

# CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

## Legislative Agenda 101: The Basics

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Raleigh



# Agenda

- Legislative Agenda 101
- Examples
- Review of January 2025 Retreat Themes
- Features and Key Considerations
- Next Steps

# Legislative Agenda 101

# What is a Legislative Agenda?

A roadmap of priorities or goals that a governing body or organization sets to inform advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal level.



# Policy Theme vs Policy Goal

- Policy theme: overarching idea or unifying framework that organizes specific policy objectives
- Policy goal: clear, actionable statement of a desired policy outcome
  - Measurable
  - Directional
  - Specific but not restrictive
  - Aligns with broader policy theme

# Basic Structure of a Legislative Agenda

- Mission statement, purpose, or guiding principles
- Broad to narrow:
  - policy themes that categorize policy goals
- 1-2 pages

# Examples

# Mecklenburg County, NC



## Housing Insecurity

Advocate for legislation increasing income eligibility limits in the Homestead Property Tax Exemption.

Support efforts to improve housing affordability and protect homeownership for families by expanding existing tax credits and addressing concerns of large-investors and corporate-owned housing.



## Early Childhood Development

Advocate for recurring funding for early childhood education, childcare services, and pre-K programs.



## Workforce Development

Oppose amendments that would weaken legislation designed to attract and retain a talented workforce and increase workforce development opportunities.

Support funding and legislation that advance digital inclusion, broadband and access to technology for all residents.



## Educational Attainment

Support funding and legislation for public education that does not supplant or reduce existing funding measures and recognizes the needs of rural and urban counties.

Support legislation promoting public school teacher and classified school personnel recruitment and retention, including state funding for increased salaries.



## Environmental Stewardship

Support legislation authorizing local control over stormwater management and repeal of state laws restricting guidelines on redevelopment projects.

Support funding and legislation promoting regional resilience, disaster preparedness and mitigation, resource conservation, solid waste management, equal protection and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

Support funding to research and combat invasive species.



# Housing Insecurity

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Advocate for legislation increasing income eligibility limits in the Homestead Property Tax Exemption.

Support efforts to improve housing affordability and protect homeownership for families by expanding existing tax credits and addressing concerns of large-investors and corporate-owned housing.

# Matthews, NC

## Protection of Local Control and Locally-Developed Infrastructure

- Support laws that preserve local control that allow local officials, those closest and most accessible to the people, to govern.
- Oppose state or local bills that would undermine local authority, including restrictions on zoning tools (such as billboard regulations), limitation on aesthetics, and efforts to weaken local oversight on issues like backflow preventers and downzoning.

## Transportation

- Lift spending caps on NCDOT projected cost limits to ensure critical projects, such as U- 2509 to widen US-74, can continue.
- Support state funding for NCDOT so that Matthews and CRTPO (Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization) transportation improvements outlined in the STIP, as well as other critical projects, can be completed as proposed.
- Increase Powell Bill funding to ensure local governments can maintain their road networks, and ensure long-term funding stability as transportation modes evolve to meet future infrastructure needs.
- Support legislation for additional litter pick-up on state-maintained roads.

## Planning and Services for Urban Growth

- Support the classification of broadband internet service as a public utility. If so classified, municipalities can require all fiber optic cable be in one conduit.

# January 2025 Retreat Themes



# January Council Retreat – Policy Themes

- Housing
- Property tax relief tools
- Expand tax credit
- Opportunities for state-owned lands
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Long-Term Leases
- Funding for community and youth programs



# January Council Retreat - Policy Themes

- Tax credit expansion
- Targeted investments on retail/other stores
- Coordinated IT/communication/data with state and federal partners
- Historic preservation
- Municipal Service Districts (MSD)
- Building code reform
- Stormwater resilience

# Features and Key Considerations

# Features of an Effective Legislative Agenda

- Objective
- Concise
- Actionable
- Informed
- Strategic
- Focused
- Responsive
- Attainable
- Practical
- Consistent with stated mission and values

# Key Considerations

- Jurisdiction
- Is legislative action necessary?
- Timing and alignment with the legislative biennium
- Politics
- Advocacy partners

# Beyond the Legislative Agenda

- Strategic and Comprehensive plans also demonstrate the city's values and priorities



# Next Steps



Input



Council mid-year retreat