



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
October 29, 2021

There is still no agreement between Governor Cooper, Speaker Moore and President Pro Tem Berger regarding the state budget bill. The disagreements appear to be over healthcare, education and taxes. In an attempt to move the negotiations forward, Governor Cooper, Senate leader Phil Berger, House Speaker Tim Moore, House Democratic leader Robert Reives and Senate Democratic leader Dan Blue met at the Executive Mansion to discuss the budget bill. Governor Cooper provided a budget counteroffer on Wednesday, but it was not accepted by legislative leaders. It is unclear if/when an agreement will be reached on the state budget, which most likely means the legislative session will last at least until Thanksgiving, if not beyond.

North Carolina lawmakers will soon vote on how exactly to draw the state's political maps for the next decade. The maps could go a long way toward determining the political makeup of the state legislature until 2032, as well as the partisan balance of North Carolina's 14 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. As of Friday, lawmakers were nearly done drawing their proposed maps. The redistricting committees have scheduled meetings early next week, and will likely vote on the preferred maps, with full approval possible later in the week. The legislature held public hearings last Monday and Tuesday for the public to weigh in. So far, every Republican-drawn map draft that is posted publicly would be expected to lead to 10-4 or 11-3 splits in favor of Republicans in the congressional delegation, if people continue to vote as they did in in the 2020 presidential election.

One of the interesting issues with redistricting is whether new maps result in "double bunking", or placing two incumbents in the same district. Based on the current draft maps, U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx from Watauga County nearly got double-bunked with Republican congressman, Madison Cawthorn. But mapmakers managed to carve out a tiny sliver of Watauga from Cawthorn's new district that just so happens to contain Foxx's home. Regarding state legislative districts, the following lawmakers are in a "double bunking" position as the maps are currently drawn:

House: Rep. Julia Howard (R-Davie) and Rep. Lee Zachary (R-Yadkin); Rep. Ed Goodwin (R-Chowan) with Rep. Bobby Hanig (R-Currituck); Rep. Jamie Boles (R-Moore) with Rep. Ben Moss (R-Richmond); Rep. David Rogers (R-Rutherford) with Rep. Jake Johnson (R-Polk); Rep. Carson Smith (R-Pender) with Rep. William Brisson (R-Bladen)

Senate: Sen. Ralph Hise (R-Mitchell) with Sen. Deanna Ballard (R-Watauga); Sen. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan) with Sen. Norm Sanderson (R-Pamlico); Sen. Dave Craven (R-Randolph) with Sen. Tom McInnis (R-Richmond); Sen. Natasha Marcus (D-

Mecklenburg) with Sen. Vickie Sawyer (R-Iredell); Sen. Michael Garrett (D-Guilford) with Sen. Gladys Robinson (D-Guilford); Sen. Mujtaba Mohammed (D-Mecklenburg) and Sen. Joyce Waddell (D-Mecklenburg)

Based on the current versions of the maps, several incumbents will have districts that could prove difficult to win in their new forms, with partisan leanings that favor the other party. They are: Sen. Ernestine Bazemore (D-Bertie), Sen. Toby Fitch (D-Wilson), Sen. Lisa Barnes (R-Nash), Sen. Sydney Batch (D-Wake), Sen. Danny Britt (R-Robeson), Sen. Natasha Marcus (D-Mecklenburg, who's double-bunked with a Republican incumbent); Rep. Brian Farkas, (D-Pitt), Rep. John Szoka (R-Cumberland), Rep. Diane Wheatley (R-Cumberland), Rep. Terence Everitt (D-Wake), Rep. Larry Yarborough (R-Person), House Democratic Leader Robert Reives (D-Chatham), Rep. Rachel Hunt (D-Mecklenburg) and Rep. Brian Turner (D-Buncombe).

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday November 1.

For more information about legislation described in the legislative reports, feel free to contact us at mfrazier@nexsenpruet.com or dferrell@nexsenpruet.com, or at (919) 573-7421. Information is also available on the General Assembly's website: www.ncleg.gov.

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