

Congress
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first time that the Congressional Black Caucus will ever have over 50 members.

Bass, 65, served as the former Speaker of the California House and was the first African-American woman ever to hold that position.

"Honored to have been sworn in as 26th Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

"We will fight fiercely against hate. We will not retreat and allow our past victories to be erased," wrote Chairwoman Bass on Twitter, Jan. 3, the first day of the 116th Congress.

"I am proud to witness the ceremonial swearing-in of the largest @OfficialCBC in history. With 55 members and @RepKarenBass serving as their chairwoman, the Congressional Black Caucus is stronger than ever," wrote Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez.

The presidency of Donald Trump will greatly shape the agenda of the Congressional Black Caucus over the next two years.



Submitted photo
The new CBC features nine new members of the U.S. House bringing the group to a total of 55. The 116th Congress will be the first time that the Congressional Black Caucus will ever have over 50 members.

Just as Rep. Richmond witnessed, there will be many issues that will arise out of nowhere in the news simply because the Trump Administration has decided to roll back so much of what was completed during the eight years President Barack Obama was in The White House.

But there is one huge difference: The CBC will have what was referred to at the ceremonial swearing in as "the big five." They are the five chairmen and chairwomen who will serve over what many CBC members hope are Trump's last two years in office. They are Reps. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-

Texas) and Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.).

Three of the five chairs will head committees that are certain to play an investigatory role over the Trump Administration. Rep. Cummings, who will chair the Committee on Government Oversight, has already signaled that his committee will subpoena over the Trump Administration policy of children being separated from their parents and detained at the U.S./Mexico border.

Chairwoman Waters, who will lead the House

Financial Services Committee, has signaled she will push against Wall Street and in favor of consumer protections regarding investment and financial products.

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Triad Airbnb Hosts Earned \$7.3 Million in 2018

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO,

- Airbnb, the world's leading community driven hospitality company, announced today that its Triad-area host community earned a combined \$7.3 million in supplemental income while welcoming approximately 65,000 guest arrivals to the region in 2018.

This comes as North Carolinians increasingly embrace the home-sharing platform as an opportunity to earn supplemental income and make ends meet. There are now over 14,000 North Carolina residents who share their

homes as Airbnb hosts, with Triad-area hosts typically earning about \$4,700 annually in supplemental income.

Yet, statewide data indicates that Airbnb and its host community appear to be complementing -- rather than competing with -- the North Carolina hotel industry. According to the most recent state-commissioned lodging report, North Carolina hotels are experiencing explosive growth in overall occupancy, revenue and prices -- in parallel with short-term rental growth. This suggests that Airbnb is opening up the region to a new slice of prospective tourists by catering to travelers less able to afford hotels, those who desire to stay in

neighborhoods or cities that lack hotels, and families who prefer to be together under one roof.

In addition to the new income going into the pockets of North Carolina Airbnb hosts, the state is generating new revenue through a tax agreement with the North Carolina Department of Revenue announced in 2015. The agreement allows Airbnb to collect and remit both the state sales tax as well as local city/county taxes on behalf of hosts and remit the revenue directly to DOR.

Airbnb also launched Experiences throughout North Carolina in 2018, offering handcrafted activities led by local experts in cities like Charlotte, Asheville and Raleigh. Airbnb Experiences is creating new economic opportunities for North Carolina residents by allowing them to unlock their talents and interests and make money from them, catering to the hundreds of millions of people that use Airbnb's platform to discover unique and authentic travel experiences. Experiences is expected to expand further in North Carolina in 2019, and the Experiences currently available can be found here.

County	2018 Total Host Income	2018 Total Guest Arrivals
Guilford	\$3.5 million	29,000
Forsyth	\$2.3 million	20,000
Surry	\$567,000	6,400
Alamance	\$416,000	5,000
Randolph	\$138,000	1,500
Davidson	\$112,000	850

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This table shows the amounts earned in the Airbnb industry by Forsyth and surrounding counties.

What follows is an overview of 2018 guest arrivals and total host income, broken down by counties within the Triad region*** with over \$100,000 in host income for the year.



Smith Reynolds Airport contributes \$801 million, 3,585 jobs to local economy

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Smith Reynolds Airport has an \$801 million impact on the local

economy and supports 3,585 jobs according to a new report from the N.C. Department of Transportation's Aviation Division.

The "North Carolina: The State of Aviation" report shows the economic impact of the state's 72 publicly-owned airports and their related aviation

and aerospace assets. The report was created as a guide for aviation investment and to help with recruiting aviation and aerospace businesses.

The report said Smith Reynolds, a county-owned and operated airport located on North Liberty Street, created the most jobs and economic impact among the state's 62 general aviation public airports, which don't offer commercial service. The report also found Smith Reynolds contributes \$226 million in personal income and \$28.4 million in state and local tax revenue. The airport is used for corporate aircraft, air charter services, general aviation and air cargo. Its tenants include Signature Flight Support, Signature TECHNICAir, Piedmont Flight Training, Piedmont Propulsion Systems and North State Aviation, which does aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO).

"Over the next five years, over \$70 million in capital investment has been planned for the airport including \$16 million for the Forsyth Tech Aviation Center, which should start construction later this year," said Davidson. "The proximity of the airport to the Innovation Quarter is also an opportunity and the recent establishment of the Smith Reynolds Airport Board will allow leaders to focus on economic development. The airport is positioned for growth and will remain an economic force in the community."

The report found that the state's public airports contribute more than \$52 billion to the state's economy and \$2.2 billion in state and local tax revenues. They also support 307,000 jobs that provide \$12.6 billion in personal income.

"Our network of 72 public airports, and the aviation and aerospace assets that rely on them, help move our economy forward by creating jobs, supporting business growth and connecting people and companies to markets around the globe," said Bobby Walston, director of NCDOT's Division of Aviation.



Submitted photo
According to a report, Smith Reynolds Airport provides an \$801 million impact on the local economy.