



NC TRAVEL NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina General Assembly news relevant to the North Carolina tourism industry

NCTIA Sponsored Podcast in Asheville



The [Do Politics Better podcast](#) – sponsored by NCTIA – recorded live in front of 120+ members of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday.

Sens. [Warren Daniel \(R\)](#) and [Julie Mayfield \(D\)](#) and Reps. [Brian Turner \(D\)](#) and [Mike Clampitt \(R\)](#) were also in attendance.

The [Do Politics Better Podcast](#) is hosted by NCTIA lobbyists Brian Lewis and Skye David and the Asheville edition included guest [Chris Cooper, a political scientist at Western Carolina University](#).

"The discussion was centered around western North Carolina politics and the region's legislative needs in the upcoming General Assembly session," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena, who attended the event.

Chelena also spent time with Sen. Daniel and Sen. Mayfield discussing local tourism issues at a reception prior to the recording.

Click [here](#) to listen to the [Do Politics Better podcast](#) recorded in Asheville.

Tourism Champ New Senate Majority Leader

Sen. Paul Newton was elected on Monday by his Senate Republican colleagues to serve as the chamber's majority leader in the 2023-2024 biennium. The position is second in leadership power to [Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger](#), who was renominated on Monday to serve a seventh biennium in that top role.

NCTIA honored Sen. Newton as its 2021 Legislator of the Year at its NC Tourism Leadership Conference in Winston-Salem that year. (photo)

"Tourism and travel are crucial to ensuring North Carolina's economy is strong and that the quality of life for our citizens and tourists is vibrant," said Sen. Newton after receiving the award.

Sen. Newton was selected for the award for leading the successful legislative effort in 2021 to authorize North Carolina's tourism development authorities to participate in the federal Payroll Protection Program. His quick response and action in partnership with NCTIA resulted in a provision in [House Bill 196 \(2021 COVID-19 Response & Relief\)](#) that saved tourism jobs and allow hospitality professionals across the state to continue serving their communities and visitors.

"Senator Newton was also an early Senate supporter for NCTIA's workforce development pilot program, which serves young people in Cabarrus County entering into the hospitality industry," said NCTIA Executive Director. "We appreciate his work on behalf of our industry and we look forward to future partnerships in the General Assembly."

Cabarrus County CVB President and CEO Donna Carpenter, who partnered with Sen. Newton this past May to host legislators from around the state at the Coca-Cola 600 in Concord, was elated to hear the news about her hometown senator's new leadership role.

"On behalf of the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitor Bureau, we'd like to congratulate Senator Paul Newton on his new role as Senate majority leader," Carpenter said. "Senator Newton's support for hospitality and tourism has been very important to the industry's wellbeing in our destination and across the state of North Carolina. We are proud to have Senator Newton as a representative of Cabarrus County and look forward to working closely with him in the future."



Sen. Paul Newton with Cabarrus CVB/President/CEO Donna Carpenter at 2021 NCTIA conference