

The Political Picture

A publication of the Government Affairs Committee



Earlier this year, the Wake Forest Chamber Government Affairs Committee approved its first Legislative Agenda. The agenda focused on Economic Development, Transportation, and Education. This edition of The Political Picture will give an overview of these specific legislative issues that are relevant to the Chamber. There are also a number of other relevant local, state, and federal updates that you will find below.

We value your feedback. If you have an idea or an issue, [we want to hear from you!](#)

-The Government Affairs Committee Team

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ...

[Billion Dollar Tax Cut Proposed](#): "Republican leaders in the North Carolina Senate proposed a two-year, roughly billion dollar tax cut Thursday that they said would mean 99 percent of taxpayers in the state would see a tax cut or pay zero taxes."

[Congress Targeting Regulatory Roll Backs](#): "Congress has been flexing its muscle to review and rescind many recent rules using the Congressional Review Act (CRA). U.S. Chamber President Tom Donohue applauds their work and says the "U.S. Chamber will continue to push lawmakers to use the CRA to undo ill-conceived 11th hour rules."

[Gov. Cooper Outlines Budget](#): In his first State of the State Address, Governor Cooper took the opportunity to outline his budget to lawmakers. Governor Cooper said his budget "reflects the priorities of North Carolina's hard-working people. It contains no increase in taxes. It rejects the false 'either/or' choice of either saving or investing. Instead, my budget puts hundreds of millions of dollars in our rainy day fund while committing to a future of growth."

TRANSPORTATION ...

Wake Transit Plan Seeking Feedback: The Wake Transit Plan, passed by voters last November, is seeking feedback regarding a draft work plan for Fiscal Year 2018. We encourage you to review the plan and to give your feedback. The Chamber supports the Transit Plan, but it is critical North Eastern Wake County is not left out of the plan. This is a great opportunity for us as a Chamber to let Wake Transit know our thoughts and ensure we are included in the planning moving forward. To review the plan and to comment, visit: <http://www.waketransit.com/fy18-work-plan/>

[U.S. Chamber Makes Case for Infrastructure:](#) "The U.S. Chamber believes America is on the verge of a once in a generation opportunity to modernize the nation's infrastructure. Both President Trump and many members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have indicated their desire to make long overdue investments." U.S. Chamber's Ed Mortimer, executive director for transportation and infrastructure, testified before Congress to discuss the nation's transportation system. To read about Ed's testimony before congress, [click here](#).

EDUCATION ...

[Sen. Barefoot Introduces Teaching Fellows Program:](#) Sen. Chad Barefoot (R-Franklin) and Rep. Craig Horn (R-Union) announced a bill last Thursday that would create a teaching fellows program for future STEM and special education teachers. The forgivable loan program would offer up to \$8,250 to students who promise to teach within North Carolina's public schools in science, technology, engineering, math, or special education.

[NC Senate Wants Lottery Money for School Construction, Principal Pay:](#) RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - Senate Republicans want to use more North Carolina Education Lottery proceeds generated from expanded advertising to build more schools in poor counties and increase compensation for principals and assistant principals.

IN THE NEWS ...

American Health Care Act:

House Republicans released the text of the "American Health Care Act" (AHCA), which would be the first step to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. The legislation advances many of the business community's health care priorities, including the repeal of many the Affordable Care Act's taxes. Furthermore, it protects the current employer-sponsored health care system on which 177 million Americans rely. The AHCA is working its way through committee, and is currently in the House Budget Committee for further consideration. To learn more about the AHCA act, [watch this video](#).

[Learn Where the Big Bucks Go:](#)

At the beginning of the Wake Forest Town Board's March 21 meeting there will be a public hearing about the 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Plan. Town residents with questions or suggestions are encouraged to attend and speak.

(NOT SO) BULLY PULPIT

In an effort to give our readers some confidence that all is not lost politically, in each issue we will end by posting an uplifting, positive, and unifying political story.

[Former President Barrack Obama Reveals his 2017 March Madness Bracket](#): Barack Obama is no longer president of the United States, but he is still getting into the spirit of March Madness.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that The Wake Forest Chamber has an [Advocacy Request Form](#)? This means that if you or your business has an identified issue, proposed ordinance, specific legislation, etc. you can submit an [Advocacy Request](#) for the Chamber to consider.

