



The Senate Connection

Connecting Davie and Rowan Counties with news from the
Office of Senator Andrew Brock

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◆ **This week at the General Assembly:**

This is Senator Andrew Brock reporting to you from Raleigh at the North Carolina General Assembly with your weekly senate update! This week we started with a press conference about the problems associated with partisan redistricting. Senate and House Republicans introduced companion legislation to help prevent future gerrymandering by taking members of the General Assembly out of the process and transferring responsibility to an independent group. This proposal would give voters the final word because it requires an amendment of the North Carolina Constitution.

On Wednesday, the House passed a bill to ban smoking in most restaurants and offices in the state. The amended version exempts bars and businesses that serve people that are over the age of 18. Opponents of the bill emphasize private property rights and the importance of the tobacco industry and jobs to the state.

Democratic Senators are expected to roll out their version of the budget next week, if history is any indication, it will fail to prioritize spending and increase taxes, even in the current economy. I encourage my democratic colleagues to take this opportunity to reform the way the state spends money and bring us a fiscally responsible spending plan.

Remember that my legislative office is available if you need our services. Our phone number in Raleigh is 919-715-0609 and my direct email address is andrewb@ncleg.net



◆ **Press release:**

The North Carolina economic problems and ballooning unemployment rates are a direct effect of the state and national democratic tax and spending policies. According to the North Carolina Employment Security Commission the North Carolina unemployment rate has risen from 4.5 percent in January to 11.3 percent in February. According to the U.S Department of labor our state now has the 4th highest employment rate in the United States and lead the nation in unemployment growth.

Democrats in control of both houses in the General Assembly and the Governor's mansion for the past 6 years have adopted state budgets that raise taxes and increase spending by almost 50 percent. During the same 6 years democrats also approves borrowing that more than doubled state debt.

This week, WTVD-TV in Durham reported that former Democratic Gov. Mike Easley received the North Carolina Chamber's Distinguished Public Service award for economic accomplishments. "The citizens of our state know that North Carolina's economy is in trouble. Much of that trouble is a direct result of spending decisions and tax increases by our state's Democratic leaders," said Berger. "Democrats loved to claim credit when our state's economic picture was bright. By the same token, they should be held accountable, rather than applauded, when the economy suffers because of their failed policies."