



2016 Wake County Legislative Goals

I. Guiding Principles

1. Support legislation that retains local revenues and local control.
2. Oppose legislation creating unfunded mandates to counties or shifts costs to counties.
3. Support legislation that grants greater flexibility to counties.

II. Local Legislative Goals

1. Protect county revenues in tax reform consideration
 - Support the inclusion of county leadership in tax reform efforts and support legislation that will reform the current tax codes while protecting revenues important to counties
 - Support legislation that does not reduce sales tax authorization currently provided to Counties
2. Retain local governments' authority
 - Oppose any legislation preempting local governments from decision making or imposes a "one-size fits all" solution
 - Support increasing local governments' ability to regulate issues that impact their individual communities.
3. Increase funding for education
 - Support increases for per pupil funding in public schools
 - Support compensation increases for all educational staff
4. Restore funding for mental health
 - Restore funds diverted from LME/MCOs in last year's budget
5. Protect clean water
 - Oppose any reduction in buffer programs in nutrient sensitive or drinking water supply watersheds
6. Reinstate maintenance bonds
 - Support counties' ability to require maintenance bonds on subdivision roads
7. Opioid Initiative
 - Promote strategies for healthy community
 - Support programs to reduce fatalities from opioid overdoses
8. Ensure Community Access to Broadband Systems
 - Support local option to deploy community broadband systems

III. Statewide Legislative Goals Submitted by Wake County (Included in Approved NCACC Goals)

9. Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of state responsibilities to counties (TF-1)
 - Oppose legislation that establishes new or expanded state mandates without a commensurate increase in state resources to support service provision
10. Oppose any shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties (GG-1)
 - Oppose legislation to shift the state's responsibility for funding transportation construction and maintenance projects to counties
11. Ensure adequate mental health funding (HH-2)
 - Seek legislation to ensure that state-funded mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse services are available, accessible and affordable to all residents and that sufficient state resources fund service provision costs inclusive of sufficient crisis beds and supportive housing
 - Seek legislation to maintain state funding for community mental health services
12. Authorize local revenue options (TF-4)
 - Seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by voter referendum any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county, including local option sales taxes, prepared food taxes, impact fees and real estate transfer taxes; and to preserve the existing local revenue base
13. Allow electronic notice of public hearings and legal notices (GG-4)
 - Support legislation to grant counties the authority to provide notice of public hearings and other legal notices through electronic means in lieu of required publication in any newspaper
14. Support Medicaid reimbursement to EMS for mental health and substance abuse transport to crisis centers (HH-7)
 - Support legislation that would allow EMS to be reimbursed by Medicaid for transport of mental health and substance abuse patients to facilities for treatment. In the short session, DHHS was authorized to study this issue and specifically to study Wake County's current practices. The study is due to the General Assembly by March 2015
15. Support the public behavioral health managed care organization model currently in place (HH-2)
 - Seek legislation to maintain the public behavioral health managed care organization model currently in place. The LME/MCOs across the state are proving to be highly effective in responding to their mandates to ensure high-quality services while containing costs. This has produced Medicaid budget predictability on the behavioral health side and \$153 million in system savings since the implementation of MCO operations statewide

16. Increase the reimbursement rate to counties for the Misdemeanant Confinement Program (JPS-2)
 - Seek legislation that will increase the reimbursement rate to counties for the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program. The current rate is \$40/day when our cost Fund for the care, supervision, transportation and other related expenses is to \$75/day
17. Authorize special elections in any year (GG-5)
 - Protect local authority to authorize special elections in any year by seeking legislation to modify the language from S403 that prohibits special elections in odd numbered years