

# REFORMING NORTH CAROLINA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN THE STATE'S CITIZEN LEGISLATURE

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In Locke's *Reforming North Carolina's General Assembly* report, researchers evaluate opportunities for making the General Assembly more transparent, effective, and responsive to the public.

Four major reforms for the General Assembly:

### SESSION LENGTH LIMITS



Session length limits would impose more regularity on the General Assembly, allowing legislators to better plan their lives, including work at their regular jobs, by reducing scheduling conflicts. Fewer session days will also save taxpayers money.

### LEGISLATIVE PAY



North Carolina has one of the lowest state legislative salaries in the United States at \$13,951. Given the time commitment required of state legislators, such low pay severely restricts the range of citizens willing and able to run for office.

### LEADERSHIP TERM LIMITS



Eight-year lifetime term limits for speakers of the House and presidents pro tempore of the Senate would address an overconcentration of power caused by legislative leaders clinging to their positions for a decade or more.

### GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY



Despite typically scoring well on transparency measures, the North Carolina General Assembly slid backwards in 2023 when they granted themselves the power to determine if their own records are public. This statute should be repealed, and a constitutional amendment guaranteeing transparency should be put on the ballot for voters.

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