



**RESOLUTION TITLE: GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2018 SESSION OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners has worked for many years to strengthen and diversify Gaston County's economy and to encourage the growth of safe and healthy communities; and,

WHEREAS, job creation, economic development, education, healthy communities, public safety and quality of life are adopted priorities of the Commission and are important guiding principles for future policy decisions; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners recognizes that State policies, programs and investments can have a significant influence on local policy-making; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners has identified numerous goals for consideration and support during the 2018 General Assembly Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests the Gaston County Delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly to:

1. Support the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' legislative priorities; most importantly, oppose unfunded mandates and any shifts of State responsibilities to counties (Exhibit A)
2. Focus on Economic Development:
 - A. Continue to support tax policy to promote advancement of a business climate in Gaston County that fosters competitiveness, encourages new investment and provides for the expansion of current industry to support the local workforce and quality of life:
 - Support the continued efforts toward lowering and eventual elimination of the NC Corporate Tax. Commissioners supported the reduction to 3% in 2017
 - Oppose new and repeal targeted taxes, policies, codes and rules that would impede business development

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

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:

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- Continue support of Local Option Sales Tax and maintaining dedicated revenue for economic development (approximately \$84.8M statewide in 2016-2017)
 - Support the reduction of the Franchise Tax
- B. Support job creation and retention efforts; fully fund job recruitment efforts and support various economic development performance based incentives:
- Maintain economic development programs of Golden Leaf Foundation
 - Maintain the Governor's One NC Fund's competitiveness and effectiveness by continuation of the 2015 Commissioners goals that modified the local match
 - Continue support for workforce development through the Community College system and to strengthen the educational offerings in partnerships with industry and K-12 education with programs like Career Promise and Early College
 - Support environmental regulatory policy that is balanced to protect natural resources and be friendly to the manufacturing base
 - Support State investment in rural infrastructure of water and sewer
- C. Support funding for travel and tourism, historic preservation, land conservation, state parks and the arts in North Carolina as it spurs economic development:
- Support Crowder's Mountain State Park
 - Continued Support of Mountain Island Educational State Forest for completion of family outdoor activity area
3. Support Transportation Funding:
- Continue efforts to fund transportation infrastructure in North Carolina based on statistical need criteria
 - Support the funding of transportation improvements required for new business and industry
 - Support the development of innovative and sustainable methods of funding transportation and infrastructure projects to meet the needs of our growing population, including a mix of funding methods such as bonds, public-private partnerships, local option revenue, and new revenue sources
 - Support highway interchange improvements that increase the visibility and vitality of area businesses while meeting all safety and commuter standards
 - Support LOCAL Funding Priorities which include:
 - o Bridge over Catawba River (South Fork Crossing/Catawba Crossing)

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4. Support appointments of Gaston County residents, who are interested, to statewide boards and commissions; specific commissions of interest include, but are not limited to: Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, Board of Transportation, Property Tax Commission, Partnership for Children, Local Government Retirement System, Local Government Commission and Housing Finance Agency
5. Support the reinvestment of lottery ticket sale proceeds for education spending as originally intended and restore the statutory requirement that 40% of net lottery proceeds be allocated to counties for school capital needs
6. Support continuation of the Education Finance Reform Task Force as a comprehensive solution to address disparities in education funding between Counties
7. Continue support of Gaston County's Court Services Program (Pre-Trial Services)
8. Support LME-MCO, Partners Behavioral Health as local publically managed behavioral health services in order to preserve locally driven system of care
9. Support funding for School Resource Officers; support flexibility to allow retired officers working as SROs to be compensated without compromise to their retirement
10. Support repeal of the public hearing requirements in SL 2015-277. SB 472 –2015 session; the unintended consequences of the legislation on economic development were not the intent of the original legislation
11. Continue to study alternatives to the fuel tax as the major funding source for transportation infrastructure.
12. Request Legislation to Abolish Extra Territorial Jurisdictions or limit municipal extraterritorial authorization to two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Gaston County Legislative Delegation to the NC General Assembly and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.



2018 NCACC Priority Legislative Goals

PE-1: Seek legislation to establish a new state-county partnership to address statewide public school capital challenges-including but not limited to maintenance, renovation, construction & debt-through a dedicated, stable funding stream that's consistent from county to county and sufficient to meet the school facility needs of all 100 counties.

- H866 and S542 authorize a \$1.9 billion bond on the November 2018 ballot. This would be the first statewide bond for school capital in 22 years.

PE-2: Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows local school boards to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.

- S531 amended the statute establishing the dispute resolution process. It passed the Senate with bipartisan support but was not heard in the House and is eligible for short session.
- The NCGA Program Evaluation Division released a study that recommends replacing the lawsuit authority with a better process for resolving funding disputes. NCACC supports legislation implementing the recommendations.

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PE-4: Support legislation providing flexibility to align K-12 & community college calendars.

- Currently, community college classes start in early August while public schools begin in late August.
- H375 allows counties to align K-12 with community college calendars. It has passed the House and is eligible for short session.

GG-3: Seek legislation, funding and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the un-served and under-served areas of the state.

- Access to broadband is crucial for public education and economic development, and areas of the state without access to high-speed Internet are increasingly at a disadvantage.
- H390/S208 would give counties the authority to invest in Internet infrastructure in unserved areas and lease assets to private Internet service providers.

TF-1: Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties, and oppose efforts to divert fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties to the state. Oppose efforts to erode existing county revenue streams and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction.

- Counties rely heavily on property taxes and need flexibility to generate revenue from multiple sources, including local sales taxes, to meet local demands for services.
- H333, S166 and H437 are all aimed at expanding local revenue flexibility. All bills are eligible in the short session, and H333 has passed the House.

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