

IN THE MIX

Official Newsletter of North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association

NCRLA | NC Restaurant
& Lodging Association

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NC Is State with Best Business Climate in 2021

North Carolina has been named as the state with the Best Business Climate for 2021, according to Site Selection magazine's annual rankings. Over the years, the Tar Heel State has frequently appeared in the upper tier of state business climates, even enjoying a six-year run in the top spot from 2005 through 2010. Top criteria include workforce skills, transportation infrastructure, workforce development, ease of permitting and regulatory procedures, and utility



NC Has Top Cities for Thanksgiving

North Carolina is home to two of the nation's best cities for Thanksgiving, a new report from the personal finance website WalletHub finds. Raleigh is No. 5 and Greensboro is No. 9. Raleigh received among the highest scores in the affordability category, which weighed the costs of Thanksgiving dinners, high-quality restaurants, and hotel stays. Raleigh also scored well for safety and accessibility, which includes crime rate, vaccination rate, and flight punctuality. Greensboro scored well for its weather forecast. Overall, Atlanta was named the most desirable Thanksgiving destination. Other NC cities on the list are Durham at No. 12, Charlotte at No. 54, and Winston-Salem at No. 75.

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Asheville Chapter Meeting

Thurs., Nov. 11 • 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Register now for tomorrow's virtual NCRLA Asheville Chapter Meeting. As the state budget is being negotiated, come hear about how the decisions being made by policy makers could impact your business. NCRLA Government Affairs Director Isabel Villa-Garcia will give an update on the \$500M grant program, workforce development, and more topics being shaped by budget negotiations. In addition, hear how [GigPro](#) is connecting the hospitality industry workforce with open shifts for employers, and hear about [BYOD's](#) smart scheduling app, integrated event calendar, digital checklists, and more.

The Chapter Meeting is free, but registration is REQUIRED. We look forward to seeing you online soon.

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NATIONAL UPDATES



ERTC Ending Sooner Than Expected Due to Infrastructure Bill

The long-awaited infrastructure bill finally passed late last week. While the bill contains many positive items that are vital to our industry, we are disheartened that the bill included an early termination of the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) by cutting two months from the program. NCRLA and our federal partners at the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) and the National Restaurant Association continue to advocate for the ERTC in subsequent legislation.

AHLA [released a statement](#) this week stating: "Reliable and modern infrastructure is vital to the hotel industry because it facilitates travel, commerce and American competitiveness. This

package would go a long way toward achieving those ends, but it comes at a steep cost. The bill would terminate the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) two months early. Many hotels and their employees are counting on this program—especially given lingering COVID-19 concerns and the negative economic impact they are having on hotels. While we strongly support investment in our nation’s infrastructure, struggling hotel employees and small businesses should not be forced to bear that cost, and AHLA will continue advocating to maintain programs that are helping hoteliers through the pandemic.”



News Update on OSHA COVID-19 ETS

Last week [OSHA released its Emergency Temporary Standard \(ETS\)](#) mandating that private businesses that employ 100 workers or more get their workers fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022. Since then, more information has become available and some questions have been answered. Below is a list of resources on the topic that NCRLA has been following to help keep you informed:

- [US Court of Appeals Puts Brakes on Vaccine Mandate ETS](#)
- [ETS Summary](#) from OSHA
- [FAQs](#) from US Department of Labor
- [Comprehensive FAQs for Employers](#) from Fisher Phillips
- [NRA Analysis of Vaccine Mandate ETS](#) from National Restaurant Association
- [Recording of webinar to review the Vaccine ETS](#) from National Restaurant Association

Check out all our vaccine resources [HERE](#). NCRLA will continue to share information as it becomes available.



AHLA Survey: Nearly 60% of Americans Unlikely to Travel for Thanksgiving or Christmas

While rising vaccination rates against COVID-19 have increased travelers’ comfort levels, most Americans are still opting to stay home this holiday season, according to a [new national survey](#) commissioned by the American Hotel &

Lodging Association (AHLA) conducted by Morning Consult. The survey found that 29% of Americans are likely to travel for Thanksgiving and 33% are likely to travel for Christmas—an increase from 21% and 24%, respectively, [compared to 2020](#).

Despite being among the hardest hit, hotels are the only segment of the hospitality and leisure industry [yet to receive direct pandemic relief from Congress](#). That is why AHLA and UNITE HERE,

the largest hospitality workers' union in North America, joined forces to call on Congress to pass the bipartisan [Save Hotel Jobs Act](#) to provide critical support to hotels and their workers during this crucial period.

INDUSTRY INSIDER



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Allied:

[Gigpro](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Asheville Chapter Meeting - Nov. 11](#)

[Other NCRLA Events](#)

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

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Bites

[Resources for New Food Code Available on NCRLA Website](#)

[Five Pop-Up Ports to Open in Georgia and North Carolina](#)

[Thanksgiving Dinner at Restaurants in the NC High Country, Triangle, Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, OBX, and Wilmington](#)

[Charlotte-Area Liquor Stores to Get Online Ordering, Curbside Pickup Next Year](#)

[A National Holiday Pop-Up Tiki Bar Picks Charlotte as One of Its Exclusive Locations](#)

[Dine-in or Takeout, NC Restaurants Once Again Are Feeding the Masses](#)

[Why Hoteliers Have Reason for Positivity](#)



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn".

Lynn Minges
NCRLA President & CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nish".

Nish Patel
NCRLA Board Chair

The North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association serves to advance and protect the interests of more than 20,000 businesses that employ 11 percent of the state's workforce and generate more than \$27.3 billion in sales annually.

NCRLA.org | 919-844-0098

