



# ORANGE GOP

## Orange County Conservative News

Volume 1, Edition 2

July 2020

### Save the Dates

**No OC GOP Monthly Meeting**  
on July 9 due to Convention

**NC GOP Convention**  
July 10-11, Greenville

**Ice Cream Social**  
Sunday, July 19, 12-3 PM  
OC GOP Headquarters

**OC GOP Monthly Meeting**  
Aug 13, OC GOP Headquarters

**RNC Convention**  
August 24-27, Charlotte

**BBQ, Bluegrass & the Bill of Rights**  
Oct 3, Exchange Club Park

### Get Involved!

The Orange County GOP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors who are interested in smaller and more effective government that follows conservative principles.

#### We need your help!

Please consider ways you can assist: organizing events, making phone calls, writing articles, working at the polls, attending county commission meetings, and more! To volunteer, visit [orange.nc.gop/volunteer](https://orange.nc.gop/volunteer).

To join our email list, visit our website <https://orange.nc.gop> and sign up!

Questions? Email us at [Chairmanocncgop@centurylink.net](mailto:Chairmanocncgop@centurylink.net)

**OC GOP Headquarters:**  
125 Boone Square Street  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
(919) 245-1777



Join us on July 4th for a **Reading of the Declaration of Independence** from 11 AM – 12 PM in front of the Hillsborough Courthouse with guest speakers, sidewalk chalk for kids, voter registration, USA b-day celebration.

Cool off at our **Ice Cream Social** on Sunday, July 19, 12-3 PM, Orange County GOP Office, 125 Boone Square Street. Come out and see your conservative friends and meet new people.



### Chair's Corner

**Winning the 2020 elections** will move North Carolina and the USA in the **right** direction into the next decade. The current polls are unreliable. We question Joe Biden's soundness of mind, the media in general is still not getting it right on President Trump, the pandemic has been challenging, and riots and protests all paint a negative picture in the pre-election landscape. However, President Trump always emerges stronger and rises above the fray continuing to lead the American people. His focus is on the recovery of the economy and bringing America back to a sense of normalcy while keeping an eye on Covid-19. The expectation is that the economy will improve by the last quarter of the year.

What all of us need to do is **get involved NOW** and help get more conservatives registered and showing up at the polls or requesting and casting their absentee ballot for the upcoming November election. We cannot afford to have low turnout in 2020 as all our votes count in the aggregate for state and Federal candidates. (Ballot request at [orange.nc.gop/voter\\_info](https://orange.nc.gop/voter_info))

You can help by going to [orange.nc.gop/volunteer](https://orange.nc.gop/volunteer) and volunteering for an area of interest. Please share a [donation](#) to the OCGOP and support our cause and our strong candidates.

- *Waddy Davis, Colonel (Ret.) US Army Special Forces  
Chairman, Orange County Republican Party*

### OC BOCC Update by Riley Ruske

Orange County has the **highest** property and sales taxes in the state. In June, the Board of Commissioners passed next year's budget. It increases already bloated and wasteful spending by over \$1 million, resulting in a two-year increase in spending of \$15 million. This is not an austerity budget—spending increases to \$273.6 million. There will still be more spending as federal and state funds pour in for Wuhan virus programs. The county manager is warning of an increase in the property tax rate of 5.26 cents over the next two years!!! The problem is not a revenue problem; revenues are expected to increase about \$4 million. **The problem is a spending and borrowing problem.**

### Precinct Leadership by Kathy Arab, St. John Precinct

When Election Day rolls around do you say to yourself, "America's problems are so daunting that I don't think my vote will make any difference"? Nothing could be further from the truth--as the elections of both Obama and Trump have revealed. **A precinct chair can make a huge difference** in conveying to individuals the value of their vote. Personal communication is the key.

When conservative voters realize that others in their part of town share their concerns, they will feel supported. And, when the precinct chair keeps them informed of candidate details, issues alerts, and opportunities to meet other like-minded voters, they will feel empowered. We need to do whatever it takes to involve conservatives in the electoral process. The 2020 election is a critical turning point for America's Representative Republic.

**Now is the time to consider serving as a precinct chair or in some other volunteer capacity.** The Orange County GOP is preparing to launch a **"Get Out the Vote"** for President Trump and our strong Republican candidates. We need your help! If you are interested in learning about how we plan to do this and may want to volunteer, please contact one of the following: OCGOP Office (919-245-1777); Waddy Davis, Chair (919-259-8837); John Gaither, Vice Chair (336-314-1610); or Trish Randall, Secretary (919-732-4389). Should you get an answering machine, please leave a message with your name and number. Someone will contact you.

## General Assembly Update by Senator Phil Berger, Sr.

**This year's session has been unlike any other.** The \$1 billion surplus we expected in January turned into a \$5 billion deficit by May. Although this downturn is more severe than any forecaster ever imagined, we're in a better position than just about every other state in the country to withstand it because we've been planning for it for 10 years.

We have several billion dollars in cash reserves at our disposal. Compare that to 2008, when the Democratic-controlled legislature had hardly anything in the Rainy Day Fund. We've also turned the \$2.5 billion unemployment reserve deficit we inherited into a \$4 billion surplus. Our credit rating is the best possible. Taxes, which used to be the highest in the southeast, are now among the lowest in the nation, allowing our state's residents to save more of the money they take home.

We gave our teachers the third-highest pay raise in the entire country over the last five years, and we currently rank second in the southeast. In 2009 and 2010, Democrats had to fire teachers and slash their salaries because of their unsustainable spending habits. But today, it's very unlikely that any teachers will lose their jobs and we even gave teachers yet another raise for next year.

This session proves that good governing – preparation, discipline, savings, saying "no" from time to time – pays off. Deep blue states like New York and California that spend in the boom years will have to raise taxes or cut core services to deal with their deficits. But not here, because we've been preparing for this all decade.

## Elections in the Era of COVID-19

On June 12, Governor Cooper signed into law the **Bipartisan Elections Act of 2020** (House Bill 1169), intended to address concerns over voting during the pandemic. Key provisions of the law include:

- Witness requirements for absentee ballots are *reduced* from two to one.
- Requests for absentee ballots may now be submitted by email or fax.
- Multipartisan Assistance Teams (MAT) that assist voters in hospitals, nursing homes, etc., may now serve *any* voter who requests assistance in 2020.
- The State Board of Elections is required to set up an online portal for absentee ballot requests by Sep. 1.
- Elections officials are prohibited from conducting an all mail-in ballot election or from sending absentee ballots without a valid request. Doing so constitutes a Class I Felony.
- Public assistance IDs are now acceptable for photo ID purposes. As the photo ID law is currently stalled in the courts, this will not be in effect unless the injunctions are lifted.
- Federal CARES Act funds are allocated to provide counties with resources for safety measures (e.g., PPE) and other unanticipated expenses resulting from COVID-19.

While some of these changes are positive and necessary, others are worrisome and open the door to election fraud by relaxing requirements and creating avenues for ballot harvesting, i.e., absentee ballot misuse. Republicans will need to be vigilant and serve locally in their precincts to protect the integrity of our elections!



**Orange County Needs You!** Orange County is expecting a short supply of Republican Election Judges for the November election. Please consider serving your county (and your country) by agreeing to be nominated for this important task. You'll be paid for your time, and training will be provided if you are selected. If you are interested or have questions, please call Bob Randall at 919.732.4389 or 919.638.5418 or you may call the Orange County Board of Elections at 919.245.2350.

