Government Relations Update

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

www.ncacc.org
Special Session
Redistricting

Timeline for Redistricting Special Session
• February 5: US District Court directed NCGA to redraw 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 12\textsuperscript{th} Congressional Districts by February 19
• February 15, 16 and 17: While waiting for a US Supreme Court stay, NCGA held hearings across the state to discuss new map criteria and seek public input
• February 18: NCGA formally reconvened for a special session on redistricting and met throughout the day to debate new maps
• February 19: NCGA approved new US Congressional district maps
June 7 Second Primary
• While working on new maps, the General Assembly approved separate legislation moving the US Congressional primaries to June 7 while eliminating primary runoffs
• Candidate filing for the new US Congressional districts reopened March 16

Second Primary Costs
• The State Board of Elections answered questions on costs of a second primary citing just under $10M statewide
• SBOE noted that counties had to budget for a primary runoff, but many counties were unprepared for a second primary
House Bill 2, Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act

- Prohibits local governments from enacting anti-discrimination regulations
- Creates a statewide law that bans discrimination based on "race, religion, color, national origin or biological sex"
- Directs all public schools and government agencies to require bathrooms or locker rooms be designated for use based on biological sex
- Restrictions local governments from regulating employment practices
Looking ahead to 2016

• Returning Mon, April 25, 2016, 7:00PM
• Official purpose is to make adjustments to the budget
• Focus less on substantive legislation (policy changes)
• What’s eligible?
  – Money bills – raise revenue or spend funds
  – Bills crossed over
  – Local bills
  – Bills originating in study committees
  – Constitutional amendments
• What does this mean for counties?
  – All 45 goals remain, but we need smaller, more focused agenda
NCACC
2016 Short Session Priorities

1. PE-4 - Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authorized under NCGS 115C-431(c) that allows local school boards to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.

2. TF-4 - Seek legislation to authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction.

3. GG-2 - Support legislation, regulations and funding that would preserve local option and authority where needed to deploy community broadband systems and ensure community access to critical broadband services.