

# EQUITY WATCH

Policy, research, resources, and news related to minority and women's issues curated biweekly by the  
**Research, Policy & Impact Center** .....**Apr 13th, 2023**

## HOUSING

**Raleigh City Council Open to Amending Missing-Middle Policy :** The Raleigh City Council may make changes to its missing-middle-housing policy to address residents' concerns about affordability, community engagement, and the environment.. [-Indy Week](#)

**New Bill aims to help North Carolina Workers afford Housing:** Specifically designed to create affordable housing for teachers, first responders, nurses, and first-time buyers, Senate Bill 317 (S.B. 317) would provide a new option for developers to bypass certain local regulations if the developer agrees to sell at least one-fifth of the lots at what would likely be a loss [-The Carolina Journal](#)

**Moore County Community creates safe housing for young people facing homelessness:** Pinehurst-based TambaPlace created a home for young women in 2021. A second home for young men is expected to open as soon as April. [-NC Health News](#)

**Hayes Barton Homeowners Sue Raleigh over Missing Middle:** Six Hayes Barton homeowners are suing Raleigh in an effort to get rid of the "missing middle" housing policies approved by the city council in 2021 and 2022. [-Indy Week](#)

**State Lawmakers Take On Local Regulations That Inflate Housing Costs:** Members of the state General Assembly are now considering legislation to "deannex," or remove from local zoning jurisdiction, property in Summerfield, a town located just outside Greensboro, where local officials have repeatedly rejected proposed development . [-Forbes](#)

**Statement from President Joe Biden on the 55th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act:** Many neighborhoods across the country remain as segregated today as they were 55 years ago. A fair housing market is critical to the fulfillment of the American dream. [-Whitehouse](#)

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## HEALTH

**NC doctors walk the halls of General Assembly to oppose more abortion limits:** Since legislators returned to Raleigh in late January, physicians opposed to any new restrictions on abortion in North Carolina have been making themselves visible at the General Assembly. - [NC Health News](#)

**Gov. Cooper's \$32.9 billion budget proposal bolsters health care:** Cooper's proposal would fund early childcare programs, train a health care workforce that is struggling with shortages and substandard pay, and bolster the state's ailing mental health system. . - [NC Health News](#)

**Vulnerable NC Medicare Advantage enrollees face problems using 'flex cards' to pay utility bills:** Electric cooperative and public-power groups across North Carolina are reporting that a UnitedHealthcare "UCard" sent this year to dual Medicaid and Medicare enrollees doesn't work as advertised to pay utility bills. . - [NC Health News](#)

**NC Governor announces proposal to invest \$1 billion in mental health services:** Governor Cooper announced his plan to invest \$1 billion in mental health and substance use services in North Carolina. - [NC Health News](#)

**Residents' frustration grows at slow progress to address PFAS pollution in their water:** Pender County resident Sharon Mathis is one of thousands of residents worried about contamination from the nearby Chemours plant - [NC Health News](#)

**Typical medical research hasn't included everyone.** Workers with the National Institutes of Health's All of Us Research Program are working to engage community members across the country whose demographics have been historically underrepresented in medical research. - [NC Health News](#)

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## SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Peanut Processor to invest \$17 million in Elizabethtown Facility:** Severn Peanut Company, a peanut sheller, will create 44 jobs in Bladen County. The company will invest \$17 million to upgrade and renovate its facility in Elizabethtown for peanut butter production.. [-edpnc](#)

**Raleigh is No. 5 U.S. job market; thousands more jobs could be coming – here's why:** North Carolina's capital city is the fifth best job market in the United States, a new national study shows, and a lot more growth could be coming its way based on what leaders at Wake County Economic Development are seeing [-WRAL Tech Wire](#)

**North Carolina House budget approved, now heads to Senate:** Republican lawmakers say their proposed North Carolina budget addresses inflation with big worker raises while spending cautiously-[The Modesto Bee](#)

**NC economists predict growth in 2023 :** Charlotte-area experts believe North Carolina's economy will grow this year, with gross domestic product (GDP) increasing 1.6% since 2022. . [- WCNC Charlotte](#)

**Owners of NC 'historically underutilized businesses' want more public contracts:** Back in 1999, state leaders set a goal to award 10% of state contracts to HUB vendors. However, that goal hasn't always been met . [- ABC Eyewitness News](#)

**City of Charlotte Teams Up with Operation Hope to Connect Local Black Businesses to Resources:** This move is just part of the Initiative's aim to start, grow, and scale one million Black businesses by 2030 to provide a successful path to wealth creation for the Black community. Participants can take advantage of coaching and educational services, access to expert volunteers and more. [- Black Enterprse](#)

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## EDUCATION

**Fact check: Does North Carolina rank 'last' in education funding?:** For years, North Carolina Democrats have said that the state's public schools are underfunded. Now, some are putting their claim into national context, saying the Tar Heel State is doing less for its students than every other state. - [WRAL News](#)

**Report: 'Increasing Inequity' in North Carolina's Local Education Spending:** Between low rates of funding and state budget stalemates in the last decade, some county governments spend more attempting to boost teacher salaries and benefits attractive to staff or families. But those governments are often ones with more wealth, whether it be from property value or tax bases - [ChapelBoro](#)

**As Republicans clinch supermajority, what is next for public schools?:** Rep. Tricia Cotham, elected as a Democrat from Mecklenburg County, and a former assistant principal and educator. Announced at the N.C. GOP Headquarters that she was changing her party registration, handing the Republicans she was flanked by a supermajority. - [EdNC](#)

**N.C. House passes budget plan:** The House budget would send \$24 billion to the Department of Public Instruction for K-12 education over the next two years, including 7.5% across-the-board teacher pay raises over the biennium. - [EdNC](#)

**State Board of Education discusses school safety, literacy, and teacher prep:** State Board of Education members discussed the urgency of increasing school safety in response to gun violence at their April meeting this week, with members suggesting a variety of solutions - [EdNC](#)

**Reviving America's Pipeline Of Black Teachers:** More than 50% of students in U.S. public schools are children of color, but only about 20% of teachers are people of color. - [Forbes](#)