



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
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## Office of Capital Improvements (OCI) Board Action

File #: 26-065

Commissioner Brown - Office of Capital Improvements - To Approve a Qualifications Based Selection and Authorize the County Manager, or His Designee, to Execute a Professional Services Contract with ESP Associates, Inc. for Special Inspections and Materials Testing for the Gaston County Courthouse 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Upfit Project

### STAFF CONTACT

Ray Maxwell, PE - Office of Capital Improvements - 704-862-7551

### BUDGET IMPACT

N/A

### BACKGROUND

The Gaston County Courthouse 5th Floor Upfit project consists of approximately 46,000 sf of space designed to accommodate courtrooms, office and support spaces, and building systems or components to include mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and I.T. infrastructure. During construction, observation, testing and analysis, and inspection will be conducted to ensure quality control.

North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) §143-64.31 requires the initial solicitation and evaluation of firms to perform architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management-at-risk services, and design-build services (collectively "design services") to be based on qualifications and without regard to fee.

Office of Capital Improvements staff developed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet for Special Inspections and Materials Testing in accordance with the statutory requirements and publicly advertised the RFQ beginning on December 31, 2025. Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) submittals were received on January 29, 2026. The eight (8) firms submitting SOQ's were:

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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:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigner	SShehan	Vote
2026-145	04/28/2026	BH	TK	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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- ECS Southeast, LLC
- Catawba Valley Engineering & Testing
- Geo-Hydro Engineers, Inc.
- The Thrasher Group
- Terracon Consultants, Inc.
- ESP Associates, Inc.
- Solid Ground Engineering NC, PLLC
- Three Notch Group, Inc.

After scoring the SOQ's submitted by the eight (8) firms, ESP Associates, Inc. was deemed to be the best qualified for the corresponding project.

Approval of this Board Action by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners officially selects ESP Associates, Inc. for Special Inspections and Materials Testing for the Gaston County Courthouse 5th Floor Upfit project. Further, approval of this Board Action authorizes the County Attorney to negotiate and draft the necessary contract documents for the work and authorizes the County Manager, or his designee, to execute said contracts.

**POLICY IMPACT**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A