

# EXHIBIT A



## **GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2025 SESSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### ***Preserve County Tax & Finance***

- Protect Gaston County from unfunded mandates and maintain local revenue sources.
- Provide state compensation for when taxable property is removed from the ad valorem tax base by the state.
- Assist NCACC with the repeal of NCGS 105-275 (45), which mandates the county must exclude 80% of the appraised value of a solar energy electric system from property taxation.
- Assist NCACC to gain an opportunity to tailor the use of any newly enacted article 43 transit tax for all types of transportation expenditures.
- Support flexibility for use of all or a percentage of the occupancy tax.

### ***Economic Development***

- Continue the state's infrastructure investment funding, economic development grant programs and support of county EDC services.
- Prioritize economic development funding for NCs' most distressed 80 counties, Tier 1 and Tier 2 designations.
- Support for improvement to existing sites and site acquisition as well as assistance in development funding.
- Allow DOC to establish and offer reasonable flexibility and consideration of JDIG fulfillment.
- ***Continue support of incentive programs including but not limited to:***
  - 1) NC's Golden Leaf Foundation
  - 2) Continued funding of JDIG (Job Development Incentive Grants)
  - 3) One NC Fund
  - 4) Community College Workforce Development Partnerships including:
    - A) Strengthen educational offerings and partnerships with industry.
    - B) Strengthen Gaston College/High School partnerships including Career & College Promise.

***Transportation***

- Support modernizing transportation funding by advocating for stable and increased revenue sources for highways, rail and port infrastructure.
- Develop and fund a comprehensive transportation plan that addresses multi-modal regional needs by ensuring a diverse range of transportation options to meet the needs of our citizens.

***Support local, transportation funding priorities which include but not limited to:***

- Increased funding for maintenance of current highways
- Widening of 1-85
- Crossings over Catawba River (South Fork Crossing/Catawba Crossing)

***Infrastructure Development***

- Continued broadband infrastructure grants.
- Continued support for water and sewer expansion for rural communities.
- Support funding for Travel & Tourism, specific to Gaston County's Crowder's Mountain State Park and Mountain Island Educational State Forest.

***Education***

- Support funding for K-12 Educational Facilities.
- Continued growth of the ADM Student Funding.
- Support of Community Colleges and Gaston College's efforts and partnership in workforce training.
- Restore the statutory appropriations for funds from the NC Lottery.
- School Capital appropriations to meet needs for additional classroom space and maintenance of buildings.

***Health/Human Services***

- Utilize mental health funding to include a mental health support network for first responders.