

## NCACPA Advocacy Update | Board of Directors Meeting

August 14, 2019 | Conference Call

### State Budget Update

On June 27, the legislature presented its budget proposal to Gov. Cooper; a day later, the Governor vetoed it. The fiscal year began on July 1 without a new budget in place; however, state government remains operational through a state law that allows appropriations to continue at spending levels from the previous year's budget. On July 8, *HB 966 – 2019 Appropriations Act* was added to the House calendar for a vote to attempt to override the Governor's budget veto. While no action has been taken, the bill can be taken up for a vote at any time.

### Legislative Wins

*HB 233 State Auditor/Local Finance Officer Amendments*—Signed into law by Gov. Cooper on June 4, 2019. This bill provides, among other things, more flexibility for local governments allowing them to obtain part-time finance staffers, including contracting with CPAs. The bill also expands powers of the State Auditor and of the Local Government Commission to require that local governments contract with outside entities to assist in complying with state law. NCACPA CEO Sharon Bryson advocated for passage of this bill before Senate leaders at a committee hearing in May.

*House Bill 924 Teacher Contract Changes*—Signed into law on July 8, 2019 by Gov. Cooper. This bill includes a provision requiring high school students to pass a course on economics and personal finance in order to graduate. NCACPA advocates delivered letters to General Assembly members in late April supporting its passage.

### State Board Appointments

Bernita Demery, CPA, of Greenville, and Barton Baldwin, CPA, of Mount Olive, were sworn the Oath of Office for the NC State Board of CPA Examiners on July 22, 2019. Their terms expire June 30, 2022. Additionally, Jennifer Van Zant, Esq., of Greensboro, was appointed by Governor Cooper to serve as a public member on the board. Her term also expires June 30, 2022.

### NC Department of Revenue

In late July, NCACPA was asked to recruit 10 CPAs to test and provide feedback on the DoR's new (in beta) e-Services portal for Individual Income, Corporate Income, and Franchise file-and-pay applications. Testing is scheduled to occur in early to mid-August, and we were indeed successful in recruiting 10 of our members to participate in this process.

In late 2018, the DoR requested NCACPA nominate a group of CPAs to serve on a new Business Advisory Council led by Secretary of Revenue Ronald Penny. The Council will bring volunteers together to discuss and analyze state sales tax, business and nonprofit tax policies and procedures, technological advances, natural disaster recovery, and other such issues facing the DoR. The first meeting of the Council is yet to



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be scheduled and the roster is still being finalized, but confirmed NCACPA representatives include Jack Schmoll, Desmond Sheridan, and David Oettinger.

#### **NC CPA PAC**

Since the June Board of Directors meeting, \$1,350 has been contributed by 6 donors to our PAC.