



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 21, 2010

BUDGET NEWS FROM TOGETHER NC

Dear Together NC Partners,

On Tuesday, the Senate released its proposed adjustments to the 2010-11 budget. The Senate added \$160 million in cuts to the already damaging \$410 million recommended by the Governor. The vast majority of those additional cuts came from the elimination of the teacher pay raise and the repayment for last year's furloughs. Like the Governor, the Senate did not include any new revenue, and balanced the budget by cutting \$570 million.

The Senate's proposed budget reductions demonstrate once again that the state systems that support our families and communities cannot absorb any more cuts.

Compared to the Governor's budget, community colleges, public schools and Medicaid both fared slightly better in the Senate budget, while Smart Start, More at Four, Public Health and Social Services face deeper cuts. Unlike the Governor, the Senate did not allocate any money to the rainy day fund, which prevented about \$100 million in additional cuts. The Senate also failed to fully fund the state pension system, meaning the House may need to address an additional \$140 million budget gap when it takes up the budget.

The House plans to have their budget released by early June, and a final budget is slated to be ready by the end of June. In the coming weeks we will prepare a more in-depth analysis of the budget, and continue to provide updates on key budget changes.

In the meantime, we are interested to hear your thoughts on the Senate budget. Please let us know both what you think of the budget overall and how it will affect your constituents.

Here is a link to both the Governor's and Senate recommended budget adjustments:

http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf_files/2010_budget.pdf

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/sessions/2009/budget/2010/budgetreport05-18-10.pdf>

And, a very quick analysis of the Senate's proposed budget adjustments:

| Senate Recommendations | |
|--|------------------|
| Reductions to Spending | \$ (795,889,012) |
| Addition Federal Dollars used to reduce General Fund appropriation | \$ (597,542,471) |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Total Reductions | \$ (1,393,431,483) |
| Total increase | \$ 840,636,406 |
| Recommended Adjusted FY 10-11 GF | |
| Budget | \$ 18,989,677,325 |
| <i>Change from FY 10-11 Certified Budget</i> | <i>\$ (570,087,251)</i> |
| <i>Change from FY 10-11 Continuation Budget</i> | <i>\$ (3,565,214,581)</i> |

Public Hearing on Budget on Monday, May 24

<mailto:rob@nccovenant.org>

Dear Together NC Partners,

The House is holding a public hearing on the budget on Monday, May 24. The link below contains details on locations and times. With complete budgets from both the governor and senate that contain harmful spending cuts, it is imperative we urge the House to take a balanced approach to closing the budget gap. The House may face a budget gap \$170 million larger than Senate closed with damaging cuts alone. Let your representatives know how important public investments are to your community.

Here is the announcement containing details for the hearing:

<http://www.ncleg.net/sessions/2009/budget/2010/2010HouseAppropriationsBudgetPublicHearing.html>

If you cannot attend in person, use the online form or email to tell your legislators your priorities.

<http://www.ncleg.net/Applications/PublicHearingComments/>

Or provide feedback via email to: Town.Hall@NCLEG.NET

Voter-Owned Elections Lobby Day is June 22nd.

Join Democracy North Carolina and the 30+ member organizations of the N.C. Voters for Clean Elections coalition on Tuesday, June 22 in Raleigh and urge legislators to pass real campaign finance reform this summer.

Register for lobby day [here](#).

There's a real opportunity this year to channel voter discontent into support for productive, systemic reforms. And with the 2010 short session being presaged by a series of scandals and a devastating U.S. Supreme Court ruling, there's the potential for the legislature to pass a meaningful package of reforms. We need your help!

Learn more about the day [here](#).

Rides to Lobby Day

Democracy NC will be coordinating transportation from Charlotte, Asheville, Hickory, Winston-Salem, Greenville, Fayetteville, and the Triangle. For transportation information, contact Adam Sotak at adamsotak@democracy-nc.org or call toll-free 1-888-687-8683 (1-888-OUR-VOTE) Ext. 11.

NC Conservation Council Call to Action

H1287 “[Recycle Products Containing Mercury](#).” H1287 would require all state agencies to properly recycle products that contain mercury (such as compact fluorescent light bulbs), and ban the disposal of these products in unlined landfills across NC.

Please take a minute to **urge your Senator to support this important legislation:**
<http://action.nconconservationnetwork.org/mercury>.

As you may know, mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin and exposure to unsafe levels of mercury can cause serious health problems. This bill is a common sense step forward to protect public health and to promote the safe disposal of toxic hazards.

H1237 passed unanimously in the state House last year, but has stalled in the Senate. Please take a moment to contact your Senator and urge them to support the proper disposal and recycling of products containing mercury.



Take Action

For additional information on The League of Women Voters of North Carolina and our policies and partners, please visit www.lwvnc.org. The Legislative Update is compiled by Beverly Kawalec (bevkawalec@nc.rr.com). If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe, please email Patty Dale at daleph55@gmail.com.