



## **John Allison, prominent N.C. conservative, to take helm at Cato Institute**

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John Allison, a prominent North Carolina conservative and former CEO of BB&T, is taking the helm of the Cato Institute, a leading libertarian think tank in the nation's capital.

Allison assumed the role after a major shakeup at Cato involving billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch. The Koch brothers, who are major conservative moneymen and Cato board members, agreed to drop two lawsuits against the institute if current chief executive, Ed Crane, left. (Read more on the controversy [here](#).)

Allison is a player in a national political group called the Job Creators Alliance (along with conservative financier Art Pope) and serves as director on a North Carolina nonprofit group called the Carolina Business Coalition. The coalition's political committee spent roughly \$350,000 earlier this month in five state Senate and five state House districts.

Charles Koch predicted that Mr. Allison would take Cato to "new levels of effectiveness" in fighting what he called "the alarming increase in the size and scope of government," according to The New York Times.