

LEGISLATIVE GOAL STATEMENTS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF

The following goal statements are NOT listed in any priority order.

- **Establish long term funding streams that adequately address water, sewer, stormwater, transportation and other infrastructure needs.**
 - Infrastructure – including roads, water, sewer, stormwater, parks and beaches – are critical to economic development and job creation.
 - Many cities in the state are growing, creating a constant need for investment to keep pace with population growth; many cities and towns also have aging infrastructure that must be replaced.
 - Creating long-term and more permanent funding streams for infrastructure will ensure adequate investments so that North Carolina thrives now and into the future.

- **Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance of municipal and state-owned secondary roads.**
 - Current Powell Bill and other state funding is not adequate to address transportation needs, particularly as they affect municipal and state-owned secondary roads.
 - In many cities and towns, major commuting corridors are not receiving the level of investment needed to keep pace with traffic.
 - More investment is needed for these roads if existing residents are to embrace business and residential growth.

- **Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.**
 - Funding is simply inadequate in many cities and towns to encourage job growth.
 - State grants and incentives are often targeted in ways that fail to assist the areas in greatest need of job creation.
 - Maintaining or expanding funding for film tax credits, major industrial site development, downtown development and

renewable energy tax credits helps cities and towns across the state.

- **Create incentives to encourage the development of diverse housing options.**
 - Housing affordability continues to be a significant problem across many areas of North Carolina, affecting people of different income levels.
 - The lack of affordable housing acts as a major impediment to business and workforce recruitment.
 - State incentives to encourage the construction of housing for people of various income levels are extremely limited.

- **Provide resources to rehabilitate or purchase blighted properties.**
 - In many cities and towns, blighted properties act as an impediment to economic and business growth.
 - Cities and towns have limited means to address these properties, particularly in more rural, smaller communities.
 - Rehabilitating blighted properties can help address North Carolina's housing needs.

- **Create incentives that encourage and adequately fund regionalized water and sewer solutions.**
 - A number of municipal water and sewer systems continue to financially struggle with deferred maintenance needs.
 - These challenges came about largely due to population and job losses in rural areas, leading to an erosion of taxpayer and ratepayer bases.
 - While legislators and municipalities have begun to address these issues with the creation of the Viable Utility Reserve and the use of ARPA funding, state estimates show needs still exceed expenditures by several billion dollars.

- **Provide local revenue options beyond the property tax.**
 - Roughly 40 percent of municipal general fund revenue is generated by local property taxes.
 - Cities have little to no authority to raise significant revenues in other ways.

- A lack of diverse, local tax options can affect economic growth, as well as cause large swings in revenue based on economic changes.
- **Support technical assistance programs to assist municipalities with securing or maintaining grants or other necessary municipal resources.**
 - Many municipalities do not have the resources to seek or administer grants, even as that source of funding could help meet the needs of residents.
 - State, federal and other grant funding offers a significant opportunity for cities and towns to improve infrastructure or enhance services.
 - Providing technical assistance to these municipalities can provide them with access to grant funding, providing resources not otherwise available to them.
- **Address the needs of changing municipal workforce through state assistance that supports employee retention, including training and recruitment.**
 - Municipalities across the state are facing staffing issues as current workers age and retire.
 - Training and retention are limited and competing with wages offered in the private sector can be difficult.
 - The use of training and recruitment tools across state and local government boundaries can improve public sector workforce availability.
- **Protect the ability of municipal elected officials, acting on behalf of local voters, to determine election formats, districts and other election matters currently under their purview.**
 - Locally-elected municipal officials are best positioned to understand the wishes of local voters and how those should be applied to local election matters.
 - In many areas, residents prefer to avoid political polarization when it comes to the practical tasks of municipal government.
 - Locally-elected municipal officials are in their communities every day and accessible to voters.