

Preparing for the 2027 Board of Commissioners

Ben Canada, Chief of Staff

August 10, 2026



@wakegov    

wake.gov

Thinking ahead to next year

- **Big change adding more commissioners**
- **No decision needed today**
- **Staff need feedback in mid October, incorporate input into 2027 scheduling**

Thinking ahead to next year

Part 1. Committees

- Structure
- Assignments
- Policy areas
- Meeting frequency
- Roles of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

Part 2. Agenda Review

- Scheduling three sessions per cycle
- Change of focus and format
- Rotation or not?

Considerations

- **Recent Board direction**
 - Great Government Committee of the Whole
 - Two remote meetings in 2027
 - Build times into the 2027 proposed schedule
- **Meeting frequency**
 - Staff will build in a third review on Mondays
 - Will reduce scheduling flexibility, bear in mind as you consider committee options



Committees

(see handout)

	Structure	Potential Policy Areas	Frequency	Frequency compared to 2026	Notes
Current	5 committees 3 commissioners per committee Chair and VC do not serve as committee chairs	• Education • Housing • Health and Human Services • Public Safety • Growth and ED	3 meetings per committee per year	-	Board has used this approach for three years (since CY2024)
Option A – Replace Committees with More Work Sessions	No committees, but schedule 6 additional work sessions per year Also use a Great Govt – Committee of the Whole	No assigned policy areas	Additional work sessions would be scheduled to avoid budget cycle, <u>Summer</u> break, and holidays Great Govt-Committee of the Whole would meet 2 times per year	Net reduction of 7 meetings	Additional Work sessions would likely fall on 4 th Mondays of the month Additional work sessions could have themes
Option B – Organize Committees Around Strategic Plan	4 committees 4 commissioners per committee Also use a Great Govt – Committee of the Whole	• Community Health & Well-being • Growth & Inclusive Prosperity • Lifelong Learning & Safer Together	3 meetings per committee per year Great Govt-Committee of the Whole would meet 2 times per year	Net reduction of 1 meeting	Most commissioners would serve on 2 committees; 2 commissioners would serve on 1 <u>committee</u> , this could be the Chair and Vice-Chair
Option C – Stick with 5 Committees (minimal change)	5 committees 4 commissioners per committee Also use a Great Govt – Committee of the Whole	• Education • Housing • Health and Human Services • Public Safety • Growth and ED	3 meetings per committee per year Great Govt-Committee of the Whole would meet 2 times per year	Net increase of 2 meetings	Most commissioners would serve on 2 committees; 2 commissioners would be assigned to 3 committees



Agenda Review

Goals and assumptions

- **Preserve time for commissioner discussion**
 - Agenda items
 - Appointments
 - Feedback on priority topics
- **Staff assume commissioners have reviewed agenda items**

Every Agenda Item starts with an Item Summary

- **Want the basics?**
See information on first page
- **Want more detail?**
read Additional Information, attached reports, slides, supporting documents

Item Title: Award Construction Contract for the South Wilmington Street Center Kitchen Renovation Project

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

1. Awards a construction contract in the amount of \$932,000.00 to Harrod and Assoc. Constructors, inc. of Raleigh, North Carolina for the South Wilmington Street Center Kitchen Renovation Project; and
2. Authorizes the County Manager (or designee) to execute the contract subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.

Item Summary:

Purpose: NC State Statutes require the Board of Commissioners to approve all public bid construction projects greater than \$500,000.

Background: The South Wilmington Street Center operates as a men’s shelter providing emergency shelter and supportive services to the homeless male population of Wake County.

The proposed renovation project at the South Wilmington Street Center will improve the functionality, efficiency, and overall condition of the existing kitchen and dining facilities while addressing required building code compliance upgrades. The project includes replacement and modernization of kitchen equipment, interior finish improvements, and associated mechanical, plumbing, and electrical system upgrades to support continued operations and enhance service delivery for shelter residents.

Strategic Plan: This action supports standard County operations and procedures.

Fiscal Impact: This project is funded in the County Buildings Element of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The contract award is within the appropriated budget, and no additional funds are required.

Recent Practice

- **Since 2020,**
- **Two review sessions, three commissioners per session**
- **Rotation**
 - Primary purposes of the rotation were to
 1. Equal number of scheduled reviews for commissioners
 2. Equal time with the Chair and Vice-Chair
 3. Promote commissioner interaction and discussion
- **Chair and Vice-Chair always in last session**

2027 Changes

- **Board meetings and work sessions (generally) start at 2:00**
- **Review sessions scheduled for 1 hour each,**
 - 10am
 - 11am
 - 12pm
- **Continue remote approach**
- **For consent agenda – will address commissioner questions, no longer summarize every item**
- **Missed session**
 - Commissioner may send questions to staff

Questions to consider

- **Do you want to have a recurring time slot?**
 - More consistent, lose the benefits of a rotation
- **Have the Chair and Vice-Chair in different sessions?**
- **Have the two newest commissioners paired with other commissioners?**
- **How will the Chair or Vice-Chair count support for agenda placement changes (consent vs. regular changes)?**

Next steps

- **Commissioner discussions**
- **Provide feedback to staff by October 15**



WAKE.GOV