



Legislative Bulletin

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The Weekly Recap

WHAT HAPPENED: Despite a mostly quiet week at the General Assembly, the League's advocacy efforts on behalf of cities and towns were in full swing.

WHAT IT MEANS: The most notable news is NCLM's work to mitigate a proposed rate increase from Duke Energy Carolinas. More on that below.

ON TAP: League leadership also met with members of the Moldovan parliament this week in continuation of the state's strong international partnership with the Republic of Moldova. NCLM would like to thank the members of parliament for visiting our state, and we look forward to future partnership opportunities!

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NCLM Intervenes in Duke Energy Carolinas Rate Case

The League's petition to intervene and mitigate the costs of a proposed rate increase from Duke Energy Carolinas (DEC) was accepted this week by the NC Utilities Commission.

This filing represents the second significant action the League has taken this year to minimize increases to cities' electric bills. Previously in March, the League similarly intervened in the Duke Energy Progress (DEP) rate increase matter, which encompassed most of Eastern North Carolina and parts of the western region.

Throughout the Utilities Commission process, the League presented testimony and actively participated in hearings on behalf of cities in that territory. The DEC rate case now covers most of the remaining areas in the state. While the Utilities Commission is

expected to decide on the initial DEP proposal in the coming weeks, the DEC proposal will continue to progress in the meantime.

Like the proposed DEP increase, the proposed DEC rate increase is spread over a three-year multi-rate period, with the utility company seeking a substantial rate hike of over 30% for lighting customers such as cities. The League recognizes the significance of safeguarding municipal budgets to ensure they can continue providing essential services to their citizens. While it is probable that any rate increases approved by the Commission in the initial case will carry over to the DEC matter, this should not be assumed, and adequate representation is necessary. The League remains committed to advocating for N.C. municipalities in both cases.

Water Infrastructure Funding Announced

Gov. Roy Cooper's office has announced \$223 million in local drinking water, wastewater and storm water projects in the latest round of awards by the State Water Infrastructure Authority. The grants and low-interest loans are part of \$2.8 billion in funding for water-related infrastructure over the past two years, made possible by state and federal legislation.

The latest awards include up to \$7.3 million for water system improvements and \$9 million for sewer system improvements in the form of low-interest loans to the Town of Plymouth, a \$3 million grant to the Town of Fairbluff for sewer system improvements, and \$3 million in loans and principal forgiveness to the Town of Farmville for industrial water system investments.

You can find a full listing of this round of awards [here](#).

NCLM Leaders, Town of Fuquay-Varina Host Moldovan Delegation



NCLM President and Fuquay-Varina Commissioner William Harris, other members of the NCLM Board of Directors, and Fuquay-Varina town officials hosted members of the Republic of Moldova Parliament in Fuquay-Varina Wednesday as a part of the North Carolina-Moldova partnership for peace program. The members of Parliament were in Washington, DC, before making their trip to North Carolina this week.

The members of the Moldova Parliament were particularly interested in local government processes and finances, and they wanted to continue fostering a relationship with local government officials in North Carolina through programs like Sister Cities. Discussion topics included municipal budgets, local revenue sources, and how local governments work with county and state stakeholders to provide services to their citizens.

In addition to NCLM Pres. Harris, NCLM Board members present at the meeting included First Vice President and Durham Council Member Mark-Anthony Middleton, Second Vice President and Albemarle Mayor Pro Temp Martha Sue Hall, and At-Large Member and Lumberton Council Member Owen Thomas. Spring Lake Mayor Kia Anthony, a NC Mayors Association Board Member, also attended, along with Fuquay-Varina Assistant Town Manager Mark Matthews and Lumberton City Manager Wayne Horne.

NCLM Executive Director Rose Vaughn Williams and other League staff members rounded out the NC delegation, promoting the effectiveness of local governments working together and describing the types of services offered by the League to local governments.

To learn more about the NC-Moldova partnership, read our Southern City Magazine feature [here](#).

Municipal Candidate Filings: A Look at Key Mayor Races

With election filing ending last week for 2023 municipal races, here is brief look at some key filings for mayor in various parts of the state:

- **In Durham**, eight people have filed to run for mayor following the decision of current Mayor Elaine O'Neal not to seek another term. They include current Council members DeDreana Freeman and Leonardo Williams and state Sen. Mike Woodard.
- **In Charlotte**, partisan primaries there have incumbent Mayor Vi Lyles facing Lucille Puckett in the Democratic primary, while Republican Misun Kim and Libertarian Rob Yates have also filed.
- **In Fayetteville**, current Mayor Mitch Colvin faces a challenge from former Cumberland County Commissioner Charles Evans and two others.
- **In Chapel Hill**, current Council members Adam Searing and Jess Anderson are seeking to replace current Mayor Pam Hemminger, who will not seek another term.
- **In Rocky Mount**, Theresa Stokes, a member of the city's Human Relations Commission, and TV broadcaster Bronson Williams are challenging incumbent Mayor Sandy Roberson.
- **In Greenville**, current Mayor P.J. Connelly is being challenged by former congressional candidate Barbara Gaskins.

- **In High Point**, four candidates are seeking to replace outgoing Mayor Jay Wagner. They include Council members Cyril Jefferson and Victor Jones.
- **In Waynesville**, incumbent Mayor Gary Caldwell faces three challengers, though none have previously held political office.

To view all municipal filings, you can click on the following links that list the races by their pending dates:

- [September Candidate List by Contest](#)
- [October Candidate List by Contest](#)
- [November Candidate List by Contest](#)



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