



## The Holloway Report: UNEDITED



*“Due to the excessive editing of my report as it was submitted to the Stokes News last week, I am printing, at my expense, the full, unedited version so that you, the citizens of the 91<sup>st</sup> District can see the real report.”*

Greetings from Raleigh! As the 2006 General Assembly winds down, I bring you a final report on the final budget and major happenings of the year. As you know, we will be adjourning soon and the campaign season will begin.

The final budget passed by the General Assembly was very similar to the House budget that I detailed a few weeks ago. As you may know, we had a two billion dollar surplus to work with this session, and about 500 million dollars of that is recurring revenue, meaning we can count on it being there again next year. The rest of the surplus revenue is one-time money.

After carefully evaluating the budget, I felt there were some good provisions in it, as with any budget. I supported several individual items in the budget, but as I indicated a few weeks ago, I base my budget vote on the overall economic and financial impact of the budget. Since, the General Assembly leaders refuse to take up zero-based budgeting, we cannot vote on budget items individually. Therefore, we are forced to cast a vote based on the entire package. What does the economic side of the budget look like? Well, it spends one-time revenue on recurring projects and needs, and we will be left with a billion dollar shortfall next year, which guarantees a large tax increase for 2007. The budget did not cut taxes, nor did it give any of the surplus back to the taxpaying citizens. Some called cutting a quarter of a cent from the sales tax a tax cut, but in reality the sales tax was raised temporarily by a half cent three and a half years ago. The half-cent sales tax increase and other tax increases were supposed to last only a year, however; the General Assembly has broken their promise for three and a half years, and they continue to break it this year. If you cannot repeal a half-cent sales tax in its entirety, which is part of a 500 million dollar temporary tax, with a two billion dollar surplus, when can you? After reviewing these facts, I voted “no” to the budget as an overall package, because I think we must plan more efficiently and I don’t think we can continue to increase spending by 10% year after year.

Finally, I want to address a few issues that were left undone this session. I filed House Bill 2809, which is a bill that severely cracks down on illegal immigration in North Carolina. The bill is very similar to the Georgia legislation that recently passed, and it is known as the hardest crack down possible for any state to pass concerning the elimination of illegal immigration. The bill does many things, but to name a few, it stops illegal aliens from receiving social services and it fines businesses that hire illegal aliens. What happened to the bill? Speaker Jim Black sent it to the Rules Committee, which is the Dead Sea of bills that will never be heard. The Speaker also sent the Eminent Domain bill to the same committee, which would have protected our property rights in North Carolina and prevented our land from being taken for economic development. Also, the budget did not place a permanent cap on the gas tax in North Carolina and it is likely to increase at the beginning of next year.

As I indicated earlier, the session will soon end, however; I encourage the citizens of the 91<sup>st</sup> District to contact me if there is any way that I can assist you. My contact numbers are 336-985-0826 (Home) or 919-733-5609 (Office) or [bryanh@ncleg.net](mailto:bryanh@ncleg.net) (e-mail). In the meantime I remain optimistic that we can make the necessary changes in state government, and I will work tirelessly to see that they occur. I feel we have made some large strides in my first term, and I look forward to continue serving you in the NC House of Representatives. Take care and God bless.

Representative Bryan Holloway, 91<sup>st</sup> District

**Paid for by: Bryan Holloway for NC House**