

November, 2003

Position Paper Legislative Re-Districting

The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce promotes and supports the fastest growing community in Eastern North Carolina. Pitt County and Greenville population growth has exceeded 24 percent and 34 percent respectively in the past 10 years.

The Greenville-Pitt County community has become a thriving center for business, education and healthcare. It is the economic, cultural, educational and medical hub of Eastern North Carolina and is providing strong leadership for growth and prosperity in Eastern North Carolina.

Many businesses and industries have located here because of Pitt County's position as that hub. Significant factors in the establishment of Greenville and Pitt County as a regional hub include East Carolina University, University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina, a diverse array of large-employer industries, the largest concentration of small businesses in the region and the 11th largest retail county in the state. Additionally, the completion of the Greenville Convention Center strengthens Greenville's position as a specific destination in Eastern North Carolina. Greenville and Pitt County need direct representation in the North Carolina General Assembly.

There is agreement among business, industry and area leaders that "gerrymandered" legislative districts would be a hindrance to the future leadership role that is incumbent upon Greenville-Pitt County to take in efforts to enhance the quality of life for all Eastern North Carolinians.

It is with this in mind that the Board of Directors of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce urges the North Carolina General Assembly to consider the following points of support in plans for creating voting districts in North Carolina.

- We support representation for Pitt County reflective of its size as one of North Carolina's most largely populated and fastest growing counties so that it is represented on a par with communities of like size around the state.
- We support maintaining the integrity of Pitt County as the economic, cultural, educational and medical hub of Eastern North Carolina by keeping the Pitt County populous as a majority in any designated district.
- We support district lines with significant geographic boundaries, i.e. roads, waterways, precinct boundaries, county or municipal boundaries to provide a clear understanding to citizens as to whom their representatives are.
- We support concise, single member districts.

Adopted the 19th day of November, 2003

Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee

Don Mills, Chairman
Susanne D. Sartelle, President
Affairs

Henry Hinton, Chairman-Elect
Austin Bunch, Vice Chairman, Governmental