Crisis: Three Years Without an Internal Auditor

The Asheville City Audit Committee conducts quarterly meetings to fulfill its obligations, which are manifold and critically important for the proper functioning of municipal governance. These responsibilities include:

- Internal Auditing: Collaboratively reviewing internal audit reports with city management and external auditors.
- Financial Statements: Analyzing the city's financial statements to assess fiscal health and compliance.
- Council Reporting: Briefing the City Council on the committee's activities, existing issues, and any pertinent recommendations.
- Communication Channel: Serving as an open conduit for dialogue between internal auditors, external auditors, and the City Council.

The city's fiscal calendar runs from July 1 to June 30. Having recently wrapped up the 2022-23 fiscal year, we have just entered the 2023-24 fiscal year.



The Issue of Internal Auditing

Andrew Emory, the committee's Secretary, highlighted an unsettling issue: "...by January, we're going to be three and a half years of not having anyone functioning in an internal audit role." Committee member Debbie Evenchik expressed a similar sentiment, amplifying the need for a solution. (This discussion begins at the 39:57 timestamp on the meeting recording.)

In response, City Manager Debra Campbell informed the committee that the search for a new internal auditor is underway. Furthermore, she mentioned that the city is exploring outsourcing this essential function. She conceded that the city must improve its transparency concerning its endeavors to fill this vital role.

Accountability Questions

Campbell assured the committee that the city has robust internal mechanisms to

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Schools

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Other notable comments included:

- Adrienne Para, representing Youth Outright, urged the board to reconsider enforcing Senate Bill 49 and House Bill 574.
- Dr. Victoria Lyle expressed empathy toward the board's challenges with HB66 and stressed the importance of prioritizing children's rights.
- Reverend Sara Wilcox and Pastor Ronald Gates shared their perspectives on parental rights and current educational content, respectively.
- Concerns about the teaching of Critical Race Theory, the well-being of LGBTQ+ students, and recent changes in special education support were also brought to light by community members such as Courtney Blossman, Lauren Robertson Sizzick, Christy Cortis, Bill Robinson, and Erica Deaton.

Action Agenda Items:

The board unanimously approved a budget adjustment for a roof replacement project at N. Buncombe Middle School. Surprisingly, discussions related to other major expenses, like the \$3.5 million Central Services renovations, were brief, with limited board engagement.

Upcoming Meetings:

The Buncombe County Board of Education typically convenes for regular board meetings on the first Thursday of each month, adjusting for holidays as necessary. Meetings take place at the Minitorium, located at 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC 28806. The community and interested parties are encouraged to attend the next scheduled meeting on October 5th to stay informed and engage in discussions impacting our schools.

Keeping abreast of these meetings is crucial for all stakeholders to ensure that the education system continually meets the evolving needs of our students and community.

Protecting

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- Such boys and girls could and should remedy these mistakes through medical procedures such as castration, mastectomy and hormone therapy.
- Whether individuals agree with these falsehoods or not, they are required to play along.
- Educators are allowed to prevent the parents of school-aged children from learning that their kids have asked that educators and other students refer to them by "their preferred pronouns" and names.
- Parents have no right to know what is taught to their children in school about sexuality.

In what should be an unnecessary use of our government's resources, state legislators passed three bills this year that affirmed traditional, science-based truths.

HB 574 – Fairness in Women's Sports Act (Officially: AN ACT TO PROTECT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ATHLETICS)

- This bill applies across the state to public middle schools, high schools, community colleges, and the University of North Carolina.
- The bill also applies to charter schools competing against NC public schools.
- The bill specifies that the biological sex of an individual is used to determine a student's eligibility to participate on a team.
- The teams in question are designated as open to either:
 - Males, men, or boys.
 - Females, women, or girls.
 - Coed or mixed.

HB 808 – AN ACT TO PROHIBIT GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES FOR MINORS

- Opponents refer to this bill as "an attack on gender-affirming care for trans youth".
- However, reading the bill does not reveal any punitive measures to be taken against anyone for thinking that sex change therapies are safe or successful in children.
- The bill prevents adults from permitting children under eighteen to receive puberty blockers, mastectomies, or castrations without medical need for such treatments.
- The bill also prohibits the use of taxpayer funding for such treatments.
- The bill does not attempt to obstruct anyone aged eighteen or older from obtaining such therapies.
- Similarly, it is illegal to sell alcohol or tattoos to people in North Carolina under the age of eighteen.



SB 49 – Parents' Bill of Rights (Officially: AN ACT TO ENUMERATE THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS TO DIRECT THE UPBRINGING, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THEIR MINOR CHILDREN)

Activists have sometimes called this bill a North Carolina "Don't say 'gay' bill".

The bill enumerates specific rights of parents, such as those that follow:

- The right of parents to either consent OR NOT to sex education programs.
- The right of parents to seek medical or religious exemption for their children from immunization requirements.
- The right to acquire or review educational materials for their children's education.
- The right to opt in or OUT of surveys conducted by or on behalf of schools.

- The bill also requires that educators provide the full text of protected information surveys ten days before its administration to children.
- The right to see a record of materials checked out of the school library by their children.
- The right to be notified before any changes in the name or pronoun used for a student in school records or by school personnel.
- The right of parents to expect educators to encourage a child to discuss issues related to the child's well-being with their parent.
- Additionally, the bill prohibits instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality in the curriculum provided in grades kindergarten through fourth grade. However, it also specifies that this restriction does not include responses to student-initiated questions.

You can obtain the full text of these bills from either your elected state legislators or the state's legislative website. Obtain copies of the bills to validate the summary talking points above. Use the actual text of the bills to educate yourself and others on what these bills are and are not.

While you might think there is no need to legislate in opposition to the falsehoods listed at the top of this article, you might be mistaken if you do. You may think no one would ever demand support for these radical beliefs. If that is the case, you are not paying attention.

How do you think your Buncombe County state house representatives voted?

All three Buncombe County House of Representative members voted against the bills and supported Cooper's vetoes:

- District 114: Eric Ager
- District 115: Lindsey Prather
- District 116: Caleb Rudow
- Buncombe County Senate District 49 representative (Julie Mayfield) also voted against the bills and supported Cooper's vetoes.
- Buncombe County Senate District 46 representative (Warren Daniel) supported the bills and the override of Cooper's vetoes.

If you do not understand why your elected representatives voted as they did, you are entitled to reach out to them and ask for an explanation.

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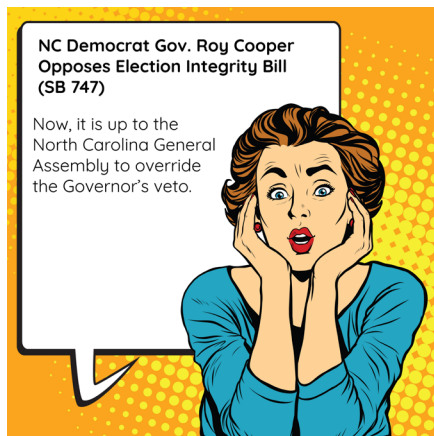


NC Senate Bill 747 - Elections Law Changes: Another Veto by Governor Cooper

During the current legislative session, the North Carolina General Assembly passed SB 747 which makes significant improvements to the security and integrity of North Carolina's elections:

- The bill will make it more difficult for people to cheat in elections, by requiring voters to show photo ID at early voting sites and by requiring felons who have completed their sentence and probation to wait longer to petition for restoration of their citizenship and by giving the Governor more discretion to deny petitions.
- Senate Bill 747 will also ensure that mail-in ballots are counted on time, by requiring voters to return their ballots by 7:30 PM on Election Day.
- Mail-in ballot deficiencies can be "cured" by voters. While previously due by 5:00 PM on election day, the new law sets the deadline at noon.
- The bill allows poll observers to move freely within polling places, record the voting process, and accompany officials transporting ballot boxes.
- The bill prohibits private funding for election administration - freeing elections from the influence of special interests.

This bill was passed and sent to Governor Roy Cooper's desk, but Governor Cooper vetoed it.



Consider writing, telephoning or visiting your representatives in Raleigh.

If you don't know who represents you, call the NC General Assembly's main phone line for assistance: (919) 733-7928.

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ACCOUNTABILITY

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ensure accountability, downplaying the absence of an internal auditor as a minor issue. However, the Finance Director Tony McDowell offered a more concrete timeline. He committed to having the internal auditor position filled, either by a city employee or a contractor, by January 2024.

Fiscal Management Concerns

It's worth noting that, according to city records, Campbell is the highest-paid city employee, earning a salary of \$231,138. In light of this hefty salary, one cannot ignore the mounting issues plaguing Asheville, such as escalating police officer attrition rates, increased violent crime and vagrancy, and an uptick in the homeless population in both downtown and suburban areas. Additionally, residents are still reeling from the week-long water outages last Christmas. These glaring missteps beg the question: What else could be going awry under Campbell's watch?

The City Council met in closed session on September 12 and agreed to extend Camp-

bell's contract, which expires December 2, 2023, by two more years.

August 24 Audit Committee Meeting

Tony McDowell informed the committee that Scott Powell has resigned as chair. Nate Hathaway, a new committee member, volunteered to assume this role and received unanimous approval from those in attendance.

The committee addressed the fiscal year-end audit process, which is slated to continue through October and be submitted by November 1st. Becki Ogle, Assistant Finance Director, elaborated on key dates pertaining to this audit.

Additional Resources

Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports can be accessed on the city's website. A copy of the year-end audit update reviewed at this Audit Committee Meeting can also be found on their website, not just desirable—they're essential. It's incumbent upon city officials to heed the concerns

Upcoming Audit Committee Schedule

November 14, 2023 at 10am

- Joint meeting with Policy, Finance, and Human Resources Committee to review fiscal year 2023 external audit results

Proposed committee schedule for calendar year 2024

- Months: January, April, August, November
- 3rd Thursday of the month at 3pm (except for joint November meeting)
- January 2024 meeting agenda will include update on the internal audit program

HRCA

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safeguarding natural hair and hairstyles into the City's nondiscrimination act. The proposal is slated for discussion in the October 10 Asheville City Council meeting.

Furthermore, Commissioner Crystal Michelle Reid shared insights on housing challenges in Asheville, highlighting system constraints and a pending 4,300 housing assistance applications at the Asheville Housing Authority. The Commissioners are mulling over inviting experts like Sasha Ratunski, the City's affordable housing coordinator, for deeper insights.

In conclusion, while the other sub-committees of the HRCA didn't have updates this time, the meeting showcased the Commission's ongoing dedication to addressing the very critical issues of equity, inclusion and hair discrimination in the City.

Scan the QR code to join our email distribution list for digital calls to action.



How Conservative Voices Are Making a Difference

Are you wondering how individual voices can collectively bring about significant change? Let's delve into two recent cases that highlight the tremendous impact of speaking up.

The Triumph of Buncombe Conservatives

In Buncombe County, conservatives rallied to support NC House Bill (HB) 66, which proposed district-based elections for the county's school board members. Targeting state Senator Warren Daniel (District 46) with a barrage of emails and phone calls, conservative constituents made their voices heard. Daniel had set a goal of securing at least 350 constituent supporters for the bill. Thanks to this concerted effort, that target was reached—and surpassed.

Overriding Vetoes: A Victory for Common-Sense Values

In a separate case, conservatives organized a grassroots campaign to prompt state house and senate members to override Governor Cooper's veto of three bills. After numerous emails and calls, Republican majorities in both houses voted to override the vetoes on August 16. It was a triumph achieved through the power of collective action.

The Power of Action

These examples serve as a vivid reminder that when we come together and raise our

DIFFERENCE

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voices, we can effect meaningful change. Civic engagement is more than just an ideal; it's a practical way to shape the policies and direction of our communities.

Taking the Next Steps

Ready to make an impact?

- Research local issues that align with your values.
- Attend local government committee meetings.
- Connect with your elected representatives via email or phone.
- Join grassroots campaigns that resonate with your beliefs.

Organizations like the John Birch Society, First Tuesday – Asheville, and National Association for Gun Rights, offer resources like prewritten emails and talking points. You can use these as a starting point or inspiration for your own communications.

By taking these active steps, you're not just participating in the democratic process; you're driving it. Whether you're a seasoned activist or a newcomer looking to make a difference, your voice counts. Make it heard.

Candidate Filing Deadlines for 2024 Elections

Those of you considering a run at public office in next year's elections need to be aware of the upcoming filing deadlines.

2024
Candidate Filing Information

When do I file?

State Offices, County Commissioners, Clerk of Court, Register of Deeds, Asheville City Council and Asheville School Board:

December 4, 2023, at 12:00 P.M. -
December 15, 2023, at 12:00 P.M.

Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

June 10, 2024 at 12:00 P.M. -
July 5, 2024, at 12:00 P.M.

Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain and Montreat:

July 5, 2024 at 12:00 P.M. -
July 19, 2024, at 12:00 P.M.

Buncombe County School Board:

July 5, 2024 at 12:00 P.M. -
August 2, 2024, at 12:00 P.M.

For more information, reach out to the Buncombe County Election Services office:

Victoria Pickens, Specialist
Accounting and Campaign Finance
P: (828) 250-4214

Election Services
59 Woodfin Place
Asheville, NC 28801
Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Also, elections will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, for the Town of Weaverville, Town of Woodfin and Woodfin Water & Sewer District. Sample ballots are available online or at Election Services.

Local Government Boards: A Training Ground for Future Leaders

Local government boards have a significant impact on public policy. They are populated by elected officials who claim to seek the voice of the people, and their recommendations often become ordinances, resolutions, or proclamations.

These boards are often the first place where conservatives can have their voices heard on important issues. By the time a measure comes before the Board of Education, City Council, or County Commissioners, most of the kinks have been ironed out and its passage is inevitable.

This means that conservatives have a limited window of opportunity to influence public policy. If we wait until the last minute to speak up, it will be too late.

That's why it's important for conservatives to get involved in local government boards. These boards are a training ground for future leaders, and they provide a valuable opportunity to shape public policy.

Of course, not all local government boards are created equal. Some are more open to conservative voices than others. But even on the most liberal boards, conservatives can make a difference by providing a different perspective and challenging the status quo.

So, if you're a conservative who wants to make a difference in your community, I encourage you to get involved in local government boards. It's a great way to have your voice heard and to help shape the future of your community.

Here are some tips for getting involved in local government boards:

- Do your research. Before you apply to serve on a board, learn as much as you can about the board's mission and responsibilities.
- Be prepared to answer questions. When you apply to serve on a board, you will likely be asked questions about your experience, your views on public policy, and your commitment to the board's mission.
- Be a team player. Once you are appointed to a board, it's important to be willing to work with people from different backgrounds and with different viewpoints.
- Be persistent. If you don't get appointed to a board the first time you apply, don't give up. Keep applying, and eventually, you will be successful.

I believe that conservatives have a lot to offer local government boards. We bring a different perspective and a commitment to limited government. We also have a strong work ethic and a willingness to serve our communities.

I urge you to get involved in local government boards. It's a great way to make a difference in your community and to help shape the future of our country.



Our Mission

First Tuesday is a conservative advocacy organization that amplifies the voices of Buncombe County conservatives through public events, social media, and other channels. We believe that all voices deserve to be heard, and we strive to give conservatives a platform to share their perspectives.

Our Vision

We envision a community of active and vocal WNC conservatives who are informed about the issues affecting our quality of life and who are willing to use their voices to influence the government, business, and media in a way that promotes conservative values.

Our Beliefs

- We believe that conservative values are essential to a healthy society, and we promote those values through our actions and our words.
- We believe that conservatives have a unique perspective to offer on a wide range of issues, and we share that perspective with the public.
- We believe diversity of voices is essential to a healthy democracy, and we promote that diversity.
- We believe that we can make a difference in the world by working together.

Visit us on the web:

<https://www.FirstTuesCons.com>

- Calls to Action
- Citizen Resources
- Local Government Activities News
- Local Govt Committees Information
- Newsletter Archives

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We advocate for freedom, law enforcement, election integrity, and fiscal responsibility. We are also fighting against illegal immigration, indoctrination of children, and big government.

Our activities are focused on Buncombe County and the City of Asheville.

Join your voice with ours,
and let's make some noise.