

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE REFERENDUM ON A BOND ISSUE FOR SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS

WHEREAS, based on information collected by the Department of Public Instruction's Statewide Facility Needs Survey in 2016, North Carolina's public schools need about \$8.1 billion for new school facilities, maintenance and renovations; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County already is providing more than \$108 million through its 2019-25 Capital Improvement Plan for a new high school, a new elementary school, and a new K-12 school administration facility, plus an additional \$9.2 million in other school renovations, repairs and mobile classrooms; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is one of the top ten fastest growing counties in the state, increasing by nearly 13 percent since 2010, well above the statewide growth rate of 7.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, the biggest growth is yet to come because the largest multi-use development in the state, Chatham Park, is beginning its first phase of residential units, and several other approved developments are in their most active phases; and

WHEREAS, because of our population growth and the legislative mandate to reduce class sizes for grades K-3, Chatham County will have to add even more schools projects to our capital plan, even though we lack the borrowing capacity to do so without a substantial property tax increase; and

WHEREAS, our ability to fund future school projects is further limited by increasing construction costs, as illustrated by recent bids for the new high school coming in 10 percent over budget; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners both have made it a legislative priority to obtain additional state funding to meet the demand for school facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners urges the members of the North Carolina General Assembly to pass House Bill 866/Senate Bill 542, which would provide for a statewide bond to raise \$1.9 billion to address critical school facility needs in North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to North Carolina General Assembly leadership, our local legislative delegation and Governor Roy Cooper.

Adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on the 21st Day of May, 2018.

Diana Hales

Diana Hales, Chairman
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray

Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

