

# Democracy North Carolina

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## CRIMES AGAINST DEMOCRACY

### Hearing on Complaint Filed by Democracy North Carolina About Video Poker Donors & NC House Speaker Jim Black

The State Board of Elections hearing this week [beginning late Feb. 2006] targets what we view as “crimes against democracy,” not just a particular individual or a single group. It’s a mistake to fixate on the whether House Speaker Jim Black broke the law. Such a finding would obviously have significant political consequences, but the hearing raises broader questions about a campaign finance system that is increasingly viewed as out of control.

People can argue about long-term solutions, and more action on that front is urgently needed, but for now, the central question is simply: Can the government – we, the public – police the trafficking of large amount of money between ambitious donors and ambitious politicians?

The State Board of Elections is doing its best, using its limited powers and limited resources, to tackle a system out of control. As our original complaint requested, the Board is focusing on special interests and numerous individuals who used a variety of illegal methods to funnel tens of thousands of dollars into political campaigns. The Board began with the video-poker industry and has followed leads that came up during that investigation to examine other special interests and donors.

Many of the relevant violations that we expect to surface during the hearings are listed in Democracy North Carolina’s June 2004 complaint:

- \* making donations in the name of another
- \* exceeding the \$4,000 contribution limit
- \* reimbursing individuals who made donations
- \* making donations for material benefits
- \* illegal solicitation of donations
- \* coercion of others to commit one or more of these offenses
- \* making anonymous donations
- \* using corporate money for political donations
- \* making donations in cash in excess of \$100
- \* providing false information about contributions
- \* conspiracy to make illegal donations.

For background on these abuses and on the individuals subpoenaed by the State Board of Elections, we suggest that people look at two documents related to the money flowing into Michael Decker’s campaign around the time he switched party affiliations to help Jim Black remain House Speaker:

[CLICK HERE](#) for report 1 about Decker’s contributions linked to Jim Black

[CLICK HERE](#) for report 2 about Decker’s contributions linked to Jim Black

[CLICK HERE](#) for Democracy NC’s complaint that led to the hearings