



**RESOLUTION TITLE: GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TO APPROVE A JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY BY THE COUNTIES OF GASTON AND
MECKLENBURG, RECOGNIZING OUR SHARED RESOURCES
AND WHERE MUTUAL INTERESTS ARISE**

WHEREAS, Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties co-exist within the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia Metropolitan Statistical Area, which the United States Office of Management & Budget defines as “one or more adjacent counties or county equivalents that have at least one urban area of at least 50,000 population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of economic and social integration with the core as measured by commuting ties”; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties share a common border of 27.5 miles, comprised entirely of the shared and vital water resources of the Catawba River, Mountain Island Lake, and Lake Wylie; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston and Mecklenburg share economic and quality-of-life interests, for the benefit of our communities and the people who commute regularly between the counties for purposes of residence, employment, business, shopping, and leisure; and,

WHEREAS, opportunities arise when the Boards of Commissioners of Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties can form an effective advocacy approach related to matters of mutual interest; and,

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

Article 1: Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties share the following principles which guide consideration of legislative priorities:

- a. Support legislation that grants counties greater flexibility
- b. Support legislation that provides funding to counties.
- c. Oppose legislation that removes authority from counties
- d. Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or directly or indirectly shifts costs to counties.

Article 2: In 2020, legislative issues of mutual interest for the Counties and where a collaborative approach to advocacy will be beneficial, will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- a. Support of federal policies that allocate more funding for regional transit infrastructure, increased local decision-making authority and prioritized federal investments that increase economic development, mobility, and safety.

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- b. Support of stable federal tax policies that benefit counties, such as the continued treatment of municipal bonds as tax-exempt.
- c. Support NC General Assembly Reinstatement of the Mountain Island Lake Commission to work on water quality, shoreline issues, and boating safety.
- d. Support NC General Assembly legislation to study Homestead Act Thresholds and Needs, examining eligibility for seniors and government employees and refunding funds to counties to hold counties harmless.
- e. Oppose action by the General Assembly to privatize the State ABC Commission, which would affect proceeds received by counties for substance abuse and other services.

Article 3: The Managers of Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties, in consultation with the Chairs of the respective County Boards, shall be responsible for facilitating the sharing of legislative agenda information annually between the Boards, and/or for devising the path to a collaborative approach for determining and acting on legislative advocacy, where appropriate matters arise and mutual agreement is determined.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint Resolution be adopted in two counterparts by the Boards of County Commissioners of Gaston and Mecklenburg County.

This the 25th day of February, 2020.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board