

From: "Melissa Danforth" <MDanforth@gwb43.com>
To: "Staff Secretary"
Cc: "Ralston, Susan B.", "Danforth, Melissa C.", "Tanner, Christon R.", "Graves, Caleb", "Felts, Jonathan D.", "Jonathan Felts" <JFelts@gwb43.com>, "Taylor, Meghan J.", "Stanley, Laura M.", "Lynch, Michele M.", "Kratovil, Lindley", "Allman, Amy", "Sherzer, David", "Slaughter, Kristen K.", "Kavanaugh, Brett M.", "Burck, Bill", "Lee, Sujean S.", "Drouin, Lindsey E.", "Green, Anneke E."
Subject: 4/6 NC Political BP
Sent: Wed, 5 Apr 2006 05:55:24 -0500
[NC.Raleigh.GWOT.040606.PoliticalBriefing.doc](#)

[Attached for review.](#)

From: Graves, Caleb [mailto:Caleb_Graves@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2006 8:04 PM
To: Staff Secretary
Cc: Ralston, Susan B.; Danforth, Melissa C.; Melissa Danforth; Melissa Danforth; Tanner, Christon R.; Felts, Jonathan D.; Jonathan Felts; Taylor, Meghan J.; Stanley, Laura M.; Lynch, Michele M.; Kratovil, Lindley; Allman, Amy; Drouin, Lindsey E.; Green, Anneke E.
Subject: 4/4 GWOT NC GWOT Event BP

Attached for review is the NC GWOT Event BP. Acks and Political Brief to follow later. Thanks.

Caleb
6-6578

NORTH CAROLINA
POLITICAL BRIEFING

STATE ISSUES

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

In February 2006, North Carolina's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent, 2.3 percent below its peak of 6.9 percent in January 2002. As of February 2006, the national unemployment rate was 4.8 percent.

SENATOR JESSE HELMS' HEALTH

Former Senator Jesse Helms (R, NC) has been diagnosed with vascular dementia and has been moved to a convalescent center. Vascular dementia is the second most common form of dementia after Alzheimer disease. The 84-year-old former Senator was living in Raleigh until he was hospitalized this spring with pneumonia.

DUKE UNIVERSITY LACROSSE TEAM

Three members of the Duke University Men's Lacrosse team could face criminal charges after an exotic dancer hired to perform at a private party claims she was raped by them. The players and their attorneys deny the rape allegation and police are waiting for DNA tests before filing charges. Duke University has forfeited two games and suspended the season while authorities continue to investigate.

IMMIGRATION LAWS

Both U.S. Senators from North Carolina have voiced support for a temporary guest worker program, but with the caveat that it cannot be a path to U.S. citizenship. Senator Elizabeth Dole (R, NC) said she would back a temporary guest worker program as long as immigrants eventually returned to their home countries to reapply for legal re-entry. Senator Richard Burr (R, NC) said he favors a temporary guest worker program, but not as a path to U.S. citizenship.

Congresswoman Sue Myrick (R, NC-09) has been the most vocal North Carolina House member on immigration issues. She has called for a meeting with Justice Department officials to discuss North Carolina having their own immigration court. Joining her at a news conference were other members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation, Patrick McHenry (R, NC-10), Virginia Foxx (R, NC-05), Walter Jones (R, NC-03), and Charles Taylor (R, NC-11), who chairs the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment. Taylor said he would help secure the necessary Federal funding.

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Myrick has taken a tougher stand on illegal immigration since the July 2005 death of a North Carolina school teacher, who was killed when his car was struck by an intoxicated illegal immigrant who had five previous DUI charges.

Myrick is considering a bid for governor in 2008, and some interpret this legislation as an effort to curry favor with conservatives. Her political ambitions probably spurred her role in the debate over Dubai World Ports when she was a strong opponent of the deal and sent a one-line letter to you reading: "HELL NO."

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY COMMISSION

Governor Mike Easley (D) signed legislation in August 2005 creating a state lottery with the proceeds going towards education expenses. At least 35 percent of total proceeds will be used to reduce class sizes, fund school construction, and enhance college scholarships for students who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant. The lottery legislation went into effect on March 30 and first-day sales ended at \$8 million, exceeding expectations.

NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE SPEAKER JIM BLACK (D)

Federal and state officials have multiple investigations centering on State House Speaker Jim Black. Initial investigations revolved around the lottery and allegations of illegal lobbying by a vendor seeking the lottery contract. Black's former chief political adviser is also being investigated for possibly lobbying for the vendor without registering. Kevin Geddings, who Black appointed as a state lottery commissioner, also stepped down from that position when it was revealed he was also on a lottery vendor's payroll. A Federal grand jury has subpoenaed documents from Black's office and testimony from several people, including members of his staff and political supporters.

In addition, state and local authorities are pursuing another investigation regarding campaign contributions in the State Legislature. The State Board of Elections ruled on March 23 that Black and a political action committee representing optometrists violated the law by collecting checks with the payee left blank. Names were filled in later by a PAC leader and distributed to specific candidates. Black, an optometrist, testified he filled in three checks himself. Black forwarded \$4,200 of these checks to former State Representative Michael Decker. Decker switched his party registration from Republican to Democrat in 2003, which made it possible for Black to retain a post as co-speaker in a House evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. Decker later switched back to the Republican Party to campaign in the Republican primary in 2004. He lost.

NORTH CAROLINA
POLITICAL BRIEFING

State Board of Election members ruled this practice violated disclosure laws, while Black's lawyers say state law allows the practice. Black has appealed the ruling.

The matter has been turned over to Wake County District Attorney Colon Willoughby (D) for possible criminal charges. Willoughby is also considering charges in the lottery investigation.

Four Democrat State Representatives: Pricey Harrison, Lorene Coates, Hugh Holliman and Alice Graham Underhill have called on Black to step down as Speaker.

POLITICAL CLIMATE AND KEY 2006 RACES

b(6)

NORTH CAROLINA
POLITICAL BRIEFING

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STATISTICS

2004 General Election Results:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,961,166	56%
Gore	1,525,849	44%
Other	11,551	0%

2000 General Election Results:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,631,163	56%
Kerry	1,257,692	44%
Other	26,135	0%

2004 General Election Results
(Mecklenburg County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Kerry	166,828	52%
Bush	155,084	48%
Other	988	0%

2000 General Election Results
(Mecklenburg County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	132,485	51%
Gore	124,975	48%
Other	1,750	1%

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NORTH CAROLINA
POLITICAL BRIEFING

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. SENATE:

- Elizabeth Dole (R), 1st term, elected in 2002 with 54%
- Richard Burr (R), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 51%

U.S. HOUSE: 13 Total (7R, 6D)

- G.K. Butterfield (D-01), 2nd term, 1st full term, re-elected with 63%
Note: Butterfield won the seat in a special election in 2004.
- Bob Etheridge (D-02), 5th term, re-elected in 2004 with 62%
- Walter Jones (R-03), 6th term, re-elected in 2004 with 71%
- David Price (D-04), 9th full term, 4th consecutive term, re-elected with 65%
- Virginia Foxx (R-05), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 59%
- Howard Coble (R-06), 11th term, re-elected in 2004 with 73%
- Mike McIntyre (D-07), 5th term, re-elected in 2004 with 73%
- Robin Hayes (R-08), 4th term, re-elected in 2004 with 55%
- Sue Myrick (R-09), 6^h term, re-elected in 2004 with 70%
- Patrick McHenry (R-10), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 64%
- Charles Taylor (R-11), 8th term, re-elected in 2004 with 55%
- Melvin Watt (D-12), 7th term, re-elected in 2004 with 67%
- Brad Miller (D-13), 2nd term, re-elected in 2004 with 59%

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Mike Easley (D), 2nd term, re-elected in 2004 with 56%
Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue (D), 2nd term, re-elected in 2004 with 56%
Secretary of State Elaine Marshall (D), 3rd term, re-elected in 2004 with 57%
Attorney General Roy Cooper, III (D), 2nd term, re-elected in 2004 with 56%
Auditor Les Merritt (R), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 50%
Treasurer Richard Moore (D), 2nd term, re-elected in 2004 with 55%
Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler (R), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 50%
Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry (R), 2nd term, re-elected in 2004 with 52%
Insurance Commissioner Jim Long (D), 6th term, re-elected in 2004 with 58%
Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson (D), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 50%

NORTH CAROLINA **POLITICAL BRIEFING**

Note: Atkinson won by 8,535 votes. However, the outcome was disputed in court by her opponent, Bill Fletcher, who challenged the legitimacy of 11,000 provisional ballots. Under an article in the state constitution, Atkinson asked the Democrat-ruled State General Assembly to settle the matter, and she won by a vote of 93 to 21.

State House: 120 (63D, 57R)

Speaker: Jim Black (D)

Majority Leader: Joe Hackney (D)

Minority Leader: Joe Kiser (R)

State Senate: 50 (29D, 21R)

President: Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue (D)

Majority Leader: Tony Rand (D)

Minority Leader: Phil Berger (R)

STATE PARTY

Chairman: Ferrell Blount

National Committeeman: Ed McMahan

National Committeewoman: Linda Shaw

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Estimated Population 2000:

North Carolina: 8,049,313, an increase of 21.4% since 1990

National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

Race/Ethnicity:

North Carolina: 72.1% White; 21.6% African-American; 4.7% Hispanic;

1.4% Asian-American; 1.2% Native-American

National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American;

3.6% Asian-American; 0.9% Native-American

Median Age:

North Carolina: 35.3 years (12.0% are 65 years and older)

National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

College Educated:

North Carolina: 22.5%

National: 24.4%

Median Income:

NORTH CAROLINA **POLITICAL BRIEFING**

North Carolina: \$39,184

National: \$41,994

Households:

North Carolina: 68.9% family households; 52.5% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau

YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	City
Tour of Deere-Hitachi Facility and Remarks on the Economy	December 5, 2005	Kernersville
Tour of Textile Facility and Remarks on CAFTA	July 15, 2005	Belmont and Dallas
Meeting with Families of Fallen Soldiers and Remarks on the War on Terror	June 28, 2005	Fort Bragg
Social Security Roundtable Discussion	February 10, 2005	Raleigh
W Stands for Women Campaign Rally Victory 2004 Fundraiser	September 17, 2004	Charlotte
Meeting with North Carolina Judicial Nominees and Victory 2004 Event	July 7, 2004	Raleigh
Roundtable and Remarks at Central Piedmont Community College and Bush-Cheney '04 Luncheon	April 5, 2004	Charlotte
Remarks at Centennial of Flight Celebration	December 17, 2003	Kitty Hawk
Bush-Cheney '04 Luncheon and Conversation on the Economy and Job Training	November 7, 2003	Winston-Salem
Address to Marines and Families at Camp Lejeune	April 3, 2003	Jacksonville
Dole for Senate Rally	October 24, 2002	Charlotte
Malpractice Reform event at High Point Hospital and Dole Fundraiser	July 25, 2002	High Point; Greensboro
Airport Welcome and Fort Bragg Visit	March 15, 2002	Fayetteville
Welfare reform event at Chamber of Commerce and Dole Fundraiser	February 27, 2002	Charlotte

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Citizen Preparedness Message Event; Meeting with Grassroots Leaders; and Roundtable at the Center for Community Safety	January 30, 2002	Winston- Salem
Tour and Remarks at Concord Middle School and North Carolina Welcome	April 11, 2001	Concord; Greenville