Legislative Agenda
2026-2027 Biennium of NCGA

Intergovernmental Affairs

Legislative Agenda Process

- November 17: Regular meeting
  - Full draft in board packet
- January 25: Legislative meeting at East Asheville Library
- Ongoing: Ward & Smith will develop 1-pagers that further outline top priorities and assist the board and our organization in implementation.

Observed Trends and Patterns

Five broad categories emerged during department director and board member engagement:

- Mental health
- Criminal justice
- Tax & regulatory items
- Economic recovery
- Disaster preparedness

Agenda: Highlights

- Amend eligibility criteria for the NC Building Reuse Tool and other NC Commerce Tier and census tract driven economic development programs typically reserved for Tier 2 counties.
- Support expansion of the IVC transport and the NC healthy opportunities pilot programs to Buncombe County.
- Seek legislation to modify the SNAP/FNS payment error rate penalty distribution, included in SB 257, to ensure counties that maintain payment error rates below the 6% federal threshold are not assessed penalties.
- Seek funding support for the purchase and installation of storm gauges targeted towards critical waterways to inform fact-based decisions regarding flood mitigation, evacuations, and the deployment of emergency response personnel.

Priorities for 26-27' Biennium NCGA

- Top Priorities
  - Increase NC Innovation Waivers
  - Create a permanent solution for PRC 071
  - Seek legislation to use state surplus property to advance affordable housing and/or economic development goals

Questions & Feedback

- This agenda incorporates feedback from the Board following the 11/5 briefing
- Kept existing top priorities
- Added policy and appropriation items

Requested Board Action

- Approve the legislative agenda as presented.

Addendum

DRAFT ITEMS FOR LEGISATIVE AGENDA		
Item	**Cost**	**Description**
EMS Stations-West & McCormick	$ 22,054,000	Two EMS stations are being developed to improve response times and further enhance emergency services.
Public Safety Training Center: Modular Office Building	$ 810,000	Project will help expand services offered. The PSTC serves the region's public safety community.
Minnie Jones Health Center	$ 6,709,706	A community health center which serves as a primary medical, dental and a behavioral health safety net for13,000 -15,000 patients annually. The facility is owned by the county but leased to a FQHC which serve low to moderate income patients.
Swannanoa Library	$ 12,000,000	Construct a new public library branch to serve the Swananoa/Black Mountain community a needed community asset and a project that would help spur economic revitalization in an area specifically hard -hit during T.S. Helene.
Coxe Avenue Affordable Housing Project	$ 9,800,000	A 203-unit affordable housing project strategically located in downtown Asheville. The project leverages county-owned property, strategically located in a downtown corridor and would serve residents making less than 80% AMI. This project would help Buncombe County meet identified housing replacement needs following T.S. Helene
Ferry Road Affordable Housing Project	$ 11,000,000	A planned development that features +650 residences with more than half of the apartments and single-family homes reserved for affordable housing. When completed this project would assist the county in meeting identified housing replacement needs following T.S. Helene.