

Resolution Calling for Immediate Action/Consideration for Pitt County's Local Option Sales Tax Legislation before the North Carolina General Assembly

WHEREAS, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners has made the 'Local Option Sales Tax Initiative' its #1 legislative priority for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, close to \$300 million in capital facility needs have been identified for the Pitt County School System and Pitt Community College; and

WHEREAS, tremendous community support exists for the implementation of the sales tax option to fund K-12 public school and community college infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, the Pitt County School System is growing at the rate of needing one additional elementary school per year and also whereas Pitt Community College Campus ranks last (58 out of 58) in measuring calculated square footage per student; and

WHEREAS, twenty different organizations have publicly endorsed a two page resolution supporting the local option sales tax initiative (see attached); and

WHEREAS, Pitt County commissioned an independent Citizen Survey through East Carolina University's Center for Survey Research to poll public opinion regarding the local option sales tax issue; and

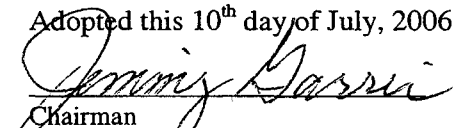
WHEREAS, the citizen survey of registered voters revealed that 58% of the respondents said they would vote for the half-percent sales tax initiative and further 76% of the respondents said they would not support raising property taxes to pay for school and community college construction needs; and

WHEREAS, Pitt County understands that the North Carolina General Assembly is seeking a long term solution to totally relieve counties of Medicaid funding responsibilities and should this occur, Pitt County would be willing to relinquish this sales tax authority.

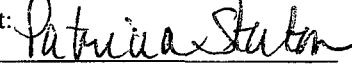
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is urged that the North Carolina Senate schedule, hear and approve in both the Senate Finance Committee and with the full Senate, HB 1050 (entitled 'Local Tax for Public Schools & Community Colleges'); and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that House Bill 1050 be approved in the current short session to allow the citizens of Pitt County to vote on this referendum issue.

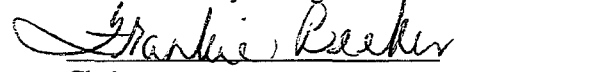
Adopted this 10th day of July, 2006.


Chairman
Pitt County Board of Commissioners


Chairman
Pitt County Board of Education

Attest: 
Patricia Staton, Clerk to the Board


Chairman
Pitt Community College Board of Trustees


Chairman
Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce

