The Mike Easley investigation took a consequential turn this week as Ruffin Poole, former general counsel to Easley, was indicted by a federal grand jury. Rick Henderson, managing editor of Carolina Journal, joins host Donna Martinez to discuss the 51-count indictment, which alleges that Poole used his influence to intervene for others in exchange for a variety of gifts and benefits.

Then Democratic political consultant Perry Woods goes head to head with conservative Becki Gray of the John Locke Foundation over the political implications of the so-called "Massachusetts Miracle" in which Republican Scott Brown won the U.S. Senate seat held for decades by the late liberal icon Ted Kennedy. Woods and Gray also look back at year one for President Barack Obama and Gov. Beverly Perdue.

That's followed by a conversation with longtime Democratic political consultant Gary Pearce - once an advisor to John Edwards - about the new book "Game Change," which skewers John and wife Elizabeth over the behind-the-scenes behavior during his presidential campaign.