

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM
CONCERNING THE LEVY OF A ONE-QUARTER CENT (1/4¢) COUNTY
SALES AND USE TAX**

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and the Guilford County Board of Education work together to ensure our children have access to an excellent educational system that serves the needs of students, families and this community; and

WHEREAS, the Boards believe our educators and classified employees are essential to providing outstanding educational opportunities for these students and deserve to be compensated commensurate with similar complex urban systems in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County government continues to stand in the ever-widening gap to cover shortfalls in state education funding for school operating costs, such as staffing and technology equipment, while still fulfilling the County's mandated responsibility to provide and maintain school buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners led the State in this mandate by developing and implementing a strategic plan to finance \$2 billion in voter-approved bonds to address school capital construction needs in order to provide safe and modern educational facilities for our students, teachers and staff; and

WHEREAS, in light of this substantial obligation, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners must consider alternative revenue sources to pay for the County's Local Supplement to increase teacher pay, as well as pay increases for classified employees; and

WHEREAS, in order to levy the local sales and use tax, the County of Guilford must conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy a local sales and use tax in Guilford County, as provided in Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) and NCGS §163-287; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of NCGS §105-537 authorize county Boards of Commissioners to direct the county board of elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy a local sales tax as provided in Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the levy of a one-quarter percent (.25%) county sales and use tax is contingent on a majority of those casting ballots on the advisory referendum voting for the levy of the tax ; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the County would receive approximately \$25 million annually in additional revenue from the proceeds of the one-quarter cent ($\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$) local sales and use tax, the; and

WHEREAS, the levy of a one-quarter cent ($\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$) sales and use tax would provide a significant revenue source for the anticipated expense required to provide sufficient funding to increase compensation for our educators and classified employees; and

WHEREAS, the Board, through the approval of this Resolution, shares its intentions with the Guilford County Board of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the November 2026 ballot on the question of whether to levy the one-quarter cent ($\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$) County Sales and Use Tax in Guilford County; and

WHEREAS, by this Resolution the Board of Commissioners indicates its support for placing a one-quarter cent ($\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$) sales and use tax referendum on the November 2026 general election ballot, to be conducted on Election Day, November 3, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

- 1) That, unless amended by this body, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Guilford County Board of Elections.
- 2) That County staff are authorized to educate the public as to mathematical explanation of the tax, purpose, usage, sales tax mechanics, impact, and reporting of a sales tax referendum.
- 3) That the Guilford County Board of Commissioners hereby states its intent that any proceeds from this sales and use tax, if approved by the voters of Guilford County, be used for the purpose of increasing the County's Local Supplement towards compensation for teachers and classified employees.
- 4) That the Guilford County Board of Commissioners expresses its intent and directs the Guilford County Board of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the November 2026 local ballot on Election Day, November 3, 2026, pursuant to Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes, on the question of whether to levy a one-quarter percent (.25%) local sales and use tax in Guilford County in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of June 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the corporate seal of the County of Guilford to be affixed, this the 18th day of June 2025.

Melvin “Skip” Alston, Chairman
Guilford County Board of Commissioners