

NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

APWA-NC Stormwater Division

September 29, 2025

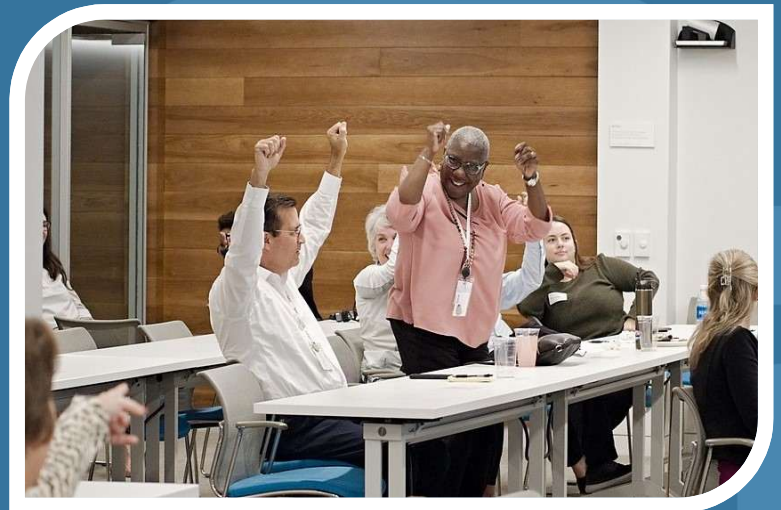


OUTLINE

- NCLM Overview
- NC Political Landscape
- NCLM Legislative Goals
- Legislative Priorities
- Q&A

NCLM OVERVIEW

League Mission, Services, & Staff



WHAT IS THE LEAGUE?

- A member-driven association representing the interests of over 540 cities and towns in the state.
- A full-service provider and one-stop shop for municipal government needs.
- Led by an active, 33-member Board of Directors that includes elected and appointed local officials from municipalities of all sizes.



WHAT DOES THE LEAGUE DO?

Serves as the full-service extension of local government; the go-to source of support for:

- Insurance
- Advocacy & Lobbying
- Training & Professional Development
- Research & Data
- Communications, Media, & Publications
- General Advice & Consultations: Accounting, Legal, Cybersecurity, HR, Police & Fire Safety

NC POLITICAL LANDSCAPE



Growth

North Carolina Population Growth:

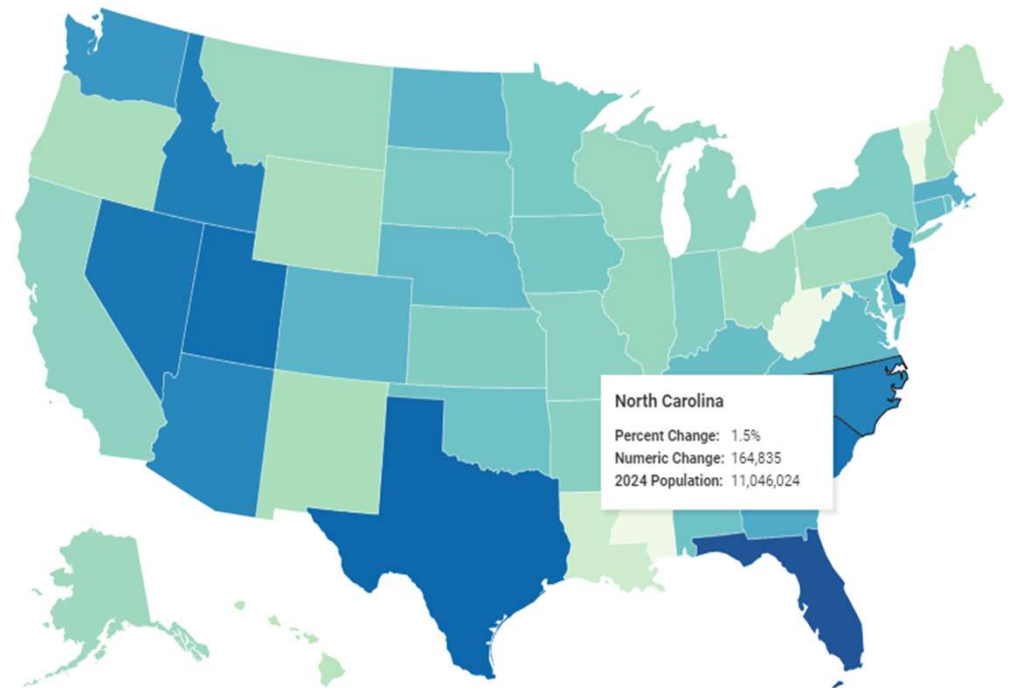
- 2020 - 10,449,652
- 2021 - 10,564,320
- 2022 - 10,710,793
- 2023 - 10,881,189
- 2024 – 11,046,024

5-year increase – **596,372**

Percent Increase – **5.71%**

Population Change, July 1, 2023 - July 1, 2024

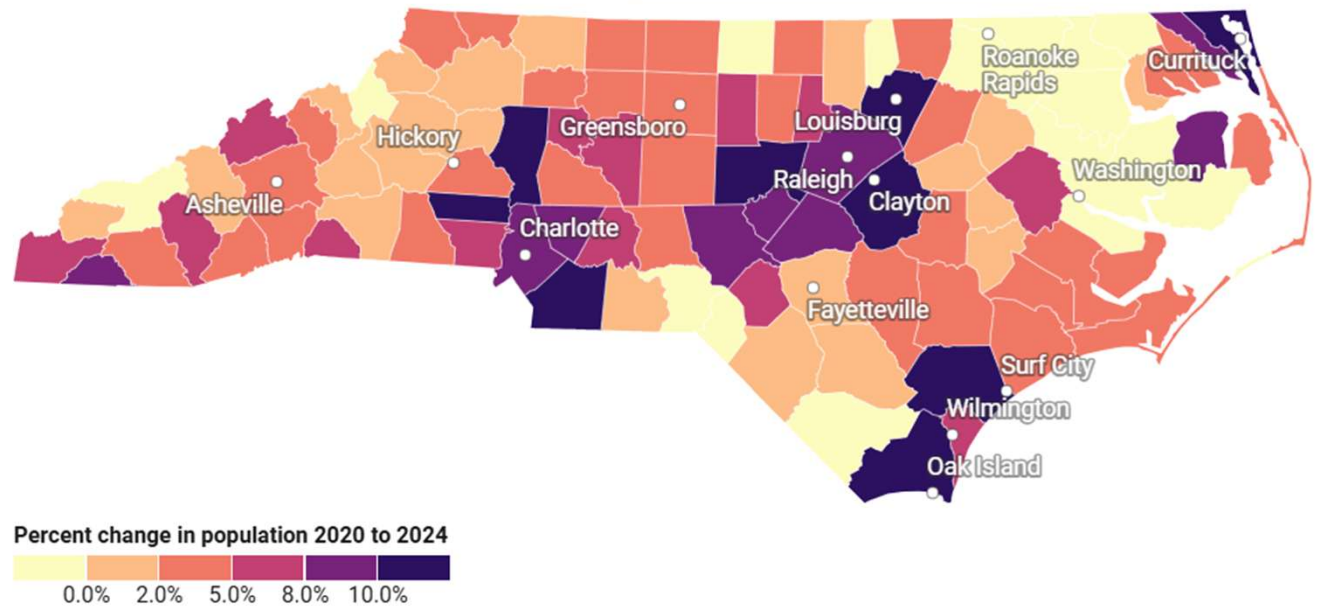
Percent change
0 2.17



Map: NC Office of State Budget & Management • Source: US Census Bureau • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

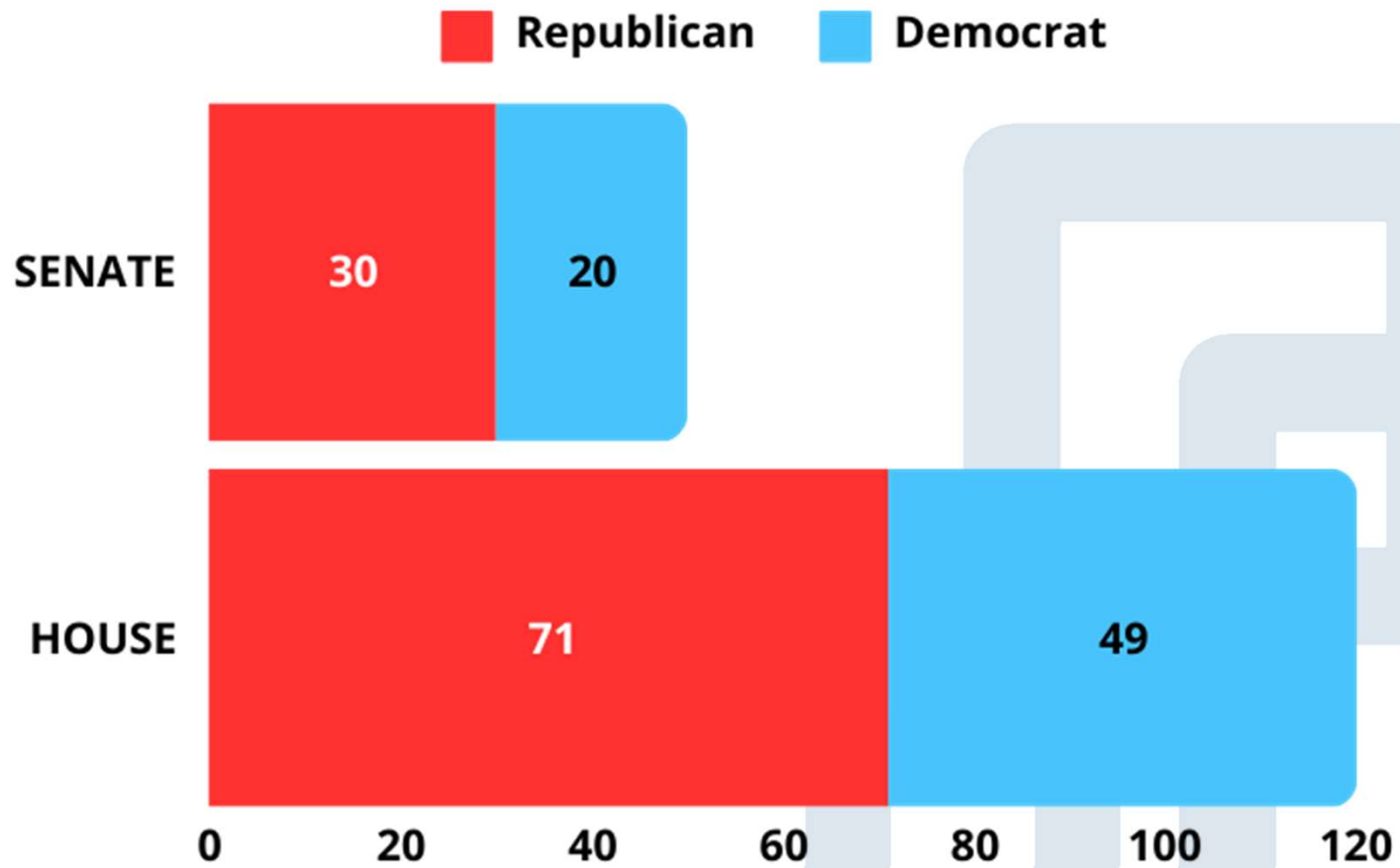
Growth

- Nine counties, led by Brunswick at 22.3%, saw double-digit growth since 2020.
- Sixteen counties have declined in population since 2020 (in yellow), most notably in the northeastern part of the state.

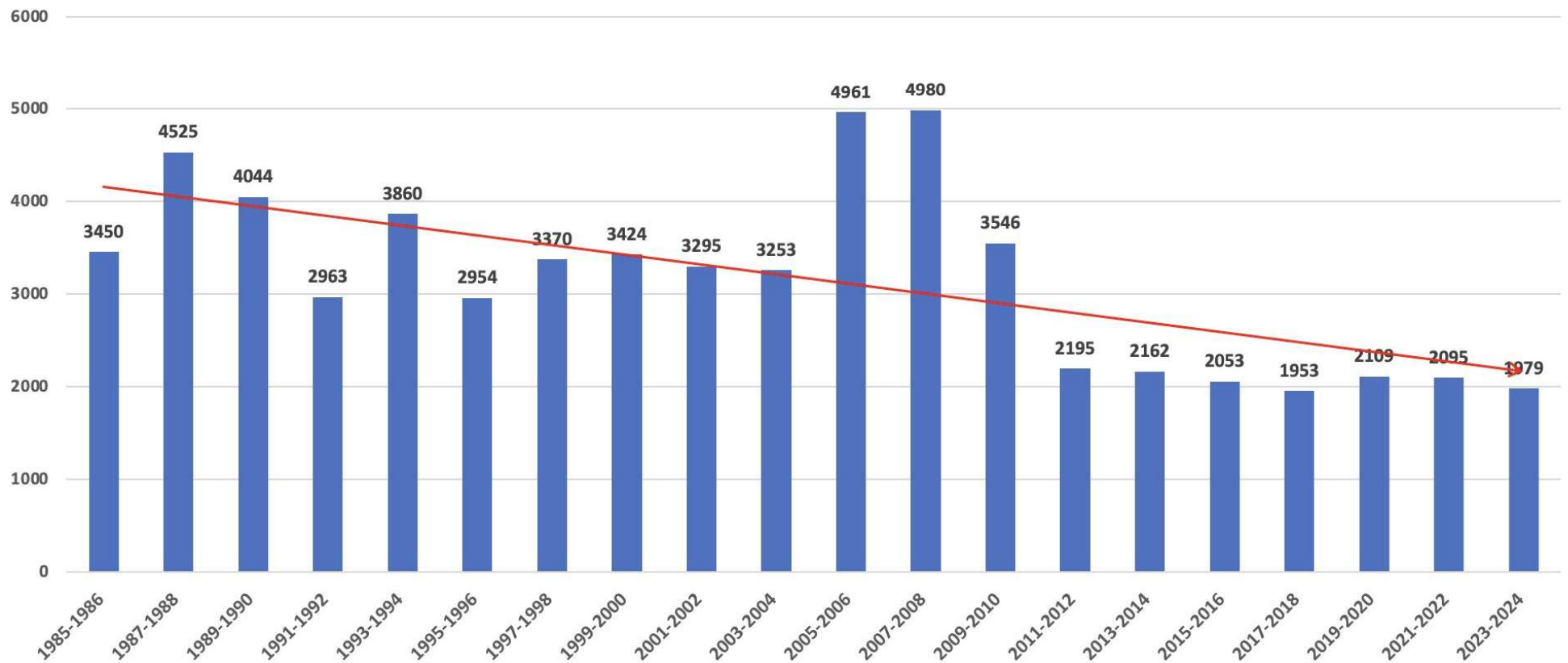


Map: David Raynor • Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Population Estimates • [Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

NC LEGISLATURE 2025-2026

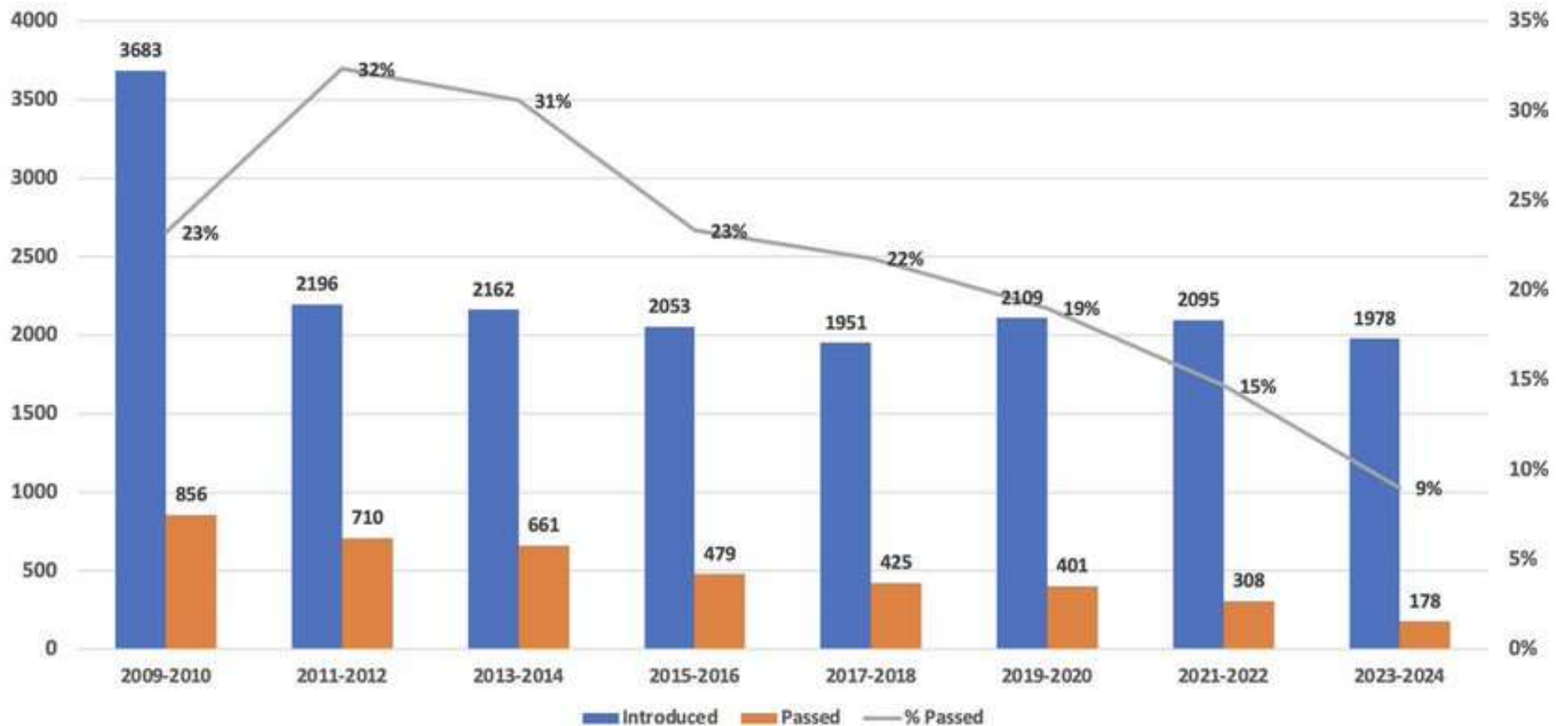


NCGA Historical Bills Introduced ('85 – Present)



Credit: UpStateNC

NCGA Bills Passed by Regular Session



Credit: UpStateNC

NCLM LEGISLATIVE GOALS



2025-26 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

- Infrastructure
 - Regionalized water and sewer solutions
 - Road construction and maintenance
 - Long-term funding for infrastructure needs
- Healthy Finances
 - Disaster resiliency and recovery
 - Incentives for local economic development
 - Expand revenue options

2025-26 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

- Uplifting Underserved Communities
 - Support technical assistance to help obtain and retain municipal resources
- Vibrant Communities and Neighborhoods
 - Preserve ETJ
 - Update annexation threshold
- Adaptive Municipal Operations
 - Protect cities' ability to determine election matters under their purview

CORE MUNICIPAL PRINCIPLES

- Preserve Municipal Authority
- Protect Local Revenue Streams
- Minimize State & Local Mandates
- Promote Open Government and Ethical Conduct
- Limit Imposition of Liability
- Support Responsible Growth and Economic Development Policies

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



LONG SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

Session: January – July*

House activity

- 93 legislative days

Senate activity

- 94 legislative days

Bill filings

- 1,015 House bills
- 772 Senate bills

Bill activity

- 90 Session Laws
- 15 vetoed bills
- 8 vetoes overridden (last votes on 7/29)

WHAT WE THOUGHT - LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Western North Carolina Disaster Relief**
 - Legislators would work to pass another legislative package for WNC, separate from the budget
- **Two-year State Budget:**
 - Senate kicked off the budget, House followed suit, and the differences were stark
- **National or Reactionary Issues:**
 - Immigration, health care, medical cannabis, Video Lottery Terminals (VLT)

WHAT WE GOT - LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BUDGET STALEMATE

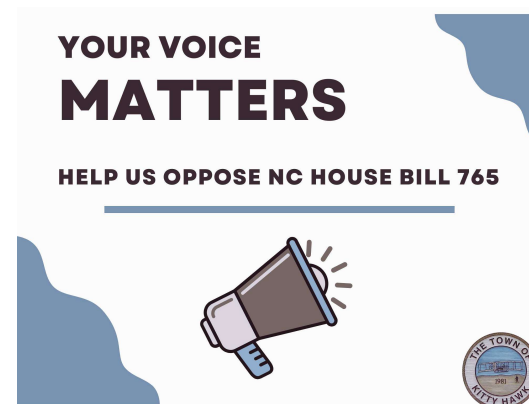
- House and Senate Republicans are split on competing budget bills they approved in the spring.
- Teacher and state employee pay, the scope of tax cuts and capital funding among the disagreements.
- Impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act on North Carolina's state budget remains a question.



WHAT WE GOT - MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

SB 205/HB 765 Housing Regulatory Reform

- Seeks to dramatically limit local governments' authority over development approvals and zoning decisions.
- Intended to address housing and affordability issues, but it does so without fully recognizing the broader range of factors that have contributed to the current housing crisis.
- Huge grassroots opposition from municipal officials, county officials, and the public.



NC Citizens Opposing SB 205 (Public)

Public group · 141 members


Join group

Share

WHAT WE GOT - MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

SB 205/HB 765 Supporters

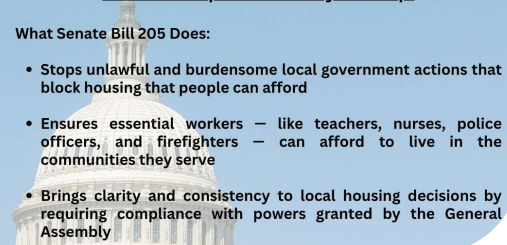
- Supported by NC Homebuilders Association, NC REALTORS, and NC Chamber of Commerce along with other housing advocates and partisan groups.


Your Voice is Urgently Needed to Support SB 205


The NC Home Builders Association, NC Realtors, and the NC Chamber are united in support of this bill – but it won't pass without your help.

What Senate Bill 205 Does:

- Stops unlawful and burdensome local government actions that block housing that people can afford
- Ensures essential workers – like teachers, nurses, police officers, and firefighters – can afford to live in the communities they serve
- Brings clarity and consistency to local housing decisions by requiring compliance with powers granted by the General Assembly



LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES FUEL HOUSING CRISIS



Town of Troutman. The Planning Board authorized a standardized list of “expectations” for conditional zoning applicants—effectively pressuring builders to accept pre-set conditions that are supposed to be voluntary under the law. This practice transforms voluntary zoning offers into compelled concessions and constitutes a constitutionally suspect exaction under the Takings Clause.


City of Sanford. Despite the General Assembly’s unambiguous prohibition in S.L. 2024-49 against specific regulatory actions by local governments, the City has openly acknowledged the statute yet affirmed its intent to continue enforcing an unlawful local policy that directly contravenes state law.

Town of Garner. Requires builder to “voluntarily offer” otherwise unlawful aesthetic features through the conditional zoning process, increasing the cost of each home by \$20,000 and delaying the project by more than 18 months, while effectively mandating that all new homes be built at a \$600,000 price point.

Town of Harrisburg. Conditions approval of a Special Use Permit on an unlawful requirement, despite clear statutory prohibitions and binding court decisions declaring such conditions invalid.

Union County. Imposes a 30% open space requirement to reduce allowable density for land zoned “rural residential,” in direct violation of the statutory prohibition on downzoning without the property owner’s consent.

Town of Lillington. Instructed builder it must “voluntarily agree” to include unlawful design features in project in order to secure project approval through the conditional zoning process.

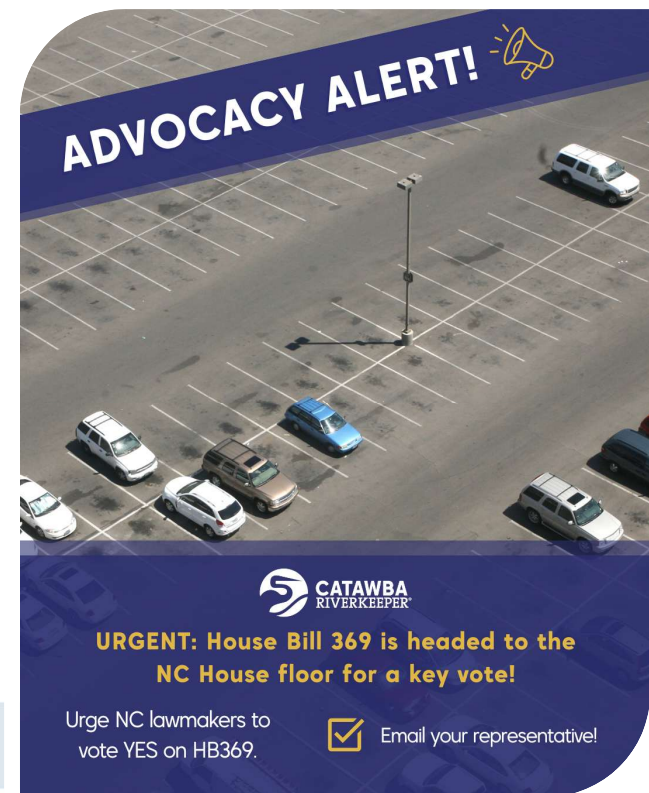


Key Vote Alert: SB 205 Will Increase Access to Middle-Class Housing

WHAT WE GOT - MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

Other Notable Land Use Issues

- [HB 369 Parking Lot Reform and Modernization Act](#) – Eliminates parking minimums
- [HB 627 Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units](#) – Mandates ADUs
- [SB 493 Land Use Clarifications and Changes](#) – ETJ changes (included in Senate budget)
- [SB 587 Clarify Nonconforming Uses](#) – Solution to problematic downzoning issue



ADVOCACY ALERT!

CATAWBA RIVERKEEPER

URGENT: House Bill 369 is headed to the NC House floor for a key vote!

Urge NC lawmakers to vote YES on HB369. Email your representative!

WHAT WE GOT - MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

Regulatory Reform—stormwater provisions

- [HB 926 Regulatory Reform Act of 2025](#)
 - Cannot impose a waiting period to refile a development application after denial/withdrawal
 - Confidentiality for information in certain dam/impoundment Emergency Action Plans
 - Clarifications to process for submitting additional info for DEQ stormwater approvals
 - New development exemption from Falls Lake stormwater rules if single-family or duplex under 1 acre
 - Properties in more than one jurisdiction may choose which development regs apply, in certain cases

2025 INTERIM SCHEDULE

Legislative Session Dates	Limits on bills to be considered?	Wide-open legislating?
Aug. 26-28	Yes	
Sept. 22-25	Yes	Yes
Oct. 21	Yes	
Nov. 18	Yes	
Dec. 16	Yes	
Jan. 13	Yes	
Feb. 10	Yes	
Mar. 10	Yes	
Apr. 7	Yes	
Apr. 21	No	Yes

Legislators will not likely hold voting sessions for all of these dates.

Q&A

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