



NC House District 55 Representative

**MARK BRODY**

# NEWSLETTER

## Raleigh News

On January 11, 2017 the House convened for its inauguration of House Members and the start of North Carolina's 2017-2018 legislative session.



**Speaker Tim Moore with Rep. Brody & his grandchildren**

Speaker of the House, Tim Moore of Cleveland County, was re-elected and appointed Rep. Brody to take a leading role in the following committees:

- Agriculture Committee= Co-Chairman
- Community Colleges Committee= Co-Chairman

Rep. Brody is also a member of these committees:

- State & Local Government 1
- Commerce & Job Development
- Education- Universities
- Appropriations / Appropriations General Government



**2017 House Republican Caucus**

### \$552 Million Budget Surplus

The General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division and the Office of State Budget and Management released their consensus revenue forecast predicting North Carolina's 2016-17 tax collections would be \$552.5 million above budget projections for the fiscal year. According to the revenue report, the anticipated surplus is "the result of stronger-than-expected wage growth increasing both Personal Income tax and Sales tax collections." At this current rate of growth, the revenue forecast predicts the 2018-19 fiscal year surplus is estimated to approach \$1 billion.

### NC Ranks No. 1 for IT Employment Growth

The N.C. Technology Association's 2017 'State of Technology' report ranks North Carolina first in the United States for Information Technology employment growth and the percentage of women in the sector's workforce. The report compares tech job trends across the United States between 2010 and 2015, ranking North Carolina in the top-tier of key metrics like IT occupations, infrastructure and educational opportunities.

### House Pages



**Rep. Dixon & Rep. Brody (Agriculture Committee Co-Chairs) with House Pages, Madison & Ashley Swallows, Piedmont High School students**

Upon the recommendation of Rep. Brody and the appointment of Speaker Tim Moore, Piedmont High School students, Madison and Ashley Swallows served as House Pages for the North Carolina House of Representatives for the week of February 20-23. Thank you for your service!

If you know a High School student interested in serving as a House Page, please contact our office.

### Unanimous Vote for Class Size Flexibility

The North Carolina House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass House Bill 13 Class Size Requirement Changes to provide local school districts the flexibility they requested for class size scheduling in kindergarten through the third grade.

### House Strengthens Savings Reserve Requirements

The North Carolina House of Representatives voted 110 to 3 to pass House Bill 7 Strengthen Savings Reserve. The legislation is part of an ongoing effort by Republicans in the North Carolina General Assembly to save responsibly and prepare the state for potential emergency funding or disaster recovery needs. House Bill 7 directs the state to save at least 7.5% of the General Fund's operating budget from the prior fiscal year. North Carolina now has over \$1.4 billion in its Savings Reserve account. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

### Raleigh Meetings

Only a month into session, Rep. Brody has already had a number of meetings to discuss issues for this session.

- NC Travel Industry Association
- Dale Folwell- NC State Treasurer
- NC State Board of Education
- NC Charter School Association
- National Guard Association
- Retired Governmental Employees
- NC Housing Finance Agency
- NC Banking Association
- Community Colleges
- Association Executives of North Carolina (AENC)
- NCOAA Outdoor Advertising
- Nurses Association of NC

## District News

### District Meetings

- Anson County Toys for Tots Gratitude Banquet
- Monroe/Union County Economic Forecast event
- Burnsville Learning Center Martin Luther King Jr. event
- Union County Chamber of Commerce Elected Officials Reception
- Anson County Barn Blast
- Union County Commissioners Legislative Agenda meeting and Union County Board of Education Legislative Agenda meeting
- Meeting with the new SPCC President, Dr. Pharr



2017 Anson County Barn Blast

### Note Worthy Articles:

**Politifact:** North Carolina has the fastest growing economy. <http://www.politifact.com/north-carolina/statements/2016/apr/29/pat-mccrory/mccrory-north-carolina-has-had-countrys-fastest-gr/>

**Forbes:** North Carolina is the #2 state for business. <https://www.forbes.com/places/nc/>

**Forbes:** NC lawmakers historic tax reforms. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickgleason/2015/06/10/nc-taxreform/#3526d0752394>

**News Observer:** Top NC Economist predicts NC will add 100K jobs in 2017. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article123169654.html>

**NCSTIR:** NC is #1 for new tech job growth. <http://www.ncstir.com/key-takeaways/>

### NC Chamber "The State of North Carolina" Highlights

- Thanks to commonsense, pro-growth tax reforms – reforms which included reductions to both the corporate and individual tax rates – the nonpartisan Tax Foundation recently moved North Carolina's tax climate up to the 11th most competitive in the nation. This is a remarkable leap for our state, as we previously fell in at a dismal 44th in tax competitiveness. Now, North Carolina offers the lowest corporate rate in the nation among states which levy one, enabling our job creators to do what they do best – create more jobs.
- North Carolina investors – and newly implemented laws that have boosted intellectual property protections for in-state companies were major factors in the U.S. Chamber Foundation's decision to rank North Carolina as a top-10 state for both high tech performance and entrepreneurship and innovation in 2016.
- Forbes awarded North Carolina the distinction as the #2 "Best State for Business." And in 2016, we appeared in the top-5 of two other influential lists of the best places in the nation to do business: CNBC's "Top States for Business" and Chief Executive's "Best States for Business" surveys.

Read more here: <https://ncchamber.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2-24-17-The-State-of-NC-Business.pdf>

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