



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

*Legislative Update for March 20, 2009*

**THIS WEEK AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

As I am sure you have heard by now, Gov. Perdue presented her long anticipated state budget on Tuesday. The buzz around town is that it is not as bad as it could have been. According to "Under the Dome" writer, Ryan Teague, "Using an accounting trick, tax hikes on cigarettes and beer and \$1.7 billion in federal stimulus money, she put forth a \$21 billion budget." Wednesday and Thursday were full of appropriations subcommittee meetings being briefed on the budget. We are still waiting for The Senate's version of the budget, which is expected April 15th. Here is a link to the Governor's budget. It is divided up by subcommittee and easier to read online.

<http://www.governor.state.nc.us/budget.aspx>

**CAMPAIGN AND ELECTIONS:**

**HB 586 - EXPAND VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS** - An act to expand the Voter-Owned Elections Act to cover additional Council of State positions and to make technical changes to the Act. Referred to the House Committee Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform on 3/16. If favorable, the bill gets re-referred to the House Committee on Judiciary II. This bill would give candidates for the remaining Council of State offices (Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Commissioner of Labor) the option to use public funding to finance their campaigns in elections to be held in 2012 and thereafter.

**SB 417 - NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE INTERSTATE COMPACT** - An act to establish North Carolina as a member of the agreement among the states to elect the president by national popular vote. Rep.Clodfelter. Referred to Judiciary I on 3/5.

**SB 716 - 2009 OMNIBUS CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW CHANGES** - An act to amend the campaign finance laws. Rep.Clodfelter Filed 3/19.

**SB 718 - 2009 OMNIBUS ELECTION LAW CHANGES** - An act to amend the election laws. Rep.Clodfelter. Filed 3/19.

**SB 731 - ELECTORAL FREEDOM ACT OF 2009** - An act to change the definition of a "political party" by reducing the number of signatures required for the formation of a new political party and for unaffiliated candidates to obtain ballot access eligibility. Rep.Jacumin. Filed 3/19.

## **ENVIRONMENT:**

**HB 6-SB 428 - BEACH PLAN INSURANCE** - Coastal lawmakers and residents urged the House Insurance Committee to approve legislation freezing large insurance rate increases for homeowners until next year. Rep. Tim Spear said "the delay would allow a comprehensive study of the Beach Plan's status and how insurance rates are set." Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin urged lawmakers last month not to delay increases in rates and surcharges for property coverage. Goodwin said the delay could make policies less available and more costly for all state residents by discouraging insurers from doing business in the state.

For additional information on The League of Women Voters of North Carolina and our policies and partners, please visit [www.lwvnc.org](http://www.lwvnc.org).

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*LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*