



The Senate Connection

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

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◆ **Budget Problem Press Conference:**

On Tuesday morning, Senate and House Republican hosted a news conference to call for reform of the broken budgeting process in order to balance the budget and control future growth of government spending. They urged passage of [Senate Bill 10 52](#), "Limit General Fund Expenditure." The bill, introduced by Senate Republican Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham), would cap General Fun spending at the amount of revenues collected in the preceding calendar year and require that any surplus funds go to savings, capital improvements, repayment of state debt or taxpayer refunds.

"Reckless spending and taxing must stop." said Berger. "Irresponsible budgets adopted by state Democrats are directly to blame for North Carolina's current fiscal problems and our state's dismal unemployment rate. If adopted, this bill will make it unlikely that our state will face another fiscal mess like the one we have now."

On Wednesday evening, Senator Berger spoke at a "Tea Party" in Raleigh. Among other things, Berger expressed his disappointment that family budgets are being stretched while politicians at the state and national level continue to spend tax dollars a if there is a bottomless pit of money available. He highlighted Senate Democrats 20.9 billion dollar budget which increases government spending by nearly 1.5 billion dollars and raises taxes by over 1 billion dollars without providing any details. Berger argued that during these difficult economic times, the state should implement spending cuts rather than more spending and tax increases which hurt the economy and cost jobs.



◆ **Institute of Emerging Issues Presentation:**

On Wednesday, the Institute of Emerging issues spoke to the Finance committee on the modernization of State finance. The Institute of Emerging issues is a public policy which convene leader from business, non profit organizations , government and higher education to tackle some of the biggest issues facing North Carolina's future growth and prosperity. The institute projects that in the future North Carolina will be shifting to a knowledge and service based

economy and be more urbanized. The modern tax system should be characterized by three basic principles: Simplicity, fairness and a minimal number of exemptions. There are 4 specific goals of the IEI to help North Carolina grow and prosper in the future:

- Reduce Corporate and individual income tax rates to levels that make NC competitive with other states.

- Uses federal Aggregate Gross Income as the base for calculating personal state income tax.

- Eliminate many income tax exemptions and deductions.

- Extend sales tax base to services and lower sales tax rates. Medical services and prescription drugs should continue to be exempt.

Here is a link to the IEI website where you can make adjustments to different taxes and see how it would impact the state revenue system. ([Tax Calculator](#))



Legislative Week in Review

Legislative Week in Review is currently back in session to provide an all-new season of comprehensive public affairs coverage of the most important issues before the North Carolina's State House and Senate. Legislative Week co-hosts Eszter Vajda and Kelly McCullen go inside legislative committee rooms and into General Assembly hallways to get the latest information on matters that matter to you.

Each episode features a wrap-up of the week's activities, in-depth looks at pending legislation, interviews with lawmakers and analysis of the week's events from members of the Capitol Press Corps.

Legislative Week in Review airs Fridays at 10 PM with encore presentations on Sundays at 1 PM. In addition, don't miss more insights on legislative matters with North Carolina Now Legislative Review, Fridays at 7:30 PM on UNC-TV, and 6 PM on UNC-NC (UNC-TV's digital channel dedicated to local events and productions), as this additional public affairs program takes an early look at each week's debates, bills, and topics.

<http://www.unctv.org/legweek/>