

MUNICIPAL ADVOCACY GOALS 2017-2018





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The Municipal Advocacy Goals contained in this document represent the collective policy priorities of the 540 members of the N.C. League of Municipalities. They are the result of a member-driven process involving more than 250 municipal officials from across North Carolina – those officials representing large cities and small towns, high-tech job hubs and rural farming communities, tourism-driven local economies and military-dependent communities.

Legislative Priorities for 2017-2018

Infrastructure

- Provide more state-level funding to meet local infrastructure demands for a growing population.
- Address court rulings so that municipalities can continue to prepare for growth.

Economic Growth

- Revise economic tier designations so that all towns and cities can thrive.
- Fund competitive film grants, robust historic preservation efforts and Main Street Solution programs so that cities and towns can continue to grow the economy and jobs.

Fiscal Health

- Allow more locally-controlled revenue options.
- Provide budget flexibility regarding sales tax changes.



Fiscal Health

- Seek legislation to provide municipalities with additional locally-controlled revenue options.
- Seek legislation to alter the current statutes governing distribution of local sales taxes by requiring a one-year delay in implementation when a county or the legislature changes its method of distributing sales tax revenue.
- Support legislation to bolster the state's mental health and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) treatment resources, including resources and solutions to lessen the strain on sworn law enforcement officers when providing custody of individuals in crisis.
- Support legislation which defends the fiscal integrity of the Local Government Employees' Retirement System and its defined benefit structure, promotes reasonable pension reforms that are prospective in nature, and meets the needs of local employees, employers, and retirees.

Economic Growth

- Seek legislation to allow room occupancy tax revenues to be used to fund municipal service and infrastructure costs in order to support travel and tourism.
- Support legislation that will provide sufficient funding at the state level for incentive programs such as a competitive film incentive program, robust state historic preservation tax credits, and the Main Street Solutions fund necessary to grow jobs and the economy.
- Support legislation to revise the tier method of measuring levels of economic distress to focus on the causes of distress and taking sub-county data into account.



Union Square Campus, Greensboro



Historic

Municipal Authority

- Support municipal authority over municipal personnel issues.
- Support legislation that provides for municipal elections to be determined by local municipal authority.
- Oppose legislation that interferes with local management or ownership of local assets.

Public Infrastructure

- Seek legislation eliminating municipalities' repayment of water- and sewer- growth related fees that have been previously collected, and providing municipalities with the authority to assess the level of fees and charges necessary for continued growth and economic development in the future.
- Seek legislative and administrative changes to the STIP process that give local priorities increased weight in the allocation of transportation funds.
- Seek legislation to increase state-level funding for municipal infrastructure needs.
- Support legislation that recognizes that management of a public utility is best determined by the local owning entity due to their consideration of financing, engineering, and regulatory responsibilities.

Federal

- Seek opportunities to support the passage of the federal e-fairness legislation.



ic Empire Hotel, Salisbury



The Liberty, Elkin



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