



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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What's Up Politically

House Resignation: Rep. Charles Jeter of Mecklenburg County, a good friend of CTE who appeared at our NCACTE Legislative Policy Seminar last year, announced last week he is resigning from the state House. "This has been one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make in my life," Jeter, a two-term Republican representative, said in a statement.

"I love serving the people of North Carolina and I know today's announcement will be letting my Republican colleagues down in a very tough election year fight. However, I simply cannot continue down a road that in the end forces me to make my wife and children anything less than the first priority in my life." He added that "the titles of husband and father are much greater and I must devote the time to my young family while I still have that opportunity."

Still, Jeter's name could be on the November ballot, according to the N.C. Board of Elections. If a candidate withdraws from a race more than 120 days before the election, then local party officials pick a new candidate. But July 11 marked the end of the 120-day window before the November election. If there was no indication that Jeter had resigned before then, his name will remain on the ballot. If he wins the election, then Gov. Pat McCrory, a fellow Republican, would nominate someone to the seat until the next election. Jeter's district includes the Catawba River from Huntersville to Lake Wylie.

Earlier this year, Jeter co-sponsored a bill that would have doomed the Interstate 77 toll lane project, but that proposal died in the N.C. Senate. In March, Jeter defeated retired Air Force Lt. Col. Tom Davis of the Mountain Island Lake area in the GOP primary. Davis blasted Jeter for being among legislators "who all bought into" the toll concept, the Charlotte Observer reports.

Other News

Governor's Race: Like the presidential race, the NC gubernatorial battle is heating up and will continue. Atty. Gen. Roy Cooper's campaign last week distributed an online-only ad tying Gov. Pat McCrory to presidential candidate Donald Trump. The spot coincided with McCrory's appearance with Trump in Winston-Salem. The ad references recent controversies affecting North Carolina, including the NBA pulling its playoff out of Charlotte and the proposed toll road in Mecklenburg County. McCrory campaign spokesman Ricky Diaz said that Cooper and Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts should take responsibility for making HB2 necessary instead of playing politics.

Meantime, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was slated to keynote a Raleigh fundraiser for Gov. McCrory on Aug. 2. Walker, an early casualty in the GOP presidential primary, is in his second term as governor. He told North Carolina's delegates at the Republican National Convention last month that he would help McCrory get re-elected.

VP Hopefuls in NC, School & National Convention News

VP Candidates This Week: The two vice presidential candidates will make appearances in the Tar Heel state this week. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia will campaign in Greensboro on Wednesday. Kaine plans to discuss his and Hillary Clinton's plans to build an economy "that works for everyone, not just those at the top," according to a statement from Clinton's campaign. Republican Donald Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, will be in Raleigh at 10 a.m. Thursday for a "town hall" event. Neither campaign has announced where in those cities the vice presidential candidates will be, according to news reports. .

SC Schools Update: More than \$7 million in S.C. tax credits are available in the state's private-school choice program. Taxpayers are eligible for the credits if they donate to a state program to help children with disabilities pay private-school tuition or if they pay that tuition themselves. As of late last week, a new nonprofit, formed by the state, had received \$3.8 million in donations for the school-choice grants.

National Convention Wrap-Ups: With the NC Legislature out and relatively slim political pickings in North Carolina these days, here's a quick look how two excellent NC political observers, Republican Carter Wrenn and Democrat Gary Pearce, sized up some of the Democratic and Republican Conventions last month:

Pearce: *The Democratic and Republican conventions offered two starkly different visions of America. Here's how this old Democrat sees them.*

Hillary Clinton's is bright and optimistic. Donald Trump's is dark and pessimistic.

Clinton says there's hope. Trump says he's the only hope.

Clinton is about love and unity. Trump is about fear and loathing.

Clinton says America is great and can be greater. Trump says only he can make it great.

Clinton says the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. Trump says be afraid, be very afraid.

Clinton has an army of surrogates and validators: Bill, Chelsea, Obama and Biden. Trump has Ivanka, Chris Christie and Vladimir Putin.

Clinton was Secretary of State, and the world didn't blow up. Trump, who knows?

Wrenn: *Political campaigns are odd creatures: There're born, grow like crazy, live in chaos, then die on a set date. Back in the late 1970's, Republicans leaped a generation ahead of Democrats in the arts (from fundraising to communicating with voters) of nourishing these strange creatures.*

But those days are gone.

At their convention in Philadelphia the Democrats have set out to reform Hillary Clinton not by denying her vices but by telling stories of her virtues: How she's been a good mother, how as a mother she cares about children, and how, after 9/11, as a Senator she cared for victims.

That is not happenstance – it's calculation: Virtually every Democratic speaker, from Michelle Obama to Elizabeth Banks, didn't mention the word 'mother' by accident. And the calculation doesn't end there – look at Hillary Clinton's political ads. Her campaign has fixated on Independent voters, the ticket splitters who will decide the election.

Not only does Trump lack ads, the bombast in his speeches at rallies is alienating those same voters – Trump reinforces the thing about him that troubles Independents most.

Those observations were written in [Talking About Politics](#), a most excellent online publication that is free.

Quote of the Week

"In the end, I am morally bound to speak only to the things that command my allegiance, and to which I have dedicated my life's work: the Republican Party, and more importantly, the United States of America."

- U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) in an [emotionally charged rebuke](#) of Trump's criticism involving the Muslim parents of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq (The Hill, 8/1/16)