



The Senate Connection

CONNECTING DAVIE AND ROWAN COUNTIES WITH NEWS FROM
THE OFFICE OF SENATOR ANDREW BROCK

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Sen. Andrew Brock

The Senate Budget

Senator Brock Takes Bold Stand Against Rampant Spending, Increased Debt

Taking a principled, conservative stance against rampant spending in Raleigh, Senator Brock last week voted against the Senate's version of the state budget.

"I do not believe that the spending plan produced by the Democratic budget-writers is the type of proposal that the people of Davie and Rowan Counties sent me to Raleigh to vote for. It does nothing to reign in the growth of government, but instead expands government," Senator Brock said.

The two aspects of the budget the senator is most concerned with are the 7.1% increase in spending over last year and the \$1.2 billion in new debt that the bill authorizes. The new debt is especially troublesome because it relies on the use of certificates of participation, a mechanism which allows the state to incur more debt for the state without a vote of the people. The practice has been used lately to bypass the normal process of holding a bond referendum. It's an end round way against state's Constitution.

"This budget simply spends too much. We need to hold the growth of government to the rate of population growth plus inflation, while looking for cost savings in government programs. Anything more and it won't be long before we can't afford our own government," the senator explained. He went on to say: "The level of debt that Senate Democrats have asked the people of North Carolina to take on is unacceptable. Everyday citizens of Davie and Rowan Counties work hard to live within their means. I think the State of North Carolina should do the same."

Senator Brock was one of only two senators willing to put their foot down when it came to the budget. "This was simply a bad budget for North Carolina and my conscience would not let me vote for it. I'm convinced that whatever supporters claim is in this budget is far outweighed by the negative, long-term consequences for the prosperity of our state," he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE BUDGET NOW? *An Update on the Budget Process*

After the Senate passed its version of the budget bill it was sent back to the House of Representatives where it originated. The House passed on the opportunity to adopt the Senate's version of the bill. The legislation now heads to a conference committee composed of members appointed by the Democratic leadership of both houses to work out differences between their respective proposals.

"This budget is about to go from bad to worse," Senator Brock said. "I have a strong feeling that what little good was in Senate version will be compromised away by the conferees, giving me even more reason to vote against it when it comes before me again." The conference committee is expected to take several weeks to finish its work, at which time both chambers will consider the conference committee report.

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- Senator Andrew Brock on the Senate Budget Proposal