



The Holloway Report:

NC House of Representatives
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Hello from Raleigh! The month of March continues to be a busy month for bill preparation in the North Carolina General Assembly; however, we did have two very significant votes that greatly affect the citizens of this state. The first was the House Rules vote, which determines how the North Carolina House will operate and the powers of the Speaker of the House. The second was a vote to allow same day registration at one stop voting sites. These two major votes fell mostly along party lines.

The House Rules vote is arguably one of the most important votes we take during the entire session. The most important aspect of this vote is defining the power of the Speaker of the House. Unfortunately, the rules were left mostly untouched from last session with only a couple of changes. The Speaker still has complete control over all legislation, and he alone can stop the passage of any bill. It still puzzles me as to why any legislator would want one person to be able to stop his or her bill dead in its tracks. Rule 6 was also left in place, which gives the Speaker general rule of the chamber. During the 2005-2006 Session, Rule 6 was used to silence members from speaking and to override all other rules. A number of amendments were offered to change the rules to allow the power to be more evenly distributed, but all of them failed. Thus far, Speaker Hackney has treated members with respect, but it still concerns me that one individual controls so much in the legislature. The question still lies as to whether or not he allows votes on illegal immigration prevention, defining marriage between one man and one woman, and tax cuts.

The second major vote was on the issue of same day registration at one stop voting sites. Currently, one must register 25 days before the election and be 18 years or older. The bill that passed the North Carolina House will allow a person to register and vote the same day at one stop voting sites. What is the problem with allowing this to happen? We will now only have as little as two days to verify the validity of some registrations, making voter fraud much easier. Even now with 25 days before the election to verify registrations, we still have occurrences of voter fraud. This new proposal could make it much easier for illegal immigrants to vote and one of two things will happen with only two days to verify the same day registration ballots. We will have to wait weeks for election results as they check the registrations, or the board of elections will have to allow fraudulent ballots to be counted in the elections results. I voted "no" to the bill.

I will return next month with more discussion of votes and a brief rundown of some of the legislation I have filed. Until then, take care and God bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryan O. Holloway". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Representative Bryan Holloway, 91st District