



NC BATTLES DC OVER BATHROOM PRIVACY

BY MATT CAULDER

The stage is set for a battle between the state and the federal government over privacy and security rights, and the balance of power between Washington and Raleigh.

The state and the federal Department of Justice (DOJ) have both filed lawsuits over House Bill 2, the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act. On May 13, the Obama administration issued a new command: Public schools must allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity.

State leaders respond

In response, Civitas President Francis De Luca said:

“We at Civitas urge our state and educational leaders to reject President Obama’s latest attempt to overstep his lawful role, ‘fundamentally transform’ the nation, and impose a radical agenda on every school in the state and nation. North Carolina must stand strong against this unconstitutional decree that ‘a school may not

require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required

Gov. Pat McCrory and state legislative leaders filed lawsuits defending House Bill 2.

“In this new federal attempt to bully North Carolina,

individuals without impinging on the safety and comfort of other people.

“We are confident the federal government’s latest attacks on

(R-Rockingham) said:

“The last time I checked, the United States is not ruled by a king who can bypass Congress and the courts and force school-aged boys and girls to share the same bathrooms and locker rooms. This is an egregiously unconstitutional overreach of the president’s authority, and North Carolina’s public schools should follow state law, which protects our children’s safety and privacy.”

House Speaker Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) said on May 13, “This morning, parents all across the country are waking up to find that the Obama administration has sent every public school a letter requiring the schools to allow boys and girls to share locker rooms and restrooms.

This is no longer a North Carolina issue, this is a national issue. We all have to wonder what other threats to common-sense norms may come before the sun sets on the Obama Administration.”

State, DOJ file lawsuits

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Civitas President Francis De Luca and Tami Fitzgerald of NC Values Coalition spoke at a press conference May 9 in Raleigh. See story on p. 4.

to do so.’

“The president’s new decree has no force of law but is merely an implicit threat to withhold federal funds. It is important to remember that just yesterday the White House admitted North Carolina would not lose federal education funding after

the governor, the General Assembly, state education officials and school districts should also hold their ground against this administration threat. The tragedy of this is that civil society was already developing reasonable ways of accommodating transgendered

our constitutional rights can be turned back so that North Carolina’s leaders, schools and people can resume the work of finding ways to meet the needs of all people in a reasonable manner.”

North Carolina Senate Leader Sen. Phil Berger

Civitas Action Will Track 2016 Votes as They Happen

BY NCCC STAFF

Civitas Action has unveiled a new Internet home at www.civitasaction.org for its annual Conservative Effectiveness Ranking of North Carolina state lawmakers.

“The new site is far more user-friendly and, for the first time, will track legislative votes as soon as possible after the vote occurs,” said Civitas Action President Francis De Luca.

The legislative vote on HB2 already has been posted to the site, and votes on important issues throughout the session will be updated as they occur. This will enable constituents, media and legislators alike to track scores as this legislative session progresses.

The Civitas Action Conservative Effectiveness Ranking is the only rating

system in North Carolina that allows citizens to gauge how their state legislators vote on important bills and offers scores to better determine the members’ overall ideological stances on pivotal issues.

“Letter grades will no longer be assigned as we believe those



grades detracted from the ability to gauge legislators’ effectiveness based on relative numeric scores,” De Luca said.

Civitas Action has been producing its annual legislative ranking since the 2008

legislative session. Since gaining the majority in 2010 in both legislative houses, Republicans have achieved great success advancing conservative reforms.

But, success sometimes leads to complacency, and the Civitas Action rankings, now happening in real time, should

help our elected officials to stick with proven, successful conservative solutions to the challenges facing North Carolina. Rankings for the 2011 through 2015 sessions are

available at www.civitasaction.org, with prior years to be added in the coming weeks.

The updated [civitasaction.org](http://www.civitasaction.org) site includes a host of other features.

Those features include a blog page for more on what is happening, an “Action Alert” page to let citizens know when a crucial vote is coming up, and a sign-up page for those who want to let us know their top concerns. Users also will be able to easily locate their legislators and send them emails.

Civitas Action is a 501(c)(4) non-profit that educates and informs North Carolinians on policy issues and the actions of their elected officials. ■



Best Light-Rail Move: Put a Lid on It

BY JIM TYNEN

Here's a sure-fire way for the legislature to spend \$138 million of your money on a project that:

- You probably will never need or use;
- Is based on 19th-century technology;
- Will negatively disrupt the Triangle's transportation network over a decade;

• Will fatten the wallets of insiders, wheeler-dealers and big companies; and

- Will give Washington bureaucrats another club to beat us with.

Great idea, huh?

The project is a proposed \$1.34 billion light-rail project from Chapel Hill through Durham. The state would be on the hook for at least \$138 million for the project, with much of the rest coming from the feds.

You may be dismayed to learn that a state House panel has taken a step to remove a safeguard holding back the scheme.

Last year's state budget deal contained a \$500,000 cap on light-rail projects. Such a lid on spending would force local governments to bear the cost.

Now, however, a new measure, House Bill 988, would remove the cap. Advocates say that's so the state's transportation plan can consider all options.

But some lawmakers from rural areas are pushing back. They point out their towns and

counties will never need or get light-rail. Why should people who will never ride the trains pay for it?

They also point out, correctly, that light-rail is already obsolete.

"I'd like to know what data, what science [justify] using a 19th-century technology?" Rep. Rayne Brown (R-Davidson) asked at a recent meeting of the House Transportation Committee.

Moreover, other modern light-rail plans have invariably

sent to the House Appropriations Committee to consider. If the House passes it, the idea

"I haven't seen any data here that supports the concept of light-rail"

- Rep. Larry Yarborough

reportedly has strong support in the Senate.

According to advocates, the bill just allows legislators to put light-rail up for consideration.

Taxpayers, however, may well fear that once such projects come

getting closer to being a reality.

The light-rail plan is estimated to be running at the earliest in

2025. By then, light-rail will be like having a fleet of horse-drawn covered wagons plodding up and down Highway 15-501 searching for foot-weary pioneers.

Remember, more than a billion dollars will be spread around

Our liberal friends complain the state doesn't spend enough on schools. North Carolina would have a lot more to spend on schools if it didn't waste billions on boondoggles.

Another argument is that the federal government will cover much of the costs. Well, whose money was that in the first place?

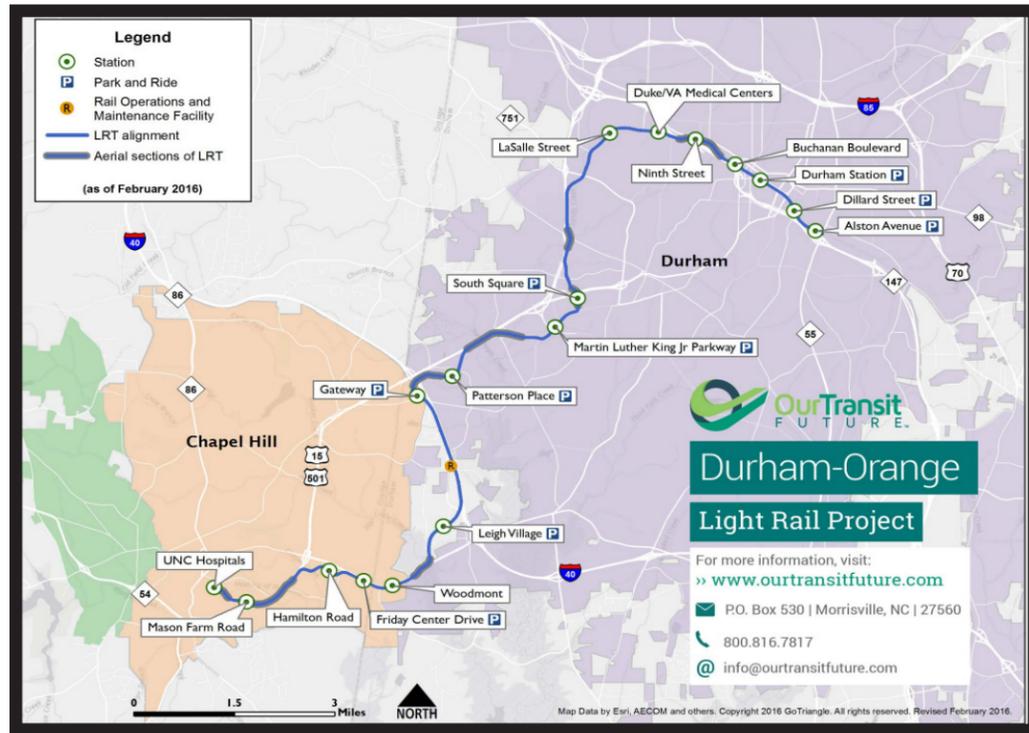
Also, the federal government is on the hook for tens of trillions of dollars already. What happens if down the road Washington says, "Oops, turns out we don't have the money for that after all"?

Which brings up a danger that is now in sharper focus than ever: What if D.C. bureaucrats decide to use that money as a club to force North Carolina to do something?

Many liberals cheer when the Obama administration threatens to withhold money over HB2. What happens if a future administration, whether conservative or liberal, makes the same threat? Think about it.

The spending cap was a simple way to put a slow down this idea and limit the state's liability. But now it's under siege.

North Carolinians should keep an eye on this whole process. Tune in to future editions of this newspaper, nccapitolconnection.com, nccivitas.org, and Civitas Action (civitasaction.org) to keep abreast of what is happening to HB988 and other measures that will impact life here in North Carolina. ■



turned out to be boondoggles. "I haven't seen any data here that supports the concept of light-rail," said Rep. Larry Yarborough (R-Person) at the meeting. "Everything I know about it is that it's a feel-good proposition with very expensive cost per passenger-mile."

However, HB988 passed the transportation panel and was

up, they are politically irresistible, despite the many problems, including obsolescence.

Light-rail is just another railroad train – even as technology is transforming every other aspect of transportation. Uber, Lyft and other ride-sharing services are making it easier for people to get where they want to go. Moreover, driverless cars are

before a single traveler rides a train. Who gets that money? Big companies, bureaucrats, developers, and various political cronies and fat cats will. They'll have cashed their checks long before problems surface.

Meanwhile, 17 miles of a busy part of the Triangle will be torn up for years, disrupting the transportation we already use.

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NC High Court Ruling Kills Retention Election

BY ELLIOT ENGSTROM

The North Carolina Supreme Court ruled May 6 that a 2015 law changing the method by which Supreme Court justices are elected is unconstitutional. That 2015 law stated:

“A justice of the Supreme Court who was elected to that office by vote of the voters who desires to continue in office shall be subject to approval by the qualified voters of the whole State in a retention election at the general election immediately preceding the expiration of the elected term. Approval shall be by a majority of votes cast on the issue of the justice’s retention in accordance with this Article.”

The question for the high court was whether a “retention election” satisfies the requirement of the North Carolina Constitution that Supreme Court justices be “elected.” Specifically, the Constitution provides:

“Justices of the Supreme Court ... shall be elected by the qualified voters and shall hold office for terms of eight years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Justices of the Supreme Court ... shall be elected by the qualified voters of the state.”

In February, a three-judge panel heard arguments on the issue in compliance with a North Carolina law requiring that challenges to a law’s facial constitutionality be heard by such panels, the decisions of which are appealable directly to the state Supreme Court.

That panel found the law unconstitutional, and the state appealed to the North Carolina Supreme Court. Justice Edmunds, the only justice directly affected by the law this election cycle, recused himself from the case. That left only six justices to consider the case. In addition to the briefs and oral arguments of the parties, the justices had before them an amicus brief signed by Civitas Institute Center for Law and Freedom and the ACLU of North Carolina, in which we argued that retention elections are unconstitutional.

In a split 3-3 per curiam opinion, the state high court upheld the lower court’s decision — meaning that retention elections are unconstitutional. However, the 3-3 decision did not come with written opinions and is of no precedential value.

The Supreme Court’s opinion ends the case. ■



We work in courts, government, and institutions of higher education to advance freedom for all North Carolinians.



www.nccivitas.org/clf

A project of the Civitas Institute.

Monthly Petition

Petition to Reject Federal Blackmail

On May 13, the Obama administration issued a directive to public schools across the country that students must be able to choose which gender-specific facility to use based on their personal gender identity and not the sex they were born.

The edict was contained in a joint letter penned by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education that also told schools that they must treat students as the gender they desire and allow them to participate in sex-segregated activities such as sports.

The implicit threat is that Washington will withhold millions of dollars in education funding for our children unless HB2 is repealed.

We Reject Federal Blackmail

We, the undersigned, reject this federal blackmail and urge Governor McCrory and our state leaders to stand firmly behind HB2 and say “no” to federal funding if it means putting our privacy and safety at risk.

Name (First, M.I., Last)

Street Address

City State, Zip County

Email

Phone Cell Home Business

Signature Date

Name (First, M.I., Last)

Street Address

City State, Zip County

Email

Phone Cell Home Business

Signature Date

Cut out and mail to: Civitas Institute, 100 S. Harrington St. Raleigh, NC 27603
or Email to: signups@nccivitas.org Please make copies of this form for others to sign

Civitas and NC Values Coalition Seek Cooper Records

BY NCCC STAFF

The Civitas Institute and the North Carolina Values Coalition joined together on May 9 to announce that a public records request was delivered to state Attorney General Roy Cooper to determine what communication has transpired between Cooper and the U.S. Department of Justice, among others.

In the debate over House Bill 2, the state and the federal government have clashed in court. (See story on page 1.) Meanwhile, some corporations have threatened to cancel planned expansions in the state. Cooper, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said that in his role as attorney general he would not defend the state law.

“Attorney General Roy Cooper has refused to defend North Carolina against business bullies and threats from federal bureaucrats,” said Civitas President Francis De Luca at the press conference at the state Department of Justice building in Raleigh. “Instead of doing his job to defend a common-sense

law in our state that was passed in a bipartisan vote, Cooper has been colluding with business

the extent of any collusion with the federal government against state interests.”

that the attorney general has colluded with major corporate CEOs to cause economic harm

threatened, we will not cave to your political pandering and blackmail. We will, however, stand firm to protect all North Carolinians’ right to privacy and safety in bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms.”

An attorney with the Alliance Defending Freedom, Kellie Fiedorek, explained why the state law fully complies with federal law. She said, “North Carolina’s bathroom privacy law, HB2, fully complies with federal law. It’s absurd to assert, as the Department of Justice does, that by placing the word ‘sex’ in federal nondiscrimination laws, Congress intended to force states to open their restrooms to people of the opposite biological sex.”

“Governor McCrory and the state of North Carolina are fulfilling their duty to protect the privacy rights of their citizens. The DOJ should stop bullying North Carolina with falsehoods about what federal law requires.”

As of press time, Civitas had not received an answer to its records request. ■



U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch announcing on May 9 the Justice Department’s complaint against the state of North Carolina, the UNC System, and the state Department of Public Safety.

interests to commit economic blackmail against our state. Therefore it is plausible that he has been complicit in the recent federal blackmail from the Obama administration. We hope to better understand his collusions with the business community against the economic interests of North Carolina and

Tami Fitzgerald, executive director of the North Carolina Values Coalition, agreed. “It seems that Attorney General Roy Cooper, much like the Obama Administration, is willing to engage in political maneuvers to help his campaign,” she said. “Based on information released to the public last week, we believe

to the State of North Carolina by inciting them to threaten and bully the State,” she said. “The public deserves to know whether the attorney general is colluding in this blackmail and bullying. Let the nation hear loud and clear from the state of North Carolina: we will not be bullied, we will not be

Latest Civitas Poll Shows Views of Charlotte Law

BY NCCC STAFF

The Civitas April 2016 poll asked key questions about the furor over use of bathrooms and changing rooms in the state. Here is one:

“As you may know, the Charlotte City Council passed a new Bathroom Ordinance that allowed transgender people to use the bathroom or locker room of their choice – including the bathroom and locker room of the opposite biological sex. Now I am going to read you two viewpoints on this topic and then please tell me which one you agree with more...”

29% Supporters of the ordinance say this a reasonable policy for transgender people who may prefer to use the bathroom of the opposite biological sex because they feel unsafe or uncomfortable using the bathroom of their own biological sex.

61% Opponents of the ordinance say this is an unreasonable policy because it creates a loophole that gives sexual predators access to women’s locker rooms and bathrooms, and women and girls feel unsafe and uncomfortable

being forced to share the women’s bathroom with a biological man who may or may not identify as female.

7% Other/Neither/Both
2% Don’t Know/ Refused
A related question:

“I am going to read you two more viewpoints on this topic and please tell me which one do you agree with more?”

31% (Some/Other) people say the repeal of the Charlotte Bathroom Ordinance is more about discrimination and unfairly targeting lesbian, gay and transgender people.

59% (Other/Some) people say the repeal of the Charlotte Bathroom Ordinance is more about safety and privacy by keeping men out of women’s bathrooms and girls’ locker rooms.

5% Both
5% Not Sure
1% Refused

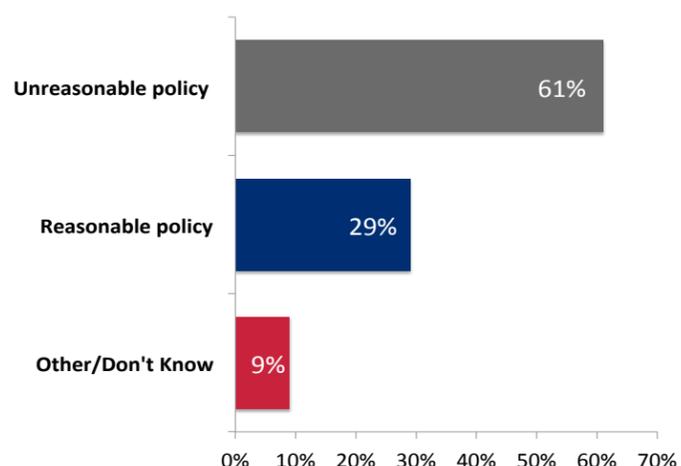
To find out more about the poll, see the Polling Spotlight at www.ncccivitas.org. ■

The Charlotte City Council passed a new Bathroom Ordinance that allowed transgender people to use the bathroom or locker room of their choice – including the bathroom and locker room of the opposite biological sex.

- Supporters of the ordinance say this a **reasonable policy** for transgender people, who may prefer to use the bathroom of the opposite biological sex because they feel unsafe or uncomfortable using the bathroom of their own biological sex.

- Opponents of the ordinance say this is an **unreasonable policy**, because it creates a loophole that gives sexual predators access to women’s locker rooms and bathrooms, and women and girls feel unsafe and uncomfortable being forced to share the women’s bathroom with a biological man who may or may not identify as female.

Which statement do you agree with more?



NC BATTLES DC OVER BATHROOM PRIVACY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pat McCrory announced earlier this month that he filed a declaratory judgment action asking for clarification on federal laws related to the Department of Justice letter declaring the state in violation of anti-discrimination laws.

In the state lawsuit, McCrory argued that “the overwhelming weight of legal authority” recognizes that Title VII doesn’t extend protections to transgender people.

The suit was filed in response to a DOJ letter declaring the state was in violation of both Title IX, a part of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972, and Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964.

HB2 was passed in response to a Charlotte city ordinance that overstepped the powers granted to municipalities in North Carolina and would have ordered private businesses to eliminate bathrooms that restrict use based upon biological sex.

HB2, among other things, allows private businesses to establish their own bathroom usage policies and allow public schools to make reasonable accommodations for transgender students not wanting to use multi-person restrooms of their biological sex.

The same day the state

launched its lawsuit, the Obama administration’s Justice Department filed a lawsuit against the state over HB2, North Carolina’s law reversing the Charlotte ordinance that would have forced everyone in the city to allow people to use

a declaratory judgment ruling that the law is discriminatory and unenforceable.

McCrory requested a two-week extension to prepare a response, considering the DOJ’s three-day deadline to respond, but the demands put

is bypassing Congress by attempting to rewrite the law and set restroom policies for public and private employers across the country, not just North Carolina.

This is now a national issue that applies to every state, and

McCrory said, “I’m taking this initiative to ensure that North Carolina continues to receive federal funding until the courts resolve this issue.”

Separately, Senate leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Rep. Tim Moore sued the Justice Department in the same district, also seeking a judicial ruling that the law doesn’t violate the Civil Rights Act.

Complicating the issue for the pro-HB2 camp is a recent court ruling in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals that reversed a lower court ruling, interpreting Title IX to refer to a Virginia high school student born as a female but living as a male who wanted to use male bathrooms and changing facilities at school.

The ruling was based on a U.S. Department of Education (DOE) opinion letter stating that in its opinion Title IX referred not only to equal education rights for women but for people who decide that they are women as well.

In its letter, the DOE said, “When a school elects to separate or treat students differently on the basis of sex ... a school generally must treat transgender students consistent with their gender identity.” ■



HB2 supporters rallied in April on the Halifax Mall in Raleigh.

the gender-specific facility of their choice.

The federal lawsuit referred to HB2 as “state-sponsored discrimination” and called the law, which requires that people use the bathroom corresponding to their biological sex in state-owned properties, a violation of the equal right to education protections for women, which relates to equal employment.

The DOJ lawsuit is seeking

on the state for an extension were too much for McCrory.

He said the Justice Department would give a one-week extension, but only if McCrory publicly called the law, which he signed and has stood behind, discriminatory.

“I could not agree with that because I do not agree with their interpretation of federal law,” the governor said.

“The Obama administration

it needs to be resolved at the federal level,” McCrory said. “They are now telling every government agency and every company that employs more than 15 people that men should be allowed to use a women’s locker room, restroom or shower facility.”

At risk in the process is millions in education funding and billions in federal funding to the state as well, but

It’s Now a Debate About Federal Overreach

BY ALEXANDER GUIN

By now, most Americans have heard about North Carolina House Bill 2. The new law has dominated the media landscape for several weeks now. But only now has the real issue come into focus.

In almost every article, news report, and blog post covering the new law, the officially named “Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act” is referred to as North Carolina’s “controversial bathroom bill.”

Let me assure you that, among everyday North Carolinians, there is no controversy. The most recent Civitas poll indicates most people are aware of the law (85 percent) and most favor the law (69 percent). The media have sparked a firestorm and fed the flames with stories about bathroom assaults against transgendered individuals and

about tearful students claiming oppression, but only a handful of politicians and public policy organizations give the law even a second thought. Yet despite such widespread public support of HB2, groups such as the Human Rights Campaign and North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper have successfully pressured multinational corporations and the federal government to try to coerce, shame, and bully North Carolina into repealing the bill.

All that aside, as of May 3, some high-minded libertarians and centrist Republicans bemoaning the prolonged discussion of something as banal as where people can relieve themselves and change clothes were able to breathe their own sighs of relief.

The moment Loretta Lynch

threatened to withhold Title VII and Title IX funding from North Carolina unless Gov. Pat McCrory and the legislature agreed to cry “uncle” and publicly declare that HB2 is discriminatory, the discussion ceased to be about bathrooms. The small, but vocal minority clamoring for an “anything goes because who are you to question my beliefs” public policy no longer mattered. We now find ourselves not in a debate about bathrooms but in one about the relationship between the federal government and the states.

The question is: How far are McCrory and legislators willing to go to stand up for North Carolina’s sovereignty? How hard are they willing to fight in order to maintain control over a state-level question with a state-level answer? Transgender rights

are not mentioned even in the “emanations of the penumbra” of the U.S. Constitution and are thus left to the states, the laboratories of democracy, to decide.

The hitch is that North Carolina depends on the federal government for nearly half of its annual budget. This new threat just brings to the forefront a danger that has always lurked in money Washington sends to the states.

Every dollar North Carolina receives from the federal government comes with strings attached. We’ll leave the cost of compliance aside for the time being, but the policy outcomes of accepting federal grants can be devastating. To pick just one example, in 2009, when North Carolina was flat on its back during the recession, bureaucrats

in the NC Department of Public Instruction accepted \$400 million in federal Race to the Top Grants. The stipulation for accepting the grants, however, was that North Carolina must implement the Common Core curriculum. The results have been disastrous.

The results of backing down from this fight would also be disastrous. This time, however, the physical safety and emotional comfort of vulnerable people is at stake.

Loretta Lynch has perpetrated an unadulterated abuse of federal power, pure and simple. Now it’s time for North Carolina to stand up and defend our sovereignty and protect women and children. ■

This article was originally published by The American Spectator (spectator.org).

Bill Would Create Penalties for Sanctuary Cities

BY MATT CAULDER

A bill filed in the Senate this month aims to create penalties for local governments that refuse to enforce the state's "anti-sanctuary city" laws, passed during the Long Session last year.

The penalties would affect localities' access to the Public School Building Capital Fund and also Powell Bill funding for streets and roads.

Local governments found in violation of the state immigration law would forfeit the funding for the next fiscal year, and the state would allocate those funds to local governments in compliance with the law.

"It's just plain common sense that cities and counties ought to be enforcing federal

and state immigration laws and not harboring illegal aliens at the potential expense of their own citizens' safety," said Sens. Norman Sanderson (R-Carteret) and Buck Newton (R-Johnston) in a joint statement.

"Hopefully this bill will provide some extra incentive for local officials to do the right thing."

A release from Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger's (R-Rockingham) office said, "several law enforcement officials have contacted lawmakers to raise concern that some local governments are not complying with the law," bringing up the need for some consequences for offending municipalities.

The bill would give teeth to the state law, House Bill 318, which prohibited cities and counties from having any policy that "limits or restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws to less than the full extent permitted by federal law."

It would expand E-Verify legal status verification for employment, set requirements for state labor contracts, and has identified consulate documents as not being acceptable forms of identification to prove residency. It also would replace the word "consulate" with "certain."

The filed bill would require the state attorney general to investigate claims of violations, which the public can submit,

within 45 days. Under the proposal, investigations would have to be wrapped up in 60 days.

During the course of the investigation, records gathered would not be public, but once the investigation is complete or after 60 days any materials would become public record.

The bill would also require quarterly reports from the attorney general on the findings.

In addition, it would prohibit the use of "community IDs," which, according to the release, are often issued by private organizations to illegal immigrants who lack proper identification and can mislead law enforcement officials by giving the appearance of legal

status.

The original sanctuary city bill had been drafted in response to the nationwide uproar after the murder of Kathryn Steinle, allegedly by an illegal immigrant whom had been deported multiple times.

Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, a Mexican national, was arrested following the 32-year-old Steinle's shooting in the back at a San Francisco pier.

At the time, several local governments in North Carolina had policies in place that protected illegal immigrants from federal law enforcement, including Asheville, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, and Durham. ■

Could NC Put the 'Connect' Back in Connect NC?

BY MATT CAULDER

A state representative on Tuesday filed a bill that could put the connections back into the Connect NC Bond. The bill, HB1106, filed by Rep. Chris Millis (R-Pender), proposes a referendum on moving some funds from the bond toward road projects. The measure would redirect \$490 million of the \$2 billion Connect NC Bond to shovel-ready transportation projects already waiting in the wings for funding.

Connect NC funds are now slated for constructing and renovating buildings at state campuses, and assorted other uses – but few if any road projects.

If the bill is passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor, the question would go before the voters in the fall.

"As you know, our state motto is to be rather than to seem. Unfortunately the Connect NC Bond as it was rolled out from the governor was focused on our great state transportation infrastructure needs as well as repairs and renovations to existing buildings," Millis said in a radio interview with What Matters in North Carolina.

"That bond proposal came to the halls of the legislature, was debated for some time, and toward the eleventh hour of the Long Session the General

Assembly [it took] a turn, and it infrastructure from the bond



was approved by the House and the Senate, while keeping the title of Connect NC, to totally remove all transportation

and actually put it toward other spending, which while [it] may be justified at a future date was not heavily vetted or

truly justified as compared to our dire need for transportation infrastructure."

Millis said many voters last fall were under the impression that the bond still included transportation projects. The new bill would give voters a chance to move transportation funding back into the bond.

Currently, 49 percent of Connect NC proceeds would go to new construction at the UNC System, 17 percent to the state community colleges, 16 percent for grants for local parks and water/sewer bonds, and the rest for military and public safety funding. ■

Civitas Action Needs Your Opinion

Tell us what matters to you and Civitas Action will work with you to make a difference in North Carolina

I support the following actions and want to help make a difference in North Carolina:

- Implementation of statewide Education Savings Accounts (ESA)
- School choice
- Elimination of personal and corporate income tax
- Support Taxpayer Protection Act
- Reduction in state spending
- Elimination of pork/earmark spending
- Ending tax credits for special interests
- Make NC state taxes the lowest in the nation
- Requiring supermajorities for tax increases
- Elimination of Certificate of Need Laws (CON)
- Lowering health care costs by increasing supply
- Ending state control of medical service supply
- Eliminating withholding union dues from state workers at taxpayer's expense
- Establishing term limits for NC state legislators
- Putting limits on session length for NC Legislature (Session Limits)
- Passing real voter ID laws to ensure election integrity
- Elimination Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS)
- Oil & gas drilling
- Other _____



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McCrory Outlines His Budget Vision

BY MATT CAULDER

Gov. Pat McCrory announced the rough details of his 2016-17 fiscal year budget at the North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh late last month, outlining his spending plan to send to the Legislature.

“My budget invests dollars where they matter most by spending on key priorities that have the biggest impact on North Carolinians and their families,” McCrory said. “These investments build on our commitment to strengthen education, enhance public safety, improve the health of our citizens, build new roads that connect our communities, all while reforming government to make it more accountable and efficient.”

McCrory’s proposed budget would represent a 2.5 percent

increase in recurring spending over the last budget, which had a 3.1 percent increase.

“We are going to ensure the state has a safety net for future economic swings,” McCrory said. “I am going to make sure that we have a sufficient rainy day fund. Our budget is also going to be preparing for future growth.”

McCrory said that, with 281 people moving to the state each day, preparations need to be made to keep up with the growth.

“We now have over 10 million people,” he said. “I firmly believe as a leader that you need to prepare for growth rather than react to growth.”

Highlights of the governor’s budget proposal include:

Budget Management

- No tax or fee increases proposed.

- Increases the total savings reserve account to \$1.4 billion, or nearly 7 percent of overall state spending, by adding \$300 million to the state’s rainy day fund.

- Caps total spending at \$22.3 billion, representing a spending increase of 2.8 percent.

Education

- Increases average teacher pay in North Carolina to more than \$50,000 for the first time in state history by providing an average 5 percent pay increase.

- Provides an average 3.5 percent bonus for teachers and principals, with a greater share going to veteran teachers.

- Establishes a scholarship program by investing \$2 million to attract 300 new,

highly qualified math and science teachers to earn degrees and teach math and science in the state’s public schools.

Public Safety

- Devotes \$21 million to increasing pay for law enforcement personnel.

Public Health

- Invests \$30 million to implement the recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use.

- Provides \$3 million to expand Medicaid services for older adults, including those with Alzheimer’s disease, by adding 320 new slots to the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults.

- Increases funding by \$1 million for family caregiver support services, including

respite care for caregivers.

- Invests \$2.5 million to expand Medicaid services for people with developmental disabilities and children with autism.

Transportation

- Provides \$155 million for the repairs and renovations account to maintain state infrastructure

- Supports implementation of the Connect NC initiative.

State Employees

- Provides an average 3 percent bonus for all state employees and school support staff. Each agency head in consultation with Office of State Human Resources will determine the allocation.■

House Announces Its Own \$22.2B Draft Budget

BY MATT CAULDER

House leaders released a \$22.225 billion spending plan on May 17, including raises for teachers and state employees, cuts to state taxes, additional allocations to the state rainy day fund, and investments in education and transportation.

The budget represented a 2.3 increase over the current spending plan.

“The North Carolina House has presented a sound, conservative budget that funds our priorities and sets the stage for continued growth and success for North Carolina,” House Speaker Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) said. “This proposal is a good starting point and I look forward to my colleagues debating and refining it as it moves through the committee process. I believe the combination of responsible spending, measured tax cuts and proactive savings will further solidify North Carolina’s status as a great place to live, work and conduct business.”

Raises for teachers and state employees

Under the draft bill, most teachers would get a 3 percent salary increase, in addition to whatever salary increases the teachers are on track for based on their experience, and other state employees would receive a 2 percent salary increase.

The average increase for

teachers would come to 4.1 percent in the coming year.

Both teachers and other state employees will also receive a \$500 bonus.

Also included in the \$460 million for teacher and employee raises would be funding for salary increases for state troopers and court clerks and magistrates.

Raises would also go to agents of the State Bureau of Investigation and Alcohol Law Enforcement and the state pay scale increases for correctional officers will be fully funded.

Under the draft bill, state retirees would get a 1.6 percent cost of living adjustment.

Tax cuts and increased state savings

The budget would increase the zero tax bracket by \$2,000 over a four-year period to capture more taxpayers.

The budget would also funnel an additional \$300 million into the state rainy day fund, bringing it to \$1.4 billion, to bolster the budget for the next economic downturn.

Votes were expected shortly after press time for NC Capitol Connection. The two chambers will have to reach a compromise to send to the governor for signing before the start of the new fiscal year, July 1.

House Budget Highlights Spending

- \$22.225 billion spending cap that keeps pace with population growth and inflation

- This is a 2.3% conservative increase in spending over FY 2015-16

Raises

- Over \$460 million for compensation increases for teachers, state troopers, clerks, magistrates and other state employees

- In addition to experienced based salary increases, most teachers receive 3% annual recurring salary increase and a \$500 bonus

- State employees receive 2% annual recurring salary increase and a \$500 bonus for all permanent, full-time state employees

Tax Cuts

- Increases the zero tax bracket by \$2,000 over four years to include more taxpayers.

- 70-80 percent of North Carolinians file their taxes under the zero bracket/standard deduction.

Savings

- Provides an additional \$300 million to the Savings Reserve Account, bringing the total to \$1.4 billion

Education

- Fully funds K-12 enrollment growth for public schools.

- Keeps driver education funded beyond 2017

- Invests an additional \$9.4M in the NC Digital Learning Plan that will fund new digital classroom resources and professional development for students and educators

- Increases funding for classroom supplies, textbooks, and digital learning materials

- Increases the Special Needs Scholarship by \$5.8M

- \$450,000 to increase the number of students and workers participating in apprenticeship training opportunities across the state.

Transportation

- Continues to fund a training initiative to provide commercial Driver Licenses to military personal.

- Addresses wait times in the busiest DMV districts by allowing for an augmented driver license examiner work week

- Establishes a reserve account for capital improvements to the North Carolina Ferry System:

- Additional funds will support the replacement and rehabilitation of vessels, terminal ramps, gantries, and bulkhead infrastructure

- Increases funding to the Reserve for General Maintenance and for the Secondary Road Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

- Provides a pathway to pave more roads.

Health Care

- Streamlines and makes better use of tax payer funds by bringing more work in house as opposed to contracting that work out, saving over \$3 million.

- Increases access to care in rural, underserved North Carolina by investing \$7.7 million for the establishment of a residency program at Cape Fear Valley Hospital

- Provides funding to establish an analytics pilot at Medicaid to integrate new data sources, automate reporting and analytic capabilities and integrate a tool to analyze claims in an effort to be more efficient and effective with current resources

Public Safety

- Provides funding to equip and operate crime labs in North Carolina and increases funding for forensic testing

- Authorizes funding for the completion and staffing of the new Western Crime Lab

- Allocates additional funding to the Raleigh Crime Lab for equipment

- Appropriates additional funding for the outsourcing of forensic analysis to include toxicology and DNA testing.

- Creates social media training for law enforcement■

Bad Bill of the Week Outlaws Employment

BY BRIAN BALFOUR

The laws of economics, much like gravity, are not subject to a vote. Nor do they change based upon popular opinion.

Unfortunately, the sponsors of House Bill 1046, Constitutional Amendment [to] Up the Minimum Wage, need to be reminded of this.

Reps. Carla Cunningham (D-Mecklenburg), Graig Meyer (D-Orange), Bobbie Richardson (D-Nash) and Jean Farmer-Butterfield (D-Wilson) sponsored this bill that would place on the ballot this fall a constitutional amendment to change the state constitution to include a \$9 an hour statewide minimum wage. Moreover, this minimum wage would increase automatically every year at a rate equal to annual inflation.

Minimum wage laws not only have no place in a free society and hurt the very people they are supposedly set up to help, they also have a very ugly history.

Minimum wage laws are an infringement on freedom. In a free society, people would have a right to engage in work arrangements free from government coercion and threats. The minimum wage, however, criminalizes voluntary agreements between employer and employee if the agreed-upon wage happens to be below the amount arbitrarily chosen by the political class.

Furthermore, basic supply and demand tells us that the higher the price of a good, the less of that good will be demanded, other things being equal. In this case, if the "price" of low-skilled labor (i.e., wages) is artificially raised, there will be fewer willing buyers of low-skilled workers (employers). The result: higher unemployment among low-skilled workers.

Empirical studies are not

needed to confirm this, nor can they refute this. It is simply logic. No amount of wishful thinking or government fiat will change it.

Lastly, consider the ugly history of the minimum wage. The Foundation for Economic Education has compiled academic literature that highlights how early minimum wage advocacy was tied in with the racist eugenics movement:

"These days, you can count on media talking heads and countless politicians to proclaim how wonderful the minimum wage is for the poor. Wage floors will improve the standard of living, they say. But back in 1912, they knew better — minimum wages exclude workers — and they favored them precisely because such wage floors drive people out of the job market. People without jobs cannot prosper and are thereby discouraged from reproducing. Minimum wages were designed specifically to purify the demographic landscape of racial inferiors and to keep women at the margins of society." (Emphasis added)

Economist Thomas Sowell also points out how the minimum wage has been used to keep minorities and immigrants from accessing jobs in several nations across the world for generations. Such a sordid history has led economist Walter Williams to label the minimum wage as "one of the most effective tools in the arsenal of racists everywhere in the world."

Because minimum wage laws criminalize peaceful, voluntary labor agreements, ultimately hurt low-skilled people the most, and have an ugly history rooted in racism, HB1046 was a recent Bad Bill of the Week. ■



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HB2 Sets Statewide Anti-Discrimination Policy

3/23/16

House Bill 2 is an act to provide for single-sex multiple occupancy bathroom and changing facilities in schools and public agencies and to create statewide consistency in regulation of employment and public accommodations.

PUBLIC FACILITIES PRIVACY & SECURITY ACT

HB 2

SUPPORT

Senate Republicans (32)

Alexander; Apodaca; Barefoot; Barringer; Berger; Bingham; Brock; Brown; Cook; Curtis; Daniel; J. Davis; Gunn; Harrington; Hartsell; Hise; B. Jackson; Krawiec; Lee; McInnis; Meredith; Newton; Pate; Rabin; Rabon; Randleman; Sanderson; Tarte; Tillman; Tucker; Wade; Wells

Senate Democrats (0)

House Republicans (71)

Adams; Arp; Avila; J. Bell; Bishop; Blackwell; Blust; Boles; Bradford; Brawley; Brody; R. Brown; Bryan; Bumgardner; Burr; Catlin; Cleveland; Collins; Conrad; Daughtry; Davis; Dixon; Dobson; Dollar; Elmore; Faircloth; Ford; Fraley; Hager; K. Hall; Hardister; Hastings; Horn; Howard; Hurley; Iler; L. Johnson; Jones; Jordan; Lambeth; Langdon; Lewis; McElraft; McNeill; Malone; S. Martin; Millis; T. Moore; Murphy; Pittman; Presnell; Riddell; Robinson; Ross; Saine; Schaffer; Setzer; Shepard; Speciale; Stam; Steinburg; Stevens; Szoka; Torbett; R. Turner; Warren; Watford; West; Whitmire; Yarborough; Zachary

House Democrats (11)

L. Bell; Brisson; Floyd; Goodman; C. Graham; G. Graham; Hunter; Pierce; W. Richardson; Salmon; Wray

OPPOSE

Senate Republicans (0)

Senate Democrats (0)

House Republicans (1)

Tine

House Democrats (25)

Ager; Alexander; Baskerville; Brockman; Cotham; Cunningham; Farmer-Butterfield; Gill; D. Hall; L. Hall; Hamilton; Hanes; Harrison; Holley; Insko; Jackson; Lucas; G. Martin; Meyer; Michaux; R. Moore; Reives; B. Richardson; B. Turner; Willingham

NOT VOTING

Senate (11)

Blue (D); Clark (D); D. Davis (D); Foushee (D); J. Jackson (D); Lowe (D); McKissick (D); Robinson (D); Smith-Ingram (D); Van Duyn (D); Woodard (D)

House

T. Moore (R)

EXCUSED ABSENT

Senate (7)

Bryant (D); Ford (D); Rucho (R); Smith (D); Soucek (R); Waddell (D)

House (11)

Adcock (D); Carney (D); Earle (D); Fisher (D); Jeter (R); Luebke (D); McGrady (R); Pendleton (R); Queen (D); Terry (D); Waddell (D)

SPONSORS Bishop (R)

ROLL CALL S- 3 H- 9

What Does Grumpy N&O Have Against School Children?

BY BOB LUEBKE

“Grumpy old men.” That’s what I’d call the editors at the News & Observer (no matter their age or sex) who in addition to the May 10 editorial continue to use any opportunity to tell others why they too should dislike the Opportunity Scholarship Program, which continues to do what the N&O editors apparently dislike: provide middle- and low-income children an opportunity to get a better education.

You see, the N&O editors are always saying those evil conservatives don’t really care about poor kids. “But we do!” the editors tell struggling families. Yet, the editors say nothing when parents tell them their child is trapped in a failing school. They say nothing when parents ask pointedly: Would you send your child to this school?

The editors say they are concerned about accountability. Very concerned. They say that many of the private schools Opportunity Scholarship recipients attend are not subject to the accountability requirements found in most public schools, and thus the program is flawed.

Such thinking is misguided. Accountability is good and it’s something supporters of the Opportunity Scholarship Program readily embrace. However, we have to recognize that accountability – like education – comes in many flavors.

Private schools have many built-in and effective accountability mechanisms.

Private schools are subject to the same health and safety laws as public schools. Private schools frequently seek accreditation with regional bodies that the institutions meet certain standards of quality to obtain.

In addition, there are specific accountability requirements for schools that educate Opportunity Scholarship students. Schools must provide parents with written reports of student progress, including scores on any standardized achievement tests.

In addition, schools that educate larger numbers of Opportunity Scholarship students will be required to provide financial data and provide academic progress reports. Furthermore, the Opportunity Scholarship Program is required to submit to the Joint Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Public Instruction a progress report on the learning gains of students receiving the scholarships.

However, there is an accountability mechanism in place that exceeds even these extensive requirements: parents. If the school is failing students, parents will take them out and send them elsewhere. It’s a reality that makes most private schools attentive to the needs and wants of students and parents.

The editors say Opportunity Scholarships drain money from the public schools – \$12 million last year and more next year. Draining money from the public schools?

Let’s step back and get some perspective. Total state funding for K-12 public education in 2015-16 was \$8.95 billion. Twelve million for the Opportunity Scholarship Program constitutes three-one-

been providing vouchers for children to enroll in pre-K programs with private providers. In addition, last year North Carolina provided \$265 million in scholarships for students to attend public

to obtain a good education. Our public schools provide that for many children. But if we’re honest, we know that for too many, the system fails. That’s where the Opportunity Scholarship program comes



hundredths of 1 percent of the NC Public School Budget.

If the editors want to talk about draining money from the public schools, they might look at the many areas where schools, school districts and the Department of Public Instruction waste money.

North Carolina now spends roughly \$8,500 per student each year, marking a staggering 300 percent increase since 1970 even after adjusting for inflation, yet student achievement has stagnated. Why has all that money failed to improve results? That should be fodder for a year of editorials.

Of course this brings up an interesting point. North Carolina provides \$60 million to the NC Pre-K program. For years the program has

and private colleges.

I wonder: Why haven’t N&O editors spoken out against these programs? Don’t they believe state money given to private pre-K providers hurts the state? Don’t they believe students who attend private colleges with state scholarships are harming our public colleges and universities?

Why the silence? We’ve heard nothing because the private Pre-K centers and educational institutions provide a quality product at a reasonable price.

If parents can be trusted to choose the best pre-K program for their child, shouldn’t they also be allowed to choose an elementary school or high school? Not according to the editors.

Every child deserves a chance

in. It provides that chance for many children trapped in difficult circumstances. Access to quality private schools shouldn’t be limited only to wealthy families.

The Opportunity Scholarship Program is a good program. Not perfect, but a good start in the right direction.

Last year approximately 2,500 students received Opportunity Scholarships. This year, more than 5,600 new applications have been received. That’s proof something good is happening.

I wish the N&O editors could see it. Then maybe they’d smile along with the parents and children who have benefitted and whose joy is so easily dismissed. ■



Since 2013, NC Economy Has Continued to Thrive

BY NCCC STAFF

North Carolina's economic outlook ranked second in the United States in a new analysis of all states' economic competitiveness from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

It's just the latest sign that the state's economic resurgence is still going strong.

The 9th edition of "Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index" uses data to rank the 2016 economic outlook of states using 15 equally weighted policy variables, including various tax rates, regulatory burdens and labor policies.

The economic outlook, the report said, is "a forward-looking forecast based on the state's standing (equal-weighted average) in ... 15 important state policy variables," including being a right-to-work state, tax rates, the tax burdens, and other factors that influence a state's prosperity.

Not only did our state

20s. Then it jumped to sixth in 2014, fourth in 2015, and now second.

What happened around 2013 that might have spurred this success?

Pat McCrory became governor, and both chambers of the legislature welcomed more conservative legislators. The state tax code and unemployment programs were reformed, spending was reined in, and other measures made the state more welcoming to businesses.

"Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index" was written by economist Dr. Arthur B. Laffer; Stephen Moore, distinguished visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation; and Jonathan Williams, vice president of the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform.

The bright outlook is just the latest sign of the state's economic strength.

The McCrory administration has noted that since 2013 North Carolina has had the fastest-

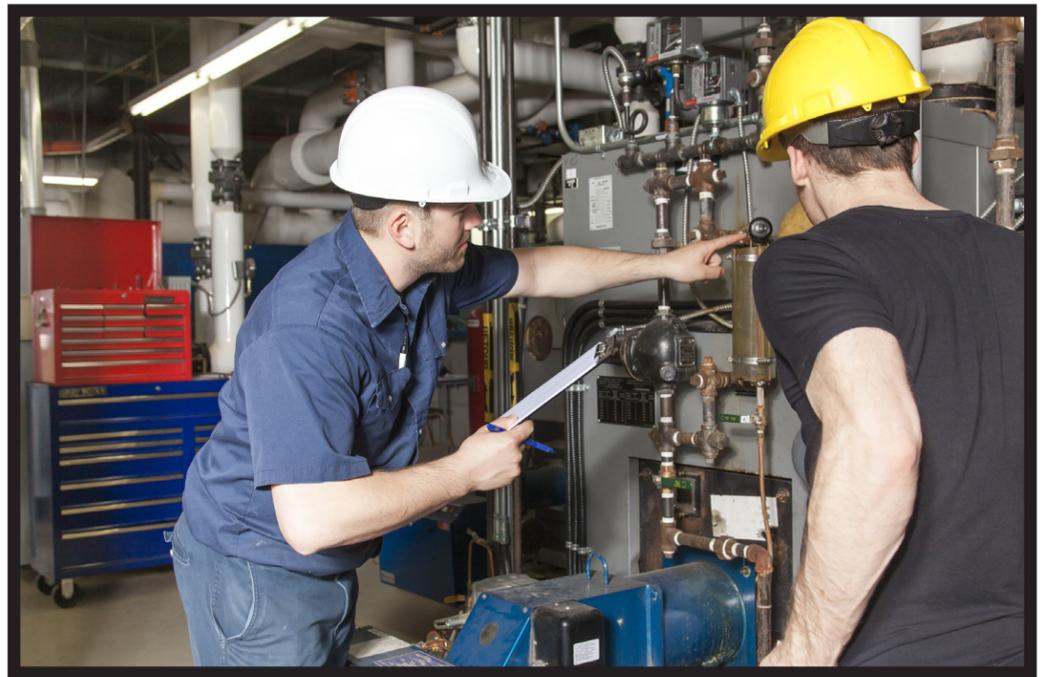
Product (GDP) grew 13.4 percent in that time.

"We have delivered \$4.4 billion in tax relief, fixed our broken unemployment

North Carolina has added more than 275,000 private-sector jobs. Additionally, the Tar Heel State's business tax climate improved from 44th

in partnership with the News & Observer, admitted those figures make North Carolina the fastest-growing state.

The plaudits keep rolling



insurance system and reformed our economic development strategy to strengthen North Carolina's economy and put more people back to work," McCrory said.

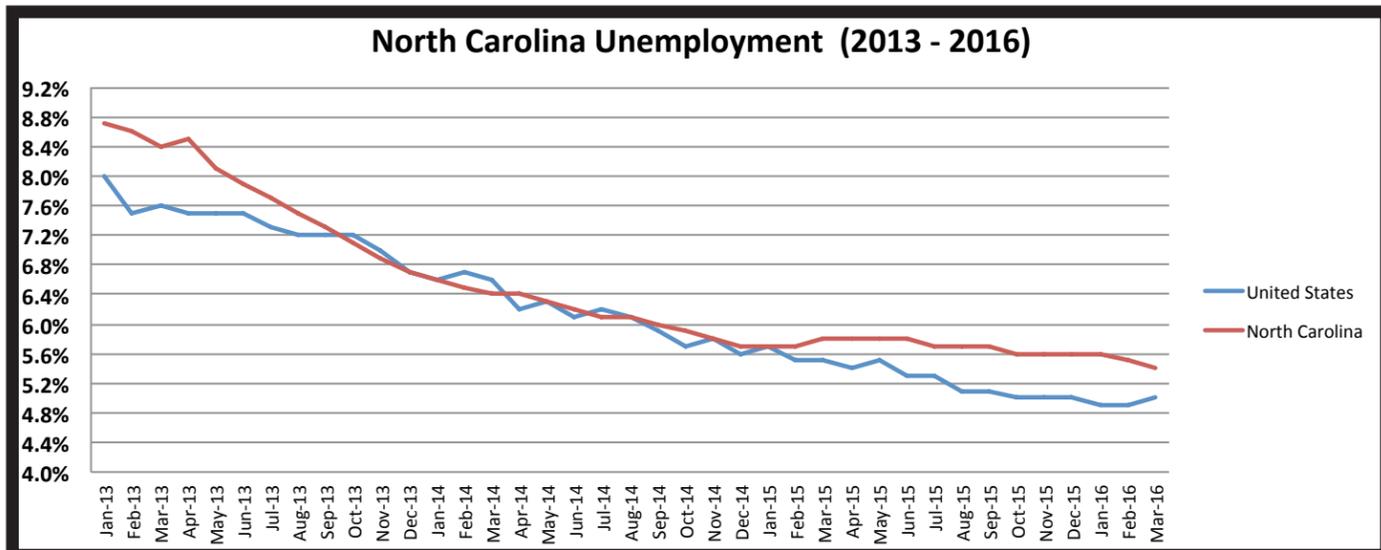
"These efforts have positioned

to 16th, the largest single rate jump in the history of the Tax Foundation rankings.

Meanwhile, ordinary people are voting with their feet. Between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2015, North Carolina added

in. North Carolina was listed as third on Chief Executive magazine's "2016 Best & Worst States For Business" list. The list is based on 300 CEOs' evaluation of every state's tax and regulatory environment, the quality of the workforce, and the quality of life.

Other sources also rate the state's economy highly. The news media sometimes suggest North Carolina faces dire prospects. But recent history and current trends show the opposite: Our economy is surging and well positioned to provide more jobs and opportunity for all North Carolinians. ■



rank second for its economic outlook, it has shown rapid improvement.

Through 2013, North Carolina ranked in the mid-

growing economy in the nation, according to data from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis. The state's Gross Domestic

North Carolina as one of the fastest-growing populations as well as fastest-growing economy in the country."

Since McCrory entered office,

about 194,000 people for a total population of 10,043,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Even liberal site PolitiFact,

Latest Voter Figures Show Registration Shifts Continue

BY SUSAN MYRICK

In the time period between April 9 and May 14, North Carolina saw a net gain of 37,897 voters. The unaffiliated voter demographic grew by 23,248 voters, followed by Republicans growing by 8,810 voters and Democrats with a net gain of 5,707 voters.

By using the chart on the opposite page, you will see that Democrats have lost voters in 63 counties. And while Republicans have lost voters in 12 counties, the unaffiliated ranks lost voters

in only two counties in that five-week period.

The changes in North Carolina voter registration over the last eight years is significant. Since January 2009, the ranks of the unaffiliated voters have grown by 496,942. Republicans have had a net gain of 3,172 while Democrats saw a loss of 216,338 voters. Democrats since January 2009 have lost voters in all but five of North Carolina's 100 counties; however, the unaffiliated ranks have grown in every county.

While Democrats have lost nearly a quarter million voters statewide in the last eight years, they have seen big gains in Mecklenburg (63,152), Wake (43,421) and Durham (24,043) counties. This statistic and the fact that Republicans came to power in the legislature in 2010 and the executive branch in 2012 seem to dispel the liberal narrative that North Carolina is becoming more progressive as demographics shift in the state.

More recently, in the week prior to the publication of

this edition of NC Capitol Connection (May 7 – May 14, 2016), Democrats saw a net gain of 503 voters, Republicans were up by 971, the Libertarian Party grew by 92 voters and the unaffiliated voters were plus 3,575. As of May 14, seven counties have more unaffiliated voters than registered Democrats or Republicans. They are: Camden, Currituck, Dare, Henderson, New Hanover, Polk, Transylvania and Watauga. In 51 counties, unaffiliated voters are the

second highest bloc in voter registration numbers.

The voter registration statistics chart was derived from the www.carolinatransparency.com/voterregistration website. The website is updated each week using voter registration statistical data from the State Board of Elections (SBE) and uses the latest voter registration statistics from the SBE. ■

Changes represent the difference in voter registration between April 9, 2016 and May 14, 2016										
County	Total Voters	Total Change	Democrats	Democrats Change	Republicans	Republicans Change	Libertarians	Libertarian Change	Unaffiliated Voters	Unaffiliated Change
STATE TOTAL	6,589,127	37,897	2,653,500	5,707	2,008,321	8,810	27,639	132	1,899,667	23,248
ALAMANCE	96,129	355	38,125	31	31,885	97	351	2	25,768	225
ALEXANDER	23,806	14	6,612	-43	10,498	22	57	0	6,639	35
ALLEGHANY	7,247	29	2,836	3	2,416	15	28	1	1,967	10
ANSON	17,182	21	11,959	-76	2,351	13	17	0	2,855	84
ASHE	18,514	-4	5,670	-35	7,810	-3	51	-1	4,983	35
AVERY	11,613	44	1,447	13	6,901	-1	43	-1	3,222	33
BEAUFORT	32,384	42	13,879	-44	10,401	-7	87	0	8,017	93
BERTIE	14,187	5	10,440	-15	1,486	9	16	0	2,245	11
BLADEN	22,407	32	13,696	-213	3,158	7	28	-1	5,525	239
BRUNSWICK	90,440	1,118	26,455	32	33,429	422	292	-5	30,264	669
BUNCOMBE	189,486	1,232	75,758	315	46,523	233	1,116	7	66,089	677
BURKE	57,016	67	19,265	-62	19,966	20	235	4	17,550	105
CABARRUS	125,256	499	39,520	83	47,455	26	565	12	37,716	378
CALDWELL	53,894	63	15,175	-42	24,029	39	308	-1	14,382	67
CAMDEN	7,435	30	2,532	-7	2,181	11	35	0	2,687	26
CARTERET	50,981	59	12,889	-27	21,247	1	211	0	16,634	85
CASWELL	15,307	45	8,264	-16	3,528	24	30	2	3,485	35
CATAWBA	101,079	219	27,098	-68	43,453	86	336	2	30,192	199
CHATHAM	48,803	90	20,174	-40	12,659	23	188	3	15,782	104
CHEROKEE	23,247	84	6,585	-11	9,619	41	106	4	6,937	50
CHOWAN	10,199	12	5,083	5	2,561	11	17	0	2,538	-4
CLAY	8,753	71	2,232	1	3,478	26	34	-2	3,009	46
CLEVELAND	60,934	138	26,520	-62	19,147	84	188	5	15,079	111
COLUMBUS	35,475	9	21,390	-108	6,230	30	52	0	7,803	87
CRAVEN	69,179	381	25,052	12	23,603	156	312	-1	20,212	214
CUMBERLAND	198,848	1,812	96,091	309	46,832	528	805	6	55,120	969
CURRITUCK	18,218	104	4,175	2	6,395	34	115	-1	7,533	69
DARE	28,542	98	9,216	-7	8,546	47	170	0	10,610	58
DAVIDSON	102,176	281	27,494	-150	47,405	155	370	-3	26,907	279
DAVIE	28,730	33	5,690	-23	14,808	6	77	-2	8,155	52
DUPLIN	29,343	-29	14,434	-89	7,759	17	82	-1	7,068	44
DURHAM	214,214	1,100	122,179	471	28,632	86	888	20	62,515	523
EDGECOMBE	38,048	39	27,427	-22	6,044	0	69	3	4,508	58
FORSYTH	242,211	2,872	101,742	787	74,966	616	987	-7	64,516	1,476
FRANKLIN	41,437	155	18,364	-1	12,564	60	161	0	10,348	96
GASTON	135,106	554	44,849	49	51,644	181	503	2	38,110	322
GATES	8,391	23	4,720	-30	1,630	2	19	0	2,022	51
GRAHAM	6,366	-4	2,056	-17	2,745	0	20	0	1,545	13
GRANVILLE	36,634	207	18,883	24	8,775	67	125	-2	8,851	118
GREENE	11,232	30	6,774	0	1,953	9	26	1	2,479	20
GUILFORD	345,410	2,046	160,623	308	93,345	337	1,472	-21	89,970	1,422
HALIFAX	38,053	168	25,946	30	4,544	42	73	0	7,490	96
HARNETT	69,290	551	26,411	-13	23,949	176	406	1	18,524	387
HAYWOOD	42,562	84	17,399	-54	12,535	19	178	4	12,450	115
HENDERSON	79,180	113	17,752	-20	30,529	0	330	2	30,569	131
HERTFORD	14,859	114	11,113	59	1,390	12	31	-1	2,325	44
HOKE	30,515	178	14,939	9	6,383	66	140	2	9,053	101
HYDE	3,436	12	2,099	3	518	2	8	1	811	6
IREDELL	113,113	178	30,719	-32	46,878	97	464	8	35,052	105
JACKSON	26,725	8	10,306	-11	6,842	6	116	2	9,461	11
JOHNSTON	116,193	1,536	38,041	172	44,597	630	538	7	33,017	727
JONES	7,410	15	3,856	-8	1,737	9	25	0	1,792	14
LEE	33,608	145	14,658	1	9,572	15	121	2	9,257	127
LENOIR	38,700	109	21,748	35	9,398	24	85	1	7,469	49
LINCOLN	53,258	211	14,421	-13	22,917	58	179	3	15,741	163
MACON	24,753	56	6,912	-11	9,853	23	89	-1	7,899	45
MADISON	16,273	21	6,756	-19	4,226	2	86	3	5,205	35
MARTIN	17,022	-16	10,569	-26	3,241	7	42	0	3,170	3
MCDOWELL	28,313	17	8,907	-39	10,331	13	102	2	8,973	41
MECKLENBURG	664,109	9,958	297,935	3,680	167,172	1,647	3,116	62	195,886	4,569
MITCHELL	10,998	12	1,143	-5	6,757	-10	28	0	3,070	27
MONTGOMERY	15,843	43	7,398	-14	4,646	23	42	-1	3,757	35
MOORE	63,807	112	16,767	-17	26,185	-3	276	-9	20,579	141
NASH	64,806	65	33,618	-25	18,398	33	155	2	12,635	55
NEW HANOVER	160,437	1,857	53,124	479	51,702	501	991	-5	54,620	882
NORTHAMPTON	14,646	4	10,864	-15	1,355	2	13	1	2,414	16
ONSLOW	99,708	864	28,511	123	35,455	286	660	9	35,082	446
ORANGE	109,194	-3	52,402	-75	17,033	-29	587	-4	39,172	105
PAMLICO	9,527	11	4,055	-26	2,940	17	29	2	2,503	18
PASQUOTANK	27,565	49	13,472	-39	5,626	32	135	0	8,332	56
PENDER	38,087	150	13,098	3	13,902	52	194	2	10,893	93
PERQUIMANS	9,900	58	4,309	12	2,527	14	34	0	3,030	32
PERSON	26,040	77	12,431	-20	6,309	34	80	-3	7,220	66
PITT	116,400	317	55,140	46	30,458	16	550	1	30,252	254
POLK	15,620	53	4,599	4	5,395	15	69	2	5,557	32
RANDOLPH	89,984	-2	19,942	-76	44,700	-33	351	6	24,991	101
RICHMOND	29,963	33	17,462	-51	5,450	13	63	2	6,988	69
ROBESON	74,082	-26	51,045	-48	9,091	17	164	3	13,782	2
ROCKINGHAM	59,021	49	23,933	-104	19,873	52	187	2	15,028	99
ROWAN	91,553	68	28,690	-134	37,060	43	272	6	25,531	153
RUTHERFORD	43,892	70	16,057	-51	15,384	48	173	7	12,278	66
SAMPSON	36,818	166	16,743	0	13,345	63	92	1	6,638	102
SCOTLAND	22,239	38	13,195	-8	3,449	12	41	-2	5,554	36
STANLY	39,591	26	11,669	-58	17,178	-6	104	1	10,640	89
STOKES	30,511	46	8,338	-57	14,591	53	134	-4	7,448	54
SURRY	44,089	64	14,725	-54	18,131	27	123	-5	11,110	96
SWAIN	10,238	22	4,137	3	2,586	6	33	1	3,482	12
TRANSYLVANIA	24,611	17	6,919	-16	8,049	-19	108	2	9,535	50
TYRRELL	2,453	0	1,499	-3	328	2	4	-1	622	2
UNION	144,791	1,828	38,928	254	61,368	574	557	2	43,938	998
VANCE	29,541	-6	20,028	-38	4,287	12	54	1	5,172	19
WAKE	666,859	4,179	255,435	887	185,092	487	3,604	6	222,728	2,799
WARREN	13,394	20	9,482	-5	1,682	2	34	0	2,196	23
WASHINGTON	8,565	25	6,005	-2	1,066	10	21	-1	1,473	18
WATAUGA	43,519	-293	11,901	-85	13,791	-66	402	-13	17,425	-129
WAYNE	73,625	161	33,004	5	23,468	61	228	3	16,925	92
WILKES	41,885	-11	10,380	-40	21,469	-21	113	3	9,923	47
WILSON	54,825	306	29,525	7	13,563	113	113	-6	11,624	192
YADKIN	23,594	-25	4,333	-21	13,120	-17	62	-3	6,079	16
YANCEY	13,675	39	5,334	-9	4,843	16	38	1	3,460	31

Scandal

North Carolinians Must Push Back Against Corporate Bigotry and Blackmail

BY MARK SHIVER

In the weeks since the passing of House Bill 2 in North Carolina, corporate bigotry has been rampant. The state has had companies like PayPal announce they would not go forward with planned expansions as a result of the bill's passage.

Musicians, such as Bruce Springsteen and Pearl Jam, have cancelled planned concerts in the state citing the bill as their reasons. Sports-related entities, such as the NBA and NCAA, have announced "standards" of nondiscrimination, which they would apply when considering future venues for all-star and playoff games.

There is an obvious movement afoot on the part of some in the corporate world to use their positions to promote the militant leftist agenda.

For some reason, be it their own personal belief in that agenda or a fear of incurring the wrath of the militant Left, some in the corporate world and other arenas, such as sports and entertainment, feel inclined to take a stand against those who may not be wedded to that agenda.

They stand proudly with a minute segment of their total customer base, while slapping the majority and essentially telling them, "We don't care about your values. We take you for granted."

An obvious example is the reaction to HB2 by some in the business world. PayPal, which has corporate locations in multiple countries where

homosexuality is illegal, proudly announced it would not go forward with a planned expansion in the Charlotte area because of HB2.

This hypocrisy is shared by other corporate sympathizers,

"Today, in the case of HB2, the privacy rights of women and children are at stake. Tomorrow it may be something even more invasive."

as evidenced by Deutsche Bank's announcement that it also was cancelling expansion plans in North Carolina.

How do the bank's executives explain this sudden concern for the rights of the LGBT community to those in Saudi Arabia, where the death penalty is being called for to punish homosexuals who display their lifestyle in public? Deutsche Bank should explain its stance immediately to those in Riyadh and pull out of Saudi Arabia as proof its stand is not blatant hypocrisy.

A question that NBA Commissioner Adam Silver should answer is whether or not he wants men to be in bathrooms, fitting rooms, locker rooms or showers with little girls. His threat to take next year's NBA All-Star Game away from Charlotte because of HB2 was dripping with pride in his alignment with the militant Left.

What Silver was really saying was, "Listen, North Carolina. I don't care about the overwhelmingly majority

of citizens in your state who don't want their daughters' privacy rights violated by men 'identifying' as women. I only care about a small segment of the population that yells and screams the loudest if I don't pander to their demands."

This type of corporate bigotry is founded upon the assumption that the majority of the population will do nothing in response to the hatred forced upon it if they



disagree. It also presumes the majority will continue to purchase their products and watch their sporting events.

Sadly, this presumption is accurate. Until the majority demonstrates they have had enough of being bullied by

corporate bigots, and respond by spending their money elsewhere, groups like the Human Rights Commission can continue to force entities to publicly defend the militant leftist and LGBT agendas.

Target recently announced that its policy has been to allow men into women's restrooms and fitting rooms for some time. The uproar from the majority has been tangible, with over a million people pledging to boycott Target for this outrageous, unsafe policy.

As of April 29, Target's stock price had dropped nearly \$5 per share, a loss of approximately \$2.5 billion. This is an example

of corporate bigots. Though not likely, perhaps the management of Target will come to its senses and realize that women don't want men invading their privacy.

The militant Left loves to bully people of faith and others who may not agree with their lifestyle choices and attempts to force their agenda onto the majority with name-calling, profanity and things like "lists of shame."

Now more than ever, it is time for the majority to stop allowing themselves to be taken for granted, to stop tolerating hatred and bigotry from the Left and its elitist corporate allies, and to just say "no."

Today, in the case of HB2, the privacy rights of women and children are at stake. Tomorrow it may be something even more invasive. There is clearly an agenda that the militant Left wants to force on society. Only by standing up can those who don't agree put a stop to having their rights violated in the name of nondiscrimination. ■

(If you would like your voice to be heard, sign the petition on page 3 and send it to: Civitas Institute, 100 S. Harrington St. Raleigh, NC 27603 or email to: signups@nccivitas.org)

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