



Senate Connection

Connecting Davie and Rowan Counties with news from the
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- **Week Eighteen News:**

This week the North Carolina General Assembly session began with Senate and House republican leaders hosting a news conference to renew their call for legislative hearings on questions lingering from the Easley Administration including the “lost” Highway Patrol travel records and creation and funding of Mary Easley job at North Carolina State University. So far, requests for the House and Senate Appropriations



Committees to schedule hearings to examine those issues have been stonewalled. This latest request follows several weeks in which republican leaders have called on Democratic state leaders to investigate and take action on potentially serious corruption allegations about Governor Easley and his wife, Mary. State level democrats continue to refuse to comment or provide leadership on these matters.

“Unfortunately, Governor Perdue and Democratic legislative leaders seem more concerned about covering up politically embarrassing and damaging scandals than determining why they happened in the first place,” said Senate Republican leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham.)

The press conference also included discussions on the state budget and possible solutions to the state’s budget deficit. The House version of the state budget is due to be released sometime next week. Protesters were in Raleigh Tuesday to express concerns about reduction in spending and demanded that legislators raise taxes instead. On Wednesday, bus loads of anti-tax activists arrived for the annual “Take back Our State” rally and called on state leaders to reign in out of control spending, delivering the message that the public is taxed enough already.

Senator Berger reminded the group that his calls on Democratic state leaders to curtail spending and prepare for economic downturns have been ignored for years. Spending has continued unabated and State budgets have increased nearly 50% over the past 8 years, a rate much faster than either population growth and inflation would justify.



Republicans have advanced fiscally sound proposals for years; those proposals have been ignored by Democrats. We warned that a day of reckoning would come if the Democratic majority in the General Assembly didn't change their reckless spending habits, that day has now arrived.