



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM  
**REP. DENNIS RIDDELL**



**NC House**

**District 64 – Alamance County**

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**Tax Reform as Promised!**

Last week, the House and Senate gave final approval to HB 998, the Tax simplification and Reduction Act.

This tax reform agreement provides fiscally-responsible tax relief to North Carolinians. It reduces and simplifies the 3-tiered state personal income tax from the current maximum rate of 7.75% and minimum rate of 6% to a fair, flat and simple rate of 5.8% in 2014 and 5.75% in 2015, allowing hard working North Carolina families to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. And it reduces the corporate tax to 6.0% in 2014 to make North Carolina more attractive to job-creators with additional rate reductions planned for the years ahead.



Don Cox, owner of Cox Toyota, during a visit to his Burlington showroom

Friends this is Tax Reform 2.0. The first version was passed during the 2011-12 Session when the Republicans gave all North Carolinians a nearly \$1 billion tax break by ending the Democrats “temporary” increase in the Sales Tax. Now the second installment has been delivered. I ran on a platform that had Tax Reform at the top of the list.

**Promise Made = Promise Kept.**

I believe this tax reform legislation will make our state more competitive, but best of all this will put more money back into the lean wallets of our citizens.

The tax reform plan also caps the state gas tax eliminates North Carolina’s death tax, and preserves the sales tax refund for nonprofits. There are other benefits in the plan but this gives you an idea of what you can expect in tax year 2014.

The bill now heads to Governor McCrory for signature.

**"Today's headlines and history's judgment are rarely the same. If you are too attentive to the former, you will most certainly not do the hard work of securing the latter."** Condoleezza Rice



Gibsonville Mayor Lenny Williams(right) and Town Manager Ben Baxley(left) stopped by to say hello when they were in town several weeks ago.

## From the Mailbag

**Question:** What do you think of that recent NY Times article The Decline of North Carolina?

**Answer:** Just another fact free article by the NY Times... makes me wonder if Jason Blair is back on staff?

**Question:** Are you ashamed of yourself for cutting off the Unemployment Benefits for 70,000 of your fellow NC citizens?

**Answer:** Actually, I am more ashamed of the \$2.6 billion Unemployment Insurance debt we owe to the federal gov't that was accumulated by the most recent Democratic led legislature and that we MUST pay off. While we are talking about shame let me say I am also ashamed of the Obama Administration that determined to cut off the Emergency Federal Unemployment Benefits to those 70,000 North Carolinians. It was a federal gov't decision to terminate benefits NOT a state decision. We had a UI system hemorrhaging money and we had to do something. The Obama Administration did not like any state modifying their UI program so they chose to include the termination of benefits in the 2012 "fiscal cliff" negotiations against any state that changed their UI program. They should be ashamed. I am not interested in joining the federal gov't as they drive over the cliff.

## Pro-life Legislation Moving

Following a less than straight path towards approval a collection of pro-life legislation is getting closer to law. A collection of proposals have been put into one bill. The list includes:

1. Higher safety and health standards for abortion clinics
2. Prohibition against abortion for gender selection
3. Conscience exemption for all medical personnel from participating in an abortion procedure



Proud of a former student from my teaching days,  
Dr. Joel Medley, Director of the Office of Charter  
Schools

Dr. Medley was an outstanding student and has proven himself an outstanding Director. I am very glad to know he is in charge of the Office of Charter Schools for North Carolina.



Alamance County Central Communications Team (911)  
Dexter Brower (Director), Brooke Thomas, Paula K.  
Crotts(Supervisor)

I enjoyed a pleasant visit with some of our 911 Team from Alamance County earlier this session. Great people. Shortly after their visit I was able to tour the Central Com. facility with Dexter. I was very impressed by the layout and the equipment that is constantly being monitored. These are just a few of those silent angels waiting to help you on the other end of that Emergency 911 call you may have to make someday. Thank you to all for their service.