



**RESOLUTION TITLE: GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2024 SESSION OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners are committed to strengthen and diversify Gaston County's economy, make Gaston County a top choice of business and industry expansion and to encourage the growth of safe and healthy communities; and,

WHEREAS, job creation, economic development, education, workforce development, 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 2024 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. 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.

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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:

2. Economic Development

- Continue the state's investment in infrastructure funding, economic development grant programs and support of county EDC services.
- Prioritize economic development funding for NC's 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.
- Workforce innovation priorities from NCEDA including a request for salary alignment with surrounding states. The specific ask is an additional 8% over the next three years.
- 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 High School partnerships including Career & College Promise and Early College.

3. Infrastructure Development

- Support modernizing transportation funding by advocating for:
 - 1) Stable and increased revenue sources for highways, rail and port infrastructure;
 - 2) Continued broadband infrastructure grants;
 - 3) and Continued support for water and sewer expansion in rural communities.
- Support funding for Travel & Tourism, specific to Gaston County's Crowder's Mountain State Park and Mountain Island Educational State Forest.
- Support local transportation funding priorities which include but not limited to:
 - 1) Increased funding for maintenance of current highways
 - 2) Widening of I-85
 - 3) Crossings over Catawba River (South Fork Crossing/Catawba Crossing)
- Support funding for K-12 Educational Facilities

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4. Health & Human Services

- Support funding legislation to prevent substance abuse as well as increase program availability for drug treatment and recovery initiatives.
- Increase support for programs that assist families moving from drug and domestic violence situations, to gain access to education/workforce training and independence.

5. Education

- Support of Community Colleges and Gaston College's efforts and partnership in workforce training.
- School Capital appropriations to meet needs for additional classroom space and maintenance of buildings.
- Restore the statutory appropriations for funds from the NC Lottery.

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.