



This past year has tested Chapel Hill in many ways, but it has also shown the strength and resilience of our community. As Mayor and Council, we are proud to share several areas where Chapel Hill is making real progress — and where continued partnership with our state delegation and regional partners will help us go even further.



Tropical Storm Chantal Recovery

The Town continues to advance recovery efforts by repairing damaged greenways and public infrastructure, supporting and rehousing impacted public housing residents, and helping affected businesses reopen quickly.

Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO) Rewrite

We are entering the final phase of our LUMO rewrite, with draft review and adoption expected this fall. This modernization will align land-use policy with community needs while supporting statewide goals for housing supply, infrastructure readiness, and predictable, transparent development processes.

Housing Supply and Affordable Housing

The Town is making progress toward increasing housing supply and creating new affordable housing. This includes:

- 7,727 units in the development pipeline with 3,184 under construction
- 925 affordable units included with 365 under construction
- Overall, Chapel Hill accounts for 58.1% of all housing approvals and 82.7% of new housing construction in Orange County.

North-South Bus Rapid Transit (NSBRT)

We are advancing the North–South BRT corridor to strengthen mobility and catalyze new housing and business opportunities along our busiest transit corridor.

Council Strategic Priorities for FY 2026–27

- Complete Community planning
- Fiscal sustainability
- Housing affordability and supply
- Environmental resilience

Additional Areas of Collaboration

Carolina North Planning: Ongoing coordination with UNC–Chapel Hill on long-term plans for Carolina North, the most significant campus expansion in decades.

Regional Stormwater Strategy: Working with regional partners through the Build to Endure initiative to strengthen stormwater management and resilience across jurisdictional and watershed boundaries.

On behalf of Chapel Hill residents, thank you for your partnership and for your continued commitment to building a stronger future for our community, the Triangle region, and the State of North Carolina. We look forward to hearing about your priorities and those of your NCGA colleagues for the upcoming session.

We also ask for your continued support of maintaining local control. Our shared goals are best achieved when local leaders are empowered to make decisions that reflect their communities' strengths, challenges, and needs. By working together, we can keep state and local efforts aligned and ensure communities like Chapel Hill continue to thrive.

Jessica Anderson, Mayor
Camille Berry, Mayor Pro Tem
Melissa McCullough, Council Member
Wes McMahon, Council Member
Paris Miller-Foushee, Council Member

Theodore Nollert, Council Member
Louie Rivers III, Council Member
Amy Ryan, Council Member
Elizabeth Sharp, Council Member

From the Town Manager



Thank you for your continued service and advocacy on behalf of our community. Your leadership and engagement make a meaningful difference for the residents we all serve, and we are grateful for the time and attention you dedicate to understanding the challenges and opportunities facing our town. Like my colleagues in cities and towns across the state, **I'm deeply concerned about one particular measure under consideration.**



We oppose the General Assembly taking away local authority over property taxes. This would take decision-making away from local elected officials, making it harder to plan budgets, maintain services, and address rising costs.

If the state limits our ability to adjust the property tax rate, we would likely face cuts to core services that residents rely on every day. Property taxes are our main source of funding for day-to-day services, especially Police, Fire, Transit, Sanitation, and Street Maintenance. These services already cost significantly more than they did just a few years ago.

We believe these decisions should remain in local hands, where elected officials are directly accountable to the people who live here. We encourage consideration of more targeted options that can offer real relief without putting essential Town services at risk.

Your partnership strengthens our ability to meet local needs effectively, and we appreciate the open dialogue and commitment you bring to supporting a strong and thriving Chapel Hill.

Sincerely,
Theodore L. Voorhees



2026 Legislative Priorities



Sustainability

STATE-LEVEL PRIORITIES

A more transparent, affordable, and accelerated Duke Energy Carbon Plan (CPIRP). Mayor Anderson recently signed a joint letter to the NC Utilities Commission advocating for this.

A Clean Transition Tariff (CTT) and rate design options for public-facing EV fast-charging stations. Large energy customers could pay for utility-scale renewable work without burdening regular taxpayers.

Duke Energy Non-Residential Power Pair Program that would create incentives for commercial/industrial property owners to install solar energy storage systems.

THANK YOU for passing Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure. Our local Economic Development and Sustainability teams are collaborating to support the first projects in Orange County.

GOOD NEWS

We're ahead of our greenhouse emission target.

We are 32% below 2005 levels, which is 5% above the target set in our Climate Action Plan.

The good work of UNC and our utility partners to decarbonize has significantly aided this progress.

Economic Development

STATE-LEVEL PRIORITIES

Strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems by supporting Right to Start, a statewide coalition advancing prosperity for all through homegrown jobs, higher incomes, and stronger communities.

Support Propel NC, the Community College System's program to ready a high-demand, high-wage, and livable workforce. This is crucial to furthering Durham Tech's local workforce development.

Support policy tools that advance our ability to grow our local tax base in new, creative, and legitimate ways, such as the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program.

THANK YOU for the attention the General Assembly and NC Commerce are providing to the 2026 Strategic Economic Development Plan.

GOOD NEWS

The Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Launch Inc kicked off Launch Local.

This new program supports and accelerates main street businesses and entrepreneurs through capacity building and technical education.

2026 Legislative Priorities



Transportation & Mobility

STATE-LEVEL PRIORITIES

Increasing state operating assistance for transit systems. The State Maintenance Assistance Program has stayed flat for 20+ years, despite growth in urban transit systems and increased cost of service.

Advocating for NCDOT to allow sponsorship signage at NSBRT stations located within NCDOT right-of-way. Right now, we're missing out on key funding opportunities.

Reforming STI (Strategic Transportation Investments) to elevate non-highway projects for funding. Smaller jurisdictions rely completely on non-local funding for larger multimodal projects.

THANK YOU to NCDOT for partnering with us on numerous crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, advancing our Safe Routes to Schools and Vision Zero goals.

GOOD NEWS

Three major mobility projects will break ground in 2026. They include \$1.5M in Community Project Funding from Congresswoman Foushee's office.

We are making progress on our transformative Bus Rapid Transit project and working closely with NCDOT.

Housing

STATE-LEVEL PRIORITIES

Amend or repeal restrictions on downzoning to provide local governments clarity on their zoning authority. The limits of SB 382 are fueling widespread uncertainty for local governments in NC.

Funding for Workforce Housing Loan Program to provide supplemental financing for projects funded with federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

Funding to support homeownership assistance programs to expand homeownership for community members who may not otherwise afford the purchase of a home.

THANK YOU for your support of affordable housing funding programs such as the Workforce Housing Loan Program and the Supportive Housing Development Program, which are closing financing gaps.

GOOD NEWS

Recently adopted LUMO amendments expand missing middle opportunities and streamline development review.

We're developing affordable housing on Town-owned land at Trinity Court and Homestead Gardens.

2026 Legislative Priorities



Community Safety

STATE-LEVEL PRIORITIES

Oppose Permitless Concealed Carry (SB 50). Maintaining background checks and safety considerations supports officer safety and community well-being.

Support for Treatment, Diversion, and Deflection Programs that reduce incarceration and connect individuals to behavioral health and substance use services.

Address predatory towing (HB 1024 and 1037) by requiring reasonable and clearly disclosed fees and ensuring timely vehicle recovery.

THANK YOU for supporting mental health, coordinated crisis response, and first responder wellness, allowing us to better serve both our community and our responders.

GOOD NEWS

We continue to expand our co-responder models to improve outcomes and reduce unnecessary arrests.

We have a strong partnership with Orange County to enhance and expand mobile crisis response.

