

Subject: Debunking the Lies: A Recap of What Really Happened in the N.C. House's Budget Veto Override
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 9:51:21 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Joseph Kyzer (Dir. of Communications, Speaker Moore's Office)
To: Joseph Kyzer (Dir. of Communications, Speaker Moore's Office)

Good Morning,

Please see the below factual recap of Wednesday's budget veto override in the North Carolina House from Speaker Tim Moore's office that dispels the fabricated lies being circulated that the override was the result of any planned Republican effort to mislead Democrats, which is 100% false.

- The budget veto override was taken during a House floor session with a properly noticed calendar following two public announcements votes *would* be taken on Wednesday.
 - There was never any of the customary public communication of a no-vote session by the Speaker's office, which makes all such announcements to members of the House when a no-vote session is planned.
 - House Republicans never planned to attempt a veto override on Wednesday, nor were they aware House Democrats were falsely told by their own leadership of a no-vote session.
 - House Republicans had only 55 members in session on Wednesday morning – not even enough to hold a majority on the floor with all members present.
 - By their numbers alone, it is obvious House Republicans never planned to override the veto Wednesday.
- Contrary to false claims that House Democrats in North Carolina were attending 9/11 commemoration ceremonies on Wednesday morning, four extremely credible, separate accounts factually demonstrate this is an outright lie.
 - The editor of the News & Observer's 'Insider' Colin Campbell [tweeted](#) the following:
"So much misinformation going around the #ncga today: -Only one Democratic House member has been confirmed as attending a 9/11 event during the veto override vote."
 - Governor Roy Cooper [said in a noon press conference](#) (4:45 mark) Wednesday that he did not see and was not aware of any House Democrats at a ceremony he attended, directly contradicting a false narrative spun by national media outlets like the Washington Post
 - As widely reported, House Rep. Deb. Butler (D-New Hanover) [said on the floor](#) (5:20 mark) that Democrats were downstairs drawing maps during the veto override.
 - House Minority Leader Darren Jackson confirmed in his press conference that in-fact Democrats had a redistricting committee meeting planned that morning.
 - The North Carolina House held its commemoration session for 9/11 first responders and victims in its afternoon session on Wednesday.
 - The narrative that the budget veto override vote on Wednesday had anything to do with

9/11 ceremonies is a provably false fabrication debunked by extremely credible sources – the House Democrats themselves – and any reproduction of this narrative is simply spreading a lie.

- Democrats meeting privately about ongoing redistricting in the General Assembly – particularly with all of their members of the House Redistricting Committee together - is a potential violation of a three-judge panel’s order that redistricting committee efforts take place in public view.
- The Governor falsely alleged in his press conference that Republicans “orchestrated” the veto override and Democrats “were lied to.” This is a complete and total fabrication that he must retract immediately and cease misleading North Carolinians about the circumstances.
 - House Republican members and staff had no idea that House Democrats were told by their leadership Wednesday was a no-vote session
 - This was a mistake by the House Democratic leadership that they took responsibility for it in their press conference Wednesday morning
- The Speaker frequently announces no-vote legislative sessions for members’ planning purposes, often at least once or twice a week.
 - The announcement is made by the Speaker from the floor of the House, by email from the Speaker’s office to all members, or both
 - The announcement is often shared on social media to make the broader General Assembly community aware of a no-vote legislative session.
 - None of the customary public announcements were ever made of a no-vote session Wednesday by the Speaker’s office.
 - To assume a no-vote session based on private oral conversations about specific bills is an erroneous presumption by House Democrats’ leadership that ignores the consistent procedures of the House for notifying members of a no-vote session.
- The Speaker’s office relies on public announcements of no-vote sessions from the floor of the House and by direct communication to all members to avoid exactly this type of confusion.
 - In three terms as the presiding officer, Speaker Moore has never, and would never, announce a no-vote session then hold votes that session.
- Speaker Moore is serving his ninth term in the state House, as is House Rules Committee Chairman David Lewis. They have a combined 36 years of experience serving in the North Carolina General Assembly.
 - Both leaders have far too much respect for the North Carolina House and their colleagues to announce no recorded votes, then hold a vote.
- In Tuesday afternoon’s no-vote legislative session at 4:30 p.m. on September 10, 2019, North Carolina House Republicans likely had the votes on the floor to override the Governor’s budget veto.
 - Chairman Lewis was presiding at the time but did not take a vote, because Speaker Moore

had announced in that morning's session that Tuesday afternoon would be a no-vote session.

- House Republican leadership always honors announcements of no-vote sessions and this week was no different
- In Tuesday afternoon's session, Chairman Lewis announced publicly the intention to take recorded votes the following day on two appropriations bills that were directed to Wednesday's calendar "without objection."
 - When adding both bills to the calendar on Tuesday, Chairman Lewis explicitly announced that there *would be* recorded votes on Wednesday (5:20 mark of the session's [House audio archive](#).)
- Shortly after Chairman Lewis announced intention to take recorded votes on the two budget bills the following day, he announced a start time of 8:30 a.m. for Wednesday.
- The Speaker of the House, present members of the House, and staff, were all planning to hold recorded votes on bills on the published calendar for Wednesday's morning session
 - All were completely unaware that House Democrats were told by their leadership of a no-vote session
- The consideration of the veto override was properly noticed and published on the House calendar, as it has been for nearly 2 months.
 - The House clerks and staff conducted standard preparation for a voting session.
- House Republicans clearly, by their numbers, had no plans to attempt a veto override on Wednesday:
 - Republicans did not have enough votes to maintain a majority on the floor if all members were voting and present, with just 55 members.
 - The Republican caucus had 10 of its members missing from its 65-member majority.
 - Republicans were missing the House Majority Leader and Rules Chairman from the floor on Wednesday
 - This is an obvious demonstration Republicans never planned to attempt an override and had no awareness Democrats did not plan to attend the voting session
 - Any suggestion that Republicans planned the veto override on Wednesday – which is demonstrably false – is an outright lie.
- The House Republican caucus was genuinely confused and surprised when the Democrats did not arrive for the 8:30 am voting session.
 - The Speaker confirmed with the clerks and his staff that no announcement had been made of a no-vote session following the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

- Members and staff briefly discussed whether to hold the veto override with the votes appearing secured on the floor during a voting session
 - The veto override was never planned, discussed, or considered, by House leaders or staff until Wednesday morning's session when Democrats did not arrive
 - House Republicans were completely transparent about what happened. They held a public press conference, answered questions from the media, and Speaker Moore joined Capital Tonight on Spectrum News the day of the vote after speaking with reporters throughout the day.
- The Speaker has said repeatedly he would hold the veto override when the votes were secured on the floor of the House in a voting session.
 - He did so, advancing a historic school construction initiative in education communities across the state, more than \$100 million in disaster relief funds, and another round of tax relief for North Carolina families.

Thank you for your review of these facts that completely dispel false claims that House Democrats were misled on Wednesday, or that they were attending 9/11 ceremonies during the vote, or that House Republicans planned to attempt the veto override on Wednesday.

These are the facts and the Office of the Speaker appreciates your time reviewing this memo.

Joseph

Joseph A. Kyzer
 Communications Director
 Office of Speaker Tim Moore
 (919) 733-5463