

# *The Public School Forum's Friday Report*

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*special edition....*

## **October 4<sup>th</sup> Governor's Debate Cancelled; Ballantine Camp Declines Appearance**

The Education: Everybody's Business Coalition's candidates' forum that was to have brought Governor Mike Easley and challenger Patrick Ballantine together on October 4<sup>th</sup> for a candidates' forum on educational issues has been cancelled.

The reason for the cancellation is that challenger Patrick Ballantine has declined to appear.

This is the second time that the Coalition has had to cancel a forum on educational issues. The first forum, tentatively scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled because the Ballantine campaign cited a previous commitment in Charlotte and could not make the logistics work for both events.

According to John Dornan, the Executive Director of the Public School Forum and the scheduled moderator of the candidates' forum, "The Ballantine campaign has issued a press release claiming that Governor Easley is attempting to avoid debates. We can't speak for the other debate invitations the candidates have received, but that is not the case in this forum on educational issues. Governor Easley accepted the invitation to appear on the original date and he accepted the invitation to appear on the rescheduled date. This forum on educational issues will not take place because the Ballantine campaign declined both dates. Unfortunately, for the public the election will take place without a full discussion of education, an issue that the people view as one of the most critical in the governor's race."

The October 4<sup>th</sup> candidates forum was a joint project between the Coalition, Time Warner cable, the North Carolina Cable Telecommunications Association and SAS Institute. Not only would the forum have been aired on cable outlets across the state, but a number of television stations in major cities had planned to broadcast the forum live. Also, CSPAN had requested permission to air the forum on national news.

For *Friday Report* readers who have signed up to attend the October 4<sup>th</sup> debate, the Coalition sends its regrets. This would have been the only candidates' forum on education and it is more than unfortunate that it will not be taking place.

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