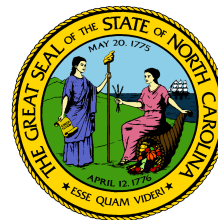




SENATOR VALERIE P. FOUSHEE

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From My Seat On Jones Street...

November 21, 2016

Thank you!

Thank you to all of the volunteers, advocates, and supporters throughout this campaign. Many of you spent countless hours and dedicated your gifts and resources to help ensure my re-election to the NC Senate on Tuesday, November 8th.

Because of your support, we received 68% of the vote. Our strong victory here in Orange & Chatham Counties says as much about you as it does me: you have demonstrated your dedication to quality education, women's rights, a strong economy, a protected environment, and equality for all North Carolinians. Thank you for your commitment to a better future for all North Carolinians.

I am honored and humbled to represent you. I still believe that we are Stronger Together, and that side by side with supporters like you, we will keep fighting for a more just North Carolina.

Prospect of Legislative Influence on Election Outcomes in Special Session:

There has been speculation recently that Republicans want to use the special session to address both Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts and to sway the outcome of the recent elections in their favor.

- The prospect that elected officials would manipulate the outcome of the elections undermines the democratic process and the will of the people.
- If Republicans have no intention to do this, we encourage them to speak out against the idea that the legislature would override the voters' decision.
- People are best served when they have balanced representation among political parties. The outcome of this election is a step in the right direction for North Carolina to achieve fair, balanced government.

Investments in Early Childhood Education Paying Off:

A new study out from Duke University shows the long-term investment that North Carolina made in early childhood education and preschool programs are paying off. The findings conclude that children who had been in the state programs had higher test scores, less grade retention and fewer special education placements through fifth grade.

- The report from Duke reaffirms our belief in the value of investing in our kids through programs such as Smart Start, More at Four and the NC Pre-K program.
- Investments in public education will always yield results and we cannot abandon that.
- In the continuous decline in overall per-pupil spending the past six years, student success rates are suffering.
- According to the Department of Public Instruction, the percentage of students performing at or above proficiency in both English and Math between third and eighth grade dropped from 66 percent in 2007 to 34 percent in 2015.
- We're losing ground on overall student success and we must continue to protect and promote successful programs from early childhood education on up through college.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Agriculture/Environment/
Natural Resources

Appropriations: Base Budget

Appropriations: Justice & Public
Safety

Commerce

Education/Higher Education

Government

Joint Oversight Committee on
Program and Evaluation

Joint Oversight Committee on
Health & Human Services

Judiciary I

State & Local Government

Living Income Standards Report Show that NC Families are Struggling to Get Ahead:

A recent report from the Budget and Tax Center paints a grim picture for those living above the federal poverty line but well under the living income standards. Working people are still unable to make enough to meet basic needs and are being left behind in the midst of the state's post-recession economy.

- In our current economic climate, one in five families can't afford the basics in North Carolina: food, shelter, transportation, and health care coverage.
- The Budget and Tax Center assesses the living income standard as the average income needed to meet a family's basic needs. A family of four needs to earn an average of \$53,968 to meet those needs in our state – in many counties, the cost is higher. However, the average household income in North Carolina last year was \$47,830.

Additional points from the report:

1. Families are pursuing various strategies to cope with the low-wage labor market.
2. A growing number of workers have more than one full-time job.
3. Some workers are choosing to live farther from their workplaces to save on housing costs, often resulting in increased transportation costs. Others use family and social networks to secure childcare and transportation at lower costs.
4. In some cases, families postpone major expenses, such as needed car repairs, or increase their debt load to finance unexpected expenses.

When we fail to meet the needs of North Carolina families through the creation of quality jobs, effective workforce training and sound and supportive economic policies that serve both business growth and personal economic mobility then we have failed our state as a whole.

Read the full report [here](#).



Sen. Foushee with Ethiopian Israeli University Students visiting the US completing a project: Integrating Minorities into the Public and Private Sectors

Please continue to contact my office to share your concerns on issues or if my office can be of any assistance to you. Thank you for allowing me to represent you in Raleigh.

Sincerely,

Valerie
Foushee
STATE SENATE

CONNECT

