



**SENATOR JERRY TILLMAN  
SENATE MAJORITY WHIP**

# SENATE UPDATE

January 18, 2012



## **Romney**

Former Massachusetts Governor and businessman extraordinaire Mitt Romney appears poised to win again Saturday in South Carolina. With three wins in succession, can he be stopped? I doubt it. No Republican, in my memory has ever done this. It takes money, organization and enough brains to not shoot yourself in the foot every other week. Romney has done all these better than the others. The perfect candidate he is not. He's plenty good enough to beat Obama and that makes him plenty good enough for me. Some people want to win ideological battles. I want to win the War and the rest of the GOP had better start thinking this way pretty soon. We will see.....

Interesting tidbits on New Hampshire GOP Primary

Primary Voters:

- Republicans 49%
- Independents 47%
- Democrats 5%
- Conservatives 52%
- Moderates – Liberals 48%
- Christian right 22%

GOP Primary (NH) vote results:

- Romney 39%
- Paul 13%
- Huntsman 17%
- Gingrich 10%
- Santorum 9%
- Perry 1% (did not campaign in N.H.)

Most people I talk to tell me they favor Romney because they think he's our best hope to beat Obama. I believe they are right. Time will tell.....Nothing in politics is a sure thing.

## **Romney Tax Returns**

Mitt, you have to have a better answer on releasing your tax returns than you put forth Monday night. I can't believe you were not prepared for this one....

Foot Note: I would not count Newt out, with one more debate before Saturday's South Carolina primary, anything can happen. We will see..... Newt has never been afraid to land a punch on his foes, and he's mighty good at it. If the race ever comes down to a one on one (Newt vs. Romney) then it's a whole new ball game .....all bets are off.....

Wild cards that can foul GOP plans:

- Ron Paul on Libertarian ticket
- Gary Johnson on Libertarian ticket
- Donald Trump as Third Party candidate

You can probably add several other names to the list. I don't know which direction the election will take. You can bet the Democrats will field only one candidate.

## **1% Group**

Mitt Romney will be accused, he already is, of being a 1% er, a corporate raider, a vulture capitalist, and on and on. When you are capable and smart enough to take private corporations, many of which were struggling and make them successful, you are worth millions and will be paid handsomely for this. When you can do what Romney did it puts you in a very elite group. Remember, Romney did this with private dollars, not government dollars. Anybody can take other people's (taxpayer) money and throw it at job creation, etc. This rarely works. The market place will dictate decisions, not an artificial infusion of taxpayer bailouts.

Did some businesses close their doors and layoff people? Yes, they did. This happens every day. The unprofitable ones did not survive. How many businessmen worth their salt will pour good money into failing businesses? Romney did what he was paid to do, made businesses stronger and more competitive so they could make a profit, expand and hire thousands of new workers. Candidates who fault Romney for his role at Bain Capital are missing the mark and hurting their own campaigns, while at the same time giving liberals ammunition for the big fight. We will see.....

## **5 Extra School Days for Students**

Many of you have voiced legitimate concerns over this legislation. I have been listening and will work to change the law to what I hope will work better for everyone. We could

add an additional 20-30 minutes to each school day. This will add up to 90 additional hours or the equivalent of 10-15 days of seat time for students.

Some of the obvious benefits:

- No additional cost for transportation, fuel and drivers
- No additional school food operation cost
- Restores 5 teacher work days
- Allows for make-up days due to weather/emergencies, etc.
- Additional focused instruction for students (we are behind most of the industrialized world in test scores and time in school)

I want to thank all who shared your views with me on this issue.

### **Number of State-Funded Teachers**

I don't like saying I told you so (yes I do) but I told you so. Please note the following provided by the Civitas Institute.

Raleigh, N.C. – While headlines scream about k-12 education cuts across the state, preliminary data obtained from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) indicates state funded personnel in local school systems actually increased at the start of this school year.

An analysis of the data obtained from NCDPI indicates the number of state- funded teachers increased by over 2,000 with many of those coming at the elementary level. Overall state-funded employment in k -12 was up over 4,500 employees.

While overall employment in k-12 education was down year over year, the loss appears to be mostly the result of a loss of over 7,300 federally funded positions. Local funding also appears to have been involved in the loss of over 2,100 employees.

“While we have heard repeatedly that the state budget had devastated education in North Carolina, the preliminary numbers do not support that claim,” said Civitas Institute policy analyst Bob Luebke.

The school personnel data is reported by the Local Education Agencies to NCDPI and used to compile annual K-12 personnel figures. The figures analyzed here are preliminary and have not been validated by NCDPI.

### **Perdue tries to one-up Faison**

Raleigh, N.C. – Gov. Beverly Perdue today proposed a \$750 million tax hike – her first of the new year. It ups the ante on probable primary opponent Rep. Bill Faison, who proposed a mere \$700 million in new taxes a few short months ago.

I can tell you, Gov. Perdue's attempt to nip this economic recovery in the bud is dead on arrival at the General Assembly. The Democratic primary for governor apparently has devolved into a fight over who can raise the most taxes, spend the most money, and grow the biggest government. Gov. Perdue's latest tax-hike stunt proves she can't fix this mess she made.

The governor's proposal comes just a few weeks after her own education agency released a report showing more than 4,000 state-funded education positions were added over the past year.

Question: Why is it that Government's first answer is always raising taxes?  
Governor do you not know we're in a recession and our unemployment rate is still at near record highs?

### **Quotes**

“The trouble with the world is not that people know too little; it's that they know so many things that just aren't so.” M. Twain

“Every leader, public or private, has good budget years and bad ones. Responsible leaders make it their mission to do the very best they can with the resources they have...that's the mission and vision they share.” Rick Hess

“If you want to feel rich, just count all the gifts you have that money can't buy.”  
Anonymous

### **Senator Jerry Tillman can be reached on Facebook**

Are you on Facebook?

You can reach Senator Jerry Tillman by clicking this link.

<http://www.facebook.com/jerrywtillman>

Once you get to Jerry's page, just hit the like button at the top of the page and you'll start getting updates during the week.

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can sign up for an account so you can start getting Jerry's updates.

Then tell your friends and neighbors who might want to know what Jerry is doing in Raleigh for the folks in Randolph and Montgomery counties.

Again, just click:

<http://www.facebook.com/jerrywtillman>

To connect today.

### **You Can Follow Senator Tillman on Twitter**

Go to <http://www.twitter.com/jerrytillman> and sign up to follow Senator Tillman.

**SENATOR JERRY TILLMAN**  
**SENATE MAJORITY WHIP**  
628 Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808  
Phone: 919.733.5870  
Fax: 919.754.3339  
[jerryt@ncleg.net](mailto:jerryt@ncleg.net)