



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging Mid-Month Update – November 16, 2016

Elections Over – Now What? – It has been over a week now since the elections, and for the most part we know who our state and national leaders will be. What remains to be seen; however, is how older adults and the programs and services that impact them will fare in the next several years.

The State Scene – As is widely known, the race for Governor of the state is so close it still has not been called, Republicans won a majority of the Council of State seats for the first time, and Democrats won control of the N.C. Supreme Court with the election of Superior Court Judge Mike Morgan. We also know that Republicans held onto veto proof-majorities in both the State House of Representatives and the State Senate with the Republicans winning (unofficially) 74 of the 120 House seats and 35 of the 50 Senate seats. Whether the Republican veto-proof majorities remain intact for the entire next two-year legislative session may depend on the courts. Last August a three-judge panel declared nine Senate and 19 House districts drawn by Republicans in 2011 unconstitutional because they are illegal racial gerrymanders. Federal judges could order that Senate and House districts be remapped in early 2017 and special elections be held later in the year. A U.S. Supreme Court decision next year on a similar racial gerrymandering lawsuit involving the state's congressional districts could impact the ruling on the legislative maps. It has been announced that House Speaker Tim Moore is facing a challenge from fellow Republican Representative Harry Warren from Salisbury for the Speaker's position. Warren has been aligned with the more conservative wing of the Republican caucus.

New Faces in State Legislature – When the General Assembly convenes on January 11, there will be a number of new faces including:

Senate (pick up of one seat by the Republicans):

- **Republican Rick Horner** replaces Republican Senator Buck Newton, who ran unsuccessfully for Attorney General, in District 11. Horner is a former Nash-Rocky Mount Board of Education member.
- **Republican Danny Britt** replaces one-term incumbent Democrat Senator Jane Smith in District 13. Britt is the owner of Britt Law Firm in Lumberton and a major with the North Carolina National Guard.

- **Republican Cathy Dunn** of Lexington who founded Biscuit King Restaurants won the District 33 seat vacated by Republican Senator Stan Bingham.
- **Republican Paul Newton**, a retired attorney who worked for Duke Energy for 25 years, won the District 36 seat vacated by Republican Senator Fletcher Hartsell.
- **Republican Dan Bishop** won the seat vacated by Republican Senator Bob Rucho in District 39. Bishop served one term in the House representing District 104 during the 2015-16 legislative session.

House (pick up of one seat by the Democrats):

- **Republican Beverly Boswell**, a Dare County Commissioner, won the District 6 seat. This seat was previously held by Representative Paul Tine who resigned. Tine was the only unaffiliated member of the General Assembly.
- **Republican Donna White** won the seat vacated by Republican Representative Leo Daughtry in District 26. She is a member of the Johnston County School Board and is on staff at the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services. She is a nurse and has extensive experience in home health care and health policy.
- **Republican Larry Strickland** won the District 28 seat that was vacated by Republican Representative James Langdon. Strickland is a Johnston County School Board member.
- **Democrat Phillip Lehman**, who has served as assistant attorney general, has been named by the Durham County Democratic Party to represent District 30. Deceased Democrat Representative Paul Luebke's name was on the ballot for the election which he won.
- **Republican Linda-Hunt-Williams** won the seat vacated by Republican House Speaker Pro Tempore Paul "Skip" Stam in District 37.
- **Democrat Joe John** beat incumbent Republican Marilyn Avila, a deputy majority leader and joint caucus chair, in District 40. John served as a judge in Guilford County and on the N.C. Court of Appeals. Representative Avila serves as a chair of the Health and Human Services Joint Legislative Oversight Committee and also chaired the Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee.
- **Republican Brenden Jones** won the seat vacated by Democrat Ken Waddell in District 46. He lost against Waddell in 2014.
- **Democrat Cynthia Ball** beat incumbent Republican Representative Gary Pendleton in District 49. Ball is a certified mediator.
- **Republican John Sauls**, a pastor from Lee County, beat one-term Democrat incumbent Representative Brad Salmon in District 51. Sauls served in the House during the 2003-04 session.
- **Democrat Mary Belk** beat incumbent Republican Representative Bob Bryan in District 88. Belk is a small business owner with deep community and civic roots.

- **Democrat Chaz Beasley**, a Harvard-educated lawyer, won the seat in District 92 vacated by Republican Representative Charles Jeter who retired in July.
- **Republican Mike Clampitt** beat two-term incumbent Democratic Representative Joe Sam Queen who also served three terms in the Senate. Clampitt ran against Queen in 2012 as well as 2014.

The National Level – All 12 of North Carolina’s U.S. House incumbents won re-election as did incumbent Republican U.S. Senator Richard Burr. Republican Ted Budd, a political newcomer, won the open seat in the 13th Congressional District. The state continues to have 10 Republican U.S. House members and 3 Democrats. Both of the state’s U.S. Senators are Republican.

With Republicans in control of the White House with the election of Donald Trump and both the U.S. House and the Senate, aging advocates will be watching to see if issues of importance to older adults and their families are on the radar. In President-elect Trump’s “100 Day Action Plan to Make America Great Again” he states that he will work with Congress to introduce legislation within the first 100 days of his administration that allows Americans to deduct childcare and eldercare from their taxes, incentivize employers to provide on-site childcare services and create tax-free dependent care savings accounts for both young and elderly dependents, with matching contributions for low-income families. During the election, President-elect Trump also promised to protect Social Security and Medicare. There appear; however, to be some red flags surfacing that Trump’s transition team has a number of people on this who would like to see Social Security privatized. Speaker of the House U.S. Paul Ryan has also told news sources in recent days that privatizing Medicare is high on the Republican party’s to-do list.

Lame Duck Congress – Congress returned Monday from a seven-week election recess for a brief lame duck session. Chief among the actions that must be taken is passing spending bills that will keep the government running. The government is currently functioning under a stopgap spending bill that expires on December 9. Some top Republicans want to pass the bills that would fund the government for a full fiscal year through September of 2017. Since the election; however, some GOP lawmakers are talking about extending the current spending bill through March of 2017 which would allow President-elect Trump and the Republican-controlled House and Senate to start address their agenda early next year. Of great concern to aging advocates is funding for the Medicare State Health Insurance Program (funds SHIP in North Carolina) and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The House appropriators proposed level funding for both programs and the Senate budget writers proposed eliminating all funding for the State Health Insurance Program and cutting SCSEP by \$34 million

Post-Election News Reports of Note – Check these stories out to learn more about the political landscape:

N.C. Health News – November 14, 2016 – [“What the Election Could Mean for Older North Carolinians”](#)

N.C. Health News – November 10, 2016 – [“What the Election Means: Health Care in NC”](#)

NCOA Blog – November 15, 2016 – [“Election 2016: What’s on the Horizon for Aging Policy?”](#)

WUNC Public Radio – November 11, 2016 – [“How Gerrymandered Districts Helped GOP Keep Veto-Proof Majority”](#)

The Massow Blog – November 11, 2016 – [“After GOP Wins, Paul Ryan Puts Medicare in the Crosshairs”](#)

Fox News – November 12, 2015 – [“Trump Advisers Back Deregulation, Privatized Social Security”](#)

The Charlotte Observer – November 10, 2016 – [“Trump, Congress Expected to ‘Repeal, Replace’ Obamacare, but With What?”](#)

McClatchy Washington Bureau – November 14, 2016 – [“Lame-Duck Congress Returns to Work as Deadline Looms to Prevent Shutdown”](#)

Associated Press – November 14, 2016 – [“Readying for Trump, Congress Faces Lame Duck To-Do List”](#)

2017 Medicare Premiums and Deductibles – On November 10, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the 2017 premiums for the Medicare inpatient hospital (Part A) and physician and outpatient hospital services (Part B) programs. To learn more, click [here](#).

Accelerating the Provision of Home and Community-Based Services – Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [a request seeking information and data on additional reforms and policy options that can be considered to accelerate the provision of home and community-based services \(HCBS\)](#) to Medicaid beneficiaries, taking into account issues affecting beneficiary choice and control, program integrity, rate setting, quality infrastructure, and the homecare workforce. Comments are due by January 9, 2017.

November is National Caregiver Month – As you look to promote Caregiver Month, check out some of the great resources that are available to help support caregivers:

NCOA – [Video That Highlights Tools to Make Caregivers’ Lives Easier](#)

Administration for Community Living – [Take Care to Give Care: ACL’s Mission to Support Families and Family Caregivers](#)

National Institute on Aging – [Featured Health Topic: Caregiving](#)

Report on Family Caregiver’s Needs in Managed Long-Term Services and Supports – The AARP Public Policy Institute has issued the first major report on family caregivers’ needs within the emerging field of managed long-term services and supports (LTSS). The report notes that while family caregiver supports are still uncommon in managed LTSS, managed care contracts can lead the way in standardizing a person and family-centered approach, resulting in better care for both members and their families. To view the report, click [here](#).

On-Line Caregiver Fair November 17 – AARP will hold an on-line family caregiver fair on Thursday, November 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This free event will allow caregivers to connect with fellow caregivers and view helpful tips and resources to help care for a loved one; chat with representatives from various government agencies, non-profit organizations and AARP program; and view live webinars, including one featuring caregiving expert Sherri Snelling and actress Holly Robinson Peete who simultaneously cared for a father with Parkinson’s disease and a son with autism. Click [here](#) to register for the fair.

LGBT Caregiver Perspectives – According to the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, 9% of America’s caregivers identify as LGBT. When LGPT people give or receive care, new dimensions and unexpected issues can arise. A recent article in [US News and World Report](#) five people share their unique perspective on LGBT caregiving.

Check Out This Video – Check out this upbeat YouTube [video](#) by the seniors at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro. Way to go y’all!

Air Quality Outreach to Older Adults – The Division of Air Quality in the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality has programming related to air quality outreach for older adults. The program is called KNOW THE CODE and it is a multi-county effort to increase awareness and use of the air quality forecast system (code) to help adults 55 and older better plan their outdoor activities and take steps to protect their health. Various educational materials and presentations are available free of charge. Older adults are identified as a sensitive group of the population who are at risk from the health effects of air pollution. To find out more, click [here](#) or contact Robin Barrows with the Division of Air Quality at (919) 707-8445 or at robin.barrows@ncdenr.gov.

Additional News and Resources of Interest:

- Congratulations to **Nancy Warren** who will retire at the end of the month from the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services as an Adult Services Program Administrator. Nancy has been a passionate advocate for vulnerable older adults and was manager for services including adult protective services and guardianship. We wish her well in her retirement.
- The **Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services** will meet on November 29 at 8:30 a.m. in room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. The **Joint**

Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and N.C. Health Choice will meet that same day and in the same room at 1:00 p.m.

- According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the **average out-of-pocket expenses for health care services** in 2014 were \$1,253 for people 65 and older. To learn more, click [here](#).

Additional Articles/Stories:

The Street – November 10, 2016 – [“Why America’s Health Care Quality Lags the World”](#)

National Institute on Aging – November 15, 2016 – [“Zika Virus and Older Adults: What You Need to Know”](#)

Reuters Health – October 31, 2016 – [“Some Groups Getting Left Behind in Advance Care Planning”](#)

Kaiser Health News – November 10, 2016 – [“How to Spend Your Final Months at Home, Sweet Home”](#)

The New York Times – October 31, 2016 – [“The High Costs of Not Offering Paid Sick Leave”](#)

December Coalition Meeting – The Coalition is pleased that Secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Rick Brajer, will join us for the Coalition’s last meeting of the year on December 9. Secretary Brajer was scheduled to be at the October Coalition meeting but had to cancel due to a conflict. He will give very brief remarks, but he wants to spend most of his time at the meeting hearing from Coalition members about the needs of older adults and their family caregivers and about what is working well as well as where challenges exist in providing programs and services for our state’s older residents. Time at the meeting will also be devoted to voting on the Coalition’s 2017 legislative agenda. The meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. in the first floor conference room at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (693 Palmer Drive, Taylor Hall on the Dix campus).

Submitting Information for Updates – If you have news or information on activities and events you would like to have included in an Update to Coalition members, please send details to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at mmbethel72@gmail.com.

Coalition on Aging Membership – Are you interested in getting more involved in being an advocate for older North Carolinians? If yes, consider becoming a member of the Coalition on Aging. Membership in the Coalition is open to any agency, organization, group, or individual who is interested in aging in North Carolina. To renew your membership or to sign up for the first time, go to <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/membership.aspx>.

Have questions about the Coalition on Aging or need more information? Check out our website at <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>.