

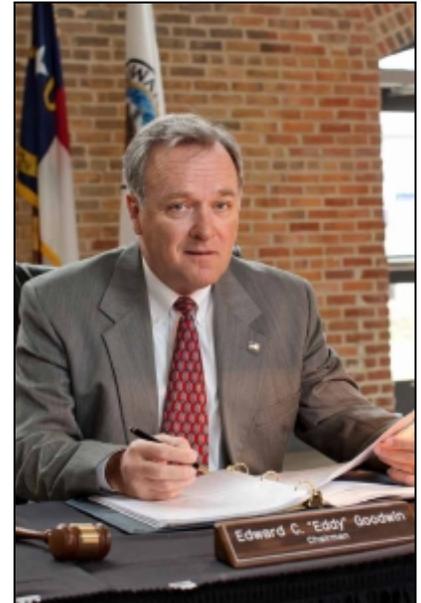
North Carolina Candidate Profile

Edward C. “Eddy” Goodwin: House District 1 (R-Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrell, Washington)

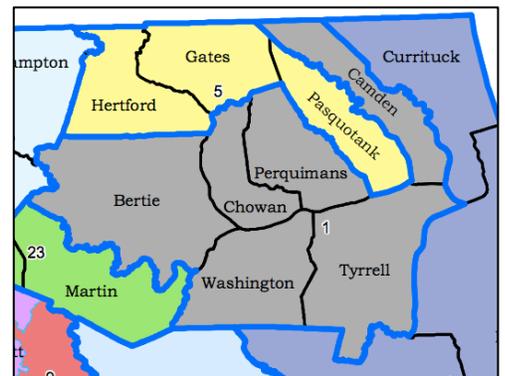
“I’m not asking for permission, I just want to do it, then I’ll ask for forgiveness.” – former County Commissioner Ed Goodwin on reducing debt in Chowan County using furloughs and layoffs, (YouTube, uploaded [6/28/2012](#))

Goodwin’s long political career includes a failed bid for Secretary of State, 4 years as a Chowan County Commissioner, and a stint as a member of the McCrory administration. **He has aligned himself with a state Republican agenda that benefits the wealthy and endorses discrimination rather than advocating for hardworking North Carolinians.**

Goodwin supported the Republican agenda of cutting taxes for the wealthy at the expense of North Carolina families. For nearly a decade, Republican tax reform in North Carolina has overwhelmingly benefitted the wealthy while imposing taxes on middle- and working-class North Carolinians. Goodwin’s views follow this pattern; he has publicly endorsed repealing the estate tax which only went to the 123 richest estates in North Carolina. As a Chowan County Commissioner, Goodwin dealt with budget difficulties by making cuts to public services such as after school care, daycare, the public library, and support services for survivors of domestic violence.



Goodwin’s stance on health care will further increase its cost and decrease accessibility. Calling affordable health care measures “the government takeover of healthcare,” Goodwin has suggested North Carolina should refrain from establishing a state health insurance exchange that would lower costs for all North Carolinians. Republicans in power have refused to expand Medicaid, even when fully funded by federal money. **This cost the state \$15 billion in new economic activity, will cost 455 to over 1,000 lives annually, and made North Carolina’s healthcare the third most expensive in the country.**



Goodwin said he believes teacher pay is “where it needs to be” and voted against increasing school budgets as a county commissioner. The Republican majority in the General Assembly ensured North Carolina remains nearly \$10,000 below the national average for teacher pay. In passing the 2017 budget, Republicans failed to meaningfully fund schools. Similarly, as the chair of the Chowan County Commissioners, Goodwin recommended “holding the line” with the school reserve budget, even while the Board of Education opposed the plan.

Goodwin is a McCrory crony who briefly worked as a political appointee and later replaced a 20-year veteran of the Ferry system as its director in 2014, launching his political career after a failed bid for NC Secretary of State. **Despite having no experience in the Ferry system, Goodwin earned more than his predecessor.**

Summary

Goodwin supported the Republican agenda of cutting taxes for the wealthy at the expense of North Carolina families

- *Republican tax reform overwhelmingly benefitted the wealthy while imposing taxes on middle- and working-class North Carolinians.*
- *In a survey, Goodwin endorsed reducing spending to combat budget difficulties, repealing the estate tax, which only affects estates valued in the millions, and eliminating business regulation to offer “entrepreneurs more flexibility.”*
- *As a Chowan County Commissioner, Goodwin dealt with budget difficulties by making cuts to public services such as after school care, daycare, the public library, and support services for victims of domestic violence.*

Goodwin’s stance on health care will further drive up costs and decrease accessibility.

- *Goodwin said he opposes “the government takeover of healthcare” and disagreed that North Carolina should implement a state health insurance exchange to comply with the Affordable Care Act.*
- *Republicans in power voted against Medicaid expansion that covered 500,000 low-income North Carolinians and was fully funded by federal money for three years, costing the state \$15 billion in new economic activity.*
- *Refusal to expand Medicaid cost the state anywhere from 455 to over 1,000 lives annually.*
- *North Carolina has the 3rd most expensive health care in the country, according to a 2017 study.*

Goodwin said he believes teacher pay is where it needs to be and voted against increasing school budgets as a county commissioner.

- *Goodwin said local officials should try to meet a mandate to reduce class sizes without asking for more state funding; he also believes that teacher pay is where it needs to be.*
- *Over half of all North Carolina teachers have a second job; the state ranks 41st in the country for average teacher pay.*
- *The 2017 Republican budget failed to meaningfully fund schools or raise teacher salaries.*
- *As the chair of the Chowan County Commissioners, Goodwin recommended “holding the line” with the school reserve budget while the Board of Education opposed.*

Goodwin’s ties to former governor Pat McCrory advanced his political career.

- *Goodwin was appointed to director of the NC Ferry Division by Pat McCrory in 2014 after serving as director of the governor’s eastern regional office for less than a year.*
- *Goodwin replaced a 20-year veteran of the ferry system and had no experience working with the ferry division.*
- *Goodwin’s predecessor took a pay cut from \$85,602 to \$56,832; Goodwin was hired to make \$92,029.*

Goodwin supported the Republican agenda of cutting taxes for the wealthy at the expense of North Carolina families.

Goodwin said in order to address North Carolina’s ongoing budget difficulties, state lawmakers should reduce spending. (2012 Civitas Candidate Survey, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

Goodwin disagreed with the statement that North Carolina needs to offer targeted tax credits and subsidies to recruit businesses to expand or relocate in the state and create jobs. (2012 Civitas Candidate Survey, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

On a Civitas candidate survey, Goodwin said tax rates are “too high” and he disagreed with the statement that North Carolina should raise taxes to provide additional resources to public schools. (2012 Civitas Candidate Survey, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

Goodwin agreed that North Carolina should repeal its estate tax. (2012 Civitas Candidate Survey, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

- **In 2010, the estate tax in North Carolina only affected 123 people with estates valued at over \$5 million.** “Eliminates the estate tax. Although not technically an individual income tax, it is levied on an individual estate at death.” The *News & Observer* reported, “The state and federal governments currently tax estates valued at more than \$5 million. That amount drops to \$1 million in 2013... 123 North Carolinians paid the tax in 2010.” (*WRAL*, [7/18/13](#); *News & Observer*, [3/8/12](#); H998, adopted, [7/23/13](#))

When asked in terms of state regulation of business, which most closely resembles your view? Goodwin responded, “The state should eliminate many regulations to allow entrepreneurs more flexibility.” (2012 Civitas Candidate Survey, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

As a Chowan County Commissioner, Goodwin voted to reduce funding for daycare, after school programs, the public library, and domestic violence services.

In January 2009, the commission voted to reduce daycare funding.

<u>Consent Agenda</u>				
a. <u>Budget Amendments</u>				
4310	Sheriff	\$1,000	Increase	Insurance proceeds from vehicle accident
3531	DSS	\$15,000	Decrease	Reduction in Daycare funding
3531	DSS	\$20,783	Increase	Additional Allocation of CRISIS funds
3986	Health Ins Fund	\$5,500	Increase	Contribution from Health Insurance
	general			to General Fund to repay loan from fund per 2007 audit

(Chowan County Committee Meeting Notes, [January 2009](#))

In April 2009, the commission voted to reduce daycare funding.

5333 DSS	\$15,000	Decrease	Reduction in Smart Start Daycare Funding
3531 DSS	\$15,000	Decrease	Reduction in Smart Start Daycare Funding
5345 DSS	\$80,000	Decrease	Reduction in Funding
3531 DSS	\$80,000	Decrease	Reduction in Funding
3612 Rec. specific	\$1,000	Increase	Recreation donation with stipulation of use
6130 Rec. aluminum	\$1,000	Increase	Capital outlay equipment to purchase players benches for soccer field

(Chowan County Committee Notes, [April 2009](#))

Goodwin voted against increasing funding for the public library.

Library
Commissioner Alligood moved that the Board fund the Library at the FY 08-09 level of \$147,529.

Librarian, Rosalie Miller said that amount is much better for the Library, and stated that staff could cope with the budget and maintain working hours.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin said he felt that with volunteers the Library could function with \$146,161.

Vice Chairman Winborne said that he felt volunteers could help the Library function on the proposed budget of \$146,161.

Commissioner Alligood said he was concerned about what would happen to the Library when the volunteers do not show up.

Commissioner Cole said he wanted to see the Library at the FY 08-09 level.

Commissioner Belfield said he did not want to see the Library or its programs decimated.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion failed (3-4 K. Goodwin, Nixon, Winborne, E. Goodwin).

By default the budget would remain at the proposed level of \$146,161.

(Chowan County Commissioners [June 2009 Meeting](#))

A budget amendment in the November 2009 meeting notes included reduced spending on domestic violence services.

BA-0910-74			
3531 DSS	\$ 2,346		Decrease revenue from DHHS for Domestic Violence funding
5351 DSS	\$ 2,346		Decrease expense for domestic violence services

(Chowan County Commission Notes, [November 2009](#))

While Goodwin was a member, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners favored an increase in sales tax.

Timely and Important Matters

Commissioner Nixon asked the Board for discussion of putting a ¼ cent sales tax levy on the November ballot.

Mr. Rascoe stated that calculations estimate this could bring an additional \$150,000 in revenue.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated he felt this would be fair to allow the voters to decide in November. He suggested this be added to the March 1, 2010 Board agenda for discussion.

(Chowan County Board of Commissioners, [February 25th 2010](#))

Republican tax reform overwhelmingly benefitted the wealthy while imposing taxes on middle and working class North Carolinians.

The 2013 Republican tax reform package eliminated several exemptions and deductions that benefitted working class taxpayers. “It’s true that the state’s income tax rate is going down for every taxpayer in 2014. But that does not mean all taxpayers will actually pay less to the state government over the coming year... The tax reform package also eliminates several exemptions and deductions that benefitted working class taxpayers, including a popular program that allowed families a deduction on pre-tax income into a college savings account. According to a recent analysis by the legislature’s own Fiscal Research Division, a married couple with two children making \$20,000 a year will go from receiving a \$222 tax rebate in 2013 to owing \$40 next year, a net swing of \$262. At the other end of the income scale, a married couple with two children making \$250,000 will get a \$2,318 tax cut in 2014, according to the analysis.” (AP, [12/30/13](#); H998, adopted, [7/23/13](#))

2013 Republican tax reform preserved tax breaks for yachts, jets, alcohol, and country clubs while eliminating tax breaks “that benefitted working class taxpayers.” While the *News & Observer* reported, “But still on the books is a \$1,500 cap on the sales tax for a yacht or a jet, a provision that costs the state \$10 million a year in lost revenue. Beer, liquor and tobacco distributors would keep their rebates worth a combined \$12 million annually for collecting taxes from their customers on behalf of the state. Country clubs and other recreational nonprofits keep their exemption from the corporate income tax, a tax break worth a combined \$600,000 a year.” The *Associated Press* reported the Republican Tax Reform plan, “eliminates several exemptions and deductions that benefitted working class taxpayers.” (*News & Observer*, [7/18/13](#); AP, [12/30/13](#); H998, adopted, [7/23/13](#))

The 2016 Republican budget contained “top heavy tax cuts” for the wealthy while imposing taxes on the middle class with expanded sales tax and more fees.

The 2016 Republican budget contained “top heavy tax cuts” for the wealthy and corporations while imposing taxes on the middle class with expanded sales tax and increased fees. “And then consider the budget’s putting \$475 million into the state’s rainy day fund. Republicans apparently are proud of bringing the fund to a near-record level. It is the reserve that helps the state deal with natural disaster and the like. That’s all well and good, but without the top heavy tax cuts, the legislature could have added to the reserve and met today’s needs. There would be money to give state employees a decent raise for a change, or to restore the Teaching Fellows program, or to bolster something like the state’s funding for film companies that do business in the state, funding that has been reduced.” (*News & Observer*, Editorial, [6/28/16](#))

Republicans voted to eliminate EITC, raising taxes on working families. “The state House gave key approval Tuesday to legislation that would eliminate a state tax credit for low-income workers at the end of this year. The demise of the earned-income tax credit was included in [House Bill 82](#), which

updates sections of the federal tax code for North Carolina taxpayers.” (WRAL, [2/19/13](#); H82, adopted [3/13/13](#))

The 2017 Republican budget refused to restore Child Care Tax Credits that could help more than 200,000 families.

Governor Cooper’s budget calls for the reinstatement of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, which could help more than 200,000 families pay for child care. (Governor’s Office Press Release, [6/1/17](#))

Cooper: “Good child care is expensive, and this credit will help bring down the costs that working families face.” “Governor Roy Cooper has proposed creating a child and dependent care tax credit he said in a news release will help working families afford the cost of child care. ‘Good child care is expensive, and this credit will help bring down the costs that working families face,’ said Cooper. ‘This tax break will help ensure that children all across the state will show up at kindergarten ready to learn. As the General Assembly begins their budget process, I urge them to include this child and dependent care tax credit that would benefit over 200,000 North Carolina families.’” (WNCT, [5/3/17](#))

The Republican House & Senate budgets do not provide a child care tax credit. (Governor’s Office Press Release, [6/1/17](#))

The 2017 Republican budget lowered the corporate tax rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent.

Budget favors tax cuts for the wealthy, lowering the corporate income tax rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent. “The budget will make a series of tax cuts in 2019, a delay from earlier House and Senate tax cut proposals that would have taken effect in 2018. It will reduce the personal income tax rate from 5.499 percent to 5.25 percent and raise the standard deduction – the amount on which people pay no income taxes unless they itemize – to \$20,000 for married couples filing jointly from \$17,500. It will also lower the corporate income tax rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent. ‘We are providing tax relief for middle class working families and businesses, and we’re doing it in a prudent way,’ Dollar said.” (News & Observer, [6/28/17](#))

As of January 2017, NC’s corporate income tax is the lowest in the nation according to the Tax Foundation. “North Carolina’s corporate income tax rate, which dropped to 3 percent in January, is the lowest in the nation, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation. The foundation is an independent tax policy research organization that analyzes state tax codes and advocates for competitive policies. In North Carolina, the business tax has been reduced each year since 2013, when the state legislature approved a number of significant changes to the tax code. The state’s corporate income tax has dropped from 6.9 percent to 3 percent over the past four years, giving North Carolina the lowest corporate income tax rate of any state that levies the tax, according to the foundation.” (Economic Development Partnership of NC, [1/4/17](#))

Goodwin supports health care policies that would make health care even more expensive and even less accessible.

North Carolina has the third most expensive health care in the US, according to a 2017 study.

North Carolina ranked 47th across metrics of cost, accessibility, and outcomes in a Wallethub study. (Wallethub, [8/6/18](#))

Blue Cross Blue Shield referenced the study and blamed state government decisions as one reason for the high cost. “In the last few years, North Carolina’s lawmakers made two crucial decisions that caused healthcare costs to rise. First, the state decided not to expand Medicaid coverage. So there are a lot of people in North Carolina’s individual insurance market who might have been covered under Medicaid, but instead, have to purchase insurance through the ACA’s federal marketplace. These folks tend to have more expensive chronic health problems, and the cost of their medical care has [caused insurance premiums for ACA customers](#) in our state to rise.” (Blue Cross Blue Shield, [8/1/17](#))

Goodwin has opposed making health care more affordable.

Goodwin said he opposed the “government takeover of healthcare.” “Ed Goodwin opposes the government takeover of healthcare. As a supporter of the free markets, he believes increased competition within the private sector will lower costs without diminishing the quality or accessibility of care. Ed knows a major cost for families as well as small business owners is the cost of healthcare. He supports allowing business owners to use pre-tax income to purchase healthcare for employees which will make healthcare costs more reasonable for small to medium sized business owners.” (Goodwin2012.com, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

On a Civitas candidate survey, Goodwin agreed with the statement that the Affordable Care Act should be repealed and disagreed with the statement that North Carolina should implement a state health insurance exchange to comply with the ACA. (2012 Civitas Candidate Survey, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

Goodwin disagreed that North Carolina should implement a state health insurance exchange to comply with the Affordable Care Act. (2012 Civitas Candidate Survey, retrieved [5/29/18](#))

Republicans voted against Medicaid expansion that covered 500,000 low-income North Carolinians and was fully funded by federal money for three years, costing the state \$15 billion in new economic activity.

Republicans blocked Medicaid expansion that covered 500,000 low-income North Carolinians and was fully funded by federal tax money for three years, and 90 percent of costs thereafter.

“The Medicaid expansion would cover about 500,000 low-income adults in North Carolina, providing them the insurance coverage required when the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented next year. The federal government would pick up the full cost of the expansion for the first three years and the bulk of the costs for several years after that.” (WRAL, [2/14/13](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))

Legislature’s refusal to expand Medicaid will cost NC \$21 billion in federal funds between 2016 and 2020. “North Carolina’s Republican-dominated legislature has so far refused to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. It’s already been noted by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine that not expanding Medicaid is costing around 500,000 state residents coverage. Now a new report from the Center for Health Policy Research at George Washington University commissioned by the Cone Health Foundation finds the refusal to expand Medicaid would cost North Carolina \$21 billion in federal

matching funds between 2016 and 2020 and tens of thousands of jobs. The analysis looks at the costs to the state on a county-by-county basis.” (WCQS, [10/19/15](#))

Medicaid expansion would mean \$15 billion in new economic activity and 25,000 jobs for North Carolina by 2016. “The cost would be fully funded by the federal government for the first three years. For five years following that, the federal government would pay 90 percent of the cost, and the state would pay 10 percent. That’s a much more favorable cost share than regular Medicaid, for which the state pays one-third of the cost. If lawmakers approve the expansion, it would bring a projected \$15 billion into the state’s economy, creating an estimated 25,000 jobs in health care and related sectors by 2016.” (WRAL, [2/11/13](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))

Refusal to expand Medicaid cost the state anywhere from 455 to over 1,000 lives annually.

Blocking Medicaid expansion cost 455 to 1,145 lives per year and resulted in higher costs for employers. “Two studies out this month say turning down the federal Medicaid expansion could cost North Carolina the lives of hundreds of low-income uninsured people per year and leave businesses on the hook for tens of millions of dollars annually in tax penalties, beginning in 2015. An analysis released by tax preparation firm Jackson Hewitt urges policymakers debating Medicaid expansion to include “the very real costs of the shared responsibility tax penalties to employers” in calculating the net costs of expansion to the state... Another new analysis by health policy experts from Harvard University and City University of New York finds that opting out of Medicaid expansion will cost between 455 and 1,145 lives a year in North Carolina.” (WRAL, [1/31/14](#); S4, ratified, [3/6/13](#))

Goodwin said he believes teacher pay is where it needs to be.

Goodwin said local officials should try to meet a mandate to reduce class sizes without asking for more state funding, he also believes that teacher pay is where it needs to be. On school safety, Goodwin has said, “More armed people may not be the answer.” “Regarding educational issues, Goodwin suggested local officials should try to meet a mandate to reduce class sizes without asking for more state funding. As for teacher raises, which the state has granted over the past few years, Goodwin said he now believes teacher pay is where it needs to be. On the subject of school safety, Goodwin said he believes the state should provide more resources, such as help with security planning, facility improvements, and additional school resource officers. He also suggested enhanced security technology in schools may be preferable to armed school personnel. “More armed people may not be the answer,” he said.” (Daily Advance, [4/11/18](#))

- **Goodwin later clarified his statement on teacher pay, saying he didn’t oppose additional raises but that the state needs to be fair in how it gives raises and not overlook other state employees.** “As to the candidates’ qualifications, Goodwin declined to debate who has the better resume, though he noted he also served in the U.S. Air Force, is a retired Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent and has small business experience as a farmer. He asked voters look at each candidate’s track record. Clarifying his comment on teacher pay, Goodwin said he felt the state had made progress on teacher pay and he didn’t oppose additional raises. However, he argued the state needs to be fair in how it gives raises, and not overlook other state employees.” (Daily Advance, [5/22/18](#))

Over half of all North Carolina teachers have a second job; the state ranks 41st in the country for average teacher pay.

According to data from the National Center for Education Statistics, over half of all North Carolina teachers have a second job. “Phillips’ story is not unusual. More than half of all North Carolina public school educators have a second job in the school year, either within the school system or outside employment.” (EdNC, [11/20/17](#))

North Carolina ranks 41st in the country for average teacher pay according to the National Education Association. [North Carolina ranks 41st in the country for average teacher pay, according to the latest numbers from the National Education Association.](#) North Carolina’s average annual pay of \$47,941 lags nearly \$10,000 behind the national average. During the national recession in 2009, average teacher pay in the state fell faster than the national average. Increasing teacher pay has been a [legislative priority for several decades.](#)” (EdNC, [11/20/17](#))

The 2017 Republican budget failed to meaningfully raise teacher salaries and did not give a raise to beginning teachers.

Many educators, including veterans of 25 years, will only see an increase of \$30 a month, merely a tank of gas under the North Carolina budget. “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](#), S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

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](#), S257, Vetoes [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

Enrollment in teaching programs down 30 percent over the past 5 years, with other states luring away teachers with higher salaries. “This new budget comes at a time when education in North Carolina is mired in a unique crisis, with enrollment in our state university teacher preparation programs down 30 percent over the past five years and other states luring our teachers away with higher pay.” (Charlotte Observer, Op-Ed, [6/21/17](#), S257, Vetoes [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

As the chair of the Chowan County Commissioners, Goodwin recommended “holding the line” with the school reserve budget. The chair of the board of education objected to the county budget.

SCHOOLS CURRENT EXPENSE

3,065,660.00

School Superintendent Dr. Alan Smith reported on the current events in the General Assembly that will affect the School budget for FY 2009-10.

Commissioner Cole asked about retired teachers working in the school.

Dr. Smith said that there are only 4 currently.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said that he would recommend holding the line with the school budget adding that with the school's reserve balance, the school budget should remain solid.

([May 2010](#), Special Meeting Notes)

Since this meeting I have tried to remain in contact with Eddy on a regular basis so that this important line of communication would remain open. This ability to communicate paid dividends as the two boards worked through the recent budget shortfall that we all wish could have been avoided. The Board of Education agreed to return \$513,000 of that delayed allocation, which represents more than half of the shortfall, to assist the county in closing a gap of more than \$970,000.

Once again as the budget process has unfolded, Eddy and I have had numerous conversations regarding the Board of Education's role and responsibility in helping to resolve this seemingly insurmountable crisis. Mr. Goodwin has been assured on many occasions that it is the Board of Education's desire to be a part of the solution to the current budget difficulties in an equitable way.

At the May 18th work session, a summary of the challenges that the board would face with a reduction of (\$665,000), or half of the currently proposed budget reduction (\$1.2 million) was presented for your consideration. The reduction included the loss of all technology monies (\$200,000), as well as over \$80,000 in desperately needed capital outlay money, not to mention \$383,000 in current expense dollars. This is a tremendous reduction, but through fiscal responsibility can be managed in a manner so as not to adversely affect the classroom. This must be the Board of County Commissioners' and the Board of Education's primary concern.

If local reductions remain at the proposed level, the school system will not be able to absorb them without drastically reducing its reserves. A reduction of \$1.2 million, as proposed, would have dire effects on our schools, especially when combined with the drastic cuts being made in state funding. We may lose up to 26 school system positions through state cuts alone. A reduction this large would mean even more school system employees would be at risk. The board believes it has already covered a disproportionate share of the burden to help the county weather this financial crisis. Services to children will inevitably suffer; many school employees will lose their jobs, and our school system will not be able to maintain its high level of quality.

(Chowan County Commissioners, [May 27 Special Meeting](#))

The Board of Education must object on two accounts. First, this reduction combined with an estimated \$1.9 million reduction in state funds will decimate the quality of educational services for the students of Chowan County. The net effect of state and local reductions of more than \$3 million will sorely cripple an already strained operating budget. The proposed local reduction would decrease the current expense budget by \$800,000 and completely eliminate funds for technology and capital outlay of \$200,000 each. A loss of \$1.2 million dollars will result in a loss of more than \$500 per boy and girl in our schools. For a class of 25 students that would mean there would be \$12,500 less to support the classroom. Edenton-Chowan Schools currently ranks 47th out of the 115 North Carolina school systems, or slightly above the median, in the amount of local funds allocated to the schools on a per pupil basis. If the proposed reduction is approved, that ranking would drop to 100th.

Second, the schools are asked once again to shoulder a disproportional share of local budget cuts. As stated earlier, the schools contributed more than half of the reductions in March in order for the County to realize a balanced budget for this year. The proposed school reductions for the 2009-2010 budget of \$1.2 million is by far the largest reduction of any funded agency or County department and represents a decrease of 28.22% of local revenue from the current budget year. No other agency or department (with the exception of recreation) with an operating budget of more than \$400,000 is expected to receive a reduction remotely as drastic. This year's County budget is \$17.2 million compared to the latest proposed budget for next year of \$15.3 million. The schools are asked to absorb \$1.2 million of the \$1.9 million difference between this year's and next year's budgets. In other words, the schools which account for approximately 24% of the County's budget is asked to make up over 60% of the total reductions. Even when expenditures for new debt are factored, the cuts to the schools are half of the reductions in the County's budget for next year.

(Chowan County Commissioners, [May 27 Special Meeting](#))

Goodwin is a McCrory crony who briefly worked as a political appointee and later replaced a 20-year veteran of the Ferry system as its director in 2014, launching his political career after a failed bid for NC Secretary of State.

Goodwin was appointed by Pat McCrory to lead the eastern director for the governor's office after losing the Secretary of State election. "Goodwin has a long history of leadership in both civilian and military positions that will be vital as the division redoubles its efforts to develop new strategies, operate more efficiently and better serve customers," the NCDOT news release said. After serving one term as a Chowan commissioner, Goodwin won the Republican nomination for Secretary of State in 2012, and lost by 228,147 votes to incumbent Democrat Elaine Marshall. Goodwin was appointed eastern director for the governor's office in April 2013." (Outer Banks Voice, [4/7/14](#))

Despite having no experience, McCrory appointed Goodwin to direct the Ferry Division. He replaced a 20-year veteran and received higher pay.

McCrory appointed Goodwin to lead the NC Ferry Division in April 2014 even though he had no experience working in the ferry office, which is the second-largest state-run ferry system in the country. "He has no experience within the ferry office, according to a DOT spokesman. He succeeds Harold Thomas, who started working for the division in 1994 and became director in late 2011, when Democrat Beverly Perdue was governor. He has been demoted to one of two deputy director positions. Goodwin, who will work out of Manns Harbor, will focus on broader initiatives related to customer service, capital improvements and relations with legislators, DOT ferry spokesman Tim Hass said. The General Assembly has mandated that future ship purchases be paid in part through tolls, advertising and concessions. Opposition is vocal to a proposal by the system to raise ferry tolls or create new tolls on all seven regular routes along the coast. The division, with 22 ferries and 2 million passengers annually, is the second-largest state-run ferry system in the country." (AP, 4/8/2014)

Goodwin replaced a veteran employee to lead the NC Ferry System after leading former Governor Pat McCrory's eastern regional office for nearly a year. "Gov. Pat McCrory's eastern North Carolina representative was named state ferry system director Monday, replacing a veteran employee to lead one of the nation's largest passenger boat operations. The Department of Transportation announced the hiring of Ed Goodwin, who for nearly a year led the Republican governor's eastern regional office. Goodwin's career has included 21 years in the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. He was also chairman of the Chowan County commission." (AP, 4/8/2014).

Goodwin was hired to make \$92,029, the person he replaced took a pay cut from \$85,602 to \$56,832. "Goodwin will make \$92,029 annually, an 84 percent increase over the \$50,000 McCrory's office said he made as chief of his eastern office. The governor's office "didn't have any involvement" in Goodwin's hiring for the ferry job, McCrory spokesman Ryan Tronovitch said. Thomas' predecessor made about the same amount as Goodwin will as director. Thomas' pay will be cut by one-third from \$85,602 to \$56,832, Hass said. Thomas, who will remain in Morehead City and fellow deputy director Jed Dixon will "continue to play critical leadership roles" in the system's day-to-day operation, DOT said. Hass wrote by email that DOT hired Goodwin and other new leaders in the department as part of an effort to "operate more efficiently and better serve customers." Thomas was praised by DOT for his handling of recovery efforts after Hurricane Irene. A state audit of the ferry system released in July 2011 found problems with nepotism and budgeting within the ferry division. The department said at the time the issues had been or were being addressed." (AP, 4/8/2014)

Goodwin, who had no experience in the Ferry system replaced a 20-year Ferry system employee who had served in the position for 3 years and climbed his way through the ranks in the 1990s working as a crew member, then oiler, then chief engineer. "The Ferry Division is fortunate to have Ed Goodwin as its new Director", said NCDOT Chief Deputy Secretary Nick Tennyson "He brings the type of visionary leadership experience that will help guide the Ferry System into the future and secure its place as a safe, reliable and efficient transportation link for Eastern North Carolina and an exceptional experience for the region's visitors." Former director Thomas, who had served in the position since November 2011, is to remain with the Ferry Division as a deputy director based out of Morehead City. Having worked up through the ranks, Mr. Thomas first started working with the Ferry Division as a ferry crew member I in 1994 at the Cherry Branch-Minnesott Beach route, later worked his way up to oiler and then to chief engineer." (The Carteret County News-Times, 4/9/2014)

Goodwin supported putting tolls on more NC ferries.

Goodwin said a state law for funding the region's fleet of ferries is not working. "N.C. Ferry Division Director Ed Goodwin says a state law for funding the region's aging fleet of ferry vessels is not working. State lawmakers mandated in 2013 that the ferry division pay for costly ferry replacements by tolling or by drawing from local highway funds that area leaders say are already overstretched. So far, regional organizations that must OK tolls have resisted adding charges to some routes. In the meantime, Goodwin said the ferry division is spending more and more on "sky-high" upkeep of worn-out ferries, some more than 50 years old. With no extra money coming from the state, the ferry division faces some tough spending choices in the years ahead, he said." (Daily Advance, [10/5/2015](#))

Goodwin said tolls on the \$2 million passenger ferry could pay for its replacement. "Goodwin said tolls on the \$2 million passenger ferry could easily pay for its future replacement. Currently, the untolled ferry route that transports both vehicles and passengers is overbooked in summer, and the problem is hurting tourism in Ocracoke, said Goodwin. "From a business perspective, I am looking at how to solve congestion problems and impacts to the local economy," he said. More than half of the division's 22 ferry vessels run the route. Altogether, the ferry division needs to replace six vessels, each costing between \$12 million and \$18 million, Goodwin said. The ferry division once used income from tolled routes, like the one at Southport, to fund operations, but the state now requires the funds go toward ferry replacements on those routes. In the past, the state paid for ferry replacements through special allocations by the General Assembly. Goodwin agrees with local leaders that tolling the Currituck-to-Knotts Island ferry "makes no sense from a business perspective." The cost for tolling the route would exceed the money it would make, he said. Still, Goodwin does not know how soon the Hunt — the ferry vessel named for former Gov. Jim Hunt that operates across the Currituck Sound — will be replaced. When the aged ferry broke down last year, the part to fix it was not available. The company that built the ferry no longer existed, so the ferry division had to find somebody willing to make the part, Goodwin said." (Daily Advance, [10/5/15](#))

###