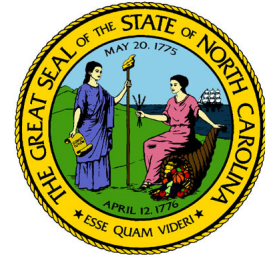




Rep. Ruth Samuelson

Online with Ruth

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October 28, 2009

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Raleigh, NC

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. As the weather cools and the leaves turn, I find myself thinking of new beginnings. “What?” you say. I know that sounds unusual, but the holiday season passes quickly and the New Year will be here before we know it. Now is a great time to take stock of things and prepare to begin the year with gusto. Will you help?

I would like to hear from you on the issues and concerns that you would like to see addressed in the coming “short session” of the legislature. The “short session” is primarily a time when we adjust the budget and work on unfinished business from the previous year. However, we can introduce new local bills and tweak existing bills that are still in committee. So if you have an idea, tell me about it!

Here is a quick update on a few legislative items to get you thinking:

- The state’s fiscal year began in July and the first quarter revenues are 1% below projections. The first quarter of the fiscal year was projected to be the worst quarter with economic conditions slowly improving the rest of the year. The consensus is the recession ended in August.
- The House Finance Committee will be meeting in November to renew discussions of how North Carolina should adjust its revenue/taxing structure to adapt to the new economy. The hope is that we can craft a system that will help stabilize revenues through the inevitable economic ups and downs.
- Interim committees have started meeting and I am in Raleigh monthly for ERC (Environmental Review Commission) meetings. I suspect the controversial Alcoa/Yadkin River Trust matter will be back up for discussion before long.
- There are a number of laws that go into effect January 1, 2010 that may affect you. Smoking will be prohibited in bars, restaurants and a few other public places. Texting while driving was always unwise, now it’s illegal. And, if you decide to sell your scrap gold, please remind the buyer that they must have a precious metals license, even for in-home parties.
- People often ask me about education funding and who is responsible for each type of expense. I posted a helpful Power Point on the “Newsletter” section of my website if you want to know more www.RuthSamuelson.com.

I hope this brief overview stimulates your thinking on other matters you may want me to address. You can also go to the state website, www.ncleg.net to get more details on specific legislation, revenue projections or committee agendas. If you need help finding something on the site, call my assistant Susan. She’s always happy to help.

Democracy is a terrible thing to waste, so **please be sure to vote in the municipal elections on November 3.** The people you elect to serve you locally have a powerful influence on how we serve you on the state level.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent District 104 in Raleigh. I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings on a beautiful Fall and a holiday season full of thanksgiving!

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns or comments you may have. We look forward to hearing from you. You can reach us at our Raleigh number at (919) 715-3009 or you can email us at ruths@ncleg.net or samuelsonla@ncleg.net

Best wishes,
Representative Ruth Samuelson
District 104, Mecklenburg County

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Susan Phillips Legislative Assistant