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ACTION ALERT: Call Your Legislator on Property Tax

Take action now -- call your legislator in advance of a hearing on a [proposed property tax constitutional amendment](#) **THIS TUESDAY**.

The proposal directs the N.C. General Assembly to adopt limits on the property tax levy, subject to exceptions. It is strongly supported by N.C. House Speaker Destin Hall, who [stated](#) earlier this year, "Property taxes are out of control. Families are getting ripped off as counties like Wake and Cabarrus rake in billions more than inflation and population growth warrant. It's time for REAL reform. Levy limits will stop runaway property tax hikes and protect NC taxpayers."

Members of the House Finance Committee are scheduled to vote Tuesday on the bill, [HB 1089 Const. Amend. Property Tax Levy Limit](#). **Listen to the 9:00 am meeting [online here](#).**

As a constitutional amendment, HB 1089 is subject to approval by three-fifths of the members of the General Assembly, followed by a statewide ballot initiative. Under the proposed language, the state legislature would determine how to calculate the levy limit and any exceptions.

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION. Call your legislator—especially if they are a member of the [House Finance Committee](#)—to express your concerns about limiting property tax levies. Share with them the general points in this [one-pager](#) and the public safety points in this [one-pager](#), along with specific data from your city or town about which services your town's property tax revenues pay for.

Separately, the Senate passed its own property tax measure this week, voting 36-9 to advance [SB 889 Property Tax Reappraisal Moratorium](#) to the House. That bill, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, would

pause property revaluations in nine counties for one year. Read more in [this WFAE report](#).

Legislature Continues Local Bill Introduction While Budget Prospects Continue to be Uncertain

As the deadlines for introducing local bills came this over the past week, legislators have introduced a flurry of bills impacting communities across the state. In total, lawmakers in the House and Senate introduced or advanced 40 local bills this week. Below is a snapshot of some of those bills.

At this point in the session, each respective chamber is generally passing only bills introduced by that chamber, delaying further consideration of bills from the other chamber and serving as a key sign that the end of the short session is not yet on the horizon. Subjects of these bills cover a wide range from annexation and de-annexation to elections and zoning.

- [SB 817 Annex Various Military Property/Jacksonville](#) would annex the expanded military presence in Onslow County to the city of Jacksonville.
- Various bills that remove caps on satellite annexation for Cherryville, Weaverville, and Spruce Pine.
- Several bills that would authorize Winston-Salem and Forsyth County to delegate final rezoning approvals to the City-County planning board ([HB 1226 Winston-Salem/Forsyth Co. Planning & Zoning](#), [SB 932 Winston-Salem/Forsyth Co. Planning & Zoning](#), [SB 196 Winston-Salem/Forsyth Co. Planning & Zoning](#)).
- [HB 1222/SB 1079 Record Development Approval Votes/Brunswick](#) that would remove the authority for Brunswick County to delegate development approval authority to the County planning board.
- Several bills that would allow exemptions from the 2024 downzoning law.

Turning our attention to another key legislative issue, the prospects for adopting a state budget remain difficult to assess. While there are some signs of cooperation between the House and Senate that give reason for optimism that a budget deal may come (such as the recent enactment of Medicaid funding), we have yet to see any appropriations committees schedule their first meetings. The key issue remains the “tax triggers” in current law, which will likely result in reductions in income tax rates, given that the state is expected to hit revenue targets built into the law. While the Senate is protective of maintaining those pre-program tax reductions, the House is concerned that these reductions will result in future budget shortfalls.

House and Senate leaders spoke to the status of negotiations in media interviews this week. First, Senate President Pro Tem [told reporters Tuesday](#) that his chamber might put forth a budget of its own if agreement couldn't be reached soon between the two bodies. House Speaker Destin Hall responded yesterday, sounding a more optimistic tone and [telling reporters](#), "No agreement yet, but I'll say I think we've made substantial progress. There's a path to get a deal done, and so I hope that happens soon."

Legislators Recognized for Contributions During CityVision

As the League works with legislators, some stand out for their dedication and commitment to important issues impacting our local governments and communities. We were proud to recognize two Community Champions during this year's CityVision conference for their decades of service both in local government and in the General Assembly.

Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger's leadership on key issues throughout his nearly three decades in the N.C. Senate made him a deserving recipient of a Community Champion award. Time and again, he championed infrastructure funding and the state's role in partnering with municipalities to draw jobs and economic development to our state. Whether it has been historic water and sewer investments, the 2018 Build NC transportation bond program, or proposals that significantly restricted municipal land use authority, which would only harm our state's ability to attract new business, we are grateful to Senator Berger for his career of public service and the support of our local communities that he prioritized during that time. For all these reasons, the League is proud to award Senator Berger our Community Champion Award.



Representative Steve Ross is a two-time recipient of the Community Champion award because he is just that—our champion. Since Representative Ross started out as a council member and later as Mayor of the City of Burlington, he has been on the front lines supporting the League and our priorities. His voice has been heard regularly, educating his colleagues on how things work in cities. One tidbit he has said many times over will resonate with this audience... “You buy sewer pipe by the inch and asphalt by the foot. Infrastructure costs money!” Rep. Ross’s willingness to educate others in the General Assembly stands out as much as his strong voting record in support of cities and towns. For all of these reasons, we are delighted to honor him as the League’s Community Champion.

Mayors Groups Welcome New Leadership

During this week's CityVision conference in Raleigh, both the NC Mayors Association and the NC Metro Mayors Coalition welcomed new leadership during their Annual Meetings. These groups represent valuable constituencies of the League membership because they collectively represent and support the mayors of cities of all sizes across the state.

For the [NC Mayors Association](#), Burgaw Mayor Olivia Dawson took the reins of the organization from outgoing President, Broadway Mayor Donald Andrews.



For the [NC Metro Mayors Coalition](#), Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo passed the Chairmanship of the group's Executive Committee to Apex Mayor Jacques Gilbert.



This week, five-term Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles [announced](#) her retirement from the helm of the 14th-largest city in the nation and North Carolina's largest city, effective June 30. Elected in 2017 as Charlotte's first African-American female mayor, Mayor Lyles is the city's second-longest-serving mayor. Her service to Charlotte extends far beyond her time as an elected official, having held key staff roles, including budget director, before being elected to the City Council and later as Mayor.

"Vi Lyles has been the leader Charlotte has needed to navigate the challenges and opportunities it has faced during her decade of service as Mayor," said Rose Vaughn Williams, NCLM Executive Director. "She has always provided valuable counsel, and I join leaders from across the state in wishing her the best in her retirement."

Charlotte was a founding member of the NC Metro Mayors Coalition, and Mayor Lyles has continued the tradition of leadership set by her predecessors, most recently serving on the Coalition's Executive Committee.

"On behalf of the 33 mayors of the NC Metro Mayors Coalition, we thank Mayor Vi Lyles for her decade of leadership at the helm of the City of Charlotte," said Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, Coalition Chair. "At every turn, Vi has represented her city and our state with grace, innovation, and humility. We will miss her voice and leadership in our organization, but wish her well in her retirement, knowing that North Carolina is a better place because of her service."



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