

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: September 4, 2012

SUBJECT: NCACC Legislative Goals

PRESENTER: Steve Wyatt

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. NCACC Legislative Goals Process Memo
2. 2013-2014 Legislative Goals Proposal Form
3. Fall 2012 Legislative Goals Handbook
4. 2011-2012 Legislative Goals Status Report

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The NCACC has announced the legislative goals development process for the 2013-14 biennium, and are inviting counties to submit their legislative proposals to the Association. The submission deadline for proposals is September 17, 2012. A list of the Legislative Goals for 2011-2012, and an update on their status, is included for reference.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Should the Board wish to submit any legislative goals to the NCACC, they are requested to direct staff accordingly.

Suggested Motion:

No motion suggested.

Aspl



N O R T H C A R O L I N A
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Memorandum

To: County Board Chairs, County Commissioners, County Managers, Clerks and Affiliate Organization Presidents
From: David F. Thompson, Executive Director
Date: July 13, 2012
Subject: NCACC Solicitation of County Legislative Goals Proposals for 2013-14

The time is here for us to begin our legislative goals development process for the 2013-14 biennium. We are inviting counties to submit their legislative proposals to the Association. Our goals development process is open, inclusive and deliberative. It is designed to give all 100 counties a voice in developing our legislative agenda.

This Association is the only organization in the state that truly represents all the citizens of North Carolina. For each biennial session of the General Assembly, counties submit legislative proposals, and commissioners from across the state review and recommend them to our members. Legislators know and appreciate that all 100 counties have the opportunity to be involved in our process.

Receipt of your county's proposals is instrumental to our process. Attached is a form for submittal of 2013-14 legislative goals proposals, a legislative goals handbook that delineates NCACC's legislative goals process, and a list of the progress made on the 2011-12 legislative goals. Due to your efforts, many of our goals were achieved. Reviewing these issues may be helpful in contemplating new goals or revisiting ones that need further action.

When submitting your goals, please keep in mind the following:

- Complete the accompanying goal proposal form.
- Goals may be submitted in any of the following formats: a resolution approved by the Board of Commissioners, a letter from the Chairman of the Board on behalf of the entire board, or by letter from an affiliate organization.
- Proposed goals received on or before Sept. 17 will be referred to the appropriate steering committee for review and consideration.
- Proposed goals received after Sept. 17 will be sent directly to the Legislative Goals Committee for review.

As referenced above, this packet includes the 2012 NCACC Legislative Goals Handbook. This handbook contains information about the rules, procedures and guidelines for the legislative goals adoption process. Please note the following schedule for your planning purposes.

Legislative goals development timeline

- Sept. 17, 2012 Goals submission deadline
- September - October Steering committees review goals
- November Legislative Goals Committee meets
- December Board of Directors reviews and finalizes recommendations
- Jan. 24-25, 2013 Legislative Goals Conference, membership approval of goals

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kevin Leonard, NCACC Deputy Director.



2013-14 biennium

LEGISLATIVE GOALS PROPOSAL FORM

All proposals due to NCACC by Sept. 17, 2012

Mail to NCACC, Attn.: Kevin Leonard, 215. N. Dawson St., Raleigh, NC 27603;
e-mail to ncacc@ncacc.org; or fax to (919) 733-1065

Attach one or more of the following to this form:

- An adopted resolution by the Board of Commissioners;
- A letter from the Board Chairman on behalf of the Board; and/or
- A letter from the president of an affiliate organization.
- Any other documentation or materials that support the proposed goal.

If you have questions, contact Kevin Leonard at (919) 715-4369 or kevin.leonard@ncacc.org.

Date:	
Name of county/affiliate organization:	
Name and title of person submitting goal:	
Phone:	E-mail:
Goal title:	
Goal description (what is the problem being addressed?):	
County staff contact if other than submitter:	

Legislative Goals Timeline

Sept. 17: Deadline for submission of proposals

Sept. – Oct.: Steering committees review goals

November: Legislative Goals Committee reviews steering committee recommendations, approves package of goals for Board of Directors

December: Board of Directors finalizes package to be presented to full membership

Jan. 24-25, 2013: Membership adopts goals at Legislative Goals Conference

Select Steering Committee(s)

You may choose more than one

- Agriculture
- Environment
- Human Services
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Justice and Public Safety
- Public Education
- Tax and Finance



LEGISLATIVE GOALS HANDBOOK

FALL 2012

SECOND EDITION

THE NCACC LEGISLATIVE GOALS PROCESS

Mission Statement

The Association's Legislative Goals process is thoughtful, deliberative, inclusive and fair. The investment of time and energy, and value of full discourse, strengthens our Association as we navigate the legislative currents. The process is designed to create an informed grassroots organization and to build a cohesiveness of purpose within the organization that, in turn, grants a degree of credibility to the Association that is unique. All counties and all county officials are invited and encouraged to participate in the Legislative Goals process.

CONTENTS

This handbook is intended to offer the reader an overview and guidance about the rules and processes used to develop the legislative agenda of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Information is presented in a format that tracks the chronological course of action for the goals adoption process.

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Background and 2013-14 Adopted Timeline

Every two years, in the months preceding a long session of the General Assembly, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners engages in a process to determine the legislative goals it should seek in the best interest of the counties. The process is thorough, deliberative, and time intensive. It is designed to allow for input from as many county commissioners and other county officials as possible. By maximizing participation from so many of the organization's members, it is possible to reach agreement on goals that are important to all members of this diverse organization.

The NCACC goals-setting process begins in July of each even-numbered year and consists of five stages. These stages are described in detail in this handbook.

Below is the recommended timeline for the 2013-14 legislative goals process:

Legislative Goals Process Timeline	
When	What
September 17 th	Submission of county goal proposals deadline
September - October	Steering committees review goals
November	Legislative Goals Committee reviews steering committee recommendations, approves package of goals for Board of Directors
December	Board of Directors finalizes package to be presented to full membership
January 24-25, 2013	Membership adopts goals at Legislative Goals Conference

Stage 1 - Seeking Proposed Goals (July - September)

The Association's goals-setting process begins with an effort to elicit proposals that members think should be part of the county legislative "package" for the upcoming legislative biennium. Through CountyLines, e-mail communications and other means, the Association solicits proposals from county boards of commissioners. Suggested goals can be submitted via adopted resolutions from full boards, from the Board Chairmen via letter on behalf of the full boards, and from the fifteen affiliate and related organizations (which are groups of county officials/staff organized by function) via a letter from those organizations' presidents.

Presently, the following organizations are included as Affiliate and Related organizations:

Affiliates

- Association of North Carolina Boards of Health
- Human Resources Directors' Association of North Carolina Counties
- N.C. Association of Assessing Officers
- N.C. Association of County Boards of Social Services
- N.C. Association of County Attorneys
- N.C. Association of County Clerks to the Board
- N.C. Association of County Directors of Social Services
- N.C. Association of County Finance Officers
- N.C. Association of Emergency Medical Services Administrators (NCAEMSA)
- N.C. Association of Local Health Directors
- N.C. Association of Registers of Deeds
- N.C. Tax Collectors' Association

Related Organizations

- Joint Regional Forum
- N.C. City/County Managers Association
- N.C. Association of County Department of Social Services Attorneys

The Association intentionally casts a wide net to encourage inclusiveness and full membership participation. Discussion and action on proposed goals by full boards of commissioners is requested because this interaction contributes to the deliberative process and builds consensus.

Counties are provided a form on which to submit proposed goals. This streamlines the internal processing of proposals. Forms can be requested by contacting the Association office or can be accessed on the NCACC website at www.ncacc.org. A sample form is included in the Appendix of this handbook.

Stage 2 - Steering Committee Review (September – October)

The Steering Committee Review is the first step in our legislative goals development process. The Association has seven Steering Committees, organized by subject matter. These are permanent, standing committees. Membership on the Steering Committees is open to any county official – elected, appointed or administrative; chairs are appointed by the Association President following each annual conference. The Steering Committees are:

- Agriculture
- Environment
- Health and Human Services
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Justice and Public Safety
- Public Education
- Taxation and Finance

Proposed goals are sorted according to subject matter by NCACC staff and referred to the appropriate Steering Committees for review. Steering Committees may hear from county officials who submit goal proposals and also may review staff research and analysis. The participation of county staff on Steering Committees provides professional expertise that is critically important as a “reality check” when Steering Committees deliberate the practicality of proposals, discuss how proposals could or should be modified, consider how they align with other proposals, and suggest revisions to better meet the needs of the county “family.” Though staff expertise is critical, particularly at this early stage, as the goal-setting process moves forward, it is increasingly controlled by elected county commissioners.

During the goal setting process the steering committee members are asked to make specific recommendations or actions about each submitted goal. The committee actions include, but are not limited to:

- Favorable – A goal is approved to send to the Legislative Goals Committee for further discussion and consideration.
- Amend – The committee may revise or amend a proposal.
- Unfavorable – The committee declines to send the goal forward.
- Forward Without Prejudice – The Committee has no opinion on the proposal, but wants the Legislative Goals Committee to consider it.
- Needs Further Study – The Committee has insufficient information to make an informed decision and requests that the sponsors either do further research or bring back answers to particular questions at a later date.

In addition to considering proposed goals submitted by counties and partner organizations, the Steering Committees review goals from the previous legislative session to determine whether they are still relevant and should be continued. The committees are also empowered to develop their own suggested goals when needed. Each committee submits its proposed goals to the Legislative Goals Committee.

Policy Statement Review

The Steering Committees also review the Association's subject area Policy Statements. The Policy Statements are general declarations of ongoing positions that give guidance on broad policy objectives, such as "no mandates without funding." These statements also guide the staff in dealing with unanticipated issues that arise in the legislative context or that affect the counties in other ways, as with proposed administrative rules and regulations or state agency policies.

Because the Steering Committees are ongoing and have broad member participation, they are a critical first step in the Legislative Goals development process. The committees meet quarterly and are available to review legislation during the legislative session; they are used to guide unanticipated legislative action and to recommend any actions that might be advisable to the NCACC Board of Directors for formal consideration and action. This issue is described in greater detail in a later section included in this handbook.

Stage 3 - Legislative Goals Committee (November)

The Legislative Goals Committee is a non-standing committee. It is newly appointed every two years and meets as needed. Members are selected to assure balance with respect to political affiliation, county population, race, gender and other demographic characteristics. Two co-chairs, a Republican and a Democrat, are appointed by the NCACC Association President to lead the Legislative Goals Committee.

The members of the Legislative Goals Committee traditionally include:

- Each Steering Committee Chair (appointed by the President)
- Affiliate organization representatives (the president of the affiliate organization)
- A Joint Regional Forum representative
- An elected commissioner from each of the Association's 18 districts
- Other members as appointed by the President.

The Legislative Goals Committee reviews the recommendations of the Steering Committees. Steering Committee chairs present their committee's recommendations. The county officials who want to advocate their proposals are allowed to make presentations to the Legislative Goals Committee. The committee also reviews research and analysis related to the proposals.

The goals development timeframe requires that the Legislative Goals Committee hold its meetings during the busiest political season of the year for counties. The process always takes place during an election year for counties, and the campaign season is always underway when the Legislative Goals Committee and Steering Committees are deliberating their proposals. While this may be inconvenient, it is necessary. It is also beneficial to the process, in that critical issues are often in front of the public and commissioners.

The Legislative Goals Committee may narrow the list of proposals; it also reconciles conflicts or overlaps between steering committee recommendations, and prioritizes its recommendations. The proposals are then submitted to Board of Directors for consideration.

Stage 4 - Board of Directors (December)

As the Association's goal-setting process moves forward, the elected county commissioners become more and more involved in the decision-making process. The Board of Directors is almost exclusively elected commissioners, with the one exception of a non-voting county manager.

At its December meeting, the Board reviews the recommendations of the Legislative Goals Committee. As at earlier stages of the process, the Board may hear presentations, review research and analysis, add, delete or amend proposals and policy statements.

The Board gives final approval to the package of proposals and policy statements that are to be voted on by the full membership at the Legislative Goals Conference in January. By taking this action in December, the individual county boards of commissioners have time and opportunity for a full review prior to the conference.

Stage 5 - Legislative Goals Conference (Jan. 24-25)

The final stage of the Association's Legislative Goals process is the Legislative Goals Conference, to which all Association members are invited. Historically, more than 85 counties are represented, exemplifying an outstanding degree of interest and participation. The conference is spread over a day and a half, assuring time for thorough discussion, deliberation and debate. In recognition of the need to involve newly elected commissioners in the process, the Board appoints a Screening Committee to receive any new proposals that have not been through the development process by this stage. This process is discussed in greater detail below.

The goals conference is conducted according to rules designed to encourage participation, to provide a balance between inclusiveness and respect for the process and efforts of the committees and the Board up to this point. The conference begins with a pre-lunch nonvoting discussion of the proposed goals. This allows commissioners not previously involved in the deliberations, particularly newly elected commissioners, to improve their understanding of the issues.

Voting Process

- Every member county appoints a voting delegate to the conference.
- Every county in attendance has one vote. The voting delegate can be any county official, including non-elected officials, and a county may choose an alternate. No proxies are allowed.
- Goals are presented by steering committee subject category. Upon motion of any voting delegate, a proposal can be set aside for detailed discussion.
- Majority votes are required to approve or alter the proposed goals.

Screening Committee Process

The Association has a Screening Committee process to allow for consideration of newly proposed goals or proposals previously presented but not approved. The Screening Committee is composed of the Legislative Goals Committee chairs and the seven Steering Committee chairs. The Screening Committee meets at the end of the first day of the conference to review and hear presentations on any newly submitted proposals.

The rules under which the Screening Committee operates are designed to provide for fair consideration of new or previously unsuccessful ideas.

Rules for the Screening Committee process are as follows:

- Any new or previous goal proposal must be submitted to the committee by 1 p.m. on the first day of the conference.

- Goals approved and recommended by the Screening Committee are brought to the floor for consideration by the voting delegates on the second day of the conference. A majority vote of the delegates is required for approval.
- Any proposal not approved by the Screening Committee can only be brought to the floor for consideration upon a vote of two-thirds of the number of voting delegates present at 2 p.m. on the first day of the conference. This requirement recognizes that by the end of the second day, voting delegates may leave, and it protects the members from having their goals process circumvented by what could be a relatively small number of delegates.
- The Screening Committee has the authority to request a Steering Committee to give further study to newly proposed ideas. Any Steering Committee recommendations that derive from this kind of study can be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration at a later date.

Conclusion

All goals and policies receiving a favorable report at the Legislative Goals Conference are included in the official final NCACC Legislative Goals package. The official document containing the organization's goals and policy statements shall be mailed to all 100 counties and presented to each member of the North Carolina General Assembly, to the Governor, and to other executive branch leaders.

Guidance Outside of Legislative Goals Process

Throughout the legislative biennium, new issues will arise that were not anticipated or considered during the organization's legislative goals process. The Association Steering Committees have the authority and responsibility to study new issues, to research and analyze the effect or implications of proposed legislation, and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Any such action is communicated on a regular basis to the Association members through the web-site, through CountyLines, and through other means as needed.

Upon recommendation of the co-chairs of the Legislative Goals Committee, the committee may meet between the legislative long and short sessions, to review goal progress and make suggestions to the Board of Directors related to goal priorities, especially given an ever-changing legislative environment.

Appendix



2013-14 biennium

LEGISLATIVE GOALS PROPOSAL FORM

All proposals due to NCACC by, Sept. 17, 2012

Mail to NCACC, Attn.: Kevin Leonard, 215. N. Dawson St., Raleigh, NC 27603;
e-mail to ncacc@ncacc.org; or fax to (919) 733-1065

Attach one or more of the following to this form:

- An adopted resolution by the Board of Commissioners;
- A letter from the Board Chairman on behalf of the Board; and/or
- A letter from the president of an affiliate organization.
- Any other documentation or materials that support the proposed goal.

If you have questions, contact Kevin Leonard at (919) 715-4369 or kevin.leonard@ncacc.org.

Date:
Name of county/affiliate organization:
Name and title of person submitting goal:
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Goal title:
Goal description (what is the problem being addressed?):
County staff contact if other than submitter:

Legislative Goals Timeline

Sept. 17: Deadline for submission of proposals

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Select Steering Committee(s)

You may choose more than one

- Agriculture
- Environment
- Human Services
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Justice and Public Safety
- Public Education
- Tax and Finance



215 NORTH DAWSON STREET
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27603

919-715-2893

WWW.NCACC.ORG



This document provides a summary status report of the county legislative goals adopted in the 2011-12 biennium. Goals are presented by steering committee area, with the following symbols depicting each goal's progress:



Goal Accomplished



Goal Partially Accomplished








Goal Not Met

Counties are encouraged to use this progress report when considering what legislative goals should be submitted as a part of NCACC's legislative goals process for the 2013-14 Legislative Biennium.

NCACC staff will provide a thorough review and discussion of these goals during the steering committee legislative goals review process. County members are invited to join a steering committee, with steering committee meetings to be scheduled in September and October, 2012.

Priority Goals

1.  **Oppose shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties** – Oppose legislation to shift the state's responsibility for funding transportation construction and maintenance projects to counties.
2.  **Reinstate ADM and lottery funds for school construction** – Seek legislation to fully reinstate the Average Daily Membership funds and Lottery proceeds to the Public School Building Capital Fund.
3.  **Ensure adequate mental health funding**
 - Seek legislation to ensure adequate capacity of state-funded acute psychiatric beds.
 - Oppose legislation to close state-funded beds until there is adequate capacity statewide.
 - Seek legislation to maintain the existing levels of state funding for community mental health services.
4.  **Preserve the existing local revenue base.**
5.  **Authorize local revenue options** – Seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by resolution or, at the option of the Board of Commissioners, by voter referendum any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county.



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – 2011-2012 – LEGISLATIVE GOALS



Goal Accomplished







Goal Partially Accomplished



Goal Not Met

Agriculture

1.  **Support conservation of working lands and farmland preservation** - Support legislation to promote and preserve working farmlands by including these lands in the state tourism plan, by retaining the current authority for the present use value system, by maintaining funding for the Ag Development and Farmland Preservation Trust, and by authorizing counties to implement transfer of development rights.
2.  **Fund agricultural resource and extension services** - Support legislation to increase ag research and extension services and maintain existing research stations at current levels.
3.  **Support Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council recommendations** - Support legislation to implement the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council's recommendations including a prohibition against municipal involuntary annexation or regulation of farm or forestry activities within a voluntary agricultural district or conservation district and support state funding to maintain and enhance the North Carolina Transition Network.
4.  **Maximize availability of adoptable animals** - Seek legislation to increase adoption opportunities for county animal control facilities by clarifying ownership proof and increasing shelter director discretion.



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – 2011-2012 – LEGISLATIVE GOALS



Goal Accomplished








Goal Partially Accomplished



Goal Not Met

Environment

1.  **Enhance river basin monitoring and streamline rule-making** - Enhance monitoring for all river basins in North Carolina and review the rule-making process to enhance regional cooperation.
2.  **Streamline water supply reservoir permitting** - Seek legislation to streamline local water supply reservoir permitting without sacrificing the scientific rigor of Environmental Impact Assessment and ensure adequate opportunities for public and local official comment.
3.  **Authorize county oversight of bio-solids disposal** - Support legislation to authorize counties to regulate, but not prohibit, bio-solids application activities, including the acceptable "classes" of bio-solids for application and the prohibition of bio-solids application in certain environmentally sensitive areas.
4.  **Clarify yard waste facility runoff statutes** - Seek legislation to clarify that runoff from yard waste staging areas at county landfills does not require wastewater treatment.
5.  **Create study commission on horizontal drilling, hydraulic fracturing and uranium mining** - Seek legislation to create a Study Commission on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing for shale gas deposits and uranium mining.



Goal Accomplished



Goal Partially Accomplished



Goal Not Met

Health and Human Services

1. **Ensure adequate mental health funding**
 - Seek legislation to ensure adequate capacity of state-funded acute psychiatric beds.
 - Oppose legislation to close state-funded beds until there is adequate capacity statewide.
 - Seek legislation to maintain the existing levels of state funding for community mental health services.
2. **Retain state aid to counties** - Seek legislation to retain the State Aid to Counties to maintain federal matching funds.
3. **Allow county flexibility to organize local human services**
 - Seek legislation to allow counties to organize human services based on community need, including the removal of the population threshold in 153A-77.
 - Oppose legislation that would mandate consolidation of social services functions.
4. **Maintain childcare subsidy funds and allocate to counties**
 - Seek legislation to allocate all childcare subsidy funding directly to counties.
 - Oppose legislation that would reduce childcare subsidy funding.
5. **Maintain TANF funds to counties** - Seek legislation to maintain existing levels of county TANF funding to support and fund county DSS programs.
6. **Maintain childcare subsidy administration** - Seek legislation to maintain the Child Care Subsidy Administration funding at 5 percent.
7. **Increase state/county special assistance residency requirements** - Seek legislation to increase the number of days to establish residency for Special Assistance from 90 to 180 days, except for persons who have entered the state to be supported by a close relative.
8. **Require back-up generators for adult-care homes** - Seek legislation to require all new adult-care homes to have back-up generators prior to receiving certificates of occupancy and require all existing adult-care homes to be equipped with back-up generators within three years.
9. **Expedite NCFAST automation and policy simplification** - Seek legislation to expedite the implementation of NC FAST and ensure automation builds on program and policy simplification and includes interface protocols.
10. **Retain "electing" counties' financial incentives** - Seek legislation to retain financial incentives for counties to be "electing" counties.



Goal Accomplished



Goal Partially Accomplished



Goal Not Met

Intergovernmental Relations

1. **Oppose shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties** - Oppose legislation to shift the state's responsibility for funding transportation construction and maintenance projects to counties.
2. **Modernize annexation laws** - Seek legislation modernizing annexation laws.
3. **Oppose collective bargaining for public employees** - Oppose legislation to authorize local governments to enter into collective bargaining agreements with public employees, or to mandate dues check-off programs.
4. **Implement combined motor vehicle registration and property tax collection system** - Seek legislation to ensure that the combined motor vehicle registration and property tax collection system is implemented within the statutory deadline.
5. **Protect local control of ABC system** - Seek legislation to protect local control of the local ABC system including all local revenue streams generated through local ABC store operations.
6. **Authorize counties to offer broadband through partnership or direct service** - Seek legislation to authorize counties to provide high-speed internet through direct county service or public-private partnerships.
7. **Eliminate second primary and run-off elections** - Seek legislation to eliminate second primary and run-off elections.
8. **Authorize electronic notice of public hearings and other legal notices** - Seek legislation to provide counties with options for notice of public hearings, notice of delinquent taxpayers, and other legal notices, through electronic means.
9. **Repeal public employee personnel record changes** - Repeal HB 961. Seek legislation that will better clarify issues regarding privacy of public employee personnel records and release of other public records.
10. **Protect privacy of citizen email notification and distribution lists** - Seek legislation to protect the privacy of email notification and distribution lists of citizens who have requested electronic communication with their local governments.
11. **Modernize public records retention** - Seek legislation to modernize public records retention to permit records storage in digital format.
12. **Support Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs)** - Support legislation to maintain the funding for rural transportation planning organizations (RPOs).
13. **Reform workers' compensation** - Support legislation to reform North Carolina's workers' compensation system to reduce disability findings and open-ended streams of payment, to address the trend in favor of long-term disability findings, to diminish control over these findings on the part of claimants and their legal representatives, and to curtail adoption of rules that limit return-to-work efforts.



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – 2011-2012 – LEGISLATIVE GOALS

14. **Oppose contributory negligence tort reform** - Oppose tort reform legislation that would overburden county budgetary constraints, unfairly shift fault to counties, or increase demand for court facilities.
15. **Promote utilization of 911 centers by protecting confidentiality** - Seek legislation to promote the reporting of criminal activity by protecting the confidentiality of callers by using either transcripts or voice-altered recordings to prevent recognition and to make appropriate amendments to public records laws.



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – 2011-2012 – LEGISLATIVE GOALS



Goal Accomplished








Goal Partially Accomplished



Goal Not Met

Justice and Public Safety

1.  **Protect county jail system**
 - Seek legislation to protect the fiscal viability of the county jail system by reinstating the reimbursement rate for state inmates housed in county jails and increasing the reimbursement rate for state inmates awaiting post-trial prison transfer.
 - Oppose legislation to increase time counties are mandated to house state misdemeanants.
2.  **Improve inmate medical care cost containment** - Seek legislation that would authorize medical care providers to charge the state and counties no more than the rates set in the Medicaid or Medicare schedule of charges for inmate medical care.
3.  **Maintain funding for gang prevention and adolescent substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment programs.**
4.  **Allow court facility fee flexibility** - Seek legislation to allow counties to collect additional fees to support specialty courts and help fund capital, operational and other needs associated with increasing demands on our judicial system.
5.  **Authorize inmate electronic monitoring cost reimbursement** - Seek legislation to authorize counties to seek reimbursement from defendants for electronic monitoring, based on ability to pay.



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – 2011-2012 – LEGISLATIVE GOALS



Goal Accomplished






Goal Partially Accomplished



Goal Not Met

Public Education

1.  **Reinstate ADM and lottery funds for school construction** - Seek legislation to fully reinstate the Average Daily Membership funds and Lottery proceeds to the Public School Building Capital Fund.
2.  **Authorize county use of lottery funds for technology** - Seek legislation to authorize counties to use lottery funds to address school technology needs.
3.  **Increase high school graduation rates** - Support legislation that encourages students to complete their high school education by recognizing alternative graduation methods and by excluding from the definition of dropouts those youth enrolled in high school equivalency programs at community colleges.



Goal Accomplished



Goal Partially Accomplished



Goal Not Met

Tax and Finance

1. **Preserve the existing local revenue base .**
2. **Authorize local revenue options** - Seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by resolution or, at the option of the Board of Commissioners, by voter referendum any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county.
3. **Recover costs through in rem foreclosure fee** - Seek legislation to increase the reimbursement rate for in rem foreclosure collection efforts to recover actual costs, including legal expenses.
4. **Set property tax relief application deadline at June 1** - Seek legislation to establish June 1 as the statutory deadline for exemption, deferment and other property tax relief applications.
5. **Clarify centralized listing and assessing of cellular and cable companies** - Seek legislation to implement the central listing and assessment of cellular and cable companies.
6. **Clarify definition of charity eligible for property tax relief** - Seek legislation to clarify the definition of charity and set a cap amount for hospitals, facilities financed through Medical Care Commission bonds, and continuing care facilities, and require that any property valuation exclusion formula provide for a higher test of charity.
7. **Allow hospital authority access to setoff debt collection** - Seek legislation to authorize hospital authorities to participate in the setoff debt collection program.
8. **Require sales tax reported at zip+4** - Seek legislation to require that large vendors report sales tax by the 9-digit zip code.
9. **Simplify register of deeds fees** - Support legislation to require that all real estate recording fees charged by the Register of Deeds be set at appropriate flat rates, with a single rate paid to a single state agency, provided that implementation of this legislation not reduce any revenues to any county.
10. **Standardize local vehicle fees** - Seek legislation to require that all local vehicle fees be adopted at the time the tax rate is adopted and impose the fees on all registered and unregistered vehicles.
11. **Allow solid waste authority access to setoff debt collection** - Seek legislation to authorize solid waste authorities to participate in the setoff debt collection program.
12. **Manufactured home taxes paid before transfer** - Seek legislation to require that all taxes levied on manufactured homes be paid before the home may be moved, repossessed or sold on site.