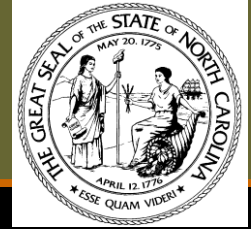




LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM
REP. DENNIS RIDDELL



NC House

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12/31/2013

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Promises Made and Promises Kept

Before we say good bye to 2013 and Happy New Year to 2014 I want to review for you some of our legislative accomplishments for this year.

Last year during the campaign you probably heard me talking a great deal about tax reform, education reform, regulatory reform, election reform and other conservative ideas. Now at the end of my first year in the legislature I am talking about:

“Promises Made and Promises Kept.”



On the floor of the NCGA on Inaugural day with our children.

You sent me to Raleigh to be a strong voice for the hardworking taxpayers, businesses and families of NC House District 64. Some of our conservative reforms were met with wild accusations and misinformation.

I made tough choices and voted for what I believed was best for Alamance County and North Carolina. Here are a few of the things we accomplished:

1. **Tax Reform** - we passed pro-growth, comprehensive tax reform. With this legislation we went from having the 44th highest tax burden to 17th according to the Tax Foundation. We cut personal and corporate income tax rates and did away with the obnoxious ‘death tax.’ That puts more \$\$\$ back in your pocket - right where they belong.
2. **Education Reform** - several bills passed the NCGA that will strengthen student literacy, increase spending on school safety initiatives, reward our most effective teachers, and move towards a more effective digital learning environment. And just for the record - we did spend more money on education this year than last year.



Education Committee Meeting

3. **Regulatory Reform** - HB 74 was a wide ranging overhaul of sundry state regulations. A key part of this reform was a “sunset” process to ensure our state regulations are subjected to regular review.

4. **Election Reform** - we modernized our election laws with a hugely popular photo-ID requirement starting in 2016. Additional election reforms will: improve voter list maintenance, end taxpayer funding of political parties, prohibit 'bundling' of political contributions, end same day registration and other common sense reforms that add integrity to North Carolina's election process.
5. **Human Trafficking** - we tightened laws against the ugly practice of human trafficking (80% of trafficking is for sex and the vast majority of its' victims are women and children). Our legislation offers a 'safe harbor' to minors and increases many penalties for those involved in this seedy practice.
6. **Expanding School Choice** - we put in place several initiatives to give parents more choices in selecting the best education for their children. We established the Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grant Program and what amounts to a pilot program in the Opportunity Scholarships.
7. **Protect 2nd Amendment Rights** - we increased the places that our law abiding concealed carry permittees can take their weapons, and protected the confidentiality of handgun permits and CCP records.



I get to serve Alamance County with two of the finest legislators I know - Sen. Rick Gunn and Rep. Steve Ross.

8. **Pro-life Legislation** - S353 bans sex selection abortions, extends conscience protection to all health care workers,

opted out of abortion services within the federal health exchange as permitted by the original Obamacare legislation and provided for better inspection and oversight of abortion clinics similar to those required of other ambulatory surgical centers.



With Mary Jo Collins on the House floor following the unanimous passage of SB 11 "Duffy's Law" (named after her son) which established April as Organ Donation Month in North Carolina. Donate Life!

9. **Unemployment Insurance** - we made necessary changes to our bankrupt UI program to begin paying off our \$2.8 billion (...that's right billion) debt we owe to the fedgov. This required a restructuring of our benefits/taxes and other changes to bring our UI program more in line with our southeastern neighboring states and to get our program out of debt and build up a reserve once again.
10. **Domestic Energy Jobs Act** - we continued moving forward carefully and deliberately towards developing a healthy domestic energy industry for NC. By responsibly developing our onshore (hydraulic fracturing) and offshore resources we can deliver more jobs, more revenue and lower energy prices to North Carolina.
PS - Taxpayer Debt Information Act, Misuse of 911 System, NC School Bus Safety Act, Lily's Law, Farm bills and more but we are out of space for now.

One of the highlights of serving in Raleigh is being able to welcome friends from home to their office - Rm 533 in the LOB.



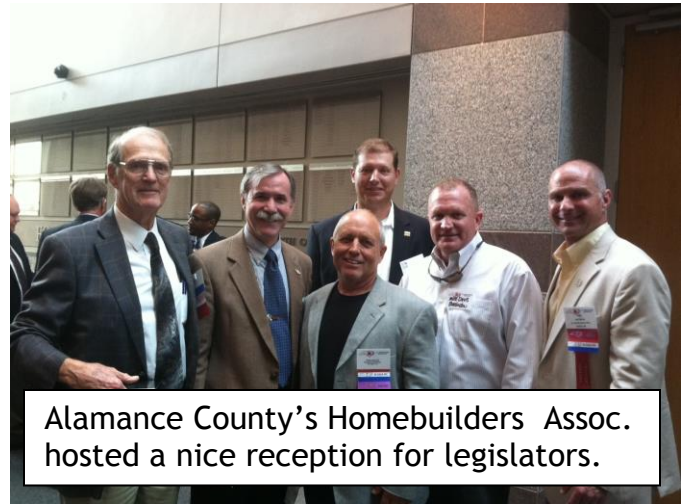
It was a Wonderful Wednesday when the Freedom Works gang came to visit.



Some of those amazing folks who answer our 911 emergency calls .



A few members of Alamance County's Farm Bureau team stopped by for a visit.



Alamance County's Homebuilders Assoc. hosted a nice reception for legislators.



Mayor Lenny Williams and Town Manager Ben Baxley from Gibsonville stopped by to discuss some important issues.



You just never know who you might bump into when you come to Raleigh. I am really proud of the job our Governor Pat McCrory is doing.

Thank you for the honor of serving you in the NCCA. Happy New Year - Dennis