



Town of Beaufort
701 Front St. • P.O. Box 390 • Beaufort, N.C. 28516
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www.beaufortnc.org

March 24, 2026

North Carolina League of Municipalities

Nominating Committee

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

I am writing to offer my strong and unequivocal support for Councilman Doug Matheson of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, as a candidate for the District 10 seat upon the Board of Directors of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

I had the distinct honor of serving alongside Councilman Matheson on the Risk Management Services Board for six years. During that time, I came to know him as a person of exceptional integrity, steady judgment, and deep commitment to public service. He approaches every issue with thoughtfulness and respect, always mindful of the diverse challenges facing municipalities across our state. His leadership is grounded in both principle and practicality—an increasingly rare and valuable combination.

Councilman Matheson's lifelong connection to the High Country provides him with a perspective that is both authentic and deeply rooted. A native of the region, he has dedicated his life to serving his community—as a 38-year employee of Appalachian State University, a longtime firefighter and former Chief of the Blowing Rock Volunteer Fire Department, and a leader across numerous boards and organizations, including the High Country Council of Governments and the League's own Risk Management Board. His service reflects not only longevity, but a consistent willingness to lead, learn, and adapt.

What distinguishes Doug is not simply his résumé, but his approach to governance. He is a listener first—attuned to the needs of residents, respectful of differing viewpoints, and committed to making decisions that serve the greater good. He has invested in his own development through programs such as the UNC School of Government's Advanced Leadership Corps and the League's Diversity and Equity Program, ensuring that his leadership is informed, inclusive, and forward-thinking.

His perspective on key municipal issues reflects a balanced and pragmatic mindset. Whether addressing the complexities of growth and economic development, the importance of preserving community character, or the need for thoughtful solutions to workforce housing challenges, Councilman Matheson consistently demonstrates a capacity to weigh competing interests and



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arrive at sound, measured decisions. He understands that a thriving visitor economy and a high quality of life for residents are not mutually exclusive, but rather mutually reinforcing.

Equally important is his commitment to transparency and public engagement. He recognizes the evolving challenges of communication in modern communities and is willing to meet residents where they are—seeking input, adapting outreach methods, and ensuring that decision-making processes remain open and accessible.

In every respect, Doug Matheson embodies the qualities we seek in leaders at the state level: integrity, experience, humility, and a genuine dedication to the success of North Carolina's municipalities. He brings not only the voice of Blowing Rock, but also a broader understanding of the needs and opportunities facing communities across District 10 and beyond.

I am confident that he will serve the North Carolina League of Municipalities with distinction and purpose. I respectfully urge the Committee to give his candidacy your highest consideration.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss Councilman Matheson's qualifications further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Matt Zapp
Town Manager
Town of Beaufort, North Carolina