



Senate Connection

News from the
Office of Senator Andrew Brock

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Sen. Andrew Brock
Republican

Final Budget

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Raleigh, NC

Runaway budget denies responsibility

Consistent to the end, Senator Brock voted against the final version of the state budget.

"The Democrats' budget for North Carolina was terrible from start to finish. I voted against the original Senate proposal because it saddled the people of this state with too much debt and violated the principles of the Taxpayer Protection Act. Unfortunately, the final budget offered by Democrats was worse than the original and I voted against it as well," Senator Brock said.

One of the Senator's main concerns was the runaway spending in the budget. "This budget simply spends too much. Plain and simple. Both this budget and the one before it have increased spending by nearly 10%. That means that in the last two budget cycles state government

has grown by 20%. Taxpayers wages certainly haven't grown that quickly and neither has our state's population. This type of unchecked government growth is unsustainable in the long run and we have to get a handle on it. However, as long as the Democrats continue to run things in Raleigh I think the problem will only get worse," the Senator said.

On top of the increased spending, the Senator opposed a provision which made a "temporary" sales tax permanent. "The legislature should have kept its promises to cut and reduce taxes. However in the past two years the Democrats have increased taxes and fees despite having over a \$4 Billion dollar surplus.

Democrats' Spending Plan is the Same Old Story

At their weekly press conference Senate Republican Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) and House Republican Leader Paul Stam (R-Wake) discussed a number of issues including the state budget, education and transportation.

For years, the state's elected Democrats repeatedly heap praise on their handiwork in crafting the state's general fund budget. We routinely hear about the great things for and improvements to the state's public education system from their spending plans. The speeches are so routine and consistent that they could use the same script year after year, just re-read prior comments. In fact, it looks like what they do. Governor Easley's statements referring to Democrat budgets sound interchangeable from year to year:

August 11, 2005: "This may be the best education budget that I have seen in my tenure as governor."

August 13, 2005: "It is one of the best education budgets I have seen. It reforms our high schools to improve the graduation rate, continues to invest in early childhood education, smaller class sizes and teacher pay."

June 30, 2006: "This budget agreement clearly earmarks education as the No.1 priority in North Carolina. This plan is a reflection of our shared commitment to provide a top-notch, seamless education system at every level."

July 29, 2007: "This is a gutsy and aggressive budget that finally fulfills our historic promise to all people that they can achieve their dream of going from pre-kindergarten through college debt free. It is a truly transformational document that allows North Carolina to emerge as the nation's clear leader in facing the educational challenge of the 21st century."

After all the rhetoric, after all the spending, after all the plans and programs, just where is North Carolina in terms of education quality compared with the rest of the nation, and, just as important, compared with the rest of the world? The answer: not measurably better than we were thirty (30) years ago.