

## Legislative Update

*From Rep. Frank McGuirt:* The General Assembly returned to Raleigh last week for a one-day session to reconsider the redistricting plans written earlier this year. A computing problem resulting from the splitting of hundreds of voting precincts into two and sometimes three districts left as many as 480,000 voters unassigned to districts for the state House of Representatives, the state Senate and Congress. Plans for Wake County judicial districts and Greene County were also affected.

While the legislators in charge of redistricting attempted to characterize the omission of these voters as a minor technical glitch, I joined with many of my colleagues to oppose their work. The state Constitution allows redistricting to occur only once every 10 years unless a court rules that the plan fails to meet legal standards. That has not happened in this case. In this case, the law includes a provision that spells out how districts left unassigned – for whatever reasons – are to be assigned. That law went into place once the majority approved the plan and it produced maps that did not look like the plan the majority submitted for approval to the Department of Justice. Instead, about 15 of the districts were disjointed. Others were out of balance for population.

The majority should have realized that their maps were unconstitutional, scrapped them and started over. They chose instead to ignore the law and go back last week to change a redistricting plan that had already received preliminary approval on some issues from the federal government. Their decision has worsened an already bad plan and I voted against their proposed changes.

If you would like additional information about the redistricting plans approved by the General Assembly, visit [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net) and click on the "Redistricting" tab at the top of the page.

The new majority continues to lengthen the amount of time they want legislators in Raleigh. Though many people in North Carolina want and expect a part-time legislature, the General Assembly has been called back to Raleigh three times already and at least three more meetings are scheduled before the start of the 2012 session. The next session for now is scheduled for Nov. 27 and we are told that we will be in town for about three days. We are expected to consider a plan to fix the payment schedules for teachers after legislation approved this year prohibited them from receiving full paychecks in August. We are also eligible to consider disaster relief legislation; legislation concerning the state's gaming compact with the Cherokee Tribe in western North Carolina, redistricting, veto override votes and other matters. Sessions have also been scheduled for February and April. Since adjourning regular session, legislators have been called into special sessions for a total of nearly three work weeks. Each day of session costs the state an estimated \$50,000.

I continue work with my friend and colleague, Rep. Bill Faison on our state's economic problems. We all know that many people in our State are in desperate economic straits. Over 500,000 are out of work according to the Employment Security Commission. People who have taken part time work or who have given up looking are not even counted. The real unemployment is probably 12-17.5 percent unless you are African American, in which event the unemployment rate is doubled.

More than 50,000 people newly applied for unemployment benefits in September. When jobs are lost it is now taking longer than any time in the last 60 years to find employment and then on the average the person takes a 17.5 percent cut in pay. As a result of the Budget passed this summer, almost 35,000 people are losing their jobs including teachers and teachers' aides. Moreover, class sizes are growing as the number of teachers decline, and per pupil spending sinks to 49th nationally. WE CAN FIX THIS.

Rep. Faison has a plan which I support. We contend both political parties should be working together to solve the problems. People need help and are not interested in partisan posturing or ideology that sacrifices jobs and livelihoods. As members of the Business Caucus we propose that we work together on a JOBS plan to put people back to work. We can do this by cutting the penny sales tax by 30 percent and putting a .7 cent sales tax back in the Budget. This will fully fund rehiring every teacher, teachers' aide and State employee who lost their job in the Budget, fully fund Medicaid and SCHIP (and provide slacks and shoes for the State Highway Patrol—as their uniform funds have been depleted). Moreover, we should repeal SL2011-390 which creates a \$39 million dollar corporate loophole and invest the money in education. Legislation is already drafted to reduce unemployment and has previously been presented to the Speaker.

Rep. Faison and several of us working with him continue to say that working together, WE CAN FIX THIS.

Remember that I serve you. I need to hear your ideas and opinions and let me know when I can be of assistance of you with issues of state government. Email me at [Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net](mailto:Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net) or call my Raleigh office at 919-715-3007.

## Ansonville Elementary School Honor Rolls

Ansonville Elementary School would like to recognize the following students who made Honor Roll for the first nine weeks of school.

### A HONOR ROLL

**3rd Grade** Jayden Baucom, Taylor Burr, Madison Dutton, Emily Edwards, Lisbet Granados, Kennedy Jones, Jackson Ross, Drew Thomas and Jayden Visceglie.

**4th Grade** A.J. Harrington, Dalton Hill, Gavin Jones, Garrett Maner, Akela Martin, T.J. Sommerville, and Nkaijnhub Vue.

**5th Grade** Grace Morgan, Grayson Preslar and Jordan Sikes.

**6th Grade** Taylor Austin, Joshua Barbour, Matthew Burns, Erin Kelley, Cydney Livingston, Hannah Ross and Naiya Woodburn.

### A/B HONOR ROLL

**3rd Grade** Matthew Ashby, Datravn Davis, James Downer, Bianca Garmon, Taylor Golden, Daniel Hartung, Zachery Hathcock, Norland Ingram, Nevaeh Lilly, Tyreke Massey, Desmond Pegues, Santiago Ponce, Meredith Preslar, Zaumauriai Smith, Mya Sturdivant, Syriniti Wall and Railey Wilkins.

**4th Grade** Asia-Baker, Rasheed Burns, Jessica Cardoso, Briyana Clyburn, Tyler Gathings, Daisyia Hardison, Kurstin Hartsell, Hailey Hartung, Jatwann Howard, Madisen Kirby, Colby Lee, Kaylee Lomax, Rieley Pope, Raven Spencer, Kazoua Thao, Jake Thomas and Amber Walsh.

**5th Grade** Sarah Allen, Kaitlyn Baucom, Jessica Hall, Kassidy High, Abbey Hill, Brooklyn Housley, Madison Hyatt, Andrew James, Dylan McKowen, Joshua Polk, JaMiyah Sturdivant, Marley Tarlton, Chloe Thomas, Charlie Wallace and Alex Walsh.

**6th Grade** Gerald Cannon, Lauren Dutton, Tommy Fowler, China Garris, Na'Asia Griffin, Shellie Hathcock, James Horne, Marah Jacobs, Ethan Johnson, Kyle Phillips, Jylecia Richardson, Miranda Smith-Christian, Savannah Sommerville, Pala Thao, Morgan Thomas, Karrington Tupper and My Vue.

## Parks and Rec Youth Basketball Registration

Starting November 14th and running through December 16th, Anson County Parks and Recreation will be offering registration for Youth Basketball, Kindergarten through 12th grade, boys and girls.

You may come to Little Park to register, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration will also take place at these schools:

- Monday, December 5th, 3 - 5 p.m. at Peachland-Polkton and Ansonville Elementary Schools

- Wednesday, December 7th, 3 - 5 p.m. at Wadesboro Elementary School Gym and Wadesboro Primary School

The deadline to register is Friday, December 16th. The cost is \$25 per player. For more information call Wanda Chappell at 704-694-5868 or Wendell Small at 704-694-5751.

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*11-30x1pd*

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