



**RESOLUTION TITLE:           DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING THE GASTON COUNTY  
UNIFIED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE  
FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes (“NCGS”) § 153A-301 and § 153A-309.2 authorize the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to establish and define a service district in order to finance, provide, or maintain for the district certain services in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire county; and,

WHEREAS, in determining whether to establish a unified, countywide service district to provide fire protection and rescue services, the Board considered the population and the population density of the proposed district, the appraised value of property subject to taxation in the proposed district, the present tax rates of the County and any special districts in which the district or any portion thereof is located, the ability of the proposed district to sustain the additional taxes necessary to provide the services planned for the district, and any other matters that the Commissioners believe to have a bearing on whether the district should be established, pursuant to NCGS § 153A-302(a); and,

WHEREAS, upon the information and evidence it has received, the Board finds there is a demonstrable need and demand by the persons living in the proposed unified service district for providing fire protection and rescue services in the district; and,

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that it is impractical to provide the fire protection and rescue services across the entire county, and it is economically feasible to provide these services within the proposed service district without unreasonable or burdensome annual tax levies; and,

WHEREAS, the Board approved on February 22, 2022, a “Resolution Calling a Public Hearing to Consider the Establishment of a Unified Fire Protection Service Tax District for All Unincorporated Areas of Gaston County and a Rate Cap,” pursuant to NCGS § 153A-309.2; and,

WHEREAS, a report on “2022 Gaston County Unified Fire Protection Service District NCGS Report” has been prepared containing a map of the proposed unified countywide service district, showing its proposed boundaries, a statement showing that the proposed service district favorably meets the standards set forth in NCGS § 153A-302(b) and defined in NCGS § 153A-309.2(b), and a plan for providing the needed fire protection and rescue services; and a copy of the report has been available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk to the Board for more than two weeks before the date of the required public hearing before adopting a resolution defining a new service district, and the Notice and Report is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and,

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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:

**DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING THE GASTON COUNTY UNIFIED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICES**

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WHEREAS, it has been duly certified to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners that Notice of Public Hearing on the establishment of the unified, countywide service district for fire protection services was duly published in accordance with the provisions of NCGS § 153A-309.2 and such public hearing was held on March 22, 2022.

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

1. The unified, countywide service district is hereby defined and established, as more fully described in the attached Notice of Public Hearing and Report on "2022 Gaston County Unified Fire Protection Service District NCGS Report," for the purpose of providing needed fire protection and rescue services within said district area. This new service district, from this date forward, is to be recognized as the "Gaston County Unified Fire Protection Service District."
2. The Gaston County Tax Assessor/Collector shall levy a special tax in an amount to be determined by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on behalf of Gaston County within said service district in addition to those levied throughout the County in order to finance, provide, and maintain fire protection and rescue services within the newly defined and established service district in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire County.
3. The following existing eighteen (18) individual fire protection service districts in Gaston County will be abolished in accordance with NCGS § 153A-306 as of June 30, 2022, and the Gaston County Tax Assessor/Collector is directed to make necessary changes: Agriculture Center, Alexis, Chapel Grove, Chestnut Ridge, Community, Crouse, East Gaston, High Shoals, Hughs Pond, Lowell, Lucia-Riverbend, New Hope, Ranlo, South Point, Spencer Mountain Road, Tryonota, Union Road, and Waco fire protection service districts.
4. This resolution defining and establishing the Gaston County Unified Fire Protection Service District to provide fire protection and rescue services shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

Adopted this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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Chad Brown, Chairman  
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board