Legislative Update

Presented by: David Barnes, ElectriCities of N.C.
Drew Elliot, ElectriCities of N.C.
Federal Legislative Update
Key players and key issues
An Influential Delegation

• **Democrats**
  • David Price: Chair, Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee
  • G.K. Butterfield: House Energy and Commerce Committee

• **Republicans**
  • Richard Burr: Chair, Senate Intelligence Committee
  • Patrick McHenry: Republican Leader, House Financial Services Committee
  • Mark Walker: Founder, Republican Study Committee
  • Virginia Foxx: Republican Leader, House Education and Labor Committee
  • Mark Meadows: Chair, House Freedom Caucus
  • Richard Hudson: House Energy and Commerce Committee
  • David Rouzer, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
  • George Holding: House Ways and Means Committee
Special Elections

- **US House District 3 (Jones seat)**
  - State Rep. Dr. Greg Murphy won July 9 runoff
  - General election pits Murphy against Democrat Allen Thomas on September 10
  - Winner will be seated in Congress immediately to serve until Jan. 2021

- **US House District 9 (Pittenger seat)**
  - “Battle of the Dans”
  - Entrepreneur and retired Marine officer Dan McCready is the Democratic candidate
  - State Sen. Dan Bishop, a lawyer, is the GOP candidate
  - General election will occur on September 10
  - Winner will be seated in Congress immediately to serve until Jan. 2021
Energy Policy

**Senate Approach**
- Senate floor time and political messaging
- Green New Deal vote
- Murkowski (R-AK) continues to press energy legislation

**House Approach**
- Leadership agenda and climate change
  - Energy and Commerce Dems introduce plan to mandate net-zero GHGs by 2050
  - RES and CES bills – renewable targets and decarbonization (would supersede NC law)
Cybersecurity

• Continues to be an area of intense scrutiny
  • Event-driven response risk
  • “Western utility” hacked with grid interruption
  • Key policymakers support FERC/NERC process and maintaining current regulatory construct
• Many bills and resolutions in Congress on Cybersecurity
Tax Reform & Budget

• **Budget deal reached July 22**
  • Suspends debt ceiling until July 2021
  • Spending pegged at $2.7 trillion over two years
  • Federal debt will likely pass 80% of GDP, double the 2010 level

• **Tax extenders**
  • Not part of budget deal
  • Municipal bonds largely held harmless

• **Tax policy and climate change**
  • Cap-and-dividend approach
# 2020 Congressional Landscape

## US House: 435 Seats (218)
- **GOP needs 18 Seats**

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<th>2016 Result</th>
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## US Senate: 100 Seats (50 or 51)
- **Dems need 4 seats**

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Dems need 4 seats
State Legislative Update
Divided government: Compromise or gridlock?
Current State Leadership

- Gov. Roy Cooper (D)
  - Nash County native

- NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley (D)
  - From Fayetteville
  - NC Supreme Court has 6-1 Dem. makeup
  - 3 seats on 2020 ballot

- Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger (R)
  - Lawyer from Eden
  - Served in General Assembly since 2001

- Speaker of the House Tim Moore (R)
  - Lawyer from Kings Mountain
  - Served in General Assembly since 2003
NC General Assembly

Republicans hold both chambers

Senate
- 29 Republicans, 21 Democrats
- 30 votes needed to override veto

House
- 65 Republicans, 55 Democrats
- 72 votes needed to override veto
2019 Regular Session (Long Session)

- Budget bill passed June 27
  - $24.0 billion
  - Raises teacher salaries by 3.5% over two years
  - Most state employees would receive a 2.5% raise each year
- Gov. Cooper vetoed bill on June 28
- State fiscal year began July 1
- No shutdown
2019 Regular Session (Long Session)

- House Bill 329 – Renewable Energy Amends
  - Became law July 29
  - Allows resale of electricity
    - Only for EVs
    - Electricity must be from utility
    - Makes clear that utilities can build own charging stations too
NC General Assembly

2019 Regular Session (Long Session)

• S.B. 29 – “Officer Jason Quick Act”
  • Increases penalties for a driver who fails to move over and causes serious injury or death to a law enforcement officer or other public service vehicle operator
  • Includes utility workers
  • Effective Dec. 1, 2019

Officer Jason Quick of Lumberton was struck and killed by a motorist while responding to an accident on I-95 in 2018.
NC General Assembly

2019 Regular Session (Long Session)

- “Keeping the Lights On” Special Plate
- House Bill 449/Senate Bill 61
- Benefits UNC Jaycee Burn Center
- Fate uncertain
NC General Assembly

2019 Regular Session (Long Session)

• Now law
  • S.B. 310 – Rural Broadband

• Pending bills
  • S.B. 68 – Relocation of Water/Sewer Lines
  • S.B. 377 – Military Base Protection Act
The Value of Public Power

- May 29
- Three food trucks from area public power communities Apex and Wake Forest
- Approximately 450 attendees
- Positive feedback from legislators and staff
Thank You

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