

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING QUARTER-CENT SALES TAX FOR TEACHER PAY**

**WHEREAS**, providing our children with quality education is critical for their success in life, the success of our community in attracting and keeping good paying jobs, lowering crime and, in general, fostering healthier more productive and engaged residents; and

**WHEREAS**, public school teachers play an indispensable role in providing that education; and

**WHEREAS**, attracting and retaining highly qualified, motivated teachers is essential in creating the best possible learning environment in the classroom: and

**WHEREAS** teacher compensation is a key element in recruiting and retaining the best teachers possible; and

**WHEREAS**, Forsyth County has the lowest local teacher compensation supplement among all of North Carolina's major urban areas, which is also lower than the state average, contributing to the approximately 15% of teachers who leave our schools each year (500 teachers) as well as the school system's difficulty in filling open positions with licensed teachers (40 openings as of January 15, 2020); and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed quarter-cent increase of Forsyth County's sales tax, appearing on the March 3, 2020 primary ballot, is dedicated for teacher compensation supplements and will result in approximately \$13.5 million the first year; and

**WHEREAS**, groceries, gasoline, prescription medication, rent as well as other essential items listed in the legislation are exempt from the quarter-cent and all sales taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 40 other North Carolina counties have already passed a similar quarter-cent sales tax; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of the quarter-cent sales tax will result in a one cent decrease in real estate and personal property taxes for all Forsyth County residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem support the proposed quarter-cent sales tax for teacher supplemental compensation and urges all residents to vote for our teachers on the March 3, 2020 ballot.