



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Walter Dalton, Democratic Candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Announces Endorsements from Educational Leaders

Leaders from across the educational spectrum say Dalton is the best candidate

WILMINGTON- State Senator Walter Dalton, Democratic Candidate for Lieutenant Governor, announced his support from the educational community today at Cape Fear Community College. Dalton was flanked by Dr. Jim Leutze, former Chancellor of UNC-Wilmington, and Dr. Eric McKeithan, President of Cape Fear Community College.

“Walter Dalton has been one of the strongest advocates for higher education in the Senate,” Dr. Leutze said. “He understands the importance that our colleges and universities play in North Carolina’s future. He will make a great Lieutenant Governor. Our colleges and universities will have a good friend in Walter Dalton.”

Elected to the Senate in 1996, Dalton co-chaired the education committee for four years. He was instrumental in raising teacher pay, lowering class sizes, and passing the Governor’s Lean and Earn program. Currently, Dalton is co-chair of the appropriations committee and has presided over the committee as it has made historic investments in education. He is also the current chair of the Southern Regional Education Board Advisory Council, which is a consortium of educational leaders from 16 southern states.

“I am grateful for the support Walter has shown for our community colleges, especially Cape Fear Community College,” Dr. McKeithan said. “He has already toured our facilities and has helped fund innovative programs such as the Nuclear Maintenance Program that links students to the local economy.”

The Lieutenant Governor plays an important role in education, as he or she sits on the State Community College Board and the State Board of Education. Sen. Dalton, a former chair of the Board of Trustees of Isothermal Community College, has shown a commitment to education since coming to the Senate. As Lieutenant Governor, he wants to continue to improve our schools and link high schools, community colleges, and universities to 21st Century jobs to improve our economy.

“I am grateful for the support from people across the educational spectrum,” Dalton said. “It affirms a lifetime commitment I have made to education. Education has been my top priority in the North Carolina Senate and it will be my top priority as Lieutenant Governor. I look forward to working with them and others in the educational community to continue to improve our schools and continue moving North Carolina forward.”

For more information about Sen. Dalton and his campaign, please visit www.walterdalton.org. A full list of endorsements and quotes about why they are supporting Sen. Dalton is below.

"North Carolina's public schools have made some of the nation's most rapid gains over the past decade. As Chair of the Senate Education Committee and as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Walter Dalton has been a key leader in this progress. He's been a champion of high standards, a friend to students, and a strong teacher advocate."

- Dr. Mike Ward, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction

"I have seen Walter Dalton's work first hand. He has been a champion for the community colleges and a leader in Workforce Development. His experience and knowledge are invaluable, and he will be a great Lieutenant Governor. That is why he has my support."

- James Woody, former Chair, State Board of Community Colleges

"Through his leadership in the Senate, I have personally observed Sen. Dalton's commitment to all levels of education. He will bring the same level of commitment to education as Lieutenant Governor."

- Brad Wilson, former Chair and Current Member, UNC Board of Governors

- Dr. K. Ray Bailey, former President, Asheville-Buncombe Technical College

- Robin Britt, former US Congressman, and helped create and implement Smart Start as former Secretary of Health and Human Services under Governor Jim Hunt

- Dr. David Bruton, former Chair, NC State Board of Education, former Chair, State Board of Community Colleges and former Secretary, Health and Human Services under Governor Jim Hunt

- Senator Katie Dorsett, former Chair, NC Public School Forum

- John Forlines, former Chair, State Board of Community Colleges

- Paul Fulton, former Dean, UNC-Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School

- Karen Garr, former President, NC Association of Educators and former Teacher Advisor to Governor Jim Hunt

- Dr. Tom Houlihan, Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers and former Senior Education Advisor to Governor Jim Hunt

- Dr. Sam Houston, President/CEO of NC Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Center and former Chair of Governor Jim Hunt's Business and Education Committee

- Dr. Marvin Joyner, former President of Central Carolina Community College in Sanford

- Tom Lambeth, former Chair, NC Public School Forum and former Executive Director, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

- Dr. Jim Leutze, former University Chancellor

- John and Kathy Leandro, lead Plaintiffs in the "Leandro" Lawsuit for equitable school funding

- Dr. Bill Lewis, former President of Isothermal Community College in Spindale

- Loretta Martin, former President of the North Carolina Association of Educators

- Dr. Larry Norris, former President, Fayetteville Technical Community College

- Dr. Doug Orr, President Emeritus, Warren Wilson College in Asheville

- Dr. J. Reid Parrott, former President of Nash Community College in Rocky Mount
- Karen W. Ponder, former President, NC Partnership for Children (Smart Start) and current early childhood education consultant
- Dr. Frank Sells, former President of Surry Community College in Dobson
- Dr. Julianne Still Thrift, President Emeritus, Salem College in Winston-Salem
- Dr. Mike Ward, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Dean Westmoreland, former President, North Carolina Association of Educators
- Brad Wilson, former Chair and Current Member, UNC Board of Governors
- Dr. Ed Wilson, Jr., former President of Wayne Community College in Goldsboro
- John Wilson, former Executive Director, NC Association of Educators and current Executive Director, National Education Association
- Dr. James H. Woodward, former University Chancellor
- James Woody, former Chair, State Board of Community Colleges

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