

{audio}files/preroll.mp3;files/Shows/2013/People In Politics 2013/PNP 2013 January 5 FINAL SHOW 4650.mp3{/audio}

The North Carolina Democratic Party is looking to chart a new course after a disastrous two years of losses that marginalized the party to minority status in the General Assembly and put Democrats out of the Governor and Lt. Governor seats for the first time in decades. One key to regaining power is electing a new party chairman, which the Democrats' executive committee will do in early February. Host Donna Martinez talks to one of the two men who've said they want the job – outgoing state Sen. Eric Mansfield of Cumberland County. He tells Martinez why he's running, what the party must do to repair internal fracturing, and what the party must communicate to North Carolinians in future elections. Mansfield's declared opponent is Pittsboro Mayor Randy Voller. Then we hear from Gov.-Elect Pat McCrory, who painted a sobering economic picture for the state in remarks he made at the Economic Forecast Forum sponsored by the N.C. Bankers Association and the N.C. Chamber. That's followed by a look at several of McCrory's key appointments to cabinet positions. Rick Henderson of Carolina Journal provides the profile of the new secretaries for Martinez. Next is a discussion about outgoing North Carolina Congressman Brad Miller's comments as he leaves Congress. The Democrat spoke to slate.com and reflected on the Obama administration's lack of understanding of the Tea Party movement. He also took a swipe at what he characterized as the political gamesmanship of conservative Democrats. Rick Martinez joins Donna Martinez for the Brad Miller discussion. Then we turn to accolades for former North Carolina Republican Party Chairman Tom Fetzer by a political trade magazine. Donna Martinez revisits analysis of Fetzer's lobbying successes with Ran Coble of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. And finally, with just days to go in her administration, outgoing Gov. Beverly Perdue issued a pardon to the Wilmington 10. Stephanie Hawco of NewsRadio 680 WPTF in Raleigh talks with Cash Michaels, who helped spearhead the pardon effort, about what the pardon means and background on the 1970s racial tensions that led to an unwarranted conviction for the mostly African American group.