



# Legislative Bulletin

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## The Weekly Recap

**WHAT HAPPENED:** It was a new week for the N.C. General Assembly in Raleigh, where lawmakers continued to file bills and meet with their assigned committees, but still in the shallow end of the overall session.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** In the details, both the House and Senate this week initiated their appropriations committees, where lawmakers received information from legislative staff about the state budget development process. This is standard for the early weeks of the long session. Meanwhile, we continue to monitor the filing of bills for items that may be of interest to cities and towns.

**ON TAP:** To keep up with the legislative goings-on, the League invites members to attend our next offering of Advancing Advocacy, a virtual series that has provided municipal leaders context and other important details about the lawmaking session. See the full announcement below.

**THE SKINNY:** Keep your eyes on this space as we move forward with the

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## Next 'Advancing Advocacy': Feb. 13

Join us on Monday for the third and final in a series of our virtual Advancing Advocacy sessions that we are calling, "In Session." For the coming week's segment, we will be focusing on infrastructure funding and law enforcement staffing. These are two key topics that were heavily included in NCLM's member-approved legislative goals, and ones that are certain to be a part of the legislative discussions this year. We will look at the legislative goals, likely legislative proposals and how they will affect municipalities.

So, don't miss out on [this session of Advancing Advocacy on Monday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m.](#) If you registered for our session on Jan. 30, you can continue to use the Zoom

link that you received then. If not, or if you have lost the link, no problem. Just  
re-register [here](#). As always, it is free of charge. Here to see you then.

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## Mayors Gather for Winter Meeting

Mayors from cities and towns of all sizes across North Carolina gathered in Raleigh this week for a two-day event of robust discussions and special guest speakers. The N.C. Mayors Association's Winter Meeting featured a welcome from its president, Lenoir Mayor Joe Gibbons, following a learning academy for those in attendance and before a presentation on market factors and best positioning from Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina Board Member William Morgan. The agenda also featured N.C. Department of Commerce Chief Deputy Secretary Jordan Whichard along with political and legislative updates from League government affairs team members Erin Wynia, John McDonald, and Abbie Britt. Mayors' own discussions of issues important to them included economic development and varying aspects of housing affordability in their communities.

[Click here](#) for a gallery of photographs from the Winter Meeting.

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## Reminder: Deadlines Ahead for Bills

A whole host of issues can come before the legislature when in session, but there are deadlines for lawmakers to file different kinds of legislation. They include local bills, which have initial deadlines on the horizon. Please keep this in mind as you converse with your local lawmakers about legislation

you'd like to see this session. Senate members have until Feb. 23 to request the drafting of local bills; House members have a March 1 deadline.

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## Legislative Goals Approved

After months of listening sessions, Legislative Policy Committee meetings and finally electronic voting by member cities and towns, the N.C. League of Municipalities has approved its Legislative Goals for the 2023-24 biennium. From 408 municipal goal proposals submitted through this process, falling into 50 distinct subject matter areas, 155 cities and towns approved a top 10 list of goals that now make up NCLM's final legislative agenda. Not surprisingly, infrastructure-related goals were again a top priority, closely followed by proposals involving keeping cities and towns financially healthy. Housing and law enforcement training were also top concerns of North Carolina's municipal leaders.

Here are the 10 Legislative Goals for 2023-24, along with the subject areas approved by the League Board of Directors:

### RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Create an adequate and permanent funding stream for local infrastructure.
- Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance for municipal and state-owned secondary roads.
- Allow municipalities to use local resources and capabilities to expand broadband access in their communities through innovative partnerships.
- Expand incentives that encourage regionalization of water and sewer, as well as other municipal services, when appropriate.

### HEALTHY FINANCES

- Provide local revenue options beyond property tax.
- Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.

### VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

- Revitalize vacant and abandoned properties with enhanced legal tools and funding.
- Expand federal and state resources for affordable housing.

### RACIAL EQUITY

- Enhance state systems and resources for local law enforcement officer recruitment, training, and retention.

### ADAPTIVE MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- Revise state contracting laws to better protect public entities from the effects of inflation.

You can also find PDFs of handouts – one listing talking points for each, and one a streamlined version – [here](#) and [here](#).

“Hundreds of cities and towns and their officials from across North Carolina gave their input and prioritized these legislative goals. These goals truly reflect the top priorities of all our cities and towns, whether small or large, and achieving them will move our economy even further ahead,” said Erin Wynia, NCLM’s Director of Government Affairs.

In addition to the voting, 111 officials from cities and towns participated in various in-person and virtual discussions, while the 65-member Policy Committee and NCLM

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## Cities, Towns: Let Us Know Your Goals

The League requests that member cities and towns share with us their own legislative goals for the new biennium underway. While the League has adopted its slate of legislative goals as shaped by municipalities (see above), individual cities and towns may have their own, written priorities for the sessions ahead. Please submit them to NCLM Grassroots Associate Abbie Britt at [abritt@ncm.org](mailto:abritt@ncm.org). Thank you!

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