

# North Carolina Legislator Profile

## Larry Yarborough: House District 2 Person and Granville Counties

**“I want the people who live near the landfill to not worry about the coal ash being moved to their neighborhood.” -[Larry Yarborough](#)**

In this Real Facts Legislator Profile, we focus on Representative Larry Yarborough, the Republican from House District 2. Before joining the General Assembly in 2014, Yarborough was a County Commissioner in Person County.

Yarborough has a degree in chemical engineering and was the primary sponsor of H56, a bill that provided GenX funding and was tied to the repeal of the plastic bag ban in the Outer Banks.

Yarborough has consistently voted for more tax cuts over public education. He voted for the 2017 Republican budget that continue the trend of cutting taxes rather than raising per pupil spending and the 2016 and 2015 budgets that let education spending in NC fall even further behind.

### **Summary:**

#### ***Yarborough continuously sponsors and votes for bills that are bad for the environment.***

- *Yarborough is Chairman of the Environment Committee and is a member of the Environmental Review Commission.*
- *Yarborough sponsored H56, a bill that provided funding for GenX cleanup, but was tied to the plastic bag ban repeal in the Outer Banks.*
- *Following Yarborough’s vote to expand a landfill in Person County, he voted in favor of the “garbage juice” bill.*

#### ***Yarborough has repeatedly voted for tax cuts instead of prioritizing public education.***

- *Yarborough has received campaign support from pro-school choice nonprofits.*
- *Yarborough has introduced at least two bills that allocated public funds to charter schools.*
- *Yarborough voted for the 2017 budget that failed to raise teacher salaries and prioritized tax cuts over public education.*
- *Yarborough supported the 2016 budget that raised taxes for middle class families and cut funding for public schools.*
- *Yarborough voted for the 2015 budget that decreased per pupil spending and put NC even further behind.*

**Rep. Larry Yarborough**



**House District 2**



## Yarborough continuously sponsors and votes for bad environmental bills

### Yarborough is Chairman of the Environment Committee and a member of the Environmental Review Commission

**Speaker Moore said Yarborough is “a businessman with practical experience solving real-world problems, Rep. Yarborough is well-positioned to listen to the concerns of stakeholders, find consensus on key issues and work with other legislators to make decisions that protect our state’s environmental splendor.”** ““I am honored that the speaker has chosen me to chair an important committee in my second term,” Yarborough said. “This position will fit well with some of the priorities of our community. “I am already working to clean up Falls of the Neuse Lake, so that we can get some relief from the ineffective and expensive Falls Lake Rules,” Yarborough added. “The Falls Lake Rules have been very costly to the southern parts of Granville and Person counties. “I am also working to clean up some of our old polluted brownfields, especially in Butner,” Yarborough continued. “I will also be able to keep an eye on the coal ash cleanup. As chairman of the Environment Committee, I look forward to helping our community, as well as our great state. I look forward to working with each committee member to promote policies and ideas that ensure North Carolina’s environment is protected.” Moore said Yarborough was named chair of the committee, “because he is capable of leading the critical policy deliberations the committee will make on issues affecting North Carolina’s abundant natural resources. “As a businessman with practical experience solving real-world problems, Rep. Yarborough is well-positioned to listen to the concerns of stakeholders, find consensus on key issues and work with other legislators to make decisions that protect our state’s environmental splendor,” Moore added.” (Courier-Times, [1/22/17](#))

**Yarborough received a lifetime score of 9% in the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters’ 2017 Progress Report.** (NC League of Conservation Voters, retrieved [4/30/18](#))

### Yarborough, a chemical engineer, was a primary sponsor of H56, a bill that provided funding for GenX cleanup and led to the repeal of the plastic bag ban in the Outer Banks

- **Yarborough voted for H56 and voted to override Gov. Cooper’s veto.** (HB56, passed House third reading [06/27/17](#), House overrode veto [10/04/17](#), retrieved [04/26/18](#))

**Yarborough graduated from Tulane in 1984 with a degree in chemical engineering.** (LinkedIn, retrieved [5/4/18](#))

**Despite having a degree in chemical engineering, Yarborough said GenX is “fast-moving, wide-ranging problem we’re just beginning to understand.”** “House and Senate Republicans packaged the bag repeal with 19 other changes and additions to environmental laws, including a plan to give \$435,000 to the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to deal with a pollutant called GenX. Wilmington residents were told in June that their water is polluted with the chemical, which a Fayetteville manufacturing plant had been discharging into the Cape Fear River for years. The state Department of Environmental Quality is leading an investigation into GenX. “This is a fast-moving, wide-ranging problem we’re just beginning to understand,” said Rep. Larry Yarborough, a Roxboro Republican. The Cape Fear utility authority would get \$185,000 to figure out how to treat water to remove GenX, and for ongoing monitoring. UNC Wilmington would receive \$250,000 to measure GenX in river sediment.” (News & Observer, 8/30/17)

**Yarborough said the H56 “did not take any protections of our rivers and streams away.”** “Republicans supporting the override said directing the funds to the Wilmington area would actually help clean up drinking water there, [according to](#) the Associated Press. Cooper’s veto, if allowed to stand, would block that work, said GOP Rep. Larry Yarborough of Person County, a primary bill sponsor. The bill “does not take any protections of our rivers and streams away,” Yarborough said before the House’s 70-44 override vote. “The governor’s veto does nothing to affect that situation.” With no debate, the Senate voted 30-9 for the override. (WUNC, [10/04/17](#))

**House Bill 56 was called the “junk drawer of environmental laws” because it repealed the plastic bag ban, allowed law enforcement to cut back riparian buffers and lessened landfill regulations.** “And the GOP wanted to checkmate Democratic lawmakers and Gov. Cooper. They likely would otherwise vote against or veto the bill because of the bag, buffer and landfill sections, but now had to weigh how their vote would be used against them. One can envision the misleading campaign ads a year from now. Cue ominous music, cut to glass of muddy water: “X representative voted against clean water for Wilmington. X doesn’t care about your children’s health.” But as many lawmakers pointed out, the Cape Fear is [not the only contaminated river](#) in the state. The Haw is polluted with 1-4, dioxane, another emerging contaminant. It’s being discharged from industry upstream in Alamance and Guilford counties. Parts of the Catawba River are polluted with PCBs, also from industry. Runoff from industrialized hog farms contaminate segments of the Neuse River and the parts of the Pamlico Sound are routinely closed to shellfish harvesting because of fecal bacteria.” (NC Policy Watch, [09/01/17](#))

**H56 repealed the plastic bag ban in the Outer Banks that had been in effect since 2009 to protect animals like sea turtles.** “The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce and many local governments supported the ban on plastic bags and opposed the repeal. The chamber surveyed its 1,100 members earlier this year and all but two of about 500 responses opposed the repeal. Plastic bags harm animals such as sea turtles who mistake them for food, supporters of the ban said. The bags also create long-lasting litter on the Outer Banks.” (The Virginian Pilot, [09/01/17](#))

**As County Commissioner, Yarborough voted to expand a landfill in Person County and was challenged by a local environmental rights group because the expansion threatened the local environment and the health of Roxboro citizens**

**Citizens of Person County expressed their opposition to expanding the landfill because of environmental and health concerns repeatedly.** “APPEARANCE BEFORE BOARD TO DISCUSS LANDFILL ISSUES: Flora Peed appeared before the Board to discuss landfill contract issues. She spoke about recycling centers which have not been provided by Republic, landfill traffic, trash along roadside. She asked that the county not be made a dumping ground for other counties. She said if the money is needed, raise the taxes so everyone pays instead of punishing those citizens who live near the landfill. APPEARANCE BEFORE BOARD TO DISCUSS LANDFILL BUSINESS: Eugene Berryhill – 668 Berryhill Road, Roxboro, NC – appeared before the Board to make clear the history of the landfill to those who were unaware of how the landfill business came to be in Person County. APPEARANCE BEFORE BOARD TO DISCUSS LANDFILL ISSUES: Bill Barber appeared before the Board, speaking on behalf of members of the landfill community and other citizens in the county. He said any tonnage increase will impact quality of life of residents who live near landfill. There is no one to monitor the landfill as was promised, nor is there any recycling as

promised. Stated the best solution for the county would be to take the landfill back at the end of the contract.” (Peresoncounty.net, [05/07/07](#))

**The 600-acre landfill was already creating environmental issues for Person County citizens and the expansion would more than double the amount of trash the landfill took in daily.** “The expansion would also increase the landfill's daily trash intake from about 660 tons to about 1,750 tons and would provide an economic boost to the area — an additional \$1.44 million in revenue and a 4.5 cent decrease in the tax rate, supporters say. "Everyone I've talked to has said they'd rather pay more taxes than increase the tonnage in Person County," Kay Renners, a nearby resident who opposes an expanded landfill, said at a public hearing Tuesday. Residents also argued that the 600-acre landfill is already ruining the environment and their health. "We're getting trees dead in our neighborhood. I'm developing skin disease," said Betty Blalock.” (WRAL, [04/08/07](#))

**Yarborough voted to expand the landfill in Person County and was challenged by PC PRIDE, a local environmental rights group.** “PRIDE asserted that commissioners did not give PRIDE a fair hearing and also that some county commissioners should have recused themselves from the quasi-judicial hearing on Republic's permit request because those commissioners had spoken with parties about the case outside the proceedings. PRIDE's petition also called on the court to void the special use permit authorized by commissioners. On Monday of last week after concluding their regular business session, commissioners met in closed session with County Attorney Ron Aycok to discuss the PRIDE litigation. County Manager Carpenter said Tuesday evening that during that closed session commissioners agreed to contest the PRIDE action inasmuch as no permit has been issued. In the wake of a judge's decision Jan. 9 to grant the writ sought by PRIDE, thereby calling on the county to submit the case record for judicial review, the county's legal counsel on Tuesday filed papers urging the court to vacate or rescind that ruling. Access to the county's petition was not immediately available Tuesday evening, since the Person County Courthouse was closed for the day. In connection with the matter, Commissioners Larry Yarborough and Kyle Puryear, two of the three commissioners who voted to allow Republic to add a single 14-acre cell at the landfill, subject to the trio of conditions, issued a joint statement on the matter. Although the statement bore a Jan. 14, 2008 date, The Courier-Times did not receive it via e-mail until late Tuesday.” (Courier-Times, 1/16/08)

**Yarborough signed a statement stating that he had no conflict of interest or personal gain in expanding a landfill in Person County.** “Person County PRIDE wants all five county commissioners to sign a statement pledging they have no conflict of interest nor anything personal to gain relative to the controversial landfill expansion issue. And at least two commissioners - Kyle Puryear and Larry Yarborough - have indicated they are perfectly willing to do that. Additionally, the county environmental group has petitioned the board of county commissioners to adopt a policy requiring all appointees to county boards, commissions and committees to sign declarations that they have no conflicts of interest. PRIDE Co-chair Frances Blaylock told The Courier-Times on Friday that the group's request to the county was recommended by PRIDE's attorney. Earlier this month, the group retained John D. Runkle of Chapel Hill to represent its interests at a public hearing county commissioners had scheduled earlier this month on a petition by Republic Services of N. C. for a special use permit to expand the footprint of the existing Upper Piedmont Environmental Landfill that Republic operates in the county. Commissioners, however, cancelled the hearing moments before it was to start, maintaining it did not have sufficient information from the county planning board in order to

conduct the proceeding. Commissioners indicated they would hold the hearing later, but no date has been set.” (Courier-Times, 09/28/07)

**Yarborough said “modern landfills have proven to be safe and profitable” in an op-ed.**

“This is a hidden tax. HB56 prevents counties from creating ordinances that control which landfill that people and businesses use. Everyone should be free to take their waste to the most efficient landfill available. Free market competition helps to keep the cost of waste disposal down. Counties are free to pursue the waste disposal solution that works for that county, but they can’t force citizens to use a more expensive option. This is working here. Person and Granville counties have landfills that are fairly close together and the tipping fees at the landfills are competitively priced. Modern landfills have proven to be safe and profitable. Many counties are getting into the business of building them. Many counties use the revenue to pay for recycling. At the state level, the goal is to allow the counties to compete fairly.” (The Courier-Times, [10/25/17](#))

**Following Yarborough’s vote in favor of expanding a landfill in Person County, he voted for H576, which would have allowed the spraying of “garbage juice” without a permit**

- **Yarborough voted for H576.** (H576 passed third reading in the House, [4/25/17](#), retrieved [4/30/18](#))

**H576 would allow landfill operators to “dispose” of landfill fluids by “spraying it into the air over their property” without a permit.** “House leaders are pushing ahead with a proposal to require state environmental regulators to allow the disposal of landfill wastewater and fluids that leak out by spraying it into the air over their property without a permit. The process, called aerosolization, is favored by the waste industry and by other industries that deal with large quantities of wastewater. As amended Thursday, however, it would not apply to dewatering coal ash. House Bill 576 sponsor Rep. Jimmy Dixon, R-Duplin, told the House Environment Committee on Thursday that no one is opposed to the bill, but both the state Department of Environmental Quality and environmental groups say that’s not the case. According to Dixon, DEQ under former Gov. Pat McCrory’s administration approved a permit for an aerosolization project at the Foothills Regional Landfill in 2013.” (WRAL, [4/20/17](#))

**The aeration of leachate could threaten neighboring properties by releasing harmful chemicals into the air, creating a hazard for workers and citizens.** “Although the landfill is permitted to accept only “non-hazardous” waste, no one is opening every bag and checking for pesticide containers or cleaning solvents. The leachate — or landfill juice, to be inelegant for a moment — often contains lead from electronics, mercury from batteries, bacteria and viruses from dirty diapers; antibiotics, hormones and other toxics from routine prescription and specialized chemotherapy drugs; volatile organic compounds from plastics, toner cartridges, glues and cleansers. Waste disposal companies have to get rid of this leachate, about 4 million to 30 million gallons of it each year. Yet disposal is extremely expensive. Evaporation ponds can cost upward of \$2 million, according to Republic Services, one of the nation’s largest waste disposal companies, [which made a presentation](#) to legislators earlier this year. Pre-treating the leachate, then pumping and trucking it to a hazardous waste site or wastewater treatment plant, runs another \$2 million or so, plus fees. Or these companies can take the cheaper, untested, way out. Republic owns three landfills in North Carolina that have received a state permit to spray leachate from the holding tanks into the air: Upper Piedmont, Foothills and East Carolina Municipal Solid Waste. (Charah owns a fourth landfill, the Brickhaven mine in Chatham County, which is being filled with coal ash. In March, it received a

state permit to conduct a 90-day field trial.) The technology is known as [leachate aerosolization](#), invented by Kelly Houston of Cornelius, a former lobbyist and a Republican campaign donor. The theory behind the system is that the contaminants in the mist will fall to the ground, ostensibly on top of the landfill, allegedly leaving uncontaminated tiny particles to drift away.” (NC Policy Watch, [5/2/17](#))

**Yarborough sponsored H467 and voted to override the Governor’s veto, which limited the amount of compensation people could receive in lawsuits filed against agricultural operations for disturbances**

- **Yarborough voted for H467 and to override the Governor’s veto.** (H467, passed third reading in the House [4/10/17](#), House overrode Governor’s veto [5/10/17](#), retrieved [4/30/18](#))

**Almost 500 residents living near hog farms say they are subject to “revolting odors as well as swarms of flies and buzzards attracted to outdoor bins where pig carcasses are dumped.”** “North Carolina has about 9 million hogs on nearly 2,300 hog farm operations, many of them concentrated in the eastern part of the state. The large farms, which can contain thousands of hogs, treat the hog feces and urine in open-air lagoons, from which water is pumped onto crops as a nutrient-rich fertilizer. Nearly 500 residents living near those farms allege in the lawsuits that they are subjected to revolting odors as well as swarms of flies and buzzards attracted to outdoor bins where pig carcasses are dumped for pickup by haulers. The lawsuits include allegations that the spraying from the lagoons disperses fecal bacteria that wafts across property lines and settles on cars, homes and lawns. North Carolina’s hog farming practices have been under scrutiny for decades. Amid rising public health concerns, the state banned the construction of new hog farms in 1997 that treat hog waste in open-air lagoons. More than 30 scientific studies have documented public health and environmental problems arising from industrial hog farming here.” (News & Observer, [5/11/17](#))

**Indy Week: "H467 would strip property rights away from North Carolinians who suffer odors, flies, and health harms from nearby industrial hog operations."** “As the *INDY* has previously [reported](#), the bill would limit the financial damages people could collect in nuisance lawsuits filed against agricultural and forestry operations, including hog farms, and cap the amount of money property owners could collect at the fair market value of their property, which critics say can be often made lower thanks to the presence of nearby commercial farms. "If enacted, H467 would strip property rights away from North Carolinians who suffer odors, flies, and health harms from nearby industrial hog operations," Jamie Cole, a policy advocate the NC Conservation Network, said in a statement. "This pollution disproportionately affects low-income communities of color, many having had their property in their families for generations—long before any hog operations came into the area. This bill, which protects only agricultural and forestry operations, will deprive those communities the compensatory damages allowed in every other tort against every other class of defendants." One particularly controversial part of the bill would have restricted the damages even for current lawsuits—essentially nullifying twenty-six federal lawsuits pending against Murphy-Brown, the hog division of Smithfield Foods. That provision was nixed in the final versions that passed both the House and Senate. "This bill just limits compensatory damages in nuisance lawsuits only to fair-market value," explained Republican Senator Brent Jackson, one of the sponsors of the bill's Senate companion and the [recipient of more than \\$130,000](#) in campaign contributions from donors associated with the commercial hog farming industry. "We're not taking away anyone's rights. They can still sue for many other things."” (Indy Week, [4/27/17](#))

**H567 limited damages for property owners who live near hog farms.** "Under [House Bill 467](#), the damages that a court could award to a property owner who claims nuisance damage by a nearby agricultural or forestry operation to no more than the actual market value of that property. "The agriculture and forestry industries are vital to our economy and we should encourage them to thrive," Cooper said in a statement. "But nuisance laws can be used to protect property rights and make changes for good." North Carolina, for example, was able to use nuisance laws to win damages from the Tennessee Valley Authority over air pollution from the utility's power plants that was affecting air quality in North Carolina. "Special protection for one industry opens the door to weakening our nuisance laws in other areas, which can allow real harm to homeowners, the environment and everyday North Carolinians," Cooper said. The measure initially was aimed at capping damages against Smithfield Foods subsidiary Murphy-Brown, which is involved in 26 federal lawsuits in the state. But House Republicans leery of getting involved in pending litigation last month revised the bill so it affects only future lawsuits." (News & Observer, [5/5/17](#))

**Yarborough voted for the 2016 "Duke Bailout Bill" that proved families could not rely on the state to protect their drinking water and raised rates to pay for coal ash cleanup**

- **Yarborough voted for H630.** (H630, House concurred, [6/30/16](#))

**SLEC attorney said "Duke Bailout Bill" is "damning proof" that families cannot rely on the state to protect drinking water from Duke Energy's pollution.** "Environmental groups quickly chastised the legislation. 'This coal ash bill is damning proof that the families and communities of North Carolina can't rely on state politicians to protect their drinking water supplies from Duke Energy's coal ash pollution,' said Frank Holleman, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, in a statement. Added Holleman: 'This Duke Bailout Bill is a betrayal of the North Carolina people who participated in good faith in the process and followed the rules established by the legislature in 2014. Public participation led to the conclusion that the law and science require Duke Energy to excavate its coal ash from its leaking, unlined pits. Duke Energy didn't like the results and so today the North Carolina Senate turned its back on the people and clean water and threw into the trash can public process, facts, science, and the law.'" (WUNC, [6/29/16](#))

**The "Duke Bailout Bill" entrusted McCrory's Department of Environmental Quality to oversee coal ash cleanup instead of an independent commission.** Duke Energy would be able to leave toxin-laced coal ash in as many as seven unlined pits across North Carolina under a bill that cleared the state Senate 44-4 Tuesday. The measure replaces a bill vetoed by Gov. Pat McCrory earlier this year because he said it infringed on his ability to manage environmental matters. Instead of creating a separate Coal Ash Management Commission to oversee the cleanup, lawmakers will entrust McCrory's Department of Environmental Quality with the job." (WRAL, [6/28/16](#))

**After local coal ash ponds were classified as "low risk," Person County residents affected by coal ash voiced their concerns and Yarborough responded saying "there's some good examples of things that are happening here that are good."** "The majority of people in the meeting were concerned, there were also some who said they have no reason to doubt the state when they classify the coal-ash ponds as "low risk". District 2 Rep. Larry Yarborough, who represents Person County, was also at the meeting and said this, "There's some good examples of things that are happening here that are good. The fact that the wells

near the power plant have been tested to the level that they've been tested is a good thing. They found vanadium, and hexavalent chromium and they sent out letters saying we got this in here we don't know what it means but we got it, now they've studied it and determined that the level is a thousand times lower than drinking water standards." (WTVD, [3/17/16](#))

**In an op-ed, Yarborough emphasized the coal ash law changes were “good” and said “my background in chemical engineering and my general fascination with science is of great benefit in learning and understanding this issue better than many of the members of the N.C. Legislature.”** “We just have to give the scientists and entrepreneurs some time to develop their plan. We all want a clean environment and we have come a long way in the last decade in cleaning up our power plants. We still have work to do though. I am sure that the far left environmentalist community will be attacking me for not calling for the complete shutdown of the coal power plants and excavation of the coal ash. I am attempting to represent a wide variety of constituents. I want the people who live near the power plants (me included) to have confidence in the safety of the water in their house. I want the people who live near the landfill to not worry about the coal ash being moved to their neighborhood. I want the families that depend on employment with Duke Energy to continue to have a steady income from a good job. I want the people who depend on electric power to be able to afford it. The coal ash issue is important to very many of the people who I represent, so I take the responsibility of being very knowledgeable and taking a leadership role on this issue seriously. My background in chemical engineering and my general fascination with science is of great benefit in learning and understanding this issue better than many of the members of the N.C. Legislature. I believe that the changes that were made this year are good for our citizens.” (Courier-Times, [7/27/16](#))

#### **Yarborough prioritizes tax cuts over funding public education**

#### **Yarborough voted for the 2017 budget that shortchanged teachers by failing to raise teacher salaries and prioritized tax cuts over funding public education**

- Yarborough voted for the 2017 Republican budget and voted to override the governor's veto. (S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

**Many educators, including veterans of 25 years, will only see an increase of \$30 a month, merely a tank of gas.** “The newly unveiled North Carolina state budget does include increases in teacher pay, but they are neither big nor dramatic. Many educators – including veterans who have devoted 25 years or more to our state's children – will see an increase of \$30 a month. That amounts to little more than a tank of gas, which will hardly be enough to allow teachers to quit their second or third jobs.” (Charlotte Observer, Op-Ed, [6/21/17](#))

**Starting teacher pay remains at \$35,000 under the Republican budget.** “Under the teacher pay plan, teachers with 17 to 24 years of experience would see some of the biggest raises. Starting teacher pay would remain at \$35,000, but teachers at most experience levels would get a raise.” (News & Observer, [7/1/17](#))

**The Republican budget continues the trend of cutting taxes rather than raising per pupil spending.** “This budget will cut individual income tax rates to 5.25 percent from 5.499 percent and the corporate rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent in the second year, costing the state \$900 million annually when fully implemented. This means that the legislature will eventually have cut \$3.5 billion annually in all its tax cuts – money that could have gone for services. North Carolina,

for example, ranks 41st nationally in per pupil spending for public education. Here is a question for lawmakers: Which is most likely hindering industrial recruitment and economic development in small-town North Carolina –high taxes or poor schools?” (News & Observer Editorial, [6/24/17](#))

### **In 2016 Yarborough voted to raise taxes for middle class families and cut funding for public schools**

- Yarborough voted for 2016 budget (H1030, signed [7/14/16](#))

**“Billions of dollars in tax revenue that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools to new heights instead has been diverted into tax cuts that have produced no tangible results.”**

“This Election Day should be a day of reckoning for North Carolina’s Republican legislative leaders who have shirked their responsibility and broken a long state tradition of strong support for public schools. Instead of investing in the state’s children, instead of improving education as a way for poor children to escape poverty and all children to achieve goals, the Republican-led General Assembly has chosen to reduce state taxes, mostly to the benefit of the wealthy and big corporations. Billions of dollars in tax revenue that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools to new heights instead has been diverted into tax cuts that have produced no tangible results. Republican lawmakers are acutely aware of their culpability in this choice, but instead of defending it or apologizing for it, they’re denying it. Even worse, they’re claiming credit for increasing spending on public education. This is duplicity joined with sophistry, and it should stir the smoldering anger over the neglect of public schools into outrage.” (News & Observer, Editorial, [8/20/16](#))

**“The wealthy and big corporations are paying less and middle- and low-income earners are paying more” with low-income families and individuals being hit “particularly hard.”**

“Growing tax revenue doesn’t mean happy days are here again for most North Carolinians. It means the wealthy and big corporations are paying less and middle- and low-income earners are paying more. Johnson notes, “The regressive sales tax hits low-income families and individuals particularly hard, as they spend a larger share of their income on goods and services subject to the sales tax. Thus, to point to increased revenue as evidence that low- and middle-income North Carolinians are better off is an inaccurate assessment of reality.” The revenue numbers are not only about a shift in the tax burden. They are also about what’s missing. Had the General Assembly’s tax changes been revenue neutral – as McCrory originally requested – the state would be seeing a much larger revenue increase as the economy recovers.” (News & Observer, Editorial, [1/16/16](#))

### **Yarborough voted for the 2015 Republican budget that let education funding fall further behind**

- Yarborough voted for H97 and the conference report. (H97, signed by Gov. [9/18/15](#))

**Budget failed to provide salary increases for teachers, instead offered a one-time \$750 bonus.** “All state employees, including teachers, will get a one-time \$750 bonus to be paid ‘somewhere around the end of the year,’ according to Senate Budget Chairman Harry Brown, R-Onslow, and a summary document released by negotiators. Speaking on WRAL News, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger likened it to a ‘Christmas bonus.’” (WRAL, [8/27/15](#))

**NC teacher pay ranked in the bottom 10, only beating Mississippi and West Virginia in the Southeast.** “Despite an effort to raise starting salaries, North Carolina is expected to remain

in the bottom 10 states nationally in average teacher pay, according to a report released Wednesday. The National Education Association estimates the average salary for a North Carolina public school teacher in the 2014-15 school year at \$47,783, which ranks 42nd nationally." (WRAL, [3/18/15](#))

**When accounting for inflation, education spending has been cut and “North Carolina K-12 system has roughly 10 percent less buying power at its disposal than it did 10 years ago.”** “So, while the state Senate proposes spending \$8.32 billion on public schools next year, and that is more in raw dollar terms than any other year before, constant dollars tell a different tale. Figures produced by the General Assembly's nonpartisan Fiscal Research Division show that, in constant 2008 dollars, education spending has dropped from \$8.1 billion in the 2007-08 budget year to \$7.3 billion starting July 1 if the Senate budget were enacted. Put another way, North Carolina K-12 system has roughly 10 percent less buying power at its disposal than it did 10 years ago.” (WRAL, [6/24/15](#))

**Per pupil spending decreased from 2014 to 2015 and NC ranked 46<sup>th</sup>.** “The report put the estimate for per pupil expenditures at \$8,620 this year, lower than Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, and other states in the region.” (News & Observer, [3/18/15](#))

#### **Yarborough supports additional funding for charter schools in NC**

**Yarborough introduced House Bill 557, a bill that would allocate additional money to charter schools from a special fund.** “Among the lawmakers who have received support from this network are Republicans Rep. Paul Stam of Wake County, speaker pro tempore of the state House and vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and Rep. Larry Yarborough of Roxboro. Stam and Yarborough introduced House Bill 761, titled "Charter School Capital Funds," on April 14. It would allow counties to provide funding to charters for purchase, construction or modification of buildings and other structures such as playgrounds, libraries, auditoriums and gymnasiums, as well as for purchase of furnishings and equipment. To date, public funds have not gone towards charter school campuses in North Carolina. Charter school groups including the North Carolina Public Charter School Association have been seeking this allowance for some time. Critics have raised concerns the bill could lead to another that mandates counties to pay for school facilities. The measure was referred to the House Local Government Committee, where it stalled. Less than two weeks earlier, Stam and Yarborough introduced House Bill 557; similar to Senate Bill 456, it would allocate additional money to charter schools from a special fund. The bill stalled in the House Appropriations Committee.” (Facing South, [4/15/15](#), H557 passed first reading [4/6/15](#), referred to Committee on Appropriations [4/6/15](#))

**Yarborough introduced House Bill 761, a bill titled “Charter School Capital Funds” that would allow counties to provide funding to charter schools for purchase, construction or modifications of buildings.** “Stam and Yarborough introduced House Bill 761, titled "Charter School Capital Funds," on April 14. It would allow counties to provide funding to charters for purchase, construction or modification of buildings and other structures such as playgrounds, libraries, auditoriums and gymnasiums, as well as for purchase of furnishings and equipment. To date, public funds have not gone towards charter school campuses in North Carolina. Charter school groups including the North Carolina Public Charter School Association have been seeking this allowance for some time. Critics have raised concerns the bill could lead to another that mandates counties to pay for school facilities. The measure was referred to the

House Local Government Committee, where it stalled.” (Facing South, [5/15/15](#), H761, passed first reading [4/15/15](#), referred to the Committee on Local Government [4/15/15](#))

**Yarborough’s campaign received support from pro-charter school nonprofits**

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“Yarborough's campaign benefited from over \$24,000 worth of supportive mailers and phone calls from North Carolina Citizens for Freedom in Education IE PAC, an independent political committee that shares its address and some staff with Partners for Educational Freedom and its sister group, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit called Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina. Yarborough, a first-term state legislator, is a co-sponsor of House Bill 133, which currently sits in the House Appropriations Committee.” (Facing South, [05/15/15](#))

###