

You Decide: Do We Live In The Most Uncertain Of Times?

By Mike Walden: I was born in 1951, so my seven decades of life now make me a senior citizen. As I think back, our country has been through many crises in those 71 years. In 1951, we faced the uncertainty of a war in Korea. Later came the Cuban missile crisis, John Kennedy's assassination, the Vietnam War, eleven recessions, the largest single percentage stock market drop in 1987, the 9/11 attacks, the COVID-19 pandemic and numerous others. My point is that, as a country, we have faced many challenges just during my lifetime.

While not taking anything away from the previous tests to our country, I think a strong case can be made that this year – 2022 – may be the most traumatic and uncertain for our country, at least since World War II. A big reason is we don't just face one, or many two, uncertainties, but we are confronted with many. Indeed, I think at least five big uncertainties, each one of which would be enough to make us worry. Ranked in no certain order are high inflation, the possibility of a recession, the Ukraine War, the talk of a nuclear conflict and significant changes to work.

The latest reading on inflation shows a notable increase in the typical consumers' market basket of goods and services of 8.5 percent, the biggest jump since 1981. Since most households are not receiving comparable increases in their wages and salaries, today's inflation rate means the average standard of living – measured by what people can buy – is falling. This hasn't happened in three decades.

The problem of high inflation directly leads to the next challenge of today – the possibility of an upcoming recession. The typical way inflation is corralled is for the U.S. central bank – the Federal Reserve ("Fed") – to slow the pace of spending. The Fed does this by increasing interest rates and pulling cash out of the economy. The current Fed has already said they will use these methods to reduce today's high inflation rate. The Fed's goal is to slow the economy just enough to moderate price increases without causing businesses to significantly reduce production and employment. If production and jobs were to plunge for at least six months, then economists would consider the pullback an official recession. While the Fed would not want its strategy to lead to a recession, there's always the possibility – some say likelihood – it will. Just within the last couple of months, many economists have increased their chances of recession occurring this year.

Although the Ukraine War is foremost a geo-political conflict - with the U.S. and its European allies backing Ukraine against Russia – it also has broad economic implications. The conflict has already caused many commodity prices, like oil, gold and wheat, to rise well above their levels at the beginning of the year. The price hikes reflect fears of short shortages in supplies for many of the commodities. We've especially seen the impact of these higher commodity prices at the gas pump and in supermarkets.

But the higher commodity prices reflect another worry – the fourth uncertainty I mentioned – which would be the most worrisome of all. This is the possibility of a nuclear conflict. Until now, the Ukraine War has been fought with conventional weapons. Yet as Russia's military goals have been stymied by the Ukrainians, Russian leaders have openly hinted about the possibility of using nuclear weapons both against Ukraine and countries backing Ukraine. This would be unprecedented. It is images of a full-fledged nuclear war which would likely destroy most of civilization. As a youngster, I remember the last time the world was brought to the brink of a nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, and it was a tense and scary time.

The fifth worry – the swift changes happening in the labor market – are a feature of the post-COVID economy. COVID prompted three big shifts in the labor market. One was a reassessment of life motivating a surge in retirements of older workers and a departure from the labor market of many younger workers, especially those with children. The second was an up-skilling of numerous workers during the height of the pandemic, meaning when they returned to the workforce they left lower-paying jobs and moved to higher-paying jobs. The third emerging labor market shift is a result of the first two. It is the accelerated use of technology and automation by companies that have not been able to eliminate their labor shortages. We will see much more labor-saving technology in coming years that will keep many workers guessing if they will continue to have jobs.

Every one of these uncertainties is important and hard to predict. They also have impacts that affect virtually everyone, but to have five of them together is, at least in my lifetime, extraordinary. This makes me believe 2022 is a unique year. It may very well go down in history as the "year of enormous worry", yet hopefully – fingers crossed – with positive outcomes. As time passes, we'll be able to decide!

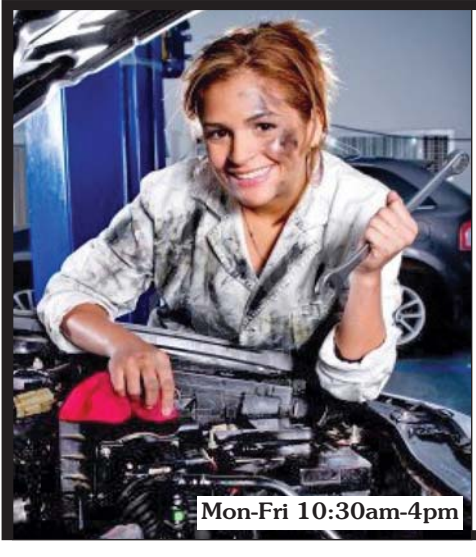
Walden is a Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

'Ask An Expert' Resource Available

Anson County residents have the expertise of all of the nation's land-grant universities at their fingertips, thanks to a web tool offered by the Anson County Center of NC Cooperative Extension. With this Extension resource, called Ask an Expert, county

residents can submit questions, via the Anson County Extension website (anson.ces.ncsu.edu), at any time of day or night. They can get timely answers by email from Extension faculty from NC State University, NC A&T State University, and other land-grant institutions. For over a century, Cooperative Extension has been providing unbiased, research-based information on a wide range of topics. Now, Ask an Expert allows you to access that information with greater convenience. Using a short online form, residents can submit questions about agriculture and nutrition, lawn and garden, youth development and 4-H, and a host of other topics. To access Ask an Expert, anyone can visit the Anson County Extension website at anson.ces.ncsu.edu and click the Ask an Expert links at the top right or on the left panel of each page. Simply enter questions and email addresses in the spaces provided, and submit them. Questions will be directed to Extension faculty members who have the appropriate expertise to provide accurate and timely responses. Users also can attach photos to their questions. The Ask an Expert resource also is available at extension.org, a nationwide website that offers an interactive learning environment. The site delivers the best, most researched knowledge from the smartest land-grant university minds across America. The site connects knowledge consumers with knowledge providers. The extension.org site also offers a searchable database of answers provided in response to questions submitted by other users.

Of course, residents who need information still are welcome to call or visit the Anson County Extension center during business hours.



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Notice of Primary Election for Anson County, North Carolina

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The polls will be open for voting on Election Day from 6:30am to 7:30pm.

Anson County Voters will select the following:

County Commissioner Contest will only appear in District 2
School Board District Contest:
At Large School Board Contest will appear on all ballots
NC House of Representatives District 055

Anson Board of Elections

Candidate Name	Name on Ballot	Party
ANSON		
NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 11 (REP) (-SEAT)		
Stading, Michael	Michael J. Stading	Rep
Allen, Charlton Laramie	Charlton L. Allen	Rep
NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 055 (REP)		
Smith, Brandon Tyrmal	Brandon Smith	Rep
Brody, Mark Allen	Mark Brody	Rep
ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 02 (DEM)		
Little, Priscilla Ann	Priscilla Ann Little	Dem
Smith, Robert J	Robert Smith	Dem
Bennett, Urias James	U. James Bennett	Dem
ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AT-LARGE (DEM)		
Little, Judy Hamilton	Judy Hamilton Little	Dem
Lookabill, Gay L	Gay Lookabill	Dem
Bennett, Marilynn	Marilynn Bennett	Dem

US SENATE (REP)		
Eastman, Marjorie Knott	Marjorie K. Eastman	Rep
Flaherty, David Thomas Jr	David Flaherty	Rep
Griffiths, Benjamin Edward	Benjamin E. Griffiths	Rep
Harper, Kenneth Jabari Jr	Kenneth Harper, Jr.	Rep
McCroy, Patrick L	Pat McCroy	Rep
Moss, Charles Kenneth	Charles Kenneth Moss	Rep
Sibhatu, Lichia Woldegabreal	Lichia Sibhatu	Rep
Tshiovo, Debora Mbombo	Debora Tshiovo	Rep
Walker, Bradley Mark	Mark Walker	Rep
Briant, Jennifer Alexis	Jan Briant	Rep
Brian, Lee Andrea	Ms. Lee A. Brian	Rep
Bryant, Leonard Laque	Leonard L. Bryant	Rep
Budd, Theodore Paul	Ted Budd	Rep
Bulecza, Andrew John III	Drew Bulecza	Rep
NC SUPREME COURT ASSOCI JUSTICE SEAT 05 (REP) (-SEAT)		
Prince, Victoria Elizabeth	Victoria E. Prince	Rep
Wood, April Carthana	April C. Wood	Rep
Allen, Curtis Hudson III	Trey Allen	Rep
NC COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE SEAT 09 (REP) (-SEAT)		
Freshwater Smith, Elizabeth	Beth Freshwater Smith	Rep
Stroud, Donna	Donna Stroud	Rep
US SENATE (DEM)		
Johnson, Constance Lavette	Constance (Lov) Johnson	Dem
Booker, Everette Snyder	Rett Newell	Dem
Booker, Patrice C	Chrelle Booker	Dem
Beasley, Cheri Lynn	Cheri Beasley	Dem
Antoine, Gregory Alfred	Greg Antoine	Dem
Hammond, Alyssia Rose Katherine	Alyssia Rose-Katherine Hammond	Dem
LaGrone, Tobias Everett	Tobias LaGrone	Dem
Williams, Marcus Whittman	Marcus W. Williams	Dem
Carr, James Lester Jr	James L. Carr, Jr.	Dem
Maginnis, Brendan Kyran	B. K. Maginnis	Dem
Colon, Robert John	Robert Colon	Dem
US SENATE (LIB)		
Bray, Shannon Wilson	Shannon W. Bray	Lib

Anson County Board of Elections PO Box 768, Wadesboro, NC 28170
402 Morven Road Wadesboro, NC 28170 Phone: 704-994-3223 Fax: 704694-2443

ANSON COUNTY POLLING PLACES:

ANSONVILLE FIRE-RESCUE 9145 US HWY 52 N, ANSONVILLE	ALL ANSON COUNTY VOTERS CAN VOTE EARLY AT THE BOARD OF ELECTION OFFICE AT 402 MORVEN ROAD – WADESBORO, NC FROM APRIL 28 – MAY 14
BURNSVILLE FIRE-RESCUE 33 RESCUE RD, POLKTON	**IF YOU DO NOT VOTE AT THE EARLY VOTING SITE – YOU WILL NEED TO GO TO YOUR REGULAR POLLING PRECINCT ON TUESDAY MAY 17, 2022 FROM 6:30 AM – 7:30 PM
GULLEGE FIRE DEPT. 34 CHEWNING RD, WADESBORO	
LILLESVILLE FIRE DEPT. 202 W WALL ST, LILLESVILLE	THERE WILL NOT BE VOTING HELD AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS ON ELECTION DAY TUESDAY MAY 17, 2022
MORVEN-MCFARLAN FIRE DEPT 242 E MAIN ST, MORVEN	
PEACHLAND FIRE DEPT35 E PASSAIC ST, PEACHLAND	
POLKTON FIRE DEPT 61 W POLK ST, POLKTON	
WADESBORO SPCC LOCKHART TAYLOR *ALL WADESBORO VOTERS NOW VOTE AT THIS PRECINCT LOCATION*	
514 N WASHINGTON ST, WADESBORO	
WHITE STORE-COMMUNITY BLDG 5672 UNION CHURCH RD, PEACHLAND	

Buffer Zone Notice: All Election Day polling places and the One-stop voting location will have signs posted to indicate a 50 feet buffer zone, where no electioneering will be allowed per NC GS 163-166.4

*CAMPAIGNING OR DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTION MATERIAL IS ONLY ALLOWED OUTSIDE THE BUFFER ZONE

Anson County residents may register to vote by mail or in person at the Board of Elections Office. The deadline to register to vote on Election Day is FRIDAY, APRIL 22 at 5:00 pm. If you are registered to vote in Anson County (and your name or address has not changed) you DO NOT need to register again to vote in this election. Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline may register during one stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence: current and valid photo identification; or A copy of one of the following documents that show the name and address of the voter: a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document

Absentee by Mail voting is available upon request from the Voter, a near relative or legal guardian. New State Law requires that all requests must be made on the official Absentee Ballot Request Form, which is available online. Application may be made in person at the Anson County Board of Elections Office, or in writing to the Anson County Board of Elections at 402 Morven Rd., Wadesboro, NC 28170. The deadline to apply for an Absentee by Mail ballot is 5:00pm, MAY 10th, 2022 § 163-230.2.

To apply or Request an Absentee by Mail Ballot, a voter or near relative must complete the State Issued Absentee Request Form. Absentee by Mail Request CAN ONLY BE TURNED IN by the VOTER or a NEAR RELATIVE.

Near Relatives as defined by statute: spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, Daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild

One-stop EARLY VOTING THURSDAY APRIL 28th - SATURDAY MAY 14th At THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE LOCATED AT 402 MORVEN ROAD, WADESBORO NC. The hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 7:30 PM and on Saturdays APRIL 30th, MAY 7th, AND MAY 14th, 2022 FROM 8:00 AM-3:00PM ALSO SUNDAY MAY 8th FROM 12:00PM UNTIL 6:00PM

Absentee meetings: The Anson County Board of Elections will meet to approve applications for absentee ballots for the May Primary Election at the Board of Elections office, 402 Morven Road Wadesboro, NC. Pursuant to G.S. 163.230.1(c1). Other business may be transacted by the board at this time: TUESDAY APRIL 12th AT 5:00 PM, TUESDAY APRIL 19th AT 5:00 PM, APRIL 26th AT 5:00PM, MAY 2nd AT 5:00 PM AND TUESDAY MAY 9th AT 5:00 PM. Absentee Mail and One-Stop Early voting will be reported after polls close at 7:30pm. Overseas (UOCAVA) Ballots must be returned by the close of polls on election day (7:30 PM), or the covered voter shall submit the ballot for mailing, electronic transmission, or other authorized means of delivery not later than 12:01 A.M., at the place where the voter completes the ballot, on the date of the election and the County Board receives the ballot the last business day before the County Canvass.

Canvass Day meeting will be held in the Board of Elections Office on Friday, May 27, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

For More information contact: Elections Director Sherry Melton or Board Chair: Ross Streater -Elections Office: 704-994-3223