

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Oct 2010

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NC State Issues:

It's all about the November Election:

Please register your friends to vote and ask them to vote in November. We need to make sure this country is on the right path and many Americans do not think that is happening at his time.

NC State Board of Elections web site: <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/content.aspx?id=48>

Last day to register in NC is tomorrow!

State laws that will take effect in January 2011:

Riders younger than 18 will need to take the mandatory BRC training.

Permits are now 12 months long (were 18 months) and can only be renewed once for 6 months (was 18 months and renewed indefinitely. (Some riders used that to avoid having to take the road test)

Motorcycle deaths up as traffic deaths drop - Motorcycle deaths are increasing in North Carolina as other traffic deaths decline, and state Sen. Harry Brown looks forward to the start of mandatory safety classes for the youngest bikers. Brown, a Jacksonville Republican, sponsored a law that will take effect in January with North Carolina's first-ever requirement for motorcycle safety training. Like the state's wise ban on phoning while driving, this requirement would be a good idea for all motorcyclists - but it applies only to those younger than 18. "You've got to start somewhere," Brown told the Road Worrier. He favored a higher age limit but compromised at 18 after encountering resistance from some motorcyclists. "Here in Jacksonville we have a lot of young military men being hurt on those bikes," he said. "We need to do something to protect those guys. And if we can show that it works, we can try to expand the age later." Let's hope so. Highway Patrol crash reports count 87 motorcyclists killed on North Carolina roads this year, up 23 percent from the same period in 2009. Researchers say only a small fraction of motorcycle crashes involve riders younger than 18. The Triangle's most recent motorcycle death was reported early Friday. Byron Lee King, 53, of Raleigh was killed when his motorcycle hit a deer south of Cary on Yates Mill Pond Road. (Vin Note: Bryon was a Raleigh CBA officer) Though motorcycle deaths are on the rise, overall traffic deaths are falling. In North Carolina crashes investigated by the Highway Patrol this year, the total traffic fatality count has continued to decline - down 5 percent from 2009. The patrol's numbers do not include crashes investigated by local sheriffs and police, which will be added later. The new law makes two small improvements.

Vin Note: State Rep. Larry Brown is currently under fire for denigrated gays in e-mail referring to gay people as "fruitloops."

CBA State Lobby Day for 2011 is set for 2-Feb-11 so please mark your calendars. It would be nice if we could have a nice Chatham turnout.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.

Read DocSki's blog: <http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com>

Beware of dishonest political ads on TV – Example below:

Etheridge ad omits key facts

U.S. Congress 2nd District SPONSOR: Bob Etheridge for Congress

AUDIO: Atmospheric music plays, and a narrator speaks in a concerned tone: "You do everything right. Work hard, take responsibility, pass it on to the next generation. But earning enough to keep up with the cost of living is getting harder. Even so, Renee Ellmers supports a new national sales tax of 23 percent on everything you buy. Renee Ellmers wants a 23 percent sales tax on food, medicine, even your home mortgage. That's a killer for the middle class."

IMAGES: A man in a garage workshop is carefully crafting what appears to be a wooden birdhouse. Two children walk in and he hands it to them, then sits at a desk and begins looking through a sheaf of bills. A black-and-white superimposed image of Ellmers appears, along with key phrases from the audio including "Supports a new national sales tax," "23 percent on everything you buy," and "A killer for the middle class."

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS: Ellmers indeed supports the idea of a flat 23-percent federal sales tax on goods and services. But the ad implies that the tax would be added to the existing tax burden. Instead, the "FairTax," as backers call it, would replace federal personal and corporate income taxes.

The FairTax is the subject of a bill in Congress and is supported by a dozen other U.S. House and Senate candidates across North Carolina, and a host of conservative candidates around the country, including many backed by the small-government tea party movement. The tea party's "Contract from America" calls for a single-rate tax system.

Some economists believe that such a system would increase the tax burden on middle class families while easing it on the poor and the wealthy. But others disagree.

In fact, nearly everything about the FairTax is hotly debated, including its likely effects on taxpayers and the economy as well as the tax rate it would take to raise the same amount of revenue as the current income tax. Some economists think it would have to be much higher than 23 percent.

IS THE AD ACCURATE? It is misleading. Ellmers, who has signed a pledge against raising taxes, does support the higher sales tax, but Etheridge's ad omits any mention that the plan she backs would replace the existing federal tax structure.

Etheridge, though, may have missed an opportunity to get in a sharp dig: Opponents of the tax charge that the 23 percent figure is deceptively low.

The tax's backers calculate the tax as 23 percent of every dollar spent, meaning 77 cents for the goods or services and 23 cents for the tax. They argue that this is accurate, because it's the way that income tax is calculated.

Opponents call that dishonest, because sales tax is normally calculated per dollar of goods purchased, for example a 6 percent sales tax means when you buy \$1 of goods you pay an additional 6 cents to cover the tax. By that method, the rate would actually be 30 percent.

Staff writer Jay Price