



Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP
State Auditor

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Office of the State Auditor

2 S. Salisbury Street
20601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0601
Telephone: (919) 807-7500
Fax: (919) 807-7647
Internet
<http://www.ncauditor.net>

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 26, 2006

For Additional Information Contact:

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP, State Auditor
(919) 807-7500

Public Officials should ensure that state resources are used for state purposes, State Auditor Leslie Merritt says.

RALEIGH _ Public Officials should take care and make certain that state resources are devoted to state purposes the State Auditor said Wednesday.

Elected Officials in North Carolina function in a setting where the public role and the political role often touch and overlap. However, public officials should give attention to and ensure that state resources are devoted to public purposes, not political or other purposes. A recently released management letter to the Office of the State Treasurer points out an improper use of a state resource, a computer, for political purposes.

"We fully understand that in an elected office there will be some points of contact, some minimal contact between an office or agency and the political process. While it may be difficult for elected officials to completely isolate politics from the work environment, public officials should make strong efforts to do so," said Merritt.

Merritt recommends that agencies develop proper policies to ensure taxpayer dollars are used for taxpayer purposes.

"Taxpayers need their dollars (whether state vehicles, computers, supplies or salaries) to work for them and for them alone." Merritt said.