



NC House District 55 Representative

MARK BRODY

NEWSLETTER

Raleigh News



Legislative Short Session 2016- Office Picture
Photo courtesy: James Piedad Photography



The Legislative Short Session began on April 25, 2016 and after 2 months of hard work and tight schedules; the North Carolina House of Representatives passed a joint resolution with the North Carolina Senate to adjourn sine die on July 1, 2016.

The most significant piece of legislation passed this short session was the budget. Rep. Brody has highlighted the major points of the budget in this newsletter but if you have any questions about the budget or any other legislation, please contact our office.

During the interim months, Rep. Brody will return to his district and continue to meet with constituents and attend community meetings/events before the next session begins in January 2017.

The State Budget

With a bipartisan vote of 92-23, the North Carolina House gave final approval last Thursday to the Conference Committee version of the State budget for fiscal year 2016-17. The \$22.34 billion balanced budget will now be sent to Governor McCrory to be signed into law. The budget will

control the growth in spending to 2.8 percent while funding necessary programs to strengthen the state.

- Invests \$190 million in our teachers by providing them an average 4.7% raise that will boost median North Carolina teacher salaries to above \$50,000 – the highest in state history. Furthermore, the State will increase funding for teaching supplies, textbooks, and technology to make sure that teachers and students have the supplies they need.
- Saves for the future by bolstering the State's savings reserve fund with an additional \$473 million, bringing the savings reserve to an all-time high of nearly \$1.6 billion. This budget also pays off a \$38 million loan issued during the 90's, saving the state \$44.7 million in interest payments.
- Provides state retirees with a 1.6 percent cost-of-living supplement and more than \$550 million in salary and benefits adjustments for state employees. Most state employees will receive a 1.5% salary increase, a .5% bonus, and will be eligible for over \$80 million in merit-based bonuses.
- Allows for a \$145 million tax cut by raising the standard deduction for a family by \$1,000. Now, the first \$17,500 a family earns will be exempt from state income tax – meaning the N.C. median household income of \$44,000 annually will experience a \$110 tax cut.
- Increases funding for Justice and Public Safety by nearly 4%. Provides funding for a desperately needed airplane used to catch criminals, extradite fugitives, and assist with drug investigations. Allocates \$3.5 million to address a backlog of payment to lawyers who have represented indigent clients. Increases salaries and benefits for State Highway Patrolmen, magistrates, clerks, correctional officers, SBI, ALE and judicial branch employees.
- Prioritizes addressing residents struggling with mental health issues by funding the Governor's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use with \$20 million. Also appropriates \$20 million from the Dorothea Dix Property Fund to increase amount of behavioral health beds and to construct new child facility based crisis centers

- Protects the environment by providing an additional \$8.6 million to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and \$18.8 million for water infrastructure programs. The State will also invest \$3 million in new firefighting equipment to protect the land and people of North Carolina.
- Supports the State's infrastructure by investing \$32 million for new highway projects, \$14.8 million for airport development, and \$13.7 million for safety updates to our railroad system.
- Improves DMV customer service by providing \$5 million targeted towards call center responsiveness, reducing wait times at driver license offices, and improvements to the medical review program



Rep. Brody met with Pee Dee Electric on NC Electric Cooperative Day at the Legislature.

At The Legislature



Rep. Brody serves as a member of the House Universities Committee and met with Wingate University President, Dr. Rhett Brown.



Rep. Brody met with Union and Anson County 4-H students on 4-H Day at the Legislature.



All three Union County House Representatives meeting with Union County Commissioners Richard Helms and Stony Rushing at the legislature



Every year Rep. Brody looks forward to meeting with Leadership Anson at the legislature and giving a tour of the House Chamber and legislative building.



Rep. Brody was a guest speaker at a NC Homebuilders meeting. Since he started serving in the House in 2012, Rep. Brody has passed significant legislation addressing homebuilding issues and enhancing this industry.



Rep. Brody with our Short Session House Pages: Homeschool students Conner Tomlinson (left) and Cobey Ledford (right). We thank them for their service! If you know of any High Schoolers interested in being a House Page, please let us know.

Other Legislative Meetings & Events:

- National Guard Association
- NC Realtors Association
- NC Airports Association
- NC Association of County Commissioners
- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
- NC State Board of Education
- Hosiery & Textile Association
- Associated Builders & Contractors of the Carolinas
- NC League of Municipalities
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- NC Rehabilitation Association
- NC Pest Management Association
- NC Ag. Industry Leaders & Allied Partners
- National Patient Advocate Foundation
- NC Independent Colleges & Universities
- NC Travel & Tourism Industry
- NC Homebuilders Association
- NC Electric Cooperative
- Greater Charlotte Apartment Association
- NC Law Enforcement & Community Heroin Summit
- NC Nurses Association
- Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
- NC State Bar Association
- NC Bio
- Association Executives of NC (AENC)
- American Kennel Club (AKC)
- NC Manufacturer's Association (NCMA)
- Energy 101 Event
- Carolina's Reddy Mixed Concrete Association

In The District



Rep. Brody and his family attended both the Anson County 4-H event (pictured) and the Union County 4-H event.



Marshville Museum /Cultural Center 4th Birthday Celebration



Rep. Brody and his wife, Lisa, attended the Anson County Memorial Day service to honor the men and women who died while serving our country.



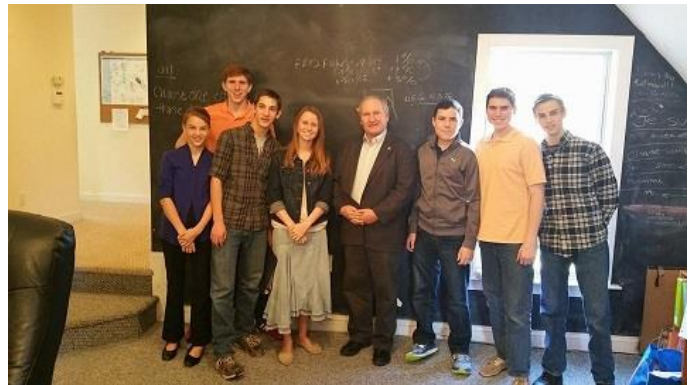
Rep. Brody, his wife (Lisa), and grandson (Van) attended an Amateur Radio Society Field Day event in Union County.



Rep. Brody: Classroom setting



Rep. Brody: Meeting with teachers



Rep. Brody with Homeschoolers in Union County



LEGISLATORS in the CLASSROOM WEEK

Rep. Brody was invited to “Legislators in the Classroom Week” at schools in both Anson and Union County. First, he experienced teaching a Kindergarten Class and a 5th Grade Class at Prospect Elementary School in Union County. Then Rep. Brody experienced teaching at the High School level at Anson New Tech High School and Forest Hills High School. Rep. Brody finished the week by teaching out of the traditional setting to a group of Homeschool students. The “Legislators in the Classroom Week” was a great opportunity for Rep. Brody to get input from teachers and school administration as well as the teaching techniques and students of our future.



Rep. Brody at Anson New Tech High School in Anson County



Rep. Brody at Forest Hills High School in Union County



“Thank you for allowing me to represent you in the NC House and for your continued support.” – Mark Brody

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