



**RESOLUTION TITLE: TO REQUEST SUPPORT FOR THE PASSAGE OF SCHOOL BONDS
AND ARTICLE 46 SALES TAX ONE-QUARTER CENT (1/4¢) AT
PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 8, 2018**

- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Education has identified over Six Hundred and Fifty Million (\$650,000,000) of school facility needs that must be addressed in the near future in Gaston County; and,
- WHEREAS, a School Bond Referendum will appear on the Gaston County Ballot for the primary election to be held May 8, 2018, requesting authority to issue Two Hundred Fifty Million Dollars (\$250,000,000) in new school bonds; and,
- WHEREAS, in addition to the aforementioned bonds, the citizens of Gaston County have approved and the County has issued educational bonds since 2000 totaling Two Hundred Fifty Three Million Ninety Five Thousand Dollars (\$253,095,000); and,
- WHEREAS, the debt service for repaying the proposed 2018 school bonds will add an additional ten and one quarter cents (10.25¢) over the next five years to the county's existing ad valorem tax rate, unless an additional one-quarter (1/4 ¢) local sales and use tax is approved; and,
- WHEREAS, a one-quarter cent (1/4 ¢) local sales and use tax would be earmarked for application solely to repaying the existing, newly approved, and future school bonds and other educational capital needs, and could generate approximately Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000) in additional revenues above the current property tax receipts per year helping to reduce the tax burden on homeowners while providing for the educational needs of the children of Gaston County and meeting the demands for new classroom space, classroom improvements and other critical school infrastructure needs; and,
- WHEREAS, a Sales Tax Referendum will appear on the Gaston County Ballot for the primary election to be held on May 8, 2018, requesting authority to add one-quarter cent (1/4 ¢) to the current sales taxes collected within Gaston County, which sales tax will not apply to unprepared food (groceries) and gas; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County School physical facilities are over-crowded with student population and, the present facilities are inadequate to meet the student population needs, now or in the future; and,

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I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

WHEREAS, the Gaston County School facilities are not only over-crowded, but are also in critical need of maintenance and repair, which creates difficult conditions for the student population using those facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners has a compelling and continuing concern for the impact of the condition of school physical facilities and the educational progress of the children of the children of Gaston County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners understands that education is crucial to the prospects for economic development in Gaston County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, by adoption of this Resolution, elects to favorably support and endorse the passage of the upcoming Sales Tax and School Bond referendums and urges the citizens of Gaston County to vote the favorable passage of same.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners that:

1. The Board of Commissioners hereby supports the Sales Tax and School Bond Referendums set for May 8, 2018, for the building and improvements of schools for the students and citizens of Gaston County. The Board of Commissioners encourages County citizens to vote in favor of the Sales Tax and School Bonds referendums.
2. That a copy of this Resolution be delivered to the Chairpersons for the Gaston County School Board and each municipality in Gaston County.