

LEGISLATIVE GOAL STATEMENTS

RECOMMENDED BY THE NCLM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

- **Expand funding opportunities for disaster resiliency and recovery efforts.**
 - North Carolina has faced a number of damaging natural disasters in recent years, including the unprecedented storm that devastated western North Carolina in the fall of 2024.
 - To fully recover from these natural disasters requires a broad approach that focuses on infrastructure, housing and economic losses.
 - Federal assistance and private insurance will not be enough to address these ongoing, critical needs or mitigate damage when future disasters hit.
- **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

- **Increase funds to remediate contamination in local water supplies.**
 - Local municipal water systems and their ratepayers increasingly are footing the costs of cleaning up PFAS and other “forever” chemicals from drinking water supplies.
 - As more regulations are set at the state and federal level to limit these chemicals in water supplies, costs will escalate.
 - Cities primary recourse to try to recoup the cost for utility ratepayers is through the courts.
- **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.
- **Reduce regulatory conflicts between state agencies that discourage voluntary consolidation, merger and interconnection of municipal utility systems.**
 - Municipalities have contractually obtained older, smaller utility systems of other municipalities and private enterprises in order to provide better and more efficient services to residents and businesses.
 - Older laws and regulations impose penalties on mid-size and large municipalities due to state agencies requiring them to pay for relocation of utilities when those penalties would have been reduced or eliminated for the smaller entities they were purchased from.
 - The State should work to reduce and eliminate these conflicts which have the effect of discouraging voluntary consolidation, merger and interconnection of municipal utility systems.
- **Create an orphan road program whereby the state improves those roads to N.C. Department of Transportation standards before municipalities assume maintenance responsibilities.**
 - So-called orphan roads are typically created when a street in a subdivision is not built to state or municipal standards, and the developer walks away without an agreement for maintenance.
 - The abandoned road can leave homeowners on the hook for the cost of maintenance.
 - For cities and towns, these abandoned roads can serve as a deterrent to voluntary annexation agreements even as the residents seek municipal services.

- **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 revenue 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 a 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 resources 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.
- **Update the annexation petition thresholds to make voluntary annexations easier to initiate.**
 - Voluntary annexation by petition currently requires 100 percent consent from all property owners, a threshold that can be impossible to meet even if a majority of property owners can benefit by utilizing their property for business or residential purposes.
 - Lowering the threshold from 100 percent represents a middle ground that would still reflect the will of property owners but not handicap communities' ability to economically thrive.
 - The ability of a city or town to grow and reflect its urban footprint is vital to its financial health; city services are relied on by residents whether they live in or near municipal boundaries.

- **Preserve authority for extraterritorial jurisdiction to ensure that growth is well-planned and investments by homeowners and business owners are protected.**
 - A community's land-use planning tools, including ETJ, are vital as infrastructure investments are made that pave the way for economic growth.
 - Protecting homes and businesses from incompatible uses continues to be an important feature of ETJs. As of 2022, at least 14 counties in North Carolina had no zoning restrictions, with several others being only partially zoned.
 - Protecting neighborhoods from incompatible uses ultimately protects the value of residents' homes and property.
- **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.



2025-2026 Biennium Legislative Goals | Designate Your Municipality's Voting Delegate

The League's member-driven legislative goals development process coincides with the start of each new legislative biennium. During even-numbered years, members come together to submit their legislative goals and priorities. Over the last few months, the Legislative Policy Committee considered these ideas, then presented its recommendations to the Board of Directors at their December meeting. The Board refined the positions further before sending them to the full League membership for a final vote. After the final voting period closes, cities and towns will have a focused advocacy agenda to pursue at the state and federal levels.

Designation of the Voting Delegate: Each Voting Delegate shall cast the single vote of the municipality for the Legislative Goals and Core Municipal Principles.

Deadline to Designate Voting Delegate: Thursday, January 16, 2025

Membership Voting Period: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 - Friday, January 17, 2025

If you have questions, contact Whitney Murphy | wmurphy@nclm.org | 919-715-8154

VOTING DELEGATE INFORMATION

Name *

Title 	First	Last
---	-------	------

Municipality *

▼

Preferred Email - unique to voting delegate to receive ballot *

Cell Number *

Preferred Address *

Address Line 1

City

North Carolina

▼

Zip Code

PERSON COMPLETING FORM (if different from above)

Name

Title

First

Last

Email

Preferred Phone Number

Submit

Cliff Ogburn

From: Erin Wynia, NCLM Director/of Government Affairs <NCLM@mail.ncml.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Cliff Ogburn
Subject: 2025-2026 Biennium Legislative Goals | NCLM Board Proposed Recommended Goals



2025-2026 Biennium Legislative Goals Voting Process

December 17, 2024

Dear NCLM Members,

As this year comes to an end, I am pleased to share with you that the League's legislative goals development process is almost complete. All that remains is for member cities and towns to review the proposed goals and cast their votes—we need your help and participation in this last, and most important, step in the process.

Thank you for the work you have already completed; we have received over 350 ideas from 197 individuals representing 154 municipalities. After the dedicated work by the Legislative Policy Committee to compile and refine the submitted goals, the NCLM Board of Directors has reviewed, approved and now submits **16 proposed legislative goals for your consideration.**

Your job now is to review and vote on the proposed goals so that cities and towns have a focused state and federal advocacy agenda for the 2025-2026 legislative biennium, which begins in January at the N.C. General Assembly.

Each municipality will cast a single vote by selecting 10 of the **16 proposed advocacy goals**. To vote, your municipality must:

STEP 1.

Designate a single Voting Delegate who will cast the municipality's vote by January 16, 2025. If your municipality has not yet designated

its Voting Delegate, please do so using **this form**. Official voting instructions and the ballot will be sent directly to the Voting Delegate.

STEP 2.

Review, discuss and determine which of the **proposed legislative goals** your municipality supports. Each municipality may select 10 of the 16 proposed goals.

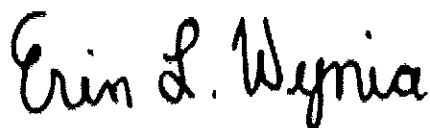
STEP 3.

Submit the online ballot by January 17, 2025. The Voting Delegate will receive voting instructions and the online ballot directly.

Thank you for your continued participation in this legislative goals development process, which is so critical to our advocacy efforts.

Establishing these Municipal Legislative Goals with wide participation by all cities and towns allows our organization to speak with confidence and sincerity as we pursue each with state and federal policymakers. It truly allows us to live up to our motto, "Working as one, advancing all."

Sincerely,



Erin Wynia
Director of Government Affairs

PROPOSED GOALS

DESIGNATE YOUR VOTING DELEGATE



WORKING AS ONE. ADVANCING ALL.