

{audio}files/preroll.mp3;files/Shows/2011/051311_People_In_Politics.mp3{/audio}

Is President Barack Obama poised to win North Carolina just like he did in 2008, no matter which Republican snags the nomination? NC State Political Science Professor Andy Taylor assesses Mr. Obama's strength in the state, as well as the GOP field that now includes former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Sarah Preston of the NC ACLU also explains why her group opposes a legislative push to expand the state's authority to collect DNA from those arrested on certain felonies. Next, Rick Martinez, news director of News Radio 680 WPTF in Raleigh, SGRToday.com, and the N.C. News Network, joins host Donna Martinez to look at President Obama's polling numbers in the wake of the Osama bin Laden killing, including data that shows the president is enjoying a bump in his job approval rating but not in his re-election effort. Martinez also details the potential weaknesses the Republicans bring to the race for the White House. That's followed by comments from N.C. House Speaker Thom Tillis about the controversy over the number of state and local government layoffs that will result if the House version of the budget becomes law. Tillis also talks about how the session is going. In addition, veteran Democratic political operative Gary Pearce, who spent years with former Gov. Jim Hunt, analyzes the political chess game being played by Gov. Beverly Perdue and legislative Republicans. And finally, retired N.C. Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr discusses the growing talk about changing the way North Carolina selects judges, including a bill that would exempt appointees from having to run in the next election. Orr also offers perspective on the legal profession and the job outlook for North Carolina's law school graduates.