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Wayne County Commissioners Discusses Wayne County Priorities at 2017 District Meeting



Roanoke Rapids, NC – On April 26, Wayne County Commissioner’s discussed Wayne Counties priorities at the 2017 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) District Meeting. The purpose of the meeting, which was held in Halifax County, was to hear from county officials in the area about any issues impacting their county and to discuss county legislative priorities and General Assembly outreach.

The Halifax County District Meeting provided a forum for area counties to report their latest major projects and initiatives. Officials from Bertie, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Hertford, Nash, Northampton, Person, Pitt, Vance, Warren, and Wayne counties participated in the District Meeting.

Chairman Bill Pate shared the positive growth happening in Wayne County including but not limited to the construction of Meadow Lane Elementary School, the opening of the new Carey Winders Detention Center, and the upcoming Maxwell Regional Agricultural and Convention Center (MRACC).

One of the main topics of discussion was the need for public school construction funds - NCACC's top legislative goal - and how proposals to cap class size in public schools would add to existing facility needs. The shortfall in funding for public school construction across the state has climbed to about \$8.1 billion in recent years. Wayne County is working with NCACC to convince lawmakers to establish a reliable source of funding to meet the staggering public school facility needs throughout the state's 100 counties.

Additionally, counties discussed the need to provide access to fast, reliable internet service in rural counties and efforts to address the opioid crisis. Counties also expressed support for proposed legislation to limit the ability of school boards to sue counties over funding disputes between the board of education and board of county commissioners. The legislation, HB 305/SB 531, which passed the North Carolina Senate this week, would accomplish a long-standing NCACC goal to reverse adversarial dynamics between boards of county commissioners and schools.

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is the official voice of all 100 counties on issues being considered by the General Assembly, Congress and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in the areas of advocacy, research, risk management and education and leadership training.

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