



Eva Ingle for NC Senate

District 30

Stokes, Surry & Wilkes Counties

August 11, 2014

My Fellow Citizens,

The current leadership in Raleigh, including our incumbent Senator Shirley Randleman, has made radical changes since taking control of state government in 2013. I have decided to run for the NC Senate in order to **provide a choice** to our current representation in Raleigh. In the coming months, I will share comments on actions taken by our representatives and how these actions are affecting the people in our counties.

North Carolina going down!

Back in the 1958 when I was taking college courses, one of the professors told our class something I have never forgotten. He said that the amount of money spent on public education in North Carolina compared to the wealth in the state was the highest in the nation. We might not be the richest state in the U.S., but we had every right to be proud of ourselves for the high value we placed on education.

I have spent years following my husband around to various cities in the northeast and Midwest, and I was always proud to say I was from North Carolina because it had a reputation for good government and good education. However since the recession and the new crop of legislators in Raleigh, that pride has been shaken.

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- Reduction in the number of teacher assistants,
- Cuts in textbooks and classroom supplies,
- A voucher program sending taxpayer money to private schools, with limited accountability,
- Refusal to raise teacher salaries.

Consider Legislative Action in 2014:

- Adopted a sleight of hand compensation package for teachers which promises more than it delivers,
- Raised teacher salaries by raiding reserves and using non-recurring, one time funds,
- Increased the money going to the voucher program, with limited accountability,
- Abolished enrollment based funding for our schools.

And for the Future?

As we look to the future, I have several concerns:

- More uncertainty about funding as a likely shortage of funds in 2015 becomes worse because of reckless cuts in taxes,
- In 2015 the sources of one time funds used in 2014 will be gone,
- The shifting of responsibility for education funding and allocation decisions to local Boards of Education and County Commissions, which will create either underfunded local schools or increased local property and sales taxes.

The folks in Raleigh seem to be obsessed with “tenure” in our education system. I wonder why. Is all the time and fuss about tenure in our legislature’s deliberations in fact a “straw man”, designed to take our attention away from more important issues such as funding levels and siphoning public money to private schools? Tenure, as practiced in North Carolina, does not provide lifetime job security. It only provides for a hearing with outside officials if a teacher is fired. While the final budget did not eliminate tenure for

teachers already eligible for this status, the practical effect of the tenure fuss was to smear the image of the professional teacher in our communities.

Because of the reckless and short sighted actions taken by our elected representatives in Raleigh, the credibility of our schools and teachers has been undermined. North Carolina's standing in the nation has been denigrated. We have been pushed into the ranks of other states which have no reputation for looking after their children and their future.

For rural counties such as ours, where education is the key to the future of our children and to economic development in the region, we have suffered a serious blow to our long term viability. Why, for example, would any company come into a county whose educational system will not be able to provide the skills for our young people to compete with other communities, states and nations? They won't.

North Carolina's and our counties' future is dependent upon leadership in Raleigh which makes clear, again, that our state values education by putting our money where our mouth is.

I'd love to know what you think. Join a discussion [here](#) or by email at eva@wilkes.net.



Join Me in Making the Voice of Reason Heard!

My friends have advised that we must raise our voice across the counties by going on local radio. We have begun to "turn the radio on!". (Hear it [here](#).) You can make this happen by contributing \$10 to cover one spot during the coming months. Go [here](#) to contribute.

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