



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 1, 2015

REP. JUSTIN BURR TO SEEK A FIFTH TERM TO NC HOUSE

State Representative Justin Burr announced today that he will seek a fifth term to the North Carolina House of Representatives. Burr currently serves the 67th District, which covers all of Stanly County and nearly all of Montgomery County.

"I have been honored to serve the people of the 67th District. I have continued to keep my commitment to give the District a real conservative voice in Raleigh by standing up, without hesitation, for our conservative principles and the needs of our District," Burr said. "I have an established record as an effective representative who stands firm on our District's beliefs that tax dollars must not be misspent, and that government must be limited and responsible. I have fought, and will continue to fight, for a conservative, efficient, and limited government with lower taxes."

Since being elected to the House, Burr has been a successful and committed champion for the District. Much needed investments in education, public safety, and transportation have been made, while the state's personal and corporate income taxes have been lowered.

"We have put more money back into the pockets of the people, while moving NC from one of the worst, to one of the most business friendly states in the nation. We are moving in the right direction." Burr stated.

Even with all of these successes of the Republican General Assembly since gaining the majority in the 2010 elections, Burr says there is still more work to be done.

During the first four years in the majority, Republicans were effective and efficient in their way of governing; they were able to boast that they were nothing like the gridlock of Washington D.C. or the way Raleigh was governed under the Democrats. Burr, however, believes that since the election of a new House speaker in 2015, that is no longer the case.

"Rather than build on the success of former Speaker Thom Tillis, the current Speaker has chosen to return to days reminiscent of the unsuccessful and toxic governing style of former House Speakers Jim Black and Richard Morgan." Burr said.

Additionally, Burr elaborated that the current Speaker was quick to marginalize the conservatives of the House, and instead align himself with a small group of his personal friends and a number of House Democrats. Instead of making an effort to work together after the leadership elections like former Speaker Tillis did in 2011, the new Speaker decided to resort to the old style of dirty politics that has caused many citizens to lose faith in our government. Burr stated that he has seen the power structure of the House become consolidated in the hands of four or five members, pushing an agenda that does not align with the Republican's promises to be efficient and effective with the taxpayers' dollars.

"Under the leadership of the current House Speaker, we have seen the House's productivity and

accomplishments reach an all-time low. Unlike the accomplished 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 sessions, this year was one of the most unproductive sessions in recent history. I believe that poor leadership skills and a move to a top-down approach to control the House, are to blame." Burr explained.

- In 2015 at least 38 of the 134 days of session had no votes.
- The 2015 session was one of the longest sessions in the past 50 years.
- Two new weeks of vacation were added to the General Assembly's schedule (One of those weeks was added so that the current Speaker could take a vacation to Europe).
- The regular long session of 2015 ended on September 30th, compared to June 18th in 2011 and July 26th in 2013.
- In 134 legislative days of 2015 the House cast 1099 votes, compared to 2011, when the House cast 1317 votes in 103 legislative days (which included several special sessions to address vetoes and the redistricting plans).
- In 2015, only 300 pieces of legislation were enacted by the September 30 adjournment – which appears to be a new record low in productivity for the General Assembly. Compared to the 2011 adjournment when nearly 400 pieces of legislation were enacted by June 18, and the 2013 adjournment when 416 pieces of legislation were enacted by July 26.
- The current speaker waited 22 days to appoint the House members to the conference committee to negotiate out the budget differences with the Senate. This lack of action significantly delayed the ability for the General Assembly to finalize the state budget.

Burr pointed out that throughout the 2015 session, the Speaker proposed new pork spending and additional corporate welfare. Burr said that he joined with other committed conservatives to form a coalition that ended up successfully blocking millions of the leadership's irresponsible spending habits in the final budget.

"Unfortunately we were not able to stop it all, but we reined them in significantly." Burr said.

Burr said that their successes included the elimination of the annual transfer of the Highway Fund revenue to the General Fund budget, which the General Assembly had been phasing out in the past four years. House Leadership opposed the elimination of the annual transfer in 2015, and instead proposed an increase to the transfer, thus giving them more of the people's tax dollars to feed their bad spending habits. With the successful elimination of the annual transfer from the Highway Fund to the General Fund, more of the taxpayer's dollars will go directly to funding much needed road projects across the State, including the expansion of Highway 24/27 and critical bridge repairs.

"I will continue to be the District's conservative voice, working to ensure we are able to stop more of these irresponsible proposals and to put more money into the core functions of government, such as education or public safety, or back into the pockets of every single taxpayer, where it belongs." Burr said.

Burr knows the work is not nearly close to complete, and looks forward to going back to Raleigh to continue the battle, and to keep his promise to govern conservatively and efficiently.

Burr concluded, "If you send me back to Raleigh, I will continue to stand up for our communities' principles and fight the good ol' boy mentality that resides with some folks both here at home and in the legislature. We promised to change the way politicians do business in Raleigh, and I promise to continue to fight irresponsible spending and unprincipled governing. I would be honored to have your support again and humbly ask for your vote."