

NCLM 2025 Draft Priorities List Town of Hillsborough: Reduce from 16 to 10

The list below is the short version of the League's Top 16 that the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners needs to reduce to ten. The full list with details is in a separate attachment. To assist the board in this task, the mayor and manager collaborated in identifying a "starter" list of the top ten by eliminating what they saw as the six lowest of the priorities. For ease of identification and discussion, ~~strike through~~ font is used on the lower six priorities below. Reviewing the town board's 2023 Legislative, Strategic, and Capital Priorities, as well as considering challenges facing Hillsborough helped guide this draft list. It's anticipated the board will make changes during discussion of this item at the January 13 meeting.

1. Expand funding opportunities for disaster resiliency and recovery efforts.
2. Establish long-term funding streams that adequately address water, sewer, stormwater, transportation and other infrastructure needs.
3. Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance of municipal and state-owned secondary roads.
4. Increase funds to remediate contamination in local water supplies.
5. ~~Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.~~ *Designing an effective incentive system distributed equitably across the state while providing long-term benefits is difficult. Bidding competitions resulting in overpayments to lure companies often occur. Higher priorities exist on the priority list.*
6. Create incentives to encourage the development of diverse housing options.
7. Provide resources to rehabilitate or purchase blighted properties.
8. ~~Create incentives that encourage and adequately fund regionalized water and sewer solutions.~~ *This issue and priority is also considered in priority #2 and #9 on this list, thus this seems duplicative.*
9. Reduce regulatory conflicts between state agencies that discourage voluntary consolidation, merger and interconnection of municipal utility systems.
10. ~~Create an orphan road program whereby the state improves those roads to N.C. Department~~
- ~~of Transportation standards before municipalities assume maintenance responsibilities.~~ *While a problem and a priority, this is not a top ten issue.*
11. Provide local revenue options beyond the property tax.
12. ~~Support technical assistance programs to assist municipalities with securing or maintaining grants or other necessary municipal resources.~~ *Municipalities needing assistance in this area can work through their COG, region, or hire consultants to provide need-specific assistance.*
13. ~~Address the needs of a changing municipal workforce through state assistance that supports employee retention, including training and recruitment.~~ *This problem does not need to be addressed at the state level. Most municipalities can address on their own or are collaborating with their COG or region to address.*
14. Update the annexation petition thresholds to make voluntary annexations easier to initiate.
15. ~~Preserve authority for extraterritorial jurisdiction to ensure that growth is well-planned and investments by homeowners and business owners are protected.~~ *The ETJ provides limited benefits to Hillsborough and actually creates some additional complexities and confusion.*
16. 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.