

NC Coalition for Lobbying & Government Reform

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**Coalition Calls for Redistricting Reform to Increase
Competition and Diversity**

Bill Cobey and Tim Valentine Stood Together for Change

Raleigh—Issuing another call for much-needed reform, the NC Coalition for Lobbying & Government Reform held a press conference today to highlight the lack of competition in this year’s elections and urged lawmakers to consider redistricting reform in 2007.

Just two weeks before the statewide elections, former Congressmen Bill Cobey and Tim Valentine stood together and expressed alarm that half of this year’s statewide candidates face no competition.

“With little competition, accountability is lacking and voters start to feel disengaged and apathetic,” said Bill Cobey, who also headed North Carolina’s state Republican Party. “We need to take a closer look at our current partisan redistricting process that favors lawmakers in power rather than the public.”

“It’s time to fix our broken partisan redistricting process. There’s a fundamental conflict of interest when our elected officials draw district lines to benefit themselves,” added Tim Valentine. “North Carolina needs an independent panel of citizens to draw legislative and congressional district lines rather than lawmakers who have a vested interest.”

Cobey and Valentine were flanked by more than a dozen NC Coalition for Lobbying & Government Reform members. The Coalition held additional press conferences in Charlotte, Wilmington, and Asheville today to make the same call for redistricting reform.

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