



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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NCACTE Legislative Update

NCACTE Legislative Committee Endorses Platform: At its July 11 meeting, the committee agreed to retain for the 2017-18 biennium the current platform, which states:

NCACTE Legislative Platform (2015-2016 Biennium):

NCACTE will continue to keep legislators and other policymakers informed on how Career and Technical Education positively affects increased graduation rates and lower dropout rates statewide. To accomplish this platform, NCACTE supports:

- *Keeping in place, and preferably increasing, the current level of state funding and innovative programming for CTE.*
- *Funding and support for Career and Technical Student Organizations and enhanced recruitment and retention efforts for CTE personnel.*
- *Ensuring that CTE is an integral part of dropout prevention, workforce development, and economic development programs. NCACTE will closely monitor legislation that relates to CTE students in public schools and community colleges.*

Congrats in Order: As of last Wednesday night, our 2016 President of the NCACTE Board of Directors, **Christy Cheek**, finished up her excellent, one-year term and we look forward to the leadership of our new BOD President **Carol Harper**.

Meantime, kudos also to **Todd Williams**, who last week also ended his strong, year-long term as NCACTE Legislative Committee Chair. He is being succeeded by **Allison Dees**. He worked closely with NCACTE Lobbyist Dave Simpson during the recently ended 2016 short session of the N.C. General Assembly on such accomplishments as:

- Helping lead NCACTE efforts to remove from a [Senate-amended version of HB 657](#) language that would have been harmful to CTE by no longer allowing CTE coursework to count for math credit. **The fact that the objectionable version of HB 657 never cleared the Senate was a major victory for NCACTE in a short session that is primarily designed to tweak the state budget.**
- Helped provide info for the weekly legislative newsletters focusing on CTE political, regulatory and other developments.
- Helped coordinate and participate in the NCACTE Legislative Policy Seminar.
- Helped monitor bills affecting NCACTE and the public schools as well as legislative alerts as needed (i.e., HB 657), ensured that CTE was faring well in the Legislature. .

Todd Williams, Director of Career and Technical Education for the Iredell-Statesville Schools, said he looks forward to a productive 2016-17 with new NCACTE Legislative Committee Chair Allison Dees, Director of Career and Technical Education for Carteret Schools. "It was an honor to serve as Legislative Committee Chair for NCACTE. Allison Dees will do a great job as our new Chair," he said.

What's Up in Surplus, Teacher Pay Numbers

Revenue Surplus: The state budget office is estimating a final revenue surplus of \$425 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, Gov. Pat McCrory said in a news release last week. The previous projections, released in May, showed a projected surplus of about \$95 million less than the new figure. McCrory said the surplus is driven by more people working and earning more money. "North Carolina has posted record revenue surpluses driven by strong economic growth, job creation and responsible financial management," he said in the prepared statement. "At a time when neighboring states are revealing steep revenue deficits, North Carolina's economy is firing on all cylinders."

Governor Signs Budget Bill: McCrory signed a budget last Thursday that he says makes good on his claim to increase average teacher salaries above \$50,000. McCrory held a ceremony at a Union County elementary school to ink the \$22.3 billion state spending plan the General Assembly sent him two weeks ago on the last day of its annual work session. The measure raises teacher pay by 4.7 percent on average and should increase the expected teacher salary from all funding sources — including local supplements — to above \$50,150, according to a budget document created by the General Assembly's nonpartisan fiscal staff.

Drilling Down on Teacher Pay: The N.C. General Assembly agreed on broad pay hikes for public school teachers for the second time since 2014. The goal is to give instructors more when they assume additional responsibilities or their students make academic progress. Teachers will get \$25 or \$50 for each student they taught who scored high this past year on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and technical certification tests, with a \$2,000 cap. And

third-grade teachers whose students showed the best growth in reading skills could receive up to \$6,800. Both programs are in place two years. Also, there will be a three-year performance-pay program, beginning in the fall of 2017, where 10 districts will be chosen to offer teachers' salary supplements of up to 30 percent.

More Background Similar moves have been tried over the past 30 years. A former statewide bonus program ended because of lack of funds and questions about results. "We put a heavy emphasis in this budget on training the teachers, offering teachers opportunities to grow, not just because they can earn more money but so they can take on more responsibility," said Rep. Craig Horn, R-Union, an education budget-writer.

Teachers getting raises would see increases of about 2 percent to 13 percent, depending on where salary schedule last year. For instance, a 10-year teacher making a base salary of \$40,000 will make \$41,000 this fall. A 19-year teacher making \$43,500 will earn \$48,000. Up to 2,700 of the 92,000 instructors funded by the state wouldn't see any raise, according to the Department of Public Instruction. The pay proposal probably will increase North Carolina's average pay ranking in the South from ninth out of 12 states to seventh, according to the Public School Forum of North Carolina.

State Political Picture

On the Stump: In the governor's race, Democrat Roy Cooper derided Republican Gov. McCrory's "Carolina Comeback" and his support for House Bill 2. The "Carolina Comeback," a dramatic drop in unemployment along with the addition of nearly 300,000 jobs, is the centerpiece of McCrory's re-election campaign. He has touted the nation's "fastest-growing economy," a description backed by Politifact.

But at a news conference at Central Piedmont Community College, Cooper said while the economy has improved across the nation, most North Carolinians haven't seen the benefits. "The truth is his 'Carolina Comeback' has benefited those at the top and done little for working families," Cooper said. " McCrory campaign spokesman Ricky Diaz said Cooper "continues to denigrate North Carolina and lie about the progress made over the past three years under Gov. McCrory's leadership." "You'd almost forget he's been a politician serving inside state government for the past 30 years. His plan has no new ideas and would only take us back to the high tax, big government days of the past that left us uncompetitive as a state for jobs."

Fundraising: Here are the latest fundraising numbers from key statewide races, according to news reports:

- **Governor:** Democrat Roy Cooper has extended his fundraising advantage over Republican incumbent Pat McCrory. Cooper's campaign announced last week it has raised more than \$5.1 million during the past four months, compared with McCrory's \$3.2 million the governor's campaign.

- Lt. Gov. Dan Forest raised \$364,348 from April through June, starting July with \$210,436 on hand. His Democratic challenger, Linda Coleman, raised \$226,060 and had \$97,889 on hand in the same period.
- **Superintendent of public instruction:** Incumbent Democrat June Atkinson raised \$29,340 with \$64,264 on hand. Republican challenger Mark Johnson raised \$15,912 with \$129,939 on hand.
- **Big war chests in treasurer's race:** Without an incumbent in the race, bigger fundraising numbers are being reported than many other Council of State races. Democrat Dan Blue III raised \$216,499 in the quarter while Republican Dan Folwell pulled in \$164,499. Still, Folwell ended the period with more cash on hand – \$418,203 – than Blue's \$129,172.
- **Labor commissioner:** Former Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker, a Democrat, raised \$102,126. Incumbent Republican Cherie Berry raised \$15,119. Meeker ended the period with \$108,078 on hand to Berry's \$61,149.
- **Auditor:** GOP challenger Chuck Stuber raised \$18,679 with \$12,177 on hand; incumbent Democrat Beth Wood raised \$67,004 with \$49,699 on hand.
- **Insurance commissioner:** Incumbent Democrat Wayne Goodwin has one of the biggest cash hauls in state politics He raised \$220,665 with \$737,270 on hand. Republican challenger Mike Causey raised \$23,062 with \$15,312 on hand.
- **Secretary of state:** Incumbent Democrat Elaine Marshall raised \$110,474 and had \$129,408 on hand. Republican challenger Michael LaPaglia raised \$10,468 and had \$4,943 on hand.

Other News

Voucher Growth: The number of students in North Carolina receiving vouchers to help pay tuition at private or religious schools could have a six-fold increase over the next 12 years. Republican lawmakers included a provision in the state budget that would add more than 2,000 slots to the Opportunity Scholarship program every year for a decade, pushing it from about 6,000 students this year to about 36,000 by 2028, according to news reports. The cost for the voucher program would grow from \$25 million to \$145 million during that period, according to WRAL News.

Quote of the Week

"Our beer is colder than your ex's heart."

- Overseen on a marquee sign outside a convenience store.

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