

Association of County Commissioners

2017-18 Legislative Goals

North Carolina Counties' Five Priority Goals

- 1. **PE-1:** Seek legislation to establish a new state-county partnership to address statewide public school capital challenges--including but not limited to maintenance, renovation, construction and debt--through a dedicated, stable funding stream that is consistent from county to county and sufficient to meet the school facility needs of all 100 counties.
- 2. **PE-2:** Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows a local school board to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.
- 3. **TF-1:** Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties, and oppose efforts to divert to the state fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties to the state. Oppose efforts to erode existing county revenue streams and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction.
- 4. **GG-1:** Support increased state funding for transportation construction and maintenance needs, and support legislation to ensure that the STI funding formula recognizes that one size does not fit all and that projects in both rural and urban areas are prioritized and funded.
- 5. **JPS-1:** Support legislation and funding to raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction from 16 to 18 with the exception of felony crimes.

Agriculture

AG-1: Support state funding and staffing for agricultural research, Cooperative Extension services and other agriculture-related efforts to support the largest economic driver in North Carolina.

AG-2: Support legislation allowing counties to partner with neighboring counties to establish multijurisdictional regional Agricultural Business Districts that allow for favorable taxation and incentives to attract agricultural businesses to the region.

Environment

ENV-1: Support legislation to increase funding for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for water and sewer infrastructure projects.

ENV-2: Support legislation to study and address air quality matters related to the removal and treatment of coal ash deposits.

ENV-3: Support legislation to provide for and fund a comprehensive statewide approach to noxious aquatic vegetation control in public water reservoirs.

General Government

GG-1: Support increased state funding for transportation construction and maintenance needs, and support legislation to ensure that the STI funding formula recognizes that one size does not fit all and that projects in both rural and urban areas are prioritized and funded.

GG-2: Seek legislation to authorize counties to require HOAs or developers to post maintenance bonds for publicly dedicated subdivision roads, require DOT to expedite acceptance of subdivision roads into the state road system, and implement a statewide approach to maintaining pre-subdivision ordinance roads.

GG-3: Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the un-served and under-served areas of the state.

GG-4: Support goals of the NC Military Affairs Commission.

GG-5/SC-1: Support legislation to grant all counties the option to provide notice of public hearings and other legal notices through electronic means in lieu of required publication in any newspaper.

Health and Human Services

HHS-1: Support increased state funding for behavioral health services and facilities at the state and local level, including dedicated resources for community paramedicine projects. Support Medicaid reimbursement to EMS for behavioral health transport to crisis centers and structure appropriate county participation in behavioral health program governance.

HHS-2: Seek increased state funding to support access to early childhood education.

HHS-3: Support increased funding and legislation to strengthen adult protective services.

HHS-4/SC-2: Support legislation to align oversight standards for lawful body piercing with lawful tattooing.

Justice and Public Safety

JPS-1: Support legislation and funding to raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction from 16 to 18 with the exception of felony crimes.

JPS-2: Support increased state funding for NC courts, including reinstating funding for drug treatment court.

JPS-3: Support legislation and state funding to provide early intervention services through the Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, and support increased state funding for the prevention, intervention and treatment of adolescent substance abuse, gang involvement and domestic violence.

JPS-4/SC-3: Support legislation increasing penalties for tattooing without a permit.

Public Education

PE-1: Seek legislation to establish a new state-county partnership to address statewide public school capital challenges--including but not limited to maintenance, renovation, construction and debt--through a dedicated, stable funding stream that is consistent from county to county and sufficient to meet the school facility needs of all 100 counties.

PE-2: Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows a local school board to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.

PE-3: Support legislation to provide for an overall increase of funding based on average daily memberships outside of the current formula system.

PE-4/SC-4: Support legislation providing flexibility to align K-12 and community college calendars.

Tax and Finance

TF-1: Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties, and oppose efforts to divert to the state fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties to the state. Oppose efforts to erode existing county revenue streams and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction.

TF-2: Support legislation to grow North Carolina's statewide economy through sound state investments, including public infrastructure funding, competitive incentives, and coordinated efforts with county economic development services.

TF-3: Support legislation to restore state aid funding of public libraries to the pre-2011 level of \$15.7 million and eliminate special provisions that distribute state aid outside of the equitable formula developed by the State Library Commission.