Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

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Memorandum

Date: September 23, 2026
To: WPCOG Local Government Managers, Administrators, and Clerks
From: Anthony W. Starr, Executive Director
Subject: WPCOG Charter and Bylaws Updates – ACTION NEEDED BY YOUR BOARD/COUNCIL

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board proposes to update the WPCOG Charter and Bylaws. Last updated in 2007, the Charter and Bylaws updates serve to increase transparency and clarity for our local governments. The Executive Committee and the Policy Board unanimously approved and recommended these changes. These updates have also been reviewed by WPCOG legal counsel. The draft Charter and Bylaws are included with this communication for your review.

Summary of Changes

- Adds explicit language regarding the COG's authorization to act as the regional public housing authority (Article VI, Section 1). This was recommended to clarify authority to assist in bonds (no obligation to WPCOG or local governments) for tax advantages for developers of affordable housing projects. Original authorization for the WPCOG to act as a regional public housing authority was given in 1977.
- Changes the vote threshold for action to a simple majority instead of a two-thirds majority. (Article VII, Section 4; Article XI, Section 4). This is consistent with local government voting procedures.
- Eliminates the Treasurer position, while adding another at-large position on the Executive Committee (Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2). This is consistent with common local government structure.
- Eliminates the Secretary position while adding another at-large position on the Executive Committee and add reference to a staff Clerk to the Board (Article VIII, Section 2). This is consistent with common local government structure.
- A reference to the WPCOG finance officer was added. (Article X, Section 3). WPCOG is subject to the NC Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act like its municipalities and counties.
- Minor language clarifications that don't impact the intent or structure of a section.

As outlined in the Charter and Bylaws, any modification must be sent to each member government for ratification, with approval by three-fourths of the members of the WPCOG required (21 of the 28 members). Following approval by member governments, a second reading of the changes must be held at the next regular Policy Board meeting, at which time actions of the members will be reported and accepted.

The effective date of the revised Charter and Bylaws would be the second reading of the Policy Board following ratification by the required number of members. The Policy Board intends to give final approval at its November meeting. Please let us know if you have questions or require further information.

We request that our local government's governing boards approve the proposed changes and let us know by Thursday, November 12, 2026.

Executive Committee: Randy Burns, Chair | Larry Yoder, Vice Chair | Larry Chapman, Secretary | George B. Holleman, Treasurer | Joseph L. Gibbons, Past Chair | **At-Large Members:** Mike LaBrose | Cole Setzer | Jill Patton | Chris Jernigan | **Executive Director,** Anthony W. Starr

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