

OPPORTUNITY & PROSPERITY FOR ALL

Get to know **OUR PROJECTS**

NC Policy Watch

NC POLICY WATCH is a media project housed under the large umbrella of the NC Justice Center, providing news and commentary dedicated to informing the public—including elected officials—as they debate issues critical to the people of our state.

OUR WORK, OUR IMPACT:

Early on the pandemic, NC Policy Watch produced a series of special reports – “Voices from the Pandemic” – that told stories from the lives of typical North Carolinians attempting to cope with and respond to the unprecedented global public health crisis. In the months that followed, the project generated stories and commentaries detailing the pandemic’s impacts on racial justice; K-12 and higher education; the criminal and civil justice systems; voting and elections; healthcare access; the rights of immigrants; environmental protection; domestic violence; LGBTQ equality; public health; housing and evictions; consumer protections; state fiscal policy; and many other important subjects..

- We published hundreds of important and high impact news stories in all of the top beats covered by our reporters
- We generated hundreds of commentaries and successfully grew our base of outside contributors
- We set new records for our website and social media audiences while successfully coping with (and covering) the pandemic.

Other stories in which the steady drumbeat of coverage that NC Policy Watch provided helped lead to favorable policy outcomes included:

NC Policy Watch’s work has had a long important impact—both directly and cumulatively—on the state’s policymaking environment as it pertains to people with low incomes across North Carolina. This has been even more evident throughout the project’s coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the publication of hundreds of news stories and commentaries on this topic, NC Policy Watch helped inform policymakers, advocates, and the general public of the terrible impact the pandemic was having on vulnerable populations and the need for policy responses that elevated human need over profit.





- The leadership of the UNC system, where we shone a spotlight on the efforts to effect a radical system overhaul and helped blunt some of the most egregious and destructive plans.
- Public education, where our coverage and commentaries helped keep a check on the school privatization efforts.
- Environmental protection, where our award-winning reporting brought to light dozens of otherwise uncovered stories dealing with such varied topics as toxic “forever” chemical, hog farms natural gas pipelines, coal ash, and efforts by developers to bring unwanted destruction to vulnerable rural communities.
- Election law, where our reporting on political gerrymandering and voter suppression efforts helped raise the profiles of both issues

Durham District Attorney Satana DeBerry discusses improving public safety, gun violence and restorative justice

By Clayton Henkel in Radio Interviews 2/21/2022



Learn more in the District Attorney's annual report.



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MOVING FORWARD

While the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed and continues to impact our work and place in the ever-changing political climate, our goals remain the same, namely helping to inform and better connect to the broader public through our reporting and advocating in the public sphere for progressive policy solutions.

NC Policy Watch's intrepid reporters will continue:

- Generating high-quality news stories and commentaries regarding important North Carolina public policy issues for the NC Policy Watch website and Progressive Pulse blog
- Producing radio commentaries and interviews
- Developing a new, special series of news reports and commentaries on the controversies in Alamance County, with special attention to issues of racial justice



- Producing a new edition of “Stories and Voices that Matter” – our hard copy publication that will feature selected highlights from PW news stories and commentaries
- Initiating new methods of receiving community input and expanding our audience

LET'S WORK TOGETHER to end poverty, build power, and share prosperity across North Carolina!



NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE CENTER

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Consumer, Housing, & Energy Project Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Education & Law Project NC Policy Watch
Fair Chance-Criminal Justice Project Workers' Rights Project
Healthcare Advocacy Project