



# Senate Connection

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

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## 2010 Budget Proposal News (problems)

As the first full week of the 2010 legislative short session comes to a close, just as years past, we continue to see the elusive Democrat budgeting practice of increasing spending during a recession. It is astonishing to me that the Democrat Budget writers continue to increase spending even though there are expectations of a \$3 billion budget deficit next year. This \$3 billion deficit consist of temporary tax increases that are scheduled to expire by June 1, 2011 which will lower state revenue \$1.6 billion and \$1.6 billion from federal stimulus money that will not be available after this year. However, the best thing is to let the temporary taxes expire as the state does not have a revenue shortage, it has a spending addiction.

Some interesting factors comes into play when analyzing the Democrats budget proposal such that it ignores fiscal realities and jumpstarts the process for massive tax increases on families and small businesses in the next year. Next years probable tax increase should not surprise citizens seeing as it will follow the pattern the Democrats have weaved for the past 7 years. During every non-election years including 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009 the Democrats have passed huge tax hikes to fund the continuing increase in government spending.



The Brocks on the first day of session

Not only is the senate budget proposal expected to raise taxes next year, it does very little for jobs as it commits only token promises to businesses small and large looking to locate or expand. It's remarkable to hear talk that the number one priority of the Democratic leaders is to create jobs for North Carolina citizens when looking at their budget proposal there is very little committed to job creation. If Democrats were serious about creating more jobs we should introduce a job program that would include tax relief across the board. The current small business benefit proposal will allow a one time credit of \$132. That is not enough to pay someone minimum wage for one week!!

An equally important flaw needing to be corrected in the senate budget proposal is the \$219 million in cuts to K-12 classroom education. While it remains to be seen if the budget will protect teachers it is clear that it will certainly be detrimental to students. K-12 classroom education is the only area of education cut, while other areas are seeing an increase in funds such as the prisoner education program receiving \$20 million in funds each year. We are glad to see Senate Democrats admit that the costly experiment in dropout prevention grants has proven ineffective in fighting our continuing problem with student dropout rate and the program has been eliminated.



With Republican leadership the citizens of North Carolina could expect education to be a top priority and fully funded. If the Democrats continue to increase overall spending this year, as the current budget proposes, next year and the years after will be even worse. The only feasible way to fix the economic problem our state is currently facing is to freeze spending at current levels to ensure no government job loss and no tax hike next year. If citizens of North Carolina are being forced to live within their means during this recession, the state of North Carolina should be required to also.

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The following picture appeared in the Raleigh News and Observer of Scarlett's first visit to Raleigh:

