



Poll: McCrory Seen More Favorably Than Cooper p. 6

SHORT AND SWEET LEGISLATURE WRAPS UP PRODUCTIVE SESSION

BY NCCC STAFF

A legislative session that was widely seen as successful came to a close late July 1 after legislators gave final approval to the centerpiece of every Short Session: an update of the two-year state budget.

The Senate and House gavelled out the 10-week Short Session just before midnight, ending the 2015-16 session as the new fiscal year began. The session lasted 68 days, compared with the 77 days recent Short Sessions have averaged, according to media accounts. It was, of course, far shorter than last year's long session, which lasted into the fall.

Many observers thought the session went well. For example, speaking on the radio program "What Matters in North Carolina," Donald Bryson of Americans for Prosperity gave the session a grade of B-plus.

By many measures, spending was kept under control and taxes were trimmed, yet the

legislature was able to increase funding to key areas.

The \$22.34 billion spending plan was the largest task to be

closely mirrored the governor's spending plans.

The budget "achieves both chambers' shared goals

according to a statement from Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) and House Speaker Tom Moore

be happy about than many previous sessions did.

The legislature also added \$475 million to the rainy day fund, pushing it to a record 7.5 percent of the budget. The move bolsters the state's coffers against an economic downturn.

The spending plan also includes an increase in the standard income tax deduction to \$17,500 over the next two years, reducing the amount of income that is taxable each year and giving a break to most households.

"I am grateful to members of the Senate and House for reaching a compromise that continues the discipline and conservative principles of spending responsibly, taxing sparingly and saving wisely that have turned North Carolina's fiscal outlook around from multibillion-dollar deficits to significant budget surpluses," Berger said. "This budget keeps our promises to support our



Gov. Pat McCrory signs Senate Bill 734 at the Guilford County Sheriff's Office. The measure authorized a statewide standing order from the state health director for any pharmacy to prescribe naloxone, a drug that can reverse the overdose effects of opioids. (Photo courtesy governor.nc.gov.)

completed during the Short Session, which the House closed out with a 91-22 vote on the spending measure. The bill saw wide bipartisan support in the General Assembly, and it

with Gov. Pat McCrory of prioritizing teacher pay raises, cutting taxes on the middle class, controlling the growth of government spending and bolstering the state's savings,"

(R-Cleveland).

The total increase in spending is less than 3 percent, which is a relatively small increase compared with recent budgets, giving conservatives more to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

More on the Session

Though the session went well overall, some things done (and not done) show that there's plenty of work for conservatives to do next year. Page 5

See how state legislators voted on recent crucial votes. Pages 8.

To learn about the best source of information on three decades of state government spending, check out our budget policy guide. Page 8.

A bill that would have allowed "constitutional carry" of firearms stalled in the legislature. Page 9.

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I Am Woman, Hear Me Weep

BY DEMI DOWDY

Hillary Clinton recently visited North Carolina, but I was not in attendance.

Although I should – according to the assumptions of some – be cheering on the first female presidential nominee in American history, I cannot cheer for her.

What should be a moment of triumph for all women is actually a great disappointment for us.

And I am disheartened. There are many reasons why I believe she will find it difficult to rally other women around her campaign.

She has intimidated victims of sexual abuse into silence.

Hillary Clinton has stated that all victims of sexual abuse deserve to be “heard, believed, supported.” I wholeheartedly agree. Unfortunately, nothing undermines this message more than Hillary’s own actions.

For someone who claims to be a champion of these victims, you would think she would

abuser, her husband.

Pro-woman? Not at all.

She ferociously defended a child rapist in court.

As a lawyer, in order to defend her client, charged with raping a then-12-year-old girl, Clinton smeared the victim, saying she was “emotionally unstable with a tendency to seek out older men and engage in fantasizing.”

The victim now has some strong words for how she was treated by Clinton in court: “Hillary Clinton took me through hell.”

Hillary is on the front lines in defense of Planned Parenthood.

Hillary is one of Planned Parenthood’s biggest supporters. And the feeling is mutual. But the organization is hardly pro-woman. Despite what they would like women to believe, the organization provides little health care and many abortions.

In fact, Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards has

Paycheck Fairness Act. Women, who can already sue if they are not paid equally, would not benefit from this legislation.

The only individuals who do benefit are trial lawyers. Furthermore, the myth of the gender wage gap that requires

decisions that will determine what we earn based on merit, not gender.

She lied to the mothers of Benghazi victims.

Hillary Clinton told them their sons were killed by

own gain. She showed complete disdain for their loss and the sacrifice of their sons. Appalling.

I am not automatically compelled to vote for another woman just because of my gender. And I find that assumption insulting to my



Hillary Clinton appeared at a campaign rally in March in Raleigh. (NC Capitol Connection file photo.)

“Would Hillary have women believe we are still seen as “less than” men in the workforce? It is a false, harmful narrative.”

have a track record of actively defending them. But her track record is quite the opposite.

Sexual abuse victims should indeed be supported in their vulnerable state.

But Clinton herself not only didn't "hear, believe and support" the 10 – count 'em, 10 – women who have accused her husband of sexual assault and abuse. She instead actually intimidated many of them into silence and stood by their

herself stated that 86 percent of Planned Parenthood’s revenue comes from abortions. Furthermore, Planned Parenthood execs speak freely of their sale of human tissue retrieved from aborted babies.

Anti-human and anti-woman, indeed.

She promotes the false narrative of pay inequality for women.

Hillary Clinton is an outspoken advocate for the

government intervention is a dangerous one. Would Hillary have women believe we are still seen as “less than” men in the workforce? It is a false, harmful narrative. Women should not feel like victims of a wage gap that they cannot change. We are empowered to make the career

random participants of a protest against an American-made, anti-Islam YouTube video. This was an outright lie, as we now know from her own emails immediately following the attack.

She knowingly lied to the mothers of our fallen, for her

intelligence and my values.

In fact, any reasonable pro-woman woman will likely find it very difficult to support Hillary Clinton.■

Demi Dowdy is the communications coordinator at Civitas.

Quotable: Gov. McCrory Signs the Budget

"This budget further fulfills my vision to increase average annual teacher pay to \$50,000 for the first time in state history, provides a middle-class tax cut, makes college more affordable and makes much needed investments to improve mental health services, all while strengthening our position as one of the fastest-growing economies in the nation." – Gov. Pat McCrory, at the budget-signing event in Monroe on July 14. See related stories started on pages 1 and 5.

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NCAE Members Are Voting With Their Feet

BY BOB LUEBKE

The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), once one of the most powerful professional lobbying organizations in the state, continues to hemorrhage members.

Recently, Education Intelligence Agency (EIA), a research firm that tracks union membership and influence in education, released membership numbers for the National Education Association (NEA) by state affiliate NCAE is the state affiliate of the NEA.

If you're a fan of the unions or NCAE, the news was not good. EIA reported membership numbers by active and total members. What is the difference? Active members are employed teachers, professionals and education support workers. Total membership includes retirees, students, substitutes and all others.

Now the numbers. Last year there were 23,480 active NCAE members, a decline of 9 percent from the previous year. The 9 percent decline in active membership was the third largest in the nation, behind Alabama (down 16 percent) and Wisconsin (down 12.3 percent). Over the past five years, active NCAE membership in North Carolina declined 48 percent.

Last year, NCAE total membership was listed at 35,998, a decline of 8.7 percent from the previous year. The decline in total membership was also the third largest in the nation.

Again, North Carolina came in behind Alabama (down 11.1 percent) and Wisconsin (down 9.7 percent). Over the past five years, the total number of NCAE members has declined 38 percent.

And with the decline in members has also come a decline in NCAE finances. In 2010-11, NCAE took in \$11 million in total revenue — \$8.8 million in membership dues. In 2013-14 (the most recent year available), NCAE revenue declined to \$6.9 million and membership dues declined to \$5.9 million. How bad was it? In 2013-14 NCAE operated at a deficit of \$711,000. (The data is from the NCAE's IRS 990 forms.)

So why are these numbers important?

They are important because of the radical views of both NCAE and NEA and the common practice of both organizations of making political contributions to candidates whose views are at odds with those of its members. We should also say that NCAE has opposed nearly every major education reform proposal put forth by the North Carolina General Assembly in the last five years, including charter schools and vouchers.

NEA is the nation's second-highest campaign donor since 1989 — second only to the Service Employees International Union. Since 1989 NEA has contributed \$96.9 million to federal candidates, with 97 percent going to Democrats and 3 percent to Republicans.

(If you want to know more about NEA's giving to candidates go to FollowtheMoney.org.)

The point here is that NCAE continues to lose money and membership. According to EIA, recent membership losses pushed the organization under the 40,000-threshold required by North Carolina law for payroll deduction of dues.

Last December, State Auditor Beth Wood said she could not verify the numbers because NCAE refused to provide the data.

In the meantime, NCAE continues to benefit from dues check-off even though the state has been unable to verify that it meets the legal threshold to qualify for it.

State Controller Linda Combs raised the issue of some members meeting state requirements but was uncertain about others.

But Combs has refused to take action — that is, stop the collection of dues.

So even in the face of declining membership, the organization's ability to raise money for largely Democratic candidates keeps the organization relevant — as does the reality that the organization seems to have friends in high places in state government.

Has NCAE seen the worst of membership woes? No one is predicting, but many will be watching. ■

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

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Email

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Legislature Wraps Up Productive, and Short, Session

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

public schools and raise teacher pay above \$50,000, let families and small businesses keep more of their hard-earned money, and control the spiraling costs of college.”

“This budget is the embodiment of what can be accomplished when commonsense, conservative ideas are put to work,” Moore said.

“We are cutting taxes, reinvesting in the state’s infrastructure and saving money. I am particularly happy that, in addition to teachers, we were able to deliver pay raises to our state employees and provide a one-time payment to our much-deserving state retirees.”

Teachers, employees get raises

With spending relatively under control, and the state’s coffers in good shape thanks to tax and unemployment benefit reforms, lawmakers were able to address several issues that have long roiled the political waters.

The budget represents a 2.8 percent spending increase and gives raises to teachers and other state employees as well. The budget boosts average teacher salaries to \$50,186 next school year and to nearly \$55,000 within three years, moving average teacher pay above \$50,000 for the first time in state history.

Under the budget, teachers will get pay raises averaging 4.7 percent, and state employees will get raises averaging 1.5 percent.

The budget also includes a 1.6 percent cost-of-living

increase for state retirees.

The budget includes the targeted raises the Senate was seeking, including experienced-based step increases to valuable teachers, assistant principals, principals, State Highway

Western Carolina University.

The budget also promises there will be no in-state tuition increases for a standard undergraduate college term at all North Carolina public universities. It also freezes

2015-16 was about half that: \$17.6 million.

The General Assembly also passed a law to provide North Carolina with a number of new options for turning around failing school districts.

First, House Bill 1080 authorizes an Achievement School District (ASD) comprised of Achievement Schools and run by a superintendent who must have a proven record of success. The superintendent would be responsible for drawing up and executing a plan for improving academic results.

He or she would have five years to meet those goals and also have the authority to waive State Board of Education regulations and policies. In many ways, ASD schools would be similar to charter schools.

A second way HB 1080 can improve failing schools involves Local Education Agencies that have transferred a qualifying school to an ASD.

Many conservatives feel the legislation – although not perfect -- does offer real possibilities to help turn around struggling schools.

Other key issues

Legislation also enabled McCrory to achieve one of his health care goals for the session: expanding the state’s capacity for opioid treatment, thus saving lives.

On June 20, the governor signed Senate Bill 734 at the Guilford County Sheriff’s Office. The measure authorized a statewide standing order from the state health director

for any pharmacy to prescribe naloxone, a drug that can reverse the overdose effects of opioids.

After repeated calls for the full repeal of House Bill 2, Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, the only change to come to HB 2 is one requested by McCrory. The legislature approved changes to the law that allow for people to bring claims for discrimination in state court and not just federal courts. The caveat is that claims must be made within one year of the alleged offense.

The change passed in an 82-18 vote in the House and a 26-14 vote in the Senate.

Some opponents of HB 2 voted for the measure, though most of them said that a vote for the change did not signal approval for the law itself.

The legislature passed a bill that would ban certain convicted sex offenders who pose a threat to children from going to places where children are, or would be expected to be present.

House Bill 1021 was filed as a stopgap measure to shore up the state’s current law while a court case over the law’s constitutionality is decided.

The Jessica Lunsford Act, passed in 2009, banned sex offenders from a number of places. A federal judge ruled one part of the law was too vague and another section might be overbroad. House Bill 1021 changes the law to address those problems. ■



Gov. McCrory at the budget signing on July 14.

Patrol troopers, clerks and magistrates, and correctional officers and provides a 4.5 percent pay raise to assistant district attorneys, public defenders and other judicial branch workers.

Providing salary increases for high-performing employees has been a goal of conservatives in the past, and with this budget the state is moving closer to that goal.

In education the budget includes provisions to help make college more affordable by lowering tuition to \$1,000 per year for in-state students and \$5,000 per year for out-of-state students at Elizabeth City State University, University of North Carolina at Pembroke and

student fees at all North Carolina public universities at current levels.

The budget also limits future increases to student fees to no more than 3 percent per academic year.

Also noteworthy, the budget bolstered Special Education Scholarships an additional \$5.8 million to provide grants of up to \$4,000 per semester to eligible students. The total appropriation is \$10 million, an increase of 137 percent over last year.

The budget also boosted funding for Opportunity Scholarships. The spending plan provided \$34.8 million for “Opportunity Grant Fund Reserve.” Program funding for

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There's Much for Conservatives to Do Next Year

BY NCCC STAFF

The current legislative session has been hailed in most quarters as a success, yet much remains to be done. A look at what happened (or didn't happen) will highlight issues conservatives must continue to address. And that includes long-term fiscal trends.

Of course, it all must be kept in perspective. The Short Session is meant to focus on budget updates, so it's not a huge shock that some worthwhile measures failed to gain traction. Nevertheless, areas of concern include the following.

Stalled Bills

First, the General Assembly failed to rein in excessive regulation, a real burden on the state's economy.

The foremost of the bills considered was HB 169, the Regulatory Reduction Act of 2016. But the House and Senate couldn't agree on a final version of such reforms, ending hopes of cutting government red tape this year.

Also falling by the wayside was a bill to put three constitutional amendments up for a referendum vote. HB 3 would have allowed voters to choose whether to put a 5.5 percent cap on the state income tax, set limits on eminent domain, and affirm the right to hunt and fish in the state.

Many conservatives were interested in these ideas. Lower taxes promote greater job growth and economic prosperity – opportunities especially beneficial to low-skilled, lower-income people on the margins of employment.

Eminent domain power has been abused in the past and can unfairly compel people to give up their private property. And hunting and fishing are traditional pastimes in the Old North State.

However, the measure was sent to the House Rules Committee, which is generally a graveyard for legislation, and that proved to be the case here. (More on p. 9.)

Conservatives also were disappointed that the legislature weakened a cap on state funding for mass transit projects, which forces people all over the state to pay for boondoggles that serve limited areas. The legislature raised the cap on state funding for such schemes from a flat \$500,000 to 10 percent of the costs.

Second Amendment supporters

were frustrated about the failure of a proposed bill that would have taken steps toward eliminating the need for a permit to conceal a handgun.

HB 1148, sponsored by Rep. Larry Pittman (R-Cabarrus), would have authorized a referendum on whether to open up concealed carry in the

teachers.

Although the final budget addressed the thorny problem of teacher pay, three other legislative actions in education were less defensible:

- **Teacher bonuses:** The budget provided \$4.3 million for a two-year teacher pilot program that will pay teachers \$50 (up to

on failure is never a good thing.

Ominous trends

Finally, to look at the big picture, here are three numbers you likely didn't see in news coverage that you should keep in mind:

- **\$5.5 billion** – This was the size of the state budget 30

even after adjusting for inflation. Keep this in mind next time a liberal progressive insists that state government has been “cut to the bone.” And this does not account for the even more rapid growth in federal government dollars flowing into the state.

- **66 percent** – The share of General Fund spending devoted



The Legislative Office Building in Raleigh.

state to any U.S. citizen who is 21 years old and meets the qualifications for obtaining a concealed handgun permit. But that measure also died in the House Rules Committee. (More on p.9.)

A Senate-passed bill that the House left untouched would have given teeth to an existing state law requiring local governments to work with the federal government on immigration violation investigations.

The bill would have penalized “sanctuary cities” by withholding Powell Bill and school construction funds if the cities and counties are stonewalling federal immigration authorities.

Missteps in education

During the shuffling between committee meetings and holding session, some promising education reforms failed to pass. This included a bill that would have given students the opportunity to choose between a traditional mathematics sequence – Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II – or the Common Core math now taught in public schools.

Also disappointing was the failure of legislation requiring background checks on prospective

\$2,000 a year) for each student who takes either Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses and achieves certain minimum scores on College Board tests.

However, the value and validity of AP and IB courses have been called into question for years. The prevalence of AP and IB courses also increases the College Board's already heavy influence on what is taught and tested in North Carolina classrooms.

- The budget also provided \$500,000 to reimburse UNC-Chapel Hill for penalties it was charged because the campus exceeded the 18 percent cap on out-of-state students.

The reimbursement undercuts the authority of the UNC Board of Governors to set tuition policy, is a slap in the face to North Carolina taxpayers and sets a dangerous precedent of treating one UNC campus differently than others.

- Legislation lowered performance scores from a 10-point scale to a 15-point scale for the next three years. The legislation widens the band for each letter grade but also lowers the floor for failure from 60 to 40 percent. Lowering the score

years ago, a drop in the bucket compared with the \$22.3 billion for this year's budget plan. The state budget is now four times larger than it was 30 years ago. And this cannot be explained away by the state's population growth or inflation, as we'll see in the next point.

- **42 percent** – This is the increase in per capita, inflation-adjusted state spending growth over those 30 years. In other words, the state budget now spends 42 percent more money per person in North Carolina compared with 30 years ago –

to state worker salary, benefits and retiree pensions and benefits. (This amounts to roughly \$14.5 billion). If you want to know where your state tax dollars go, two-thirds of every dollar goes to pay state government workers and retirees. Health care expenses for workers and retirees, along with growing pension liabilities, are rising rapidly and represent a growing recurring spending commitment.

These are ominous trends that sooner or later must be addressed. The General Assembly gets its next shot at doing so in January. ■

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Civitas Poll: McCrory Seen More Favorably than Cooper

BY NCCC STAFF

The latest Civitas poll found that North Carolina likely voters have a much more favorable opinion of Republican Governor Pat McCrory than of Democratic Attorney General Roy Cooper, the major-party contenders for governor.

The poll found that 51 percent of likely voters in our state have a favorable opinion of McCrory, while just 32 percent have a favorable view of Cooper.

In a governor's race head-to-head matchup, McCrory maintains his lead over Cooper — 45 percent to 40 percent. Three percent prefer Libertarian Lon Cecil.

“Governor McCrory has consistently led Cooper in head-to-head matchups in our polls,” Civitas President Francis De Luca said.

“The only exception was at the height of the negative media coverage over House Bill 2, when McCrory took a hit. His net favorable numbers have been consistently positive among likely voters, and they continue to climb as the North Carolina economy strengthens.”

The latest Civitas poll finds that North Carolina likely voters prefer Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump in a presidential match up.

In the head-to-head match up, 42 percent of likely voters in our state said they'd vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton while 40 percent said they'd vote for Republican Donald Trump. Six

“Governor McCrory has consistently led Cooper in head-to-head matchups in our polls.”

percent prefer Libertarian Gary Johnson.

“At this point in the 2008 election, John McCain led Barack Obama 45-41— a four-point lead,” De Luca said.

“Making assumptions based on a lead of just a few points, five months before the general election, would be foolish.”

The actual questions are as follows:

Now I am going to read you a list of people active in politics or in the news. After I read each name, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person.

If you never heard of them, just tell me and we'll go on to the next one...the (first/next) one is...

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion/ Never Heard Of
Pat McCrory	51%	40%	8%
Roy Cooper	32%	25%	43%

If the election for governor were being held today and you had to make a choice, for whom would you vote?

45%	Pat McCrory, the Republican,
40%	Roy Cooper, the Democrat,
3%	...or Lon Cecil, the Libertarian?
10%	Lean/Undecided

If the election for President were being held today and you had to make a choice, for whom would you vote?

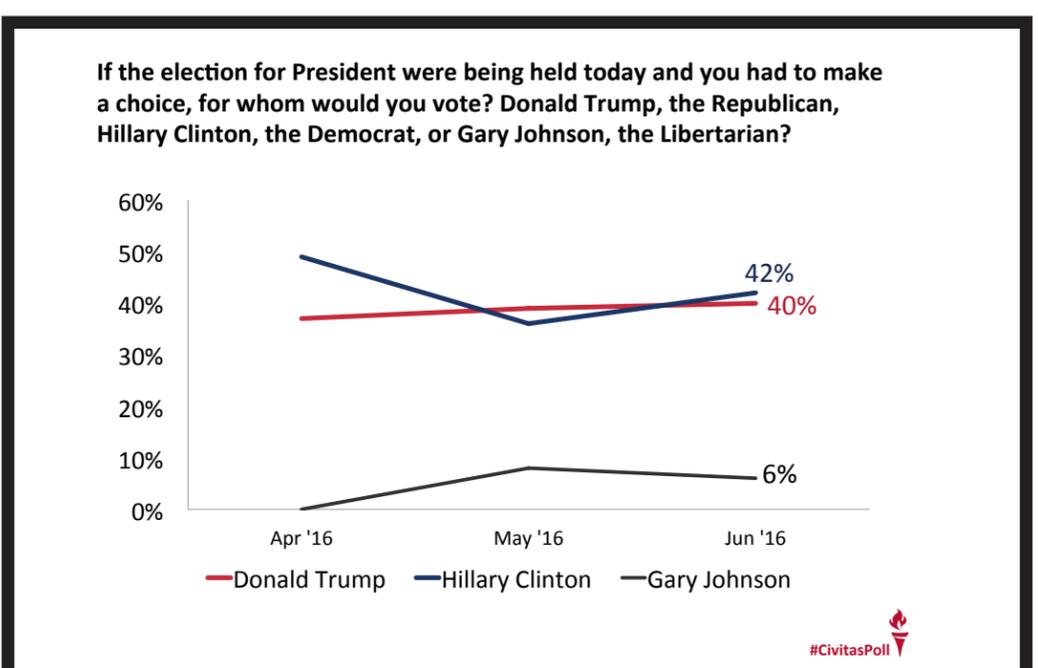
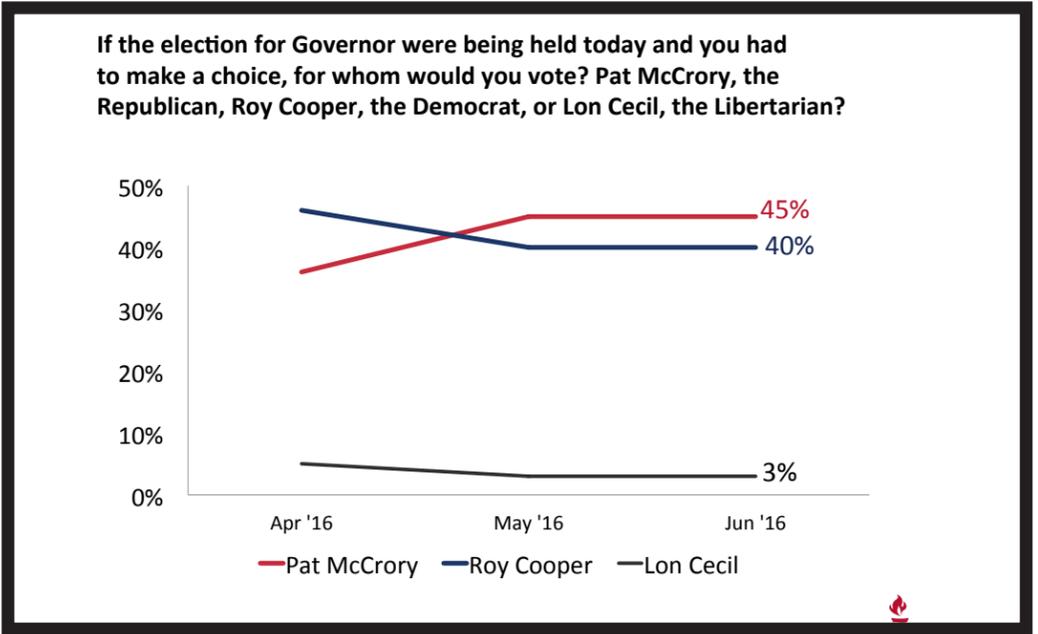
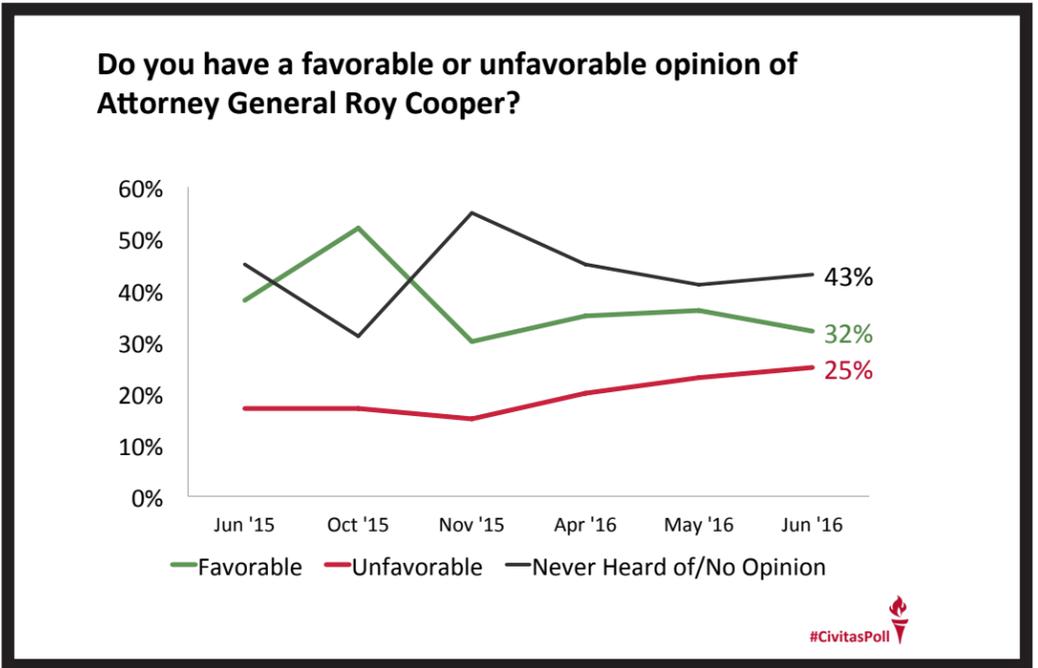
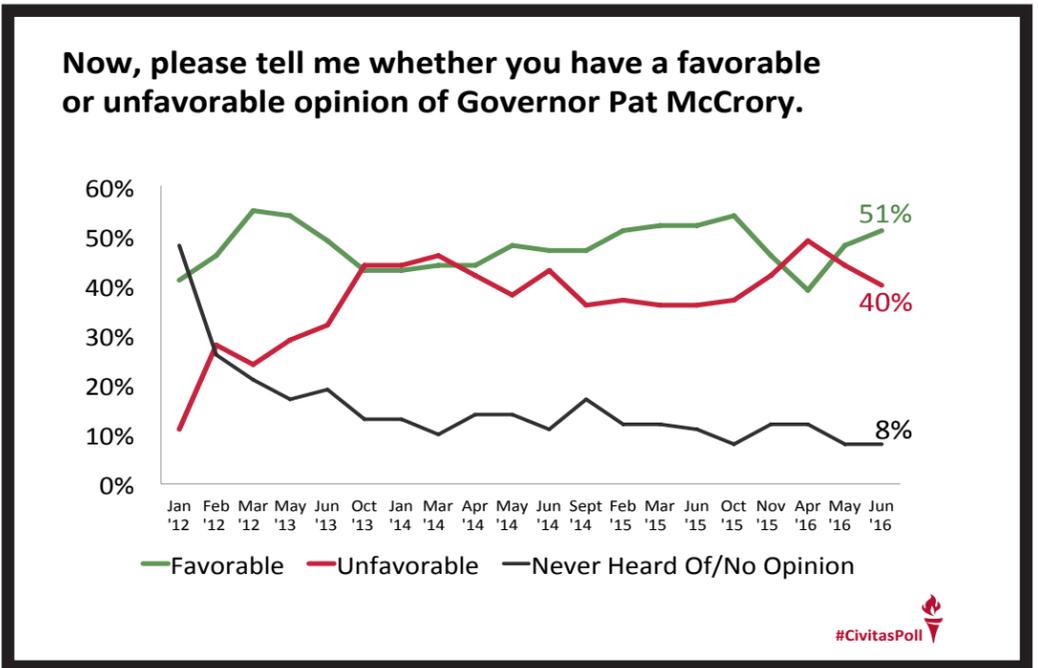
40%	Donald Trump, the Republican,
42%	Hillary Clinton, the Democrat,
6%	... or Gary Johnson, the Libertarian?
10%	Lean/ Undecided

The poll surveyed 600 registered, likely voters (30 percent on cell phones) with a margin of error of +/- 4 percent. This survey was taken June 21-23, 2016.

Civitas conducts the only regular live-caller voting in North Carolina, and we are the only organization offering independent, nonpartisan data on current opinion.

In the decade we've been conducting them, our polls have provided vital insights on what North Carolina voters truly think of the leaders and issues facing the state and nation.

For more on this and other Civitas Polls, see the Polling Spotlight section at www.nccivitas.org.



Strange Dealings Continue in State's Hemp Industry

BY SUSAN MYRICK

The effort to grow a hemp industry in North Carolina began with mystery, including the involvement of a former drug kingpin and a Russian spy – and it seems that strange dealings continue to follow the industry.

In October of last year, we published a story about a license plate bill (introduced in March 2015) for retired registers of deeds that mysteriously became the “Hemp Bill” on September 28, 2015 and was ratified the next day. All this, just two days before the end of last year’s eight-month, marathon legislative session. The bill, Senate Bill 313 (Industrial Hemp), made industrial hemp production legal in North Carolina.

Now another hemp bill (HB 992, Amend Industrial Hemp Program) has been passed by the General Assembly. The House passed it 108-4, the Senate passed it unanimously, and it has gone to Gov. Pat McCrory for his signature. This bill appears to make some positive changes to the 2015 legislation, though some would say not nearly enough.

Unfortunately, no matter how many changes the new law makes to the 2015 legislation, there is one thing lawmakers can’t do and that is to disassociate industrial hemp in North Carolina from one Bruce Perlowin.

In October, we described Perlowin this way:

“Perlowin, on his resume, called himself an ex-marijuana kingpin. From 1974 to 1984, Perlowin was known for ‘organizing the largest drug smuggling operation in West Coast history.’ He claims to have smuggled more than 500,000 pounds of marijuana into California in that 10-year period. Perlowin was eventually arrested and served nine years of a 15-year sentence in federal prison.”

No description of Perlowin would be complete without the mention of his wife, Svetlana Ogorodnikov, a Russian spy tried and convicted for espionage in 1985. Ogorodnikov was a KGB agent who seduced and flipped the first FBI agent ever to be charged with espionage – Richard

Miller. While in prison, Ogorodnikov met Perlowin and they later married. She is also one of Hemp, Inc.’s largest shareholders; Perlowin serves as CEO.

So, what does Bruce Perlowin have to do with industrial hemp in North Carolina?

Regrettably, Perlowin is probably the major reason that the 2015 industrial hemp legislation passed in

securities that were, in fact, restricted. This fraudulent scheme dates back to at least 2011. Among many other allegations, the complaint makes the case that “Bruce Perlowin and Barry Epling connived to have Bruce Perlowin convey to Barry Epling’s and Jed Perlowin’s (Bruce’s brother) companies hundreds of millions of Hemp (Inc.) shares to be sold into the

column titled “Get Out of Hemp Inc. While You Can” gets straight to the point. Alex Carlson wrote “Perhaps no other name has personified the pot stock boom and bust more so than Hemp, Inc. (OTCMKTS:HEMP) CEO Bruce Perlowin.” Carlson continued:

“Well, it seems he never outgrew his old ways as the SEC charged Hemp, Inc.,

and it will be a battle to collect funds from him.

The SEC complaint should make us ask: Was Perlowin really serious about the hemp industry in North Carolina, or is the decortication plant in Spring Hope just part of his world-class scam?

While the SEC complaint is new, this type of behavior is nothing new for Perlowin. In a April 2014 Forbes article by Nathan Vardi, “Inside the Pot Stock Bubble,” the author traces the pot stock frenzy to Perlowin.

Unfortunately, industrial hemp’s association with Perlowin will probably taint the work surrounding hemp in North Carolina for the near future at least. Time will tell what impact this turn of events surrounding Perlowin and Hemp, Inc., will have on North Carolina’s industrial hemp future. We can only hope that the legislature and Department of Agriculture will have their eyes opened and begin a new approach to hemp in North Carolina. Get-rich-quick schemes are never good business.

The bill (HB 992) increased the too-small five-member commission by four, hopefully raising the qualifications of the commission as a whole. It also establishes an industrial hemp research program to be directly managed and coordinated by state land-grant universities. This is definitely a positive addition to the legislation and a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to legitimize hemp in North Carolina and to distance our industry from Perlowin, Hemp, Inc., and the associated families, cronies and subsidiaries. ■



the first place. Hemp, Inc., of which Perlowin is CEO, was waiting in the wings for hemp to become legal in North Carolina.

Hemp, Inc., purchased the largest natural fiber manufacturing and processing plant in North America at bankruptcy auction at an unknown date before May 2014 and moved it to a 70,000-square-foot warehouse in Nash County. It seems Perlowin’s plan was to be the center of hemp processing in the U.S.

Just in case you’re thinking that Perlowin might have turned his life around, from notorious drug dealer to respectable businessman, think again. We were alerted to the fact that on June 20 of this year the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) charged Bruce Perlowin and Hemp, Inc., with six counts of securities fraud.

The complaint describes a fraudulent scheme to sell to public investors millions of unregistered and purportedly unrestricted Hemp, Inc.

public marketplace.”

Alan Brochstein on Seeking Alpha’s website wrote that “since Hemp, Inc. was founded in 2011, it has generated lots of press releases and additional shares but little in terms of revenue.” According to Brochstein:

“The SEC filed civil litigation against cannabis penny stock Hemp, Inc., (OTC: HEMP) and several affiliates, including CEO Bruce Perlowin, on June 20th.

“The complaint alleges that Perlowin and the company engaged in a long-running scheme involving ‘phony gifting’ of shares and ‘bogus consulting’ agreements that allowed insiders to sell hundreds of millions of shares that were not properly registered and that should have been restricted. Further, the SEC alleges that Perlowin and the other defendants, which included his brother Jeb and Barry Epling, made false statements to broker-dealers, Alpine Securities and Scottsdale Capital.”

A June 22 Insider Financial

Bruce Perlowin, and others with a ‘long-running and profitable scheme [that] resulted in the sale of hundreds of millions of unregistered and purportedly unrestricted Hemp shares to public investors. The execution of this scheme involved, among other things, purported gifts and consulting agreements that do not appear to have been bona fide and fraudulent statements made to Commission-registered broker-dealers.”

Carlson also speculated that Perlowin will most likely be banned from the industry,

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Policy Guide Has The Whole Story of NC Budget

BY NCCC STAFF

You've seen a lot in the news about the current state budget – but there's only one place to see the whole story: our updated public policy guide "Unlocking the State Budget 1985-2015," which can be found at tinyurl.com/CivitasBudgetGuide.

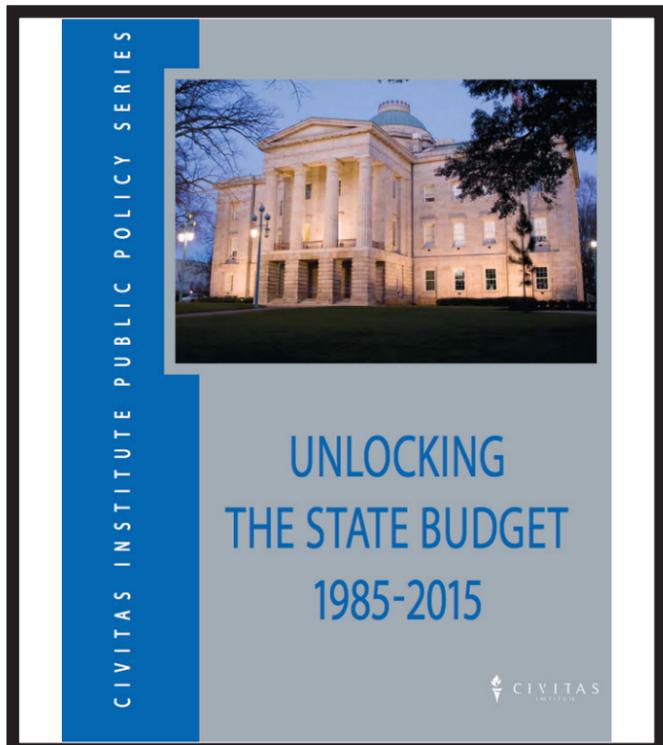
To really understand what North Carolina's state government spends and why, check out "Unlocking the State Budget" for the whole 30-year story of intrigue, deception, corruption, boundless optimism and money. Want high-stakes drama? At \$20 billion a year, the stakes don't get much higher.

And looking at what has happened is a real eye-opener, as this policy guide reveals that over three decades:

- Spending has increased nearly 400 percent;
- Tax revenues have increased by roughly 400 percent; and
- Per capita state debt has risen by about 700 percent.

These numbers, however, only tell part of the tale. It is the budget process – the politics of how certain priorities and programs get funded over others – that is the full story. With that point in mind, the current guide not only provides a detailed analysis of spending and taxation trends in North Carolina but also a year-by-year narrative that identifies the people responsible for making these decisions.

Coming soon: updated policy guides on transportation, education and health care. Keep an eye on nccivitas.org and other Civitas media for more news about them. ■



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Bill Proposed Constitutional Amendments

6/28/16 Senate

House Bill 3 would place on the November ballot three constitutional amendments to restrict the state's approved use of eminent domain to "public use" and eliminate the words "and public benefit", to cap the state income tax rate at 5.5 percent (lowered from the current cap of 10 percent), and to add a constitutional right to "hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife."

OMNIBUS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS HB 3 – THIRD READING SUPPORT

Senate Republicans (31)

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

Senate Democrats (0)

None.

OPPOSE

Senate Republicans (2)

Barringer; Hartsell

Senate Democrats (16)

Blue; Bryant; Chaudhuri; Clark; D. Davis; Ford; Foushee; J. Jackson; Lowe; McKissick; Robinson; Smith; Smith-Ingram; Van Duyn; Waddell; Woodard

EXCUSED ABSENT

Senate (1)

Newton (R)

SPONSOR McGrady ROLL CALL 992

Amendment Targeted Renewable Tax Credits

6/29/16 House

The Amendment to Senate Bill 770 would delete a section of the bill that would extend by two years the state tax credit for constructing renewable energy facilities. This section would be a carve out for one business to benefit.

NC FARM ACT OF 2016 SB 770 – A1, SECOND READING SUPPORT

House Republicans (33)

Adams; Avila; Bishop; Blackwell; Blust; Boles; R. Brown; Bumgardner; Burr; Catlin; Cleveland; Collins; Conrad; Ellmore; Ford; Hager; K. Hall; Hastings; Howard; Hurley; Jones; Jordan; McElraft; Millis; Pittman; Presnell; Riddell; Robinson; Shepard; Speciale; Stam; Stone; Torbett

House Democrats (0)

OPPOSE

House Republicans (40)

J. Bell; Bradford; Brawley; Brody; Bryan; Daughtry; Davis; Dixon; Dobson; Dollar; Faircloth; Fraley; Hardister; Horn; Iler; Jeter; L. Johnson; Lambeth; Langdon; Lewis; Malone; S. Martin; McGrady; McNeill; Murphy; Pendleton; Ross; Saine; Setzer; Steinburg; Stevens; Szoka; Tine; R. Turner; Warren; Watford; West; Whitmire; Yarborough; Zachary

House Democrats (39)

Adcock; Ager; Alexander; Baskerville; L. Bell; Brisson; Brockman; Carney; Cotham; Earle; Fisher; Floyd; Gill; Goodman; C. Graham; G. Graham; D. Hall; L. Hall; Hamilton; Hanes; Harrison; Holley; Hunter; Insko; Jackson; Lucas; G. Martin; Meyer; Michaux; R. Moore; Pierce; Queen; Reives; B. Richardson; Salmon; Sgro; B. Turner; Waddell; Wray

NOT VOTING

House (3)

Arp (R); T. Moore (R); W. Richardson (D)

EXCUSED ABSENT

House (5)

Cunningham (D); Farmer-Butterfield (D); Luebke (D); Terry (D); Willingham (D)

A1 SPONSOR Millis ROLL CALL 1383

Valone: Permitless Carry Will Be Back Next Year

BY MATT CAULDER

A bill that would have opened up permitless concealed carry of a handgun in North Carolina may be headed for the shredder after dying in committee last session – but it will be back next year, Grass Roots North Carolina President Paul Valone said.

House Bill 1148, sponsored by Rep. Larry Pittman (R-Cabarrus), would have opened up concealed carry in the state to any U.S. citizen who is 21 years old and who meets the qualifications for obtaining a concealed handgun permit. The bill would also have put forward a change to the state Constitution to make the change possible.

The bill died in the Rules Committee, historically a graveyard for legislation that leadership does not want to deal with.

“Oh, it’ll be back next session,” Valone said. “We will bring it back again and again until it passes.”

Valone says he would like to believe the bill was just introduced too late: It was

filed at the beginning of June. However, a similar bill filed during the last session also went nowhere.

Valone said although conservatives have control of the legislature, even maintaining a supermajority in both chambers, they have grown afraid of losing it.

“They are so worried about angering the voters,” Valone said. “And unfortunately we have a bunch of RINOs (Republican in Name Only) up there.”

Taking another run at permitless carry – sometimes called Constitutional Carry – is priority number two for Valone, behind ridding the state of the “Jim Crow era” Pistol Purchase Permit requirement.

An effort to do just that failed in the Long Session in 2015.

Third for Valone is the establishment of an enhanced concealed handgun permit for people with advanced training. Such a permit would authorize holders to carry firearms in

more places.

A bill filed by Sen. Jeff Tarte (R-Mecklenburg) would have done just that, but it too

not to remove a portion of the state recognition of the right to bear arms that says, “Nothing herein shall justify the practice



wound up in the legislative cemetery. One problem may have been its name, “the Homeland Security Patriot Act,” a moniker that seemed a distraction in the debate.

The bill would also have put a referendum in front of the people to choose whether or

of carrying concealed weapons, or prevent the General Assembly from enacting penal statutes against that practice.”

The section was added into the state Constitution following its 1971 recodification.

Concealed carry was legalized here in 1995.

If the amendment were approved, then coupled with a statute opening up concealed carry, citizens would have been able to freely conceal their handguns wherever it was legal.

This would not just apply to residents of North Carolina but to all U.S. citizens.

Some of the opposition to the change seems to be coming from people who are making money on the current process – from sheriff’s offices to private businesses that are teaching the required classes.

Under the draft bill, the permit process would still have remained, as well as the pistol purchase permit (PPP) system.

A concealed handgun permit would still have allowed a resident to bypass the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to buy a firearm and removed the need for a state PPP to get a handgun, as well as authorizing concealed carry in states that maintain reciprocity with North Carolina. ■

Bill for Constitutional Amendments Dies in the House

BY MARK SHIVER

“Call your House member,” said Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) during an appearance on the July 1 edition of the radio program “What Matters in North Carolina.” Berger was responding to a question regarding the chances of a bill getting passed on the final day of the legislative short session.

One key measure that failed to pass this year was House Bill 3, which in its final form would have allowed voters in November to approve or disapprove of three amendments to the state constitution. One would have dealt with eminent domain, another would have placed a cap on income tax rates at 5.5 percent, and another would have affirmed the right of citizens in the state to hunt

and fish.

Originally, HB 3 was filed on January 14, 2015 by Rep. Chuck McGrady (R-Henderson), Rep. Skip Stam (R-Wake) and Rep. David Lewis (R-Harnett). It proposed an amendment that would prohibit condemnation of private property except for a public use. It also would provide for the payment of just compensation to those whose property was condemned, and stipulated the right of trial by jury in all condemnation cases.

The bill passed in the House during the 2015 session and was sent to the Senate, where it sat until June 24 of this year.

Then the Senate added sections capping income tax rates at 5.5 percent and guaranteeing “the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife.”

The amended bill passed 31-18 on June 28. The bill was then returned to the House where it was placed in their Rules Committee. The measure died when the Short Session adjourned.

Rep. Nelson Dollar (R-Wake) said there were some concerns that the bill included more than one constitutional amendment. Dollar said, “When you’re doing something as important as amending the state Constitution you should take each one of those items and vote on them separately – do each issue one at a time.”

Rep. Dan Bishop (R-Mecklenburg) jokingly told “What Matters in North Carolina” that the actual reasons that the bill did not get heard were “above his pay grade.” But, Bishop said,

“There were some things going on affecting the dynamics that had to do with whose legislative priorities were being acted on and whose weren’t. Sometimes [agreements] just don’t get reached.”

Asked about the bill’s demise, Tim Boyum, anchor of the show Capital Tonight, told “What Matters in North Carolina” that, first, there was a concern in the House about the amendment to cap the income tax. Also, there was concern that all three proposed amendments were in one bill. Also, Boyum concluded, “It just ran out of time and a lot of times, at the end of sessions, that just happens.”

There was some speculation that the bill would be passed as a kind of tribute to Stam, who has carried the torch for

changing eminent domain laws for years. When the session adjourned, however, Stam, who is not seeking reelection, had said his goodbyes and heard many words of approbation from his colleagues.

What was not heard by Stam or anyone else, however, were the words, “House Bill 3 has passed and will be sent to the governor.” The only sound related to the bill was that of shredders slicing it and hundreds of others that ran out of time up into thousands of tiny pieces. Any chance to amend the state Constitution will have to wait until the next legislative session. ■

Mark Shiver is the host of “What Matters in North Carolina.” Find out more at freedomactionnetwork.com.

Let Your Legislator Know What You Think

Step One: Go to civitasaction.org/find.php

Step Two: Click on your home county to find legislators’ names.

Step Three: Click on their names to see how they voted on key issues, and where you can reach them with a letter or email.

Ex-FBI Agent Baffled by Failure to Charge Clinton

BY MATT CAULDER

A former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent told NC Capitol Connection he was surprised by FBI Director James Comey's recommendation that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton not be charged following the investigation into the private, unsecured email server she maintained at her house from 2009 to 2013.

Comey said the bureau will not recommend charging Clinton, despite evidence she broke federal law, opening the door for Attorney General Loretta Lynch to dispense with the case. Attorney General Loretta Lynch confirmed the Justice Department will not charge Clinton in the case.

Chuck Stuber, a former FBI agent and current candidate for state auditor, said he was taken by surprise after Comey's announcement, for more than one reason.

Stuber worked for the FBI for decades before retiring and

settling in North Carolina.

"I was actually very surprised that the director of the FBI came out and made the announcement he made," Stuber said. "We [at the FBI] didn't make prosecutor decisions. We presented the evidence to the prosecutors office then they decided whether or not to prosecute."

Stuber said he has the highest regard for Comey but for him to publicly share the FBI's stance on whether or not Clinton should be charged was beyond unorthodox.

Even in a high-profile case like the Clinton email scandal, it would be more likely that Comey would meet face to face with the attorney general or the assistant attorneys general on the case as opposed to publicly releasing the recommendation.

"Generally the FBI's job is to gather the facts, gather the evidence, find the truth in an unbiased manner, and the courts

take it from there," Stuber said. "It's up to the prosecuting attorney. I'm kind of at a loss."

Stuber said he was expecting that the FBI would hold off on any charges until after the

a bunch of times," he said. "My answer until now had generally been I didn't expect her to be indicted with the election as close as it is."

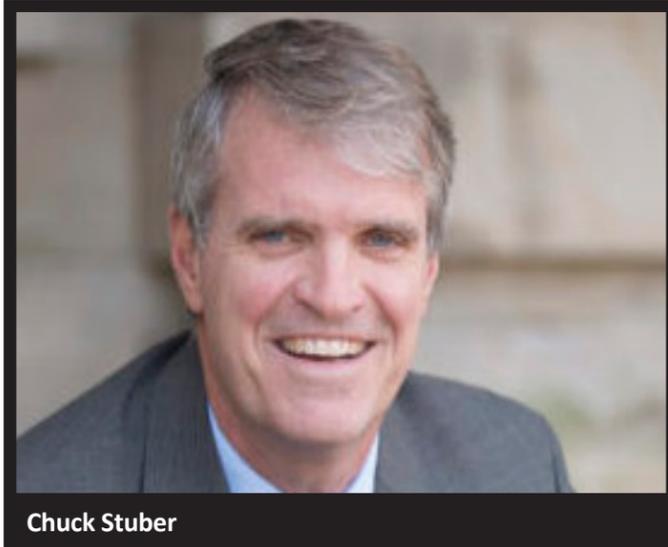
Stuber was the FBI case agent

after the election in November. Even though he wasn't the presidential candidate anymore, normally the FBI and the Department of Justice [don't] want to intervene in political matters. They try to minimize the political implications of what they do."

In addition to his questions about having Comey come out to announce the FBI's stance on whether or not Clinton should be charged, Stuber also expressed concern that she was not charged, knowing what she seems to have done.

"If I had done what she had done, I doubt I'd have a job with the FBI very long, and I'd be looking over my shoulder wondering when I was going to be prosecuted," he said. ■

A version of this story first appeared at www.nccapitolconnection.com.



Chuck Stuber

November election to avoid influencing the outcome of the election, especially in a situation when the investigation is long term and the alleged crime is already finished.

"I've been asked this question

in the investigation of former U.S. Sen. John Edwards. In that case, Stuber said, he was "basically told by the prosecutor's office to not do anything overtly like going out and conducting interviews until

Do Voter Registration Trends Hint at November Results?

BY SUSAN MYRICK

In the last four weeks North Carolina's voter rolls have increased by 38,948 voters. Democrats have added 7,062 voters, Republicans gained 8,279 and Libertarians 423.

The unaffiliated ranks in North Carolina continue to outgrow all the political parties combined: This group saw a net gain of 23,184 voters.

Using the chart on the opposite page, you will see that only four counties had a net loss of voters over the four-week period from June 11 to July 9. Democrats saw a net loss of voters in 49 counties, and Republicans saw losses in three counties (56 in Orange, 23 in Watauga, and six in Gates).

Unaffiliated voters experienced a net loss in only one county (Gates, down 6). It's interesting to note that in January 2009, unaffiliated voters made up 22.33 percent of North Carolina's electorate; today they have grown to 29.04 percent of North Carolina's voters.

According to the latest voter registration numbers, we are probably seeing the beginning

2012 presidential elections.

In 2008, Barack Obama beat John McCain and won North

added 135,935 more voters while the Republican Party grew by 88,670 voters and

this article and the chart on page 11 is **our Carolina Transparency project at www.carolinatransparency.com/voterregistration.**

Carolina Transparency uses the latest figures from the State Board of Elections (SBE) to provide voter registration numbers and trends going back to 2008, by county, party and race, both as numbers and in revealing charts.

Users can customize the page to get the data they need, and can also export it as a spreadsheet.

Elections mavens should also check out the updated, user-friendly. NC Vote Tracker (www.NCVoteTracker.com). It takes early voting data straight from the State Board of Elections website and puts it in a format that is useful and easily accessible for everyone.

The interactive NC Vote Tracker (the only one of its kind in North Carolina) was introduced during the November 2010 one-stop period and has been widely used in elections since then.

NC Vote Tracker is updated daily during the in-person, early voting period to allow citizens to view early voting statistics. It helps citizens search for voting numbers in categories such as counties, precincts and legislative districts. ■

of the voter registration push ahead of the Nov. 8 General Election. The charts here show how voter registration rolls grew (by party) in North Carolina ahead of the 2008 and

Carolina by only 14,177 votes. That year the Democrat Party grew by 313,799 voters in the nine months leading up to Election Day. Compare that number with the Republican Party, which gained only 63,638 voters in the same time period while the unaffiliated ranks grew by 189,404 voters.

Four years later, it was an entirely different picture. President Obama lost in North Carolina to Mitt Romney by 92,004 votes. In the nine months leading up to the 2012 General Election, Democrats

the unaffiliated ranks gained 165,515 voters.

This year's preliminary numbers (March-July) may be an indicator of the results in November. At this time, the voter registration changes in the last four months don't look like 2012's voter registration numbers and they certainly don't look like 2008, but it is early and both major political parties are just now starting their voter registration machines.

More on election trends

The source for the data in

NC Voter Registration growth in recent presidential election years.			
2008 (March-August)		2008 (March-November)	
Democrats	147,221	Democrats	313,799
Republicans	9,082	Republicans	63,638
Libertarians	823	Libertarians	3,370
Unaffiliated	100,921	Unaffiliated	189,404
2012 (March-July)		2012 (March-November)	
Democrats	6,047	Democrats	135,935
Republicans	14,159	Republicans	88,670
Libertarians	804	Libertarians	6,043
Unaffiliated	32,664	Unaffiliated	165,515
2016 (March-July)		2016 (March-November)	
Democrats	17,367	Democrats	?
Republicans	32,829	Republicans	?
Libertarians	204	Libertarians	?
Unaffiliated	70,162	Unaffiliated	?

County	Totals	Change 2016 (June - July)
Total Voters	6,625,230	38,948
Democrats	2,657,607	7,062
Republicans	2,015,619	8,279
Libertarians	28,102	423
Unaffiliated	1,923,902	23,184

Changes represent the difference in voter registration between June 11, 2016 and July 9, 2016										
County	Total Voters	Total Change	Democrats	Democrat Change	Republicans	Republicans Change	Libertarians	Libertarian Change	Unaffiliated Voters	Unaffiliated Change
STATE TOTAL	6,625,230	38,948	2,657,607	7,062	2,015,619	8,279	28,102	423	1,923,902	23,184
ALAMANCE	96,499	459	38,181	89	32,008	151	354	5	25,956	214
ALEXANDER	23,832	39	6,575	-30	10,496	4	59	2	6,702	63
ALLEGHANY	7,269	29	2,824	-8	2,428	14	27	-1	1,990	24
ANSON	17,143	28	11,909	-4	2,354	14	18	1	2,862	17
ASHE	18,561	48	5,653	-16	7,820	18	55	3	5,033	43
AVERY	11,636	36	1,456	10	6,902	18	42	-1	3,236	9
BEAUFORT	32,549	172	13,884	11	10,456	57	87	0	8,122	104
BERTIE	14,164	-37	10,360	-83	1,499	8	19	2	2,286	36
BLADEN	22,481	83	13,661	-32	3,187	28	28	0	5,605	87
BRUNSWICK	91,556	1,169	26,667	249	33,848	420	294	3	30,747	497
BUNCOMBE	190,605	1,233	76,027	365	46,633	144	1,135	16	66,810	708
BURKE	57,266	77	19,264	-8	20,038	17	235	2	17,729	66
CABARRUS	126,351	1,178	39,819	333	47,723	303	576	9	38,233	533
CALDWELL	54,103	220	15,179	4	24,103	79	311	3	14,510	134
CAMDEN	7,470	41	2,522	-9	2,200	24	36	1	2,712	25
CARTERET	51,129	108	12,838	-34	21,286	20	208	-1	16,797	123
CASWELL	15,346	9	8,249	-20	3,544	8	30	0	3,523	21
CATAWBA	101,414	413	27,088	26	43,486	66	342	5	30,498	316
CHATHAM	49,175	340	20,236	69	12,730	58	194	6	16,015	207
CHEROKEE	23,378	68	6,601	17	9,658	18	109	4	7,010	29
CHOWAN	10,209	5	5,069	-16	2,570	7	19	2	2,551	12
CLAY	8,788	23	2,231	-2	3,495	13	35	0	3,027	12
CLEVELAND	61,169	293	26,473	-16	19,271	134	189	2	15,236	173
COLUMBUS	35,692	229	21,386	5	6,306	78	52	0	7,948	146
CRAVEN	69,522	455	25,031	39	23,740	175	310	-2	20,441	243
CUMBERLAND	201,188	3,127	96,058	496	46,959	338	830	27	57,341	2,266
CURRITUCK	18,355	139	4,181	6	6,457	64	118	3	7,599	66
DARE	28,687	114	9,209	14	8,610	52	172	0	10,696	48
DAVIDSON	102,514	399	27,444	-16	47,563	171	376	7	27,131	237
DAVIE	28,820	91	5,689	-1	14,840	31	78	0	8,213	61
DUPLIN	29,421	112	14,396	-16	7,799	52	83	1	7,143	75
DURHAM	216,171	2,061	122,996	869	28,818	223	916	31	63,441	938
EDGECOMBE	38,080	99	27,372	-1	6,069	37	67	-1	4,572	64
FORSYTH	243,116	931	101,920	233	75,125	182	1,014	25	65,057	491
FRANKLIN	41,743	370	18,380	51	12,644	97	160	-1	10,559	223
GASTON	135,807	500	44,920	27	51,832	127	510	4	38,545	342
GATES	8,385	-20	4,718	-8	1,624	-6	19	0	2,024	-6
GRAHAM	6,348	8	2,038	-6	2,747	8	18	-1	1,545	7
GRANVILLE	36,861	361	18,914	133	8,858	84	127	1	8,962	143
GREENE	11,275	34	6,780	7	1,963	4	26	0	2,506	23
GUILFORD	346,735	1,870	160,822	557	93,515	279	1,481	9	90,917	1,025
HALIFAX	38,188	109	25,964	2	4,569	22	75	2	7,580	83
HARNETT	69,960	773	26,439	78	24,140	226	412	5	18,969	464
HAYWOOD	42,820	313	17,394	25	12,624	103	181	2	12,621	183
HENDERSON	79,750	729	17,823	113	30,650	186	343	12	30,934	418
HERTFORD	14,927	58	11,106	1	1,417	20	34	1	2,370	36
HOKE	30,866	359	15,025	99	6,436	48	141	1	9,264	211
HYDE	3,461	13	2,104	1	524	3	8	0	825	9
IREDELL	113,505	406	30,714	43	47,042	155	469	4	35,280	204
JACKSON	26,795	46	10,275	-24	6,860	5	118	1	9,542	64
JOHNSTON	116,823	1,031	38,013	200	44,845	330	542	5	33,423	496
JONES	7,402	7	3,841	-3	1,745	10	25	0	1,791	0
LEE	33,876	307	14,663	41	9,610	46	123	3	9,480	217
LENOIR	38,737	7	21,699	-60	9,422	18	87	1	7,529	48
LINCOLN	53,444	250	14,376	-24	23,001	116	184	5	15,883	153
MACON	24,895	144	6,903	-9	9,911	59	92	3	7,989	91
MADISON	16,318	49	6,747	-4	4,230	1	85	0	5,256	52
MARTIN	17,063	36	10,535	-31	3,271	24	40	-2	3,217	45
MCDOWELL	28,386	126	8,862	-25	10,388	68	104	1	9,032	82
MECKLENBURG	668,897	4,321	299,776	1,669	167,582	388	3,187	63	198,352	2,201
MITCHELL	11,052	55	1,150	7	6,780	25	28	0	3,094	23
MONTGOMERY	15,942	77	7,397	1	4,691	32	43	0	3,811	44
MOORE	63,883	460	16,697	25	26,170	136	283	9	20,733	290
NASH	65,002	222	33,607	16	18,440	50	155	0	12,800	156
NEW HANOVER	160,597	242	52,980	-68	51,693	21	991	-3	54,933	292
NORTHAMPTON	14,638	8	10,837	-9	1,362	9	15	2	2,424	6
ONSLow	100,955	1,273	28,709	219	35,890	439	678	20	35,678	595
ORANGE	109,308	-54	52,382	-59	16,992	-56	594	1	39,340	60
PAMLICO	9,551	20	4,021	-35	2,958	17	31	2	2,541	36
PASQUOTANK	27,718	180	13,474	26	5,688	70	134	-1	8,422	85
PENDER	38,105	234	12,989	6	13,957	102	193	1	10,966	125
PERQUIMANS	9,931	29	4,300	-8	2,541	12	31	-2	3,059	27
PERSON	26,143	130	12,448	29	6,348	39	83	3	7,264	59
PITT	116,697	449	55,088	45	30,512	85	564	14	30,533	305
POLK	15,632	24	4,587	-7	5,403	8	70	1	5,572	22
RANDOLPH	90,148	271	19,915	17	44,752	101	351	0	25,130	153
RICHMOND	30,010	87	17,387	-39	5,477	31	64	0	7,082	95
ROBESON	74,679	499	50,859	-64	9,230	73	163	-3	14,427	493
ROCKINGHAM	59,191	181	23,888	-33	19,951	91	192	5	15,160	118
ROWAN	91,947	402	28,629	-49	37,194	138	281	11	25,843	302
RUTHERFORD	43,995	59	15,996	-47	15,438	36	179	3	12,382	67
SAMPSON	36,927	98	16,697	-20	13,357	10	93	1	6,780	107
SCOTLAND	22,304	68	13,191	-6	3,470	22	41	0	5,602	52
STANLY	39,795	57	11,641	-36	17,273	36	110	4	10,771	53
STOKES	30,804	148	8,340	5	14,702	49	137	0	7,625	94
SURRY	44,205	124	14,660	-55	18,171	44	122	-3	11,252	138
SWAIN	10,296	54	4,138	2	2,601	17	32	-1	3,525	36
TRANSYLVANIA	24,709	88	6,913	-11	8,072	23	105	-2	9,619	78
TYRRELL	2,439	-2	1,481	-11	329	2	4	0	625	7
UNION	145,734	952	39,060	151	61,673	314	567	10	44,434	477
VANCE	29,634	115	20,025	18	4,308	25	53	-2	5,248	74
WAKE	672,817	5,602	257,129	1,709	185,553	577	3,681	65	226,454	3,251
WARREN	13,377	1	9,448	-19	1,691	10	33	-1	2,205	11
WASHINGTON	8,538	6	5,971	-5	1,071	5	21	0	1,475	6
WATAUGA	43,470	1	11,866	-23	13,777	-3	405	4	17,422	23
WAYNE	73,873	372	32,938	22	23,559	123	234	6	17,142	221
WILKES	41,947	127	10,337	-15	21,479	39	112	-1	10,019	104
WILSON	55,000	164	29,510	-6	13,630	53	119	5	11,741	112
YADKIN	23,657	72	4,331	1	13,143	24	64	2	6,119	45
YANCEY	13,654	55	5,312	12	4,822	3	37	0	3,483	40

Scandal

Microaggression – More Silliness from UNC-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State

BY BOB LUEBKE

Microaggression – that’s a fancy term many radical college students and administrators are using these days as a means to supposedly call out racism and protest unsafe and hostile environments for minorities. But what is it really all about?

You say you’ve never heard of the term microaggression? Don’t worry, you will. While combatting racism and keeping a safe environment may be laudable goals, the problem is the process for identifying microaggression essentially shuts down free speech on campus and produces individuals who are easily offended and unable to navigate environments where people are different than they are.

According to Professor Derald Wing Sue of Columbia University, microaggressions can be described as brief and commonplace verbal, behavioral and environmental indignities, whether intentional or not, that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative, racial, gender, sexual orientation and religious slights and insults to the target person or group.

But a recent much-publicized post at a UNC-Chapel Hill employee website forum shows how microaggression awareness is out of control. On the forum, staff cautioned employees against “brief and commonplace” displays of “implicit bias.” Such bias could include sex-specific dress codes, staff meetings at country clubs and religious vacations.

The post identified several examples of microaggressions. These included saying “I love your shoes!” to a woman in a leadership position. Why is this offensive? Microaggression advocates say what you’re really saying is: I notice how you look and dress more than I value

your intellectual contributions. Having man/woman or male/female as options for gender on office forms is a form of microaggression because it is telling people they must fit into the gender binary among pre-selected categories.

Having celebrations, calendars or vacations centered on major religious observances (i.e.,

microaggressions in the higher education enterprise. Participants will explore language, behaviors, policies and practices that impact the classroom, workplace and educational experiences for students, faculty/staff at Carolina.” The discussions and keynote should help them reflect on their own practices,

Roy Baroff. (Apparently the “man” part of ombudsman is a microaggression.) The tool informs the school’s employees that phrases like “America is a land of opportunity” or “I believe the most qualified person should get the job” are microaggressions and should be eliminated.

According to Baroff, the

to minimize or eliminate these problems. The question then becomes: What is the best way?

Microaggression techniques are not the best tool to reach that goal. Those who advocate for microaggression use bias and racism in the name of eliminating bias and racism. Microaggression falsely assumes racism and indignity is in every conversation and in every environment. Believing so is as bad as believing none exists.

For those concerned about eliminating implicit bias, it’s hard to ignore the reality that the arrow on microaggressions always goes only one way. Aggrieved parties are always minorities, whites are always the offenders and never a class worthy of protection.

Moreover, monitoring perceived transgressions on campuses and public places turns students into lifelong victims and requires an army of bureaucrats to control thought and behavior.

Colleges are supposed to be the place where differing ideas are explored and people learn to relate to and contribute to the larger society. Microaggression theory stamps that surrounding society as toxic. It finds racism and injustice behind every interaction and swings the same heavy hammer at every injustice – real or perceived.

Microaggression theory destroys free speech and weakens the free exchange of ideas. It’s an idea at odds with the values of college campuses in North Carolina and elsewhere.

And it’s time we treat it as such. ■



Christmas or Easter) is also a microaggression because it “further centers the Christian faith and minimizes non-Christian spiritual rituals and observances.”

As you might expect, once the guidelines were made public, UNC was the recipient of a torrent of bad publicity. The post was removed and UNC-Chapel Hill officials appeared to back away from the controversy.

While it seems UNC-Chapel Hill administrators are trying to distance themselves from the controversy, it’s interesting to note that in August the campus will be hosting a Diversity Thinkposium on Microaggression. According to the event’s website:

“The daylong program is designed for participants to explore and understand the nature and impact of

understand the concepts and behaviors that perpetuate oppression of marginalized identities; and be part of facilitated conversations to develop capacity and skill to address the issue within their own units and departments.”

The fact is UNC-Chapel Hill is using microaggression training as a tool. It may not be university policy, but UNC doesn’t seem to mind that a major conference on the subject will be on campus. They are doing nothing to stop it.

Some may be inclined to shake their heads and merely say, “Well, that’s UNC-Chapel Hill.” If only that were the case!

The Daily Caller, a conservative national online news site, recently reported on a microaggression tool touted by North Carolina State University faculty “ombuds”

phrase “America is a land of opportunity” is a problem because it perpetuates a myth of a meritocracy, which says everyone can succeed in America if they merely work hard enough.

As you might expect, the story received considerable attention from the national press, most of it unflattering. Baroff did not respond to requests for comment from reporters.

It’s difficult to wrap yourself around a topic as broad and gauzy as microaggression. And that’s part of the problem.

People suffer racism and all sorts of indignities daily; some intended, some not. Of course we should do all we can

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