

STATE & LOCAL

Bev, Bills, and the Budget:

Governor Perdue's Budget Plan and Vetoing of Bills Angers North Carolinians

Julia Dent, Staff Writer

Even though Beverly Perdue was mentioned as a possible candidate for vice president of the United States when elected as North Carolina's governor in 2009, she has since then lost some favor.

Perdue has compiled an extensive résumé in North Carolina politics for the past two decades. From 1991 to 2001, she was one of our state's two senators and served as lieutenant governor from 2001 to 2009. She won the election for governor in 2008.

Perdue has shown her girl-power in the state government by vetoing many bills this past term. A major bill she recently denied was the Voter-ID Bill, which would require photo identification in order to vote to help prevent voter fraud.

"North Carolinians who are eligible to vote have a constitutionally guaranteed right to cast their ballots, and no one should put up obstacles to citizens exercising that right," Perdue stated in her defense.

An example of an obstacle,

Perdue said, would a recently expired license meaning preventing someone from voting. Critics contend that there are seven other acceptable forms of identification, including a free voter card.

Six months into her term, Perdue raised taxes, another factor in the decline in her popularity. A more recent factor is budget cuts affecting schools and thousands of jobs in a time of recession. She is also combining fourteen state agencies to create eight new ones. In the process, Perdue will be saving the state about \$4.6 billion and creating 4,700 jobs but destroying 14,000 jobs at the same time.

"This budget does none of the smoke and mirrors," Perdue states.

But the executive director of the State Employees Association of North Carolina, Dana Cope, disagrees with these cuts. "The governor is advocating for more money from working people in the state of North Carolina, offering less services,



image via stimulatingbroadband.com

so she can give it to wealthy corporations. That is a mixture for disaster," Cope argues. "I think the governor's proposal puts North Carolina in a race for the bottom."

Many people agree with Cope, reflected in Perdue's drop in favor beneath McCrory.

In the school system, drastic cuts have been made. "We've understood for nearly 100 years in North Carolina that education is fundamental to the future welfare of this state," Perdue said about her decision of budget cutting in education. But the impact of her budget has led critics to question her commitment to education. Perdue has settled to drop Science Olympiad, Teacher Cadets, 4,000 non-teacher jobs in the school systems, and numerous other school programs. She also approved cutting the funding for textbooks by a third and cutting funding for NCCAT, a program which has helped teachers improve student test scores significantly over the past 25 years, by one half.

Yet Perdue stands by her actions. "North Carolina is going backwards on education. We have just been told that North Carolina has moved to 49th in the nation in how we fund public schools," said Perdue.

"I believe that Governor Perdue

made a huge mistake cutting the Teacher Cadet Program," said Becca Hansen, a former Teacher Cadet at Lumberton High School. "This program is so important in training future teachers, and the state of North Carolina is always in need of teachers. I was a fellow Teacher Cadet my senior year of high school, and this program helped me to come out of my shell. This program helps to build confidence, and helps build lasting relationships with other Teacher Cadets and the students that you teach. It is truly a shame that this program is no longer going to exist in North Carolina schools." While observers on both sides agree that these budget cuts will save the state money, they are divided on the long-term effects on the school system and job market. Critics contend that the resulting impact may even be worse than increased government debt.

STAFF

herald@email.meredith.edu

Editors

Emily Gamiel
Ashleigh Phillips

Staff Writers

Shanna Alley
Molly Ashline
Samantha Biswas
Rebecca Brodney
Jillian Curtis
Julia Dent
Kristen Gallagher
Sarah Potratz
Christa Riley
Ritika Seal
Melissa Vink
Lizzie Wood

Layout Editor

Emily Hawkins

Literature Advisor

Anne Britt

The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through independent advertising. All advertisements should be sent to heraldadvertising@email.meredith.edu.

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the College administration, faculty, or student body.

The policy of this paper requires that submissions be made by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication and that contributors sign all submissions and provide necessary contact information. The editors and staff welcome submissions meeting the above guidelines.

Mission Statement:

The staff of The *Meredith Herald* is committed to representing our diverse community by publicizing local events, by addressing controversy, by cultivating civic engagement and by empowering women.

Publication Schedule:

September 7
September 21
October 5
October 19
November 2

Published by Hinton Press

We're online!

Fan us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/
meredithherald](https://www.facebook.com/meredithherald)

Follow us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/
meredithherald](https://twitter.com/meredithherald)