

{audio}files/preroll.mp3;files/Shows/2011/081911_People_In_Politics.mp3{/audio}

Josh Ellis of SGRToday.com joins host Donna Martinez to discuss a news conference held this week by state Rep. Stephen LaRoque, R-Lenoir, about his business activities related to two economic development nonprofit groups he operates. LaRoque denies any wrongdoing with federal dollars or other management issues brought up by reporter Sarah Ovaska of the progressive think tank NC Policy Watch. Ellis also updates Martinez on the fight over pre-kindergarten enrollment and funding between Gov. Perdue and legislative Republicans, the push to offer casino-style gambling in western NC, and the NC NAACP's statement that it will sue over new congressional and legislative maps. Then we turn to the race for Congress. Martinez is joined by Paul Coble, who is seeking the GOP nomination for the 13th district. Coble, a conservative Republican who is the chairman of the Wake County Board of Commissioners and the former mayor of Raleigh, discusses his views on issues and why he wants to make the leap from Raleigh to D.C. Then the discussion turns to the potential constitutional amendments that may be considered by the legislature next month. Rick Martinez, news director for SGRToday.com, the NC News Network, and NewsRadio 680 WPTF in Raleigh, analyzes the social, fiscal, and election-related amendments that could come up -- most notably, a same-sex marriage ban -- and the politics at play for Democrats and Republicans. That's followed by comments from State Auditor Beth Wood about how she keeps politics out of her job as a watchdog of state government spending and practices no matter which political party is in power, and the impact of budget cuts on her office's work.