

Process for County Bond Referendum

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Process required to hold a County bond referendum

- Required steps are numerous and very entailed
- Takes over 6 months to accomplish all required steps
- Among those, several Board actions & LGC approval is required
- When Schools bond is planned – adopted BOE resolution is required requesting County pursue a referendum for Schools purpose
- To address and discuss at upcoming Board budget work sessions:
 - Planned bond referenda purpose
 - Planned bond referenda size
 - County affordability and tax impact of referenda bonds
 - Debt policy measures after incorporating referenda bonds into debt model



Required Steps for Referendum

April	15	BOC directs County staff to pursue specific referendum purpose(s) and amount(s) on Fall ballot
May	5	BOE adopts resolution requesting County holds a referendum for Schools purpose (only if School bond on ballot)
	18	BOC adopts (Consent) findings resolution and authorizes notice of publication to file LGC application
	22	County staff publishes the notice of intent to file LGC application
June	8	County staff files LGC application
	15	BOC introduces (Consent) bond order; Sworn Statement of Debt and Disclosures filed with Clerk; sets referendum
	19	County staff publishes the first notice of referendum and notice of public hearing
July	6	BOC conducts (Regular) public hearing on bond order; adopts bond order; adopts resolution calling for referendum
	9	Board of Elections receives certified copy of County resolution calling for referendum
	10	County staff publishes the final bond order
	17	County staff publishes the second notice of referendum
August	10	County, WCPSS, & WTCC staff (as applicable) present to LGC; discuss projects planned with referendum bonds
September	4	Board of Elections makes absentee ballots available
November	3	Citizens vote on referendum
	13	Board of Elections certifies results of referendum
December	7	BOC adopts (Consent) declaration of results of referendum
	11	County staff publishes the statement of results of referendum

Board actions

April	15	Directs staff on purpose and size of referenda to be on fall ballot
May	18	Adopts preliminary resolution; purpose and size of referenda set
June	15	Introduces bond order; sets referendum date
July	6	Conducts public hearing; adopts final bond order and resolution
December	7	Adopts results of referendum

**if 2026 referendum is successful, corresponding tax increase will take effect 7/1/2027 (FY2028)*

Takeaways

- Board decides by April 15 the referenda to appear on Fall ballot
- More detailed discussion in upcoming budget meetings - to be discussed with existing budget pressures and funding shortfalls
- Once plan is finalized by Board, must be mindful about permissible communication about the referendum

NC G.S. 153A-456. Limitation on the use of public funds.

A county shall not use public funds to endorse or oppose a referendum, election or a particular candidate for elective office. (2010-114, s. 1.5(a).)

Permissible communication checklist

Board of Commissioners		County Staff		External Organizations	
Board of Education		Schools Staff		Chamber of Commerce	
WTech Board of Trustees		WTech Staff		NC Assoc of Educators	
Paid Promotion or Advertising *	Media Interview or Email	Paid Promotion or Advertising *	Media Interview or Email *	Paid Promotion or Advertising	Media Interview or Email
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

"Exercise your right to vote"

"Vote early"

"Vote on the referendum"

"Consider these referendum facts"

"Vote yes on the referendum"

**Wake County Communications Office would coordinate and manage this communication for Board of Commissioners and County staff*



Questions