

Legislative Update

It's that time again, the General Election is just 38 days away. If you are not registered to vote you have until October 12, to get your registration in. There will once again be "Early Voting" and one day of Sunday voting in both Anson and Union Counties. The most important thing we do in America as citizens is VOTE. It is a precious right that men and women have died for! Honor them and your country by casting your ballot on or before November 6th.

For complete election information, contact your Board of Elections Office. In Anson County go to: co.anson.nc.us/content/index.php?elections or telephone 704-994-3223. Vote! It's your civic duty.

Interim committees continue to meet at the General Assembly to discuss and study education, health, transportation and other matters vital to our state. The hope is that in-depth evaluations of specific programs will lead to better decisions when the General Assembly returns to session in January.

I have also been active in many other events in our community during this interim as I continue to learn from you what needs to be done in Raleigh to improve conditions here at home. I appreciate the advice and guidance I receive from each of you about what you need me to do in the legislature.

The legislature's bipartisan Joint Legislative Ethics Committee has issued new guidelines prohibiting legislative employees who serve at the will of a lawmaker from having dating relationships or sexual relations with registered lobbyists or state agency liaisons unless they disclose the relationships to the employing legislators. The guidelines followed the resignations of two members of the Speaker's staff who were found to have relationships with registered lobbyists.

A lawsuit challenging the legality of district maps drawn for the General Assembly and the US House of Representatives continues, with both sides gathering evidence to bolster their case. The maps were drawn by the Republican majority and are being challenged by Democrats who allege the maps fail several legal requirements.

The plan drawn by the Republicans divided the City of Monroe into three different House Districts and broke Wingate off from Marshville and Anson County. That reshuffle clearly violated the state's "communities of interest" requirement.

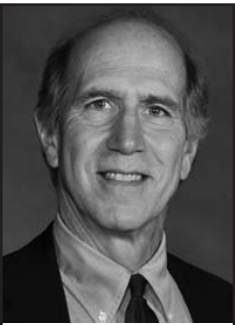
Redistricting is done every 10 years after the states receive the latest US Census data. The N.C. Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform found that all 60 people who completed a recent survey distributed to members of both parties want to see a new redistricting process that minimizes the influence of politics in map drawing. The coalition is still gathering responses, and they will be posted on its website, www.nclobbyreform.org. The House approved a bill, (H824) last session to establish a nonpartisan redistricting process, which I supported. The bill failed to pass the Senate.

Despite claims that the newest state budget would help improve the state's economy, North Carolina continues to suffer with one of the nation's highest unemployment rates. The unemployment rate rose for the second consecutive month, reaching 9.7 percent. The rate in North Carolina is the worse than all but four other states: Nevada, Rhode Island, California and New Jersey. The national rate is 8.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the number of government jobs in North Carolina has fallen by 3,800. The number of construction jobs in the state fell by 3,400 in just the past month.

My hope is that both parties can work together in the coming session to better serve the people of North Carolina and not the "special interest" groups. It is wrong to add taxes and fees to working families while millionaires and corporations get the benefit.

I appreciate you taking the time to keep up with what is happening in the North Carolina House of Representatives. I hope you will contact me if you have any questions or if I can ever be of service to you. 919-715-3007, Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net

Joseph Bathanti Named Poet Laureate for North Carolina by Governor Perdue



Award winning poet, professor and advocate for literacy, Joseph Bathanti, of Vilas, NC has been named North Carolina's Poet Laureate by Governor Bev Perdue. Joseph had lived in Anson County for a time starting in 1985 as a part of the North Carolina Visiting Artist Program. Many area citizens remember him fondly.

"Joseph Bathanti is an award-winning poet and novelist with a robust commitment to social causes. He first came to North Carolina to work in the VISTA program and has taught writing workshops in prisons for 35 years," Perdue said. "As North Carolina's new Poet Laureate he plans to work with veterans to share their stories through poetry — a valuable and generous project."

North Carolina's seventh poet laureate, Bathanti was installed during a public celebration on Thursday, September 20 at the State Capitol. He succeeds Cathy Smith Bowers, the state's poet laureate from 2010 to June 30, 2012.

"Joseph Bathanti brings a deep appreciation of our state's diverse communities, geographies and traditions to his new role as an ambassador of North Carolina literature," said Department of Cultural Resources

Secretary Linda A. Carlisle. "His appointment as Poet Laureate is a wonderful new chapter in North Carolina's rich literary history."

Bathanti is a professor of creative writing at Appalachian State University where he is also Director of Writing in the Field and Writer-in-Residence in the University's Watauga Global Community. He has taught writing workshops in prisons for more than three decades and is former chair of the N.C. Writers' Network Prison project.

"I can't imagine a better place in the United States to be a writer than North Carolina," Bathanti says. "There is no place richer in literature and no place that has celebrated writers in quite the same way as our state does."

Bathanti's books of poetry include *This Metal* (St. Andrews College Press, 1996 and Press 53, 2012), *Restoring Sacred Art* (Star Cloud Press, 2010), *Land of Amnesia* (Press 53, 2009), *Anson County* (Williams & Simpson, 1989 and Parkway Publishers, 2005), *The Feast of All Saints* (Nightshade press, 1994) and *Communion Partners* (Briarpatch Press, 1986). He has published two novels, *Coventry* (Novello Festival Press, 2006) and *East Liberty* (Banks Channel Books, 2001) along with a book of short stories, *The High Heart* (Eastern Washington University Press, 2007).

"His award-winning body of work is a powerful mix of old forms and new forms which has gained national and international recognition, and which adds up to a rich interpretation of modern American life," said Randall Kenan, associate professor of English, UNC-Chapel Hill and chair of the poet laureate selection committee. "Also a prose writer of great accomplishment, Joseph's novels and short stories and plays resonate with North Carolina's long tradition of literary bounty and excellence."

A native of Pittsburgh, Penn., Bathanti arrived in North Carolina in 1976 as a member of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), a national service program designed to fight poverty, and he never left the state. Assigned to work in Huntersville Prison in Mecklenburg County, he met fellow volunteer and future wife, Joan Carey on his first day of training. They have been married for 35 years.

For four years starting in 1985, Bathanti shared his talents as a poet and writer in rural Anson, Union and McDowell counties through the North Carolina Visiting Artist Program, a collaboration between the N.C. Arts Council and the N.C. Community College System running from 1971 to 1995, which brought a diverse range of artists to small towns and rural communities across the state. He wrote a non-fiction book about the program, *They Changed the State: The Legacy of North Carolina's Visiting Artists 1971-1995* on the 25th anniversary of the program.

"The North Carolina Poet Laureate is one of the state's longest running and most important ways that we celebrate and share our state literary heritage with citizens," said Wayne Martin, Executive Director, N.C. Arts Council. "Joseph's work is accessible because he writes about topics that touch all of us: family, home and personal experiences."

Martin added, "His idea to work with veterans puts him in good stead to be Poet Laureate for North Carolina."

Bathanti is a two-time recipient of Literature Fellowships from the N.C. Arts Council (1994 and 2009) and will receive the 2012 Ragan-Rubin Award, made to an outstanding North Carolina writer, from the N.C. English Teachers Association (NCETA). He has received numerous other awards including the 2002 Linda Flowers Prize, awarded annually by the North Carolina Humanities Council; 2006 Novello Literary Award; 2002 Sherwood Anderson Award; 2006 Spokane Prize for Short Fiction, to name a few. His fiction, nonfiction and poetry have appeared in numerous journals including *Carolina Quarterly*, *Texas Review*, *California Quarterly*, *Cincinnati Poetry Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Shenandoah*, and *New Letters*.

"A superb poet, a dedicated teacher, and a warm and generous person, Bathanti is both an ideal public servant and advocate for poetry and literacy," says Dana Gioia, celebrated poet and former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "He is an outstanding choice for N.C. Poet Laureate."

50+ Club Meeting

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club will meet on Monday, October 8 in the Little Theatre at 10:30 a.m. The Red Hill Men's Quartet will be presenting an a capella musical program.

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Notice of General Election for Anson County, North Carolina

The GENERAL ELECTION will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. The polls will be open for voting on Election Day from 6:30am to 7:30pm.

Anson County Voters will select the following:

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

(President is NOT included in Straight Party voting and must be voted separately)

STRAIGHT PARTY (see instructions on ballot)

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 08
GOVERNOR
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL
NC AUDITOR
NC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
NC COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
NC COMMISSIONER OF LABOR
NC SECRETARY OF STATE
NC SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
NC TREASURER
NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 25
NC STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 055
COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS 1, 3, 6 & 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 1,3, 6, & 7
(County Commissioner and Board of Education will not appear on all ballots)
REGISTER OF DEEDS

NON-PARTISAN OFFICES

(not included in Straight Party voting)
SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE (Newby)
COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (McGee)
COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (Bryant)
COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE (Thigpen)
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 20A (Thacker)
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 20A (Wilson)
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

ANSON COUNTY POLLING PLACES:

ANSONVILLE FIRE-RESCUE 9145 US HWY 52 N, ANSONVILLE
BURNSVILLE FIRE-RESCUE 33 RESCUE RD, POLKTON
GULLEDGE FIRE DEPT 34 CHEWNING RD, WADESBORO
LILESVILLE FIRE DEPT 202 W WALL ST, LILESVILLE
MORVEN-MCFARLAN FIRE DEPT 242 E MAIN ST, MORVEN
PEACHLAND FIRE DEPT 35 E PASSAIC ST, PEACHLAND
POLKTON FIRE DEPT 61 W POLK ST, POLKTON
WADESBORO-1 SPCC LOCKHART TAYLOR-INGRAM RM
514 N WASHINGTON ST, WADESBORO
WADESBORO 2-CHARLES RIDDLE STAFF DEV
305 WHITE STORE RD, WADESBORO
WADESBORO 3-WADESBORO PRIMARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
1542 US HWY 52 S, 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 foot buffer zone where no electioneering will be allowed per NC GS 163-166.4(a).

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 **5:00pm Friday, October 12, 2012**. 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.

Absentee by Mail voting is available upon request from the Voter, a near relative or legal guardian. 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 PO Box 768, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

The deadline to apply for an Absentee by Mail ballot is 5:00pm, Tuesday, October 30, 2012

One-stop voting will begin on Thursday, October 18TH and ends on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Charles Riddle Center of The Anson County Board of Education – 320 Camden Road Wadesboro, North Carolina (**ENTER OFF CAMDEN ROAD ACROSS FROM THE WADESBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**). The hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M., and on Saturday, October 27th 8:30 am – 1:00 pm, Sunday October 28th 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, and Saturday November 3rd 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. **In person registration (and voting) will be available during One-stop voting but not on Election Day.**

Absentee meetings: The Anson County Board of Elections will meet to approve applications for absentee ballots for the November 6, 2012 General Election at the Board of Elections office, 101 S. Greene Street Wadesboro, NC 28170 pursuant to G.S. 163.230.1(c1). Other business may be transacted by the board at this time. **TUESDAY OCTOBER 23RD AT 5:00 PM and TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6TH AT 2:00 PM.** Absentee by Mail ballots will be counted on **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6TH AT 2:00 PM.** Results for Absentee Mail and One-Stop voting will be reported after polls close at 7:30pm.

Canvass Day meeting will be held in the Board of Elections Office on Friday, November 16, 2012 at 11:00am.

Any questions about registration, absentee ballots, voting locations, or other election matters may be answered by calling the Board of Elections office at 704-994-3223 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

James F. Paxton, Chairman
Anson County Board of Elections
PO Box 768, Wadesboro, NC 28170
101 S. Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170
Phone: 704-994-3223 Fax: 704-994-3260