

MEMO

To: Wake County Board of Commissioners
David Ellis, County Manager
From: Michelle Ferguson, Executive Vice President
Date: January 6, 2025
Re: Annual Board Retreat Preparation

I look forward to being with you on January 9-10, 2025 for the Board of Commissioners Annual Retreat. The purpose of this memorandum is to:

- Identify what needs to be done to prepare for the Retreat.
- Share the agenda.

Logistics

Location: Emergency Services Education Center (ESEC)
221 S. Rogers Lane, Suite 160
Raleigh, NC 27610

Day One: Thursday, January 9 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Day Two: Friday, January 10 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Breakfast and lunch will be available each day.

Norms

- Listen with respect
 - Let others finish before you start talking
 - Be attentive to the speaker
 - Disagree agreeably
- Be:
 - BOLD
 - high-level
 - positive and realistic
 - candid and honest
 - patient and self-aware
 - engaged and fully present
- Strive for consensus
 - Look for opportunities to agree
 - Remember the power of “if” and “and”
- Have fun!

Preparation

Several agenda items will benefit from preparation. Please spend a few minutes reviewing these materials and prepare to participate.

Intentional Governance

On Thursday morning, we will spend some time reflecting on the role of the Board of Commissioners and your working relationship with the County Manager. We will reflect on the following questions as part of this conversation:

- What is your personal motivation for and commitment to serving on the Board of Commissioners?

- What unique perspective do you bring, and how can it help both the County and the Board?

- What qualities and attributes should a Commissioner demonstrate to best serve the community?

- What is the ideal relationship between the Board of Commissioner and the County Manager?
 - How will you foster it?

- What strategies promote open communication and constructive dialogue?

- How do you see the County Manager's role in supporting the Board's priorities?
 - How can both parties work together to achieve shared objectives?

- What do you hope THIS Governing Body will be known for?

Strategic Planning Information

County staff has provided the latest Strategic Plan summary. As you review the County's Strategic Plan, please think about the important initiatives that you suggest should be emphasized in 2025.

You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts during the retreat. We will work together to identify the collective energy and interest of the Board concerning all the initiatives identified in the context of the County's strategic plan.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Agenda

Day One: Thursday, January 9, 2025, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Introductions

- Welcome and agenda review
- Norms and expectations for the retreat

Celebrating Success

Each person will be asked to share something that the County accomplished in the past year that made them PROUD of the County. Where did the County SHINE?

Intentional Governance

The Commissioners and County Manager will explore a series of questions sharing individual perspectives on working together on behalf of the community.

County Demographics

The Commissioners will engage in a conversation around the latest demographic data about Wake County, particularly related to population, growth, and aging.

Community Survey

Representatives from ETC will present the preliminary results of the recent resident survey.

Strategic Plan Update

Staff will provide a high-level overview of the County's Strategic Plan.

Day Two: Friday, January 10, 2025, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Welcome and Check-In

Strategic Plan 2025 Focus Areas

The Board will continue the discussion of the Strategic Plan and establish key initiatives from the Plan that will be Board's focus in 2025.

Closing

As the retreat comes to a close, each participant will also be asked to share a reflection about the session.