



**RESOLUTION TITLE: GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2016 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 2016 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. Focus on Economic Development: 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 by:
 - Supporting the continued efforts toward elimination of the NC Corporate Tax. Commissioners have supported the reduction from 5% to 4% on January 1, 2016, with a 3% triggered when the corporate tax proceeds exceed \$21 Billion statewide
 - Opposing targeted taxes, policies and rules that would impede business development
 - Supporting changes in 2015 sales tax policy that has negatively impacted Gaston business development due to unintended consequences
 - Continued Support of (LOST) Local Option Sales Tax and maintain dedicated revenue for economic development (approximately \$84.8M statewide in 2016-2017)
 - Supporting the reduction of the Franchise Tax

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:

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2016 SESSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Page 2

2. Support job creation and retention efforts; fully fund job recruitment efforts and support various economic developments tools by:
 - Maintaining economic development programs of Golden Leaf Foundation
 - Maintaining the Governor's One NC Fund's competitiveness and effectiveness by continuation of the 2015 Commissioners goals that modified the local match
 - Supporting the creation of a Site and Building Development Fund. The subsidized loan fund would create access to capital for land acquisition, building construction, or building renovation in order to market property ready for lease or sale for industry job expansion
 - Continuing support for workforce development through the Community College system
 - Supporting environmental regulatory policy that is balanced to protect natural resources and be friendly to the manufacturing base
 - Supporting State investment in rural infrastructure of water and sewer. (March bond referendum has \$310M in competitive grants.)
3. Support funding for travel and tourism, historic preservation, land conservation, state parks and the arts in North Carolina as it spurs economic development by:
 - Supporting Crowder's Mountain State Park; (\$750,000 in the March bond referendum)
 - Supporting Mountain Island Educational State Forest
4. Protect the proceeds from lottery ticket sales to be preserved 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.
5. Support more 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.
6. Support North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' legislative priorities; most importantly, oppose unfunded mandates and any shifts of State responsibilities to counties.
7. Support Transportation Funding by:
 - Continuing efforts to fund transportation infrastructure in North Carolina based on statistical need criteria
 - Supporting the funding of transportation improvements required for new business and industry
 - Supporting the development of innovative and sustainable methods of funding transportation and infrastructure projects to meet the needs of our growing

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2016 SESSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Page 3

- population, including a mix of funding methods such as bonds, public-private partnerships, local option revenue, and new revenue sources
 - Opposing the shifting of road maintenance to local governments without the associated funding
 - Endorsing a coordinated effort between government entities and respective agencies to address infrastructure planning
 - Supporting highway interchange improvements that increase the visibility and vitality of area businesses while meeting all safety and commuter standards
 - Supporting LOCAL Funding Priorities which include:
 - Widening of Interstate 85
 - Highway 321 Interchange
 - Bridge over Catawba River (South Fork Crossing/Catawba Crossing)
8. Address disparities in education funding between Counties. Request a Study Commission of all Stakeholders in Education Funding to review disparities and make recommendations to the NCGA. The Public School Forum of NC cites the need for such a study and equalization of funding.

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.