

## 2011–2012 Municipal Advocacy Goals

### Build prosperous cities and towns

Seek legislation **reforming annexation** laws that ensures the ability of a city to grow in a reasonable manner, while providing quality municipal services on a timely basis.

Seek legislation to allow municipal creation or extensions of **extra-territorial jurisdictions (ETJ) without county approval.**

Seek legislation enhancing the authority of cities to **own and operate broadband systems** for their citizens, and providing incentives for last mile **public-private partnerships.** Include authority for cities that have currently operating broadband systems to continue.

Seek legislation to allow municipalities to establish **vacant housing receivership** programs for the purpose of rehabilitating structures not meeting minimum housing standards and transferring them to responsible ownership.

### Protect citizens and improve our quality of life

Support a system of **liquor sales** that maintains a local referendum about the decision to sell liquor, preserves **local control** over the location and density of liquor outlets, preserves the **local revenue** stream from liquor sales, and increases the authorized local permit fees statewide.

Seek legislation to **protect the privacy of municipal residents** by limiting public access to lists of email addresses submitted by citizens to municipalities.

Seek legislation to strengthen the role of municipalities in the approval, renewal, and revocation of **ABC permits.**

Support legislation permitting a governmental entity to seek an order of abatement where a property may have some legitimate use, but is also the source of regular **criminal nuisance activity.**

Seek legislation to grant more flexible authority for local public safety officers to **enforce ABC-related laws.**

### Enhance the fiscal health of municipalities

Support legislation to **expand the sales tax base** to include services.

Seek legislation to allow all municipalities to adopt a **prepared meals and beverage tax.**

Seek legislation to: 1) require that counties conduct a public hearing before approving a resolution choosing the method of **sales tax distribution;** 2) delay the implementation of a change in method until July 1 of the calendar year following the adoption of the change; and 3) phase in the change in method over four years.

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Seek legislation to allow all municipalities to adopt **impact fees** to pay for growth-related infrastructure and services.

Seek legislation to **revise the local land transfer tax** so that: 1) it can be adopted without a referendum; and 2) municipalities receive a share of the revenues.

Support legislation to **reform the municipal business privilege license tax** by: 1) eliminating exemptions and caps for specific categories of businesses; 2) specifying the appropriate bases for the tax; 3) requiring municipalities to adopt a rate schedule that applies to all types of businesses within a municipality; 4) limiting the amount of taxes paid by businesses that have business activity within a municipality but no business location within it; and 5) capping the amount of tax that can be imposed on any single business location.

Support legislation providing municipalities with the authority to impose a **fee to recover the costs of vehicle accident and fire response** from at-fault drivers and parties responsible for fires, up to a statutory maximum amount.

## **Make wise use of natural resources**

Seek legislation creating a **state bond program** for upgrades to **water and wastewater treatment systems**, expansion of stormwater programs, and assured water supplies.

Support the **equal application of water quality management rules** that impact cities to N.C. municipalities, counties, state agencies, and private operations, require payment of city storm-water fees by all state agencies, and require maintenance of all stormwater structures by permitted entities.

Support legislation establishing a **water permitting system** that protects existing municipal withdrawals, allows for future growth, includes all withdrawers, and accounts for all downstream users.

Support legislative and regulatory efforts for **efficiencies** in water, wastewater, and stormwater **permitting processes**.

Seek legislation to classify **reclaimed water** as a resource water, and study the injection of treated water into aquifers.

## **Improve our transportation infrastructure**

Seek legislation to allow **Powell Bill** funds to be used for **sidewalks and walking paths** that are adjacent to, but not located within, the right-of-way of state-maintained roads.

Seek legislation ensuring significant municipal decision-making authority and respect for local ordinances in the **design of transportation projects** across all NCDOT Divisions, to lower congestion, enhance quality of life, improve aesthetics, improve public safety, and bolster public health for city residents, regardless of the city's financial participation in a project.

Seek legislation to increase the existing municipal **vehicle fee for public transportation** from \$5 to a maximum of \$20, and allow it to also be used for pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Support legislation to increase funding for the **State Mobility Fund** in order to support regional congestion mitigation projects, interstate maintenance, and a Powell Bill supplement; and to provide additional funding sources for state transportation projects.