

{audio}files/preroll.mp3;files/Shows/2011/052011\_People\_In\_Politics.mp3{/audio}

One of former Gov. Mike Easley's closest aide, Ruffin Poole, is sentenced to prison. Carolina Journal Managing Editor Rick Henderson joins host Donna Martinez to describe the courtroom scene as the man known as the "little governor" received his year-and-a-day federal prison sentence. Henderson also analyzes news of a federal investigation of Law Enforcement Associates, a firm with ties to former state Sen. Tony Rand of Fayetteville and former N.C. Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet. Then the North Carolina News Network's Gurnal Scott talks to supporters and foes of a bill to ban same sex marriage in our state. That's followed by analysis from NCNN's Rick Martinez of the political reaction to the GOP push on social issues, an attempt to shorten early voting, and the visit to North Carolina by new Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Florida congresswoman. Then Donna Martinez referees a discussion between Dana Cope, executive director of the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) and Francis DeLuca, president of the Civitas Institute. The two analyze the impact on state and local employees of legislative budget decisions that will result in layoffs, this week's compromise over premiums for the State Health Plan, the political implications for legislators who support cuts to public education, whether to lower the corporate income tax rate, and the push to change the state pension plan from a defined benefit to a defined contribution program.