



Date: April 6th, 2026

Esteemed Members of the Nominating Committee,

Please accept this letter as a formal expression of my interest in serving on the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Board of Directors for the upcoming term. Having served as a Councilmember for the Town of Wallace for over seven years, I understand the vital role the League plays in strengthening our local communities. I am eager to contribute my experience, my unique perspective on rural demographics, and my passion for municipal governance to the Board.

My commitment to public service is rooted in gratitude. After immigrating from Costa Rica to the United States, my family was profoundly moved by the warm embrace we received from the people of Wallace. Upon becoming a U.S. citizen, I made it my mission to give back to the community that welcomed us. While I initially considered county or state-level office, I quickly realized that deep-rooted, lasting change begins at the municipal level. It is here that the "real work" of improving daily life happens.

As the first Latino councilmember in Wallace—and one of only a few in our region—my election reflects the shifting demographics of rural counties like Duplin and Sampson. I believe municipalities must mirror the communities they serve. Throughout my tenure, I have acted as a cultural bridge, ensuring Wallace serves as a model for adapting to demographic shifts. My focus has remained on balancing current needs with future growth, building strong partnerships with regional stakeholders, and ensuring a high quality of life for all constituents, regardless of background.

The League's mission, "Working as One. Advancing All," resonates deeply with my philosophy. During my time in leadership, I have prioritized:

- **Infrastructure & Growth:** Championing proactive measures to prepare for expansion, including critical repairs to our water treatment plant and airport.
- **Economic Development:** Supporting responsible rezoning for housing, new shell buildings for industry, and expanded recreational projects.
- **Public Safety:** Prioritizing the construction of a new fire station to ensure the safety of our growing population.

- Inclusive Crisis Management: Collaborating with the UNC Institute for the Study of the Americas to develop an actionable crisis communication plan for non-English speakers.
- Transparency & Reliability: Maintaining a perfect attendance record at council meetings since 2019 and fostering trust through constant, accessible communication with constituents.

As Wallace reaches a pivotal inflection point in its history, I am committed to ensuring we are a "town for the future." For our region to succeed, our efforts must be unified and aligned with the NCLM Vision 2030 plan.

If selected to serve, I am prepared to offer:

- Active Advocacy
- Collaborative Leadership
- Commitment, Consistency, and Engagement

I have completed the online Candidate Interest Form and have reserved April 9, 2026, for the Zoom interview. Thank you for your time, your service to our state, and your consideration of my candidacy.

Sincerely,

Francisco J. Rivas-Diaz

Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Wallace