



# The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research

*A voice for good government*

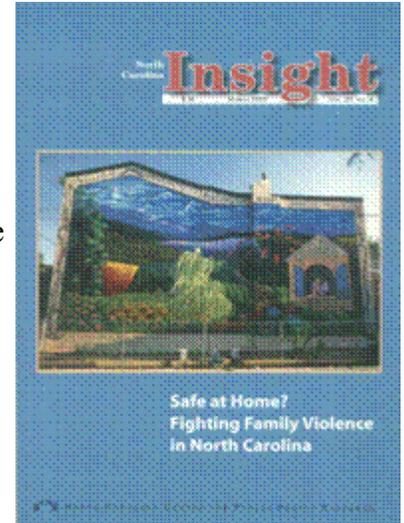
## Accomplishments in 2005

### Improving Public Policy

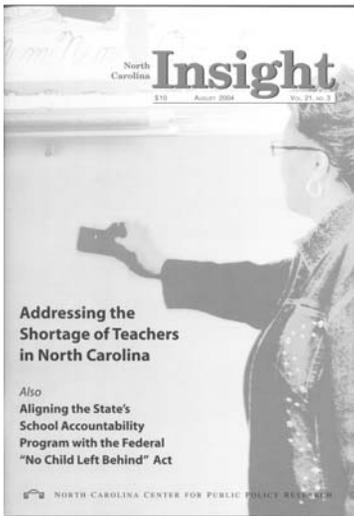
#### Dealing with Domestic Violence:

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research released a major study

of domestic violence that yielded legislative action. The 2005 General Assembly enacted two of our recommendations into law. The legislature created a new joint House and Senate study commission on domestic violence that will make recommendations to the 2007 General Assembly. The legislature also responded to our recommendation to expand family courts statewide. Only eight judicial districts in 16 counties now have family courts. Family court judges have important powers to handle the wide range of legal issues associated with domestic violence, including child abuse and neglect charges, the violence itself, substance abuse, child custody and visitation rights, and divorce.



**Addressing the State's Teacher Shortage:** The Center's research showed that the state faces a growing teacher shortage due to the state's rapidly increasing population, efforts to reduce class size, a 12.5 percent annual turnover rate for teachers, and a new federal requirement under the No Child Left Behind law for a "highly qualified" teacher in every classroom. In his February 2005 State of the State Address, Gov. Mike Easley adopted the Center's goals in addressing the teacher shortage, saying, "[R]ight now, we only produce one-third of the teachers we need." He announced a plan to have the university system partner with the community college system to "increase the number of new teachers by 64 percent each year." The 2005 General Assembly enacted Easley's 2+2 Program and charged the University of North Carolina and Community College systems with increasing the number of teacher education graduates. *Thus, the Center not only put this issue on the public agenda, but also elicited concrete action to address the problem.*

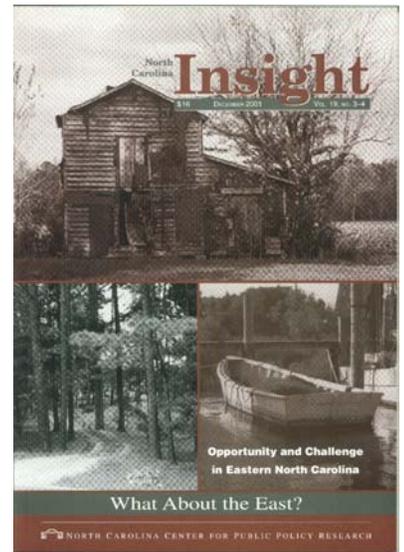


***"The Center is a wonderful resource for legislators. Its objective research and thorough analysis of important issues are a great help to those of us who are working hard to make the right decisions for our state and its people."*** Senator Marc Basnight (D-Dare), President Pro Tempore, N.C. Senate

***"I think the Center provides a valuable resource to members of the General Assembly, and I have found over the years that they are fair and thorough in their work. The Center has had a real impact on emerging issues in this state."***

Rep. Wilma Sherrill (R-Buncombe), Co-Chair, N.C. House Appropriations Committee

**Completing and Funding Floodplain Maps:** We pushed for statewide mapping of floodplains back in 2001 as a key way to mitigate flood damage from hurricanes and to direct development away from flood-prone areas. Floodplain maps now have been completed for 60 of N.C.'s 100 counties. And, following flood damage from hurricanes in the mountains last fall, 23 more counties received funding to complete floodplain maps. This report also won an award for outstanding environmental reporting. *This shows how the Center's research moves policy over time and how we stick with an issue.*



### **Conducting Nonpartisan Research on Key Public Policy Issues Facing North Carolina**

**A Follow-Up Report on Eastern North Carolina:** In October, Center staff appeared on “Open/net,” the live call-in program on

statewide cable TV. We presented issues affecting Eastern North Carolina, as outlined in the next edition of *Insight*. These include new challenges to agriculture, the continuing shift toward a service economy and away from low-wage manufacturing, and deficits in both human resources and infrastructure that cloud the region's future.

This revisits the topic of our 2001 edition of *Insight* on the embattled economy of Eastern North Carolina. We decided to focus again on the eastern region for three reasons. First, the East still lags on a broad range of indicators – from poverty to the education levels of its citizens to having the infrastructure needed to be able to grow. Second, the agricultural economy so important to the East has been roiled by change, including a movement to larger but fewer farms and the buyout of the federal tobacco program. Finally, the role of the military is changing, with the East largely escaping the latest base closures but not immune to future cuts. All these issues have huge implications for the state's poorest third, the 41 counties comprising Eastern North Carolina.

Agriculture is not as dominant as it once was, but still very important to the Eastern North Carolina economy. From 1974 to 2004, the number of North Carolina farms decreased by 58 percent, while the size of these farms increased by 57 percent. Where tobacco once reigned, almost a quarter of the state's \$7 billion in cash receipts from farming came from hog farms alone. In a state with more hogs than people, most hog farm operations are in Eastern North Carolina, with 40 percent of the state's hogs produced in Duplin and Sampson counties alone.

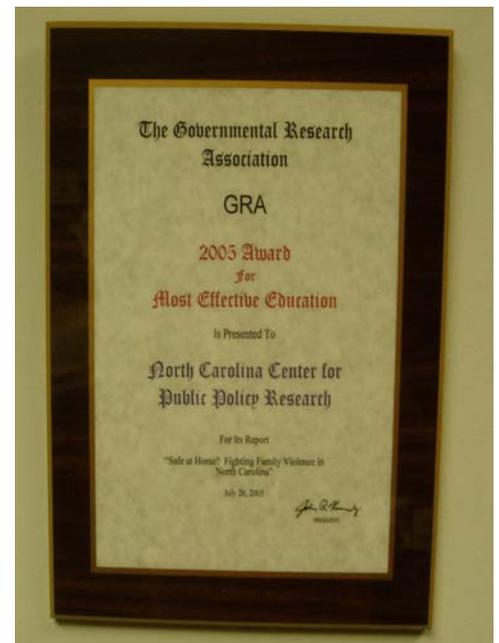
The non-agricultural economy in the East represents a broad mix of private and public sector employment. The service sector is the leading source of private sector jobs, employing three of four workers. The region has some high value-added manufacturers such as Nucor Steel in Hertford County, but also has several counties where Wal-Mart is the largest private employer and several where the leading private employers are low-skill, low-wage plants. Manufacturing represents only 12.9 percent of the work force in Eastern North Carolina, compared to 15.6 percent for the state as a whole.

Public employment, on the other hand, is higher in the East, providing 23.7 percent of the region's jobs compared to 17.7 percent statewide. In Wayne County, for example, Wayne Memorial Hospital employs more workers than any private sector employer, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is one of the top five employers. Together, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and East Carolina University dwarf any private employer in Pitt County, and the U.S. Department of Defense is the leading employer in three Eastern counties. The bottom line is that different approaches to economic development may be necessary for different regions of the state, especially in the East.

## Educating the Public

The Center's study of domestic violence not only has yielded legislative action on our recommendations, but it also won a national policy education award and served as the focus of a statewide cable TV program. Our research documented more than 70 domestic-related murders a year for the last three years, gave conviction rates for domestic violence charges in all 100 N.C. counties, accounted for all state funding in the field, listed major private foundation and corporate funders, listed programs available to victims in all 100 counties, and showed where gaps in services exist in shelters, abuser treatment programs, family courts, and child visitation and exchange centers.

In addition to our legislative successes resulting from this project, our study of domestic violence also won a national award from the Governmental Research Association (GRA), a group of 29 nonprofit policy groups across the country. The Center won the GRA's 2005 award for producing the policy study that best educates the public. Our domestic violence study also was the subject of a one-hour "Open/net" program broadcast statewide on cable TV by the N.C. Agency for Public Telecommunications.



*"We are very pleased with the results of the domestic violence study we funded. It clearly discussed the issue in great depth, as well as providing realistic and practical recommendations. It is our hope that the study will be a catalyst to serious conversations with all the stakeholders, including legislators, to begin tackling this ever-increasing problem in our state. Thanks for a job well done."* John H. Frank, Director, Health Care Division, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

## Enhancing Government Accountability

The Center published the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of *Article II: A Guide to the N.C. Legislature*, the most comprehensive legislative guide available. To enhance legislators' accountability to the public, we publish five evaluation measures: rankings of their effectiveness, attendance, and roll call voting participation, as well as their success rates in getting bills passed and their votes on the 12 most significant bills. And, in order to help citizens contact their elected representatives, the guide also contains their home, business, and legislative addresses and telephone numbers, in addition to email addresses, pictures, biographical information, and committee assignments. This year, we also highlighted the record numbers of women and African Americans in the 2005 legislature.

### Sen. Thomas (Tom) M. Apodaca



Deputy Republican Leader

Republican, 48th District 2003, 2005

Henderson County

Date of Birth: 11/8/57



Counties in District: Buncombe (part), Henderson, Polk

**Business Address**  
214 North King Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

**Home Address**  
114 South Drive  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

**Business Phone**  
828-696-0574  
FAX-828-696-7882

**Home Phone**  
828-697-8420  
FAX-828-696-3510

**Occupation**  
Entrepreneur, Southeastern Sureties Group, Inc.  
Fifth Avenue Travel, Inc.  
A&A Bonding Agency, Inc.

**Education**  
B.S.B.A. Western Carolina U. 1981

#### Selected Bills Introduced 2003-2004:

Bill No.	Bill Subject or Title	Action
S 117	The Larry T. Justus Western Justice Academy	R
S 288	Polk School Acquisition	R
S 619	DWI Blood Test Result Directly to Clerk	R
S 880	UNC/Add Nonsmoking Areas	RCS
S 957	K-8 Testing Reform Act of 2003	RCS

TOTAL	Introduced	Adopted	Ratified
	13	1	3

#### Where He/She Stands Votes in the 2003-2004 General Assembly:

Bill No.	Issue	Senate Vote	House Vote	His/Her Vote
S 2	Tax Incentives for Dell/Computer Mfging (Rat.)	33-15	93-18	N
S 6	S: Ban Video Poker/H: Strengthen Regulation	48-1	59-52	Y
S 583	Ban Tobacco Products in Public Schools (Rat.)	39-11	76-38	Y
S 725	Amend Const. for Tax Increment Financing (Rat.)	42-2	86-23	Y
S 919	No Firearm If Domestic Violence Order (Rat.)	44-3	116-1	Y
S 972	2-Year Monatorium on Death Penalty	29-21	N/A	N
H 3	Legislative Redistricting Plan (Rat.)	25-23	72-44	N
H 31	Raise Cap on Number of Charter Schools	N/A	84-23	N/A
H 48	Gov.'s Moving Ahead Transportation Plan (Rat.)	35-3	85-4	Y
H 397	2003 State Budget (Rat.)	25-19	77-39	N
H 429	Compensation for Billboard Removal	34-11	93-18	Y
H 1264	Finance Univ. Research & Health Bldgs. (Rat.)	36-6	87-24	Y

#### Effectiveness Rankings:

2003  
32 of 50

2003 Attendance Ranking 15 (tie) of 50  
2003 Roll Call Voting Participation Ranking 9 (tie) of 50

## Board of Directors in 2005

### *Chair*

Sandra B. Greene

### *Chair-Elect for 2006*

Michael C. Miller

### *Vice Chair*

Nigel Alston

### *Secretary*

Michelle Cook Vaught

### *Treasurer*

Randy Fraser

Leslie Anderson  
Judge Wanda Bryant  
William R. (Ronnie) Capps  
Peggy Carter  
Javier Castillo  
Astrid Chirinos  
Sen. Walter Dalton  
Natalie H. English  
Allen D. Feezor  
Marilyn Foote-Hudson  
Loleta Wood Foster  
Peter Hans  
Henry Hinton  
Betsy Justus  
Judge Linda McGee  
Rep. Ed McMahan  
William G. Scoggin  
Betty Turner  
Stephanie M. Walker  
John Willardson

## Center Staff

*Executive Director*  
Ran Coble

Tammy Bromley  
Mike McLaughlin  
Laurita Ray  
Nancy Rose  
Sam Watts

## Looking Ahead to 2006

**Governance of Public Universities** – The Center will release the third in our series of four reports on governance of public universities in North Carolina. The report provides a brief history of the UNC

Board of Governors and examines the selection process of Board members by the General Assembly. The book-length study then reviews the powers of the Board and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the governance system used in North Carolina in comparison with other states. The report also examines how the Board of Governors addresses statewide needs in higher education and balances these with the ambitions and needs of the 16 local campuses. Finally, the Center makes significant recommendations to improve the current system of governance.

**“The Changing Face of North Carolina”** – On February 23, 2006, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park, the Center will host an event examining “The Changing Face of North Carolina.” This event is co-sponsored with the N.C. Cable Telecommunications Association and Time Warner Cable. Our four panelists will discuss the increases in the elderly and Hispanic populations, increased urbanization and the rural/urban divide, our state’s economic and political transitions, and the source of the future leadership to deal with these issues. We hope you’ll attend

**Legislative and Lobbyist Rankings** – We will continue our efforts to enhance government accountability and educate voters by publishing the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of *Rankings of Effectiveness, Attendance, and Roll Call Voting Participation for Members of the N.C. General Assembly* and the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Most Influential Lobbyists in the General Assembly*.

**Follow-Up Evaluation of Charter Schools and Examination of High School Dropout Rates** – Nine years have passed since the General Assembly launched the charter schools experiment in North Carolina. Agencies in state government do not plan any evaluation of charter schools, but state ABC student performance data is now available, so we plan a follow-up evaluation of the performance of charter schools. Also, two recent national reports have criticized the way North Carolina calculates its dropout and graduation rates. We will examine this issue and ways to reduce the dropout rate.

## Your Ideas

We welcome your suggestions for topics on which the Center’s independent, nonpartisan research could make a difference. To make a suggestion or order a publication, please write us at **P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27601**, call us at **(919) 832-2839**, fax to **(919) 832-2847**, or visit our Web site at [www.nccppr.org](http://www.nccppr.org).

## Our Mission

*The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the goals of a better-informed public and more effective, accountable, and responsive government. The Center identifies public policy issues facing North Carolina and enriches the dialogue among citizens, the media, and policymakers. Based on our research, the Center makes recommendations for improving the way government serves the people of this state.*