

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Nov 2010

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NC State Issues:

Election Update:

The GOP gained 60 seats in the US House and now control the US House. (192 Dem, 243 Rep, 9 Ind.) (Was 252 Dem to 174 Rep, 9-Ind.)

The Democrats lost 7 seats in the US Senate but retained leadership in that chamber. (51 DEM, 2 Ind., 47 Rep) (Currently there are no African-Americans in the US Senate.) (Was 58 Dem, 2-Ind., 40 Rep)

GOP gained 10 Governor seats and are now in the majority (Was 30-20 Dems, now 30-20 Reps.)

At the state level, the Republicans won back both the House and the Senate which hasn't happened in 112 years here in North Carolina. Voter turn-out was 43%. (It was 36% in 2006)

US Senate:

Senator Richard Burr (REP) defeated challenger Elaine Marshall (DEM) to retain his Senate seat.

U.S. House:

Bob Etheridge – US House Rep for Chatham County, was defeated by Renee Ellmers (REP) (recounting now)
David Price – US House Rep for Wake County – Defeated Dr. B.J. Lawson.

NC Senate:

Richard Stevens (REP) Wake County defeated his challenger David Donovan (DEM) to retain his seat
Bob Atwater (DEM) Chatham County defeated his challenger Roger Gerber (REP) to retain his seat.

NC House:

Joe Hackney lost his House Speaker position but won re-election and defeated Cathy Wright (REP).
Chris Heagarty (DEM) Wake county lost to his challenger Tom Murry (REP)
Paul Stam of Apex defeated Debra McHenry to retain his seat and will probably become House Speaker.

CBA State Lobby Day for 2011 is set for February 2, 2011. Please mark your calendars. It would be nice if we could have a good Chatham turnout.

Federal issues:

NHTSA Funds Georgia Motorcycle-only checkpoint - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Thumbs Nose at Congress and Discriminates Against Motorcycles. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation has learned from a source at the US Department of Transportation Troopers in Georgia to set up "motorcycle only checkpoints" that they have funded the motorcycle only roadside checkpoints. NHTSA decided to fund the program despite being asked by Congress not to fund the program until the merits were explained. In a letter sent by James Sensenbrenner, along with ten other Members of the House of Representatives last month, Sensenbrenner and his colleagues specifically asked NHTSA to respond to the letter before funding the program, they did not. The recipient of the money for the demo project was the Georgia Department of Public Safety, which oversees the day-to-day operation of the Georgia State Patrol. The Georgia State Patrol will conduct a series of roadside motorcycle safety checks in accordance with what was outlined in the Request for Applications. The amount of NHTSA funding is \$70,000.00. "Not only is this an injustice to the motorcyclists of America it's a complete waste of taxpayer money." said Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs for the MRF. The MRF will keep you informed on this issue and any actions you can take to defend your freedoms, at stake in Washington.

**Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.
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