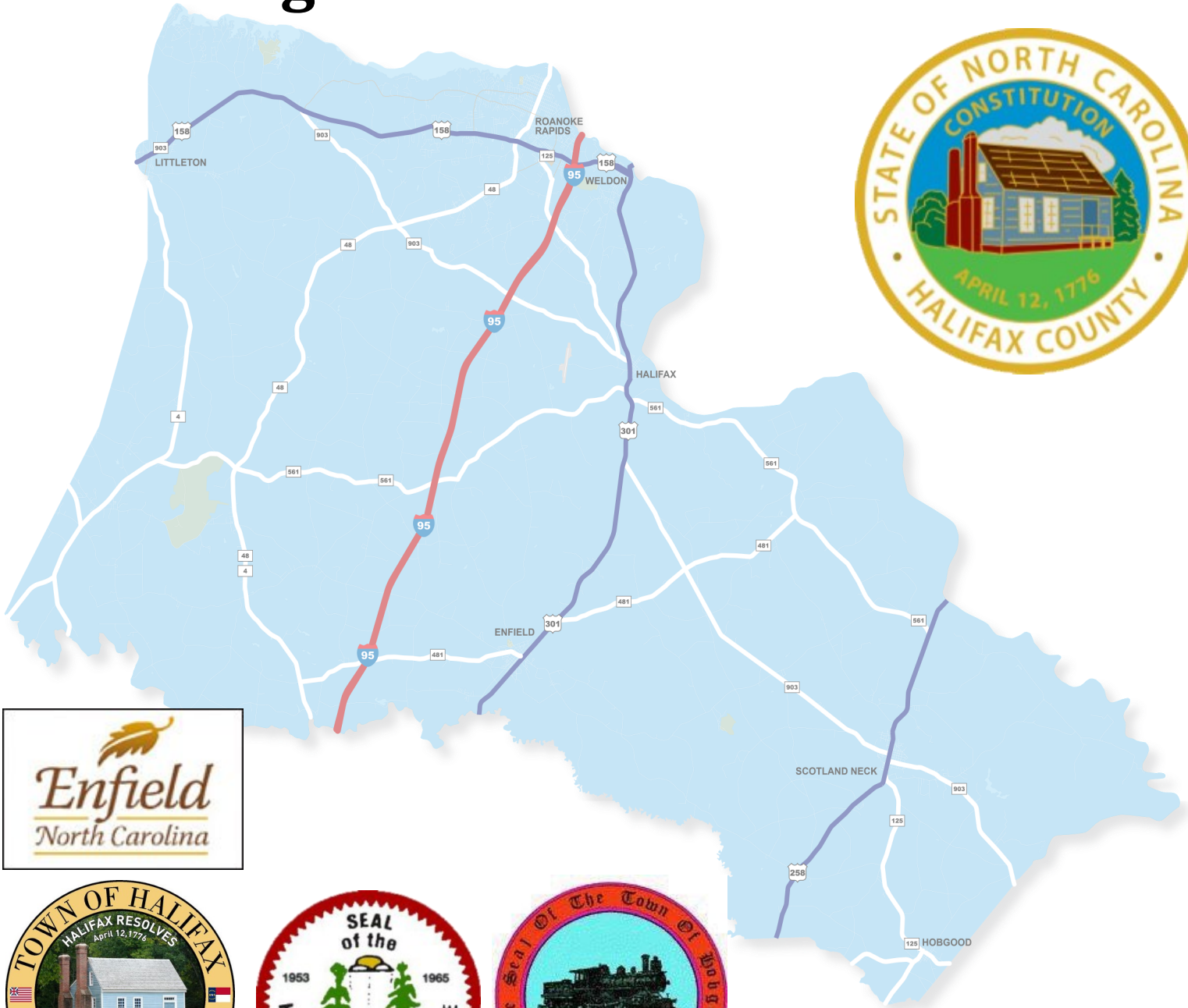


# 2026 Legislative Goals

## Halifax County

### Intergovernmental Association



# COMMON LEGISLATIVE GOALS

## DERELICT PROPERTY CLEANUP ASSISTANCE

Assist small towns in addressing vacant and derelict properties that are barriers to redevelopment.

## WATER AND WASTEWATER FUNDING

Secure state funding for critical grant programs and low-interest loan funding for rural water and wastewater improvements in Tier One counties and for such projects as the development of I-95 Exit 154 and Meadows Sewer District.

## HALIFAX COUNTY WATER SYSTEMS PROTECTION

Request legislative support to safeguard water quality and prohibit large-scale out-of-basin water transfers.

## US HIGHWAY 158 MULTI-LANING

Support funding and construction for multi-laning US Highway 158 from I-95 to I-85, using existing rights-of-way.

## REALIGNMENT OF BECKER DRIVE WITH COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IN WELDON

Request funding for extension and realignment of Becker Drive in Roanoke Rapids to Weldon at the intersection of US Highway 158 and Country Club Road.

## PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

Secure full STIP prioritization and funding for the Weldon Passenger Rail Station and support the Raleigh to Weldon Corridor.

## PROSPERITY ZONE REALIGNMENT

Move Halifax (and Northampton) County to the North Central Prosperity Zone with Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson counties that will align the five counties along I-95 as a functional economic corridor and align with the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments boundary. COG regions better reflect natural patterns within the state and already contain human infrastructure among a range of programs including planning, transportation, workforce development, community and economic development, etc. Using COG regions as the basis for Prosperity Zones would decrease duplication and confusion for local governments and facilitate better coordination of services.

## RELIEF FROM AUDIT EXPENSE & REQUIREMENTS

Allow federal grant funding to be used to cover the prorated share of audit costs. Smaller communities also need relief from the stringent audit requirements that make pursuing federal funding impractical to impossible.

## I-95 EMERGENCY VEHICLE CROSSOVERS

Secure legislative authorization to install Emergency Vehicle Crossovers along I-95 at one-mile intervals.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT SALARIES

Provide state assistance for law enforcement salaries for Tier One counties and small municipalities, as rising costs are making it difficult to attract and retain employees in Sheriff's Offices and local police departments.

## ZONING GUIDANCE

Provide resources to aid smaller municipalities with Planning and Zoning.



*The Halifax County Intergovernmental Association (HCIA) is a means by which municipalities, the County, the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District, and the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe can exchange ideas, make recommendations to Federal and State agencies, promote the most effective development in light of local conditions, and examine existing and proposed legislation as to its effect within the County.*



### 2025 HCIA Officers

**Ophelia Gould-Faison, *President***—Town of Littleton Mayor Pro-Tem  
**Chenoa Davis, *Vice-President***—Halifax County Commissioners Vice-Chair  
**Dr. Marty Richardson, *Secretary***—Haliwa-Saponi Tribe Vice-Chief  
**Nancy Sandoval, *Treasurer***—Town of Weldon Mayor Pro-Tem

## Halifax County

10 N King Street, P.O. Box 38, Halifax, NC 27839  
(252) 583-1131 / HalifaxNC.com

### **RESTORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO INITIATE DOWN-ZONING**

Adopt HB 24 “An Act to Restore the Authority for Local Governments to Initiate Down-Zoning” and add Halifax County to the list of applicable counties in SB 27 “An Act to Restore the Authority to Initiate Down-Zoning in Multiple Counties.”

### **PROPERTY TAX PROTECTION**

Support efforts to oppose the constitutional amendment Property Tax Limit legislation.

### **RELIEF FOR COUNTIES DUE TO IRYNA’S LAW**

Provide relief for counties who must hold inmates charged with violent offenses (no pretrial release) under Iryna’s Law.

### **BROADBAND FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Request continued funding to support and expand broadband access for rural communities. Allow county governments to have more involvement on the front-end of the broadband project and grant award process. Empower counties to better manage Internet Service Providers (ISPs) whose projects are not progressing timely.

### **RURAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING**

Protect funding for rural health care, including rural hospitals, as well as funding for wellness and recreation.

### **FUNDING TO STIMULATE LOCAL ECONOMIES**

Secure additional funding for the creation of economic development infrastructure and to support the agriculture industry to ensure that there is a balance in land use for agricultural and economic development purposes.

### **PER CHILD ALLOCATION TO LEAs**

Ensure state funding truly follows every student. Even if the student returns to the home school district (LEA) from the charter school at any time during the school year, then the funds should follow the student on a prorated basis.

### **EDUCATION LOTTERY FUNDING**

Request the General Assembly maintain education lottery funding.

### **DESIGN BUILD CONCEPTS FOR SCHOOLS**

Support legislation that requires school design plans catalogued in the School Clearinghouse be reviewed and considered before concept plans for new school projects are approved to eliminate expensive design fees for new school projects.

### **SCRAP TIRE DISPOSAL**

Increase distributions to counties from revenue received from the tax created by the Scrap Tire Disposal Act.

### **DOG HUNTING**

Support legislation to regulate hunting that protects the rights of property owners while preserving the tradition of hunting with dogs.

### **911 SURCHARGE FLEXIBILITY**

Seek approval of legislation that would allow part of telephone surcharges for Enhanced 911 systems to be used for salary and related expenses of county-wide communication centers.

### **ADDITIONAL DIRECT FUNDING FOR COUNTIES FOR SNAP AND MEDICAID**

Advocate for legislation that supports counties with additional direct funding and administration expenses covering the financial impact of proposed SNAP and Medicaid reductions and potential decrease in county reimbursements.

### **VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Request legislature to authorize county Boards of Commissioners to meet virtually at their discretion.

## Halifax County Commissioners

Vernon Bryant, Chairman  
Chenoa Davis, Vice-Chair

Thomas Barrett, Commissioner

Gary Redding, Commissioner

Jimmie Silver, Commissioner

Sammy Webb, Commissioner

**County Manager:** Dia Denton



# MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

## City of Roanoke Rapids

1040 Roanoke Avenue, P.O. Box 38, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870  
(252) 533-2800 / RoanokeRapidsNC.gov

### **DOWNZONING**

Support legislation to revise the problematic provision passed into law with SB382 that prohibits local governments from initiating down-zoning without written consent from all affected property owners; provisions of SB382 significantly restrict local governments' ability to manage land use and implement comprehensive planning.

### **VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS**

Support legislation that preserves municipal Extra-Territorial Jurisdictions (ETJ) by protecting properties on the edge of city limits from incompatible land uses, building infrastructure to municipal standards and updating annexation threshold to prepare properties for future annexation in accordance with long-range development plans.

### **LGERS PENSION REFORM**

Support legislation to stabilize the LGERS Employer Contribution Rates that have more than doubled from FY13 to FY25.

### **MEDIATION OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS**

Support legislation that provides municipal government funding assistance for demolition of owner-abandoned unsafe and structurally unsound buildings that threaten loss of life and surrounding properties.

### **BLUE LIGHT SAFETY INITIATIVE**

The Roanoke Rapids Police Department (RRPD) is seeking a one-time appropriation of \$400,000 from the General Assembly to establish a comprehensive, high-visibility public safety infrastructure network throughout key public areas in the city. This project aims to install high-visibility emergency call boxes, HD security cameras, and gunshot detection sensors in high-traffic and high-risk areas. By utilizing blue light beacons and acoustic technology, the city intends to deter criminal activity and provide dispatchers with immediate, accurate location data. The proposal justifies the cost by highlighting expected improvements in emergency response times and increased evidence collection for criminal prosecutions.



### **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The erosion of local revenue sources reduces a locality's financial flexibility, increases local government's reliance on the real property tax and potentially jeopardizes local bond ratings. If the State does eliminate or restrict local revenue sources, it should replace those lost revenues to the localities. The loss to localities should include the loss of current revenues being derived from the revenue source, and potential increases in revenues due to growth or rate increases.

### **UNFUNDED MANDATES**

The City of Roanoke Rapids opposes unfunded mandates and shifting fiscal responsibility for existing programs from the State to localities. When funding for a mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full funding is restored.

### **DISASTER RELIEF**

Seek legislation providing additional resources to municipalities in the aftermath of a natural disaster, including removal and hauling of vegetative debris.

### **LAND USE**

The City supports maintaining and expanding local authority to plan and regulate land use and opposes any legislation that weakens these key local responsibilities. The City also supports legislation that grants localities additional tools to adequately meet the increasing needs for public services without burdening current residents with the cost through increased real estate taxes.

## Roanoke Rapids City Council

Emery Doughtie, Mayor	Andy Jackson, Council Member
Sandra Bryant, Mayor Pro-Tem	Rex Stainback, Council Member
Keith Bell, Council Member	Curt Strickland, Council Member

**City Manager:** Kelly Traynham

## Town of Enfield

121 SE Railroad Street, P.O. Box 699, Enfield, NC 27823  
(252) 445-3146 / EnfieldNC.org

### Enfield Town Council

Mondale Robinson, Mayor  
Tracey Joyner, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Sara Brinker, Commissioner  
Angela Harper, Commissioner  
Michael Redic, Commissioner  
Bobby Whitaker, Commissioner  
**Town Administrator:** Patricia Whitaker

### **INFRASTRUCTURE RELIABILITY & ENERGY RESILIENCE**

Seek state and federal investment in grid modernization and storm-hardening through grants (not loans) and support for backup power, battery storage, and microgrid solutions.

### **CLEAN ENERGY & COST REDUCTION FOR RESIDENTS**

Pursue authorization and funding for community solar and energy hubs. Offer expanded weatherization and energy-efficiency programs. Tie workforce training to clean energy installation and maintenance.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION**

Apply for CDBG and rural housing funds for rehabilitation and new construction. Offer incentives for energy-efficient affordable housing through state-backed programs. Support pathways to home ownership.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY**

Align workforce training with energy, construction, broadband, and other trade sectors. Seek funding for expansion of reliable broadband.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY & YOUTH INVESTMENT**

Create a policing program designed with community-based public safety strategies and youth programs focused on education, employment, and civic engagement. Provide resources for mental health.



## Town of Halifax

24 S King Street, P.O. Box 222, Halifax, NC 27839  
(252) 583-6571 / HistoricHalifaxNC.com

### Halifax Town Council

John White, Mayor  
Meredith Holdford, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Kelly Dickens, Commissioner  
Billy Johnson, Commissioner  
Patterson Wilson, Commissioner  
Shelia Wood, Commissioner  
**Town Clerk:** Connie Wells

### **ASSISTANCE WITH UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS**

Offer grants or directed funding to place power lines underground. Provide funding opportunities for natural gas lines.

### **ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL TOWNS THAT SERVE AS COUNTY SEATS**

Request funding and support for small towns serving as county seats with an abundance of public facilities and limited tax base. Necessary infrastructure improvements are being funded on

the backs of residents without tax support from county, state, and religious facilities.

### **INTEGRATED SOFTWARE**

Support procurement of integrated software for small municipalities for water and sewer billing and bookkeeping.

### **RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT**

Support the development of riverfront recreation in the Town of Halifax as part of the Roanoke River State Trail.

### **RELIEF FOR PAST DUE UTILITIES**

Give municipalities the ability to have past due amounts added to property tax bills to help recoup and ideally stop major losses of income that subsequently harm other citizens when service minimums have to be raised.

### **ASSISTANCE WITH TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTIES**

Provide aid in determining highest and best use, and acquisition when appropriate, for currently unused, unmaintained, and/or neglected State and Board of Education tax-exempt properties within Town limits.

### **SIMPLIFY WASTE DISPOSAL**

Provide easier ways for citizens to properly dispose of waste, including paints, chemicals, furniture, etc., to encourage people to remove dilapidated structures and clean their properties.



# MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

## Town of Hobgood

207 W Commerce Street, P.O. Box 217, Hobgood, NC 27843  
(252) 826-4573 / TheTownofHobgood.com

### Hobgood Town Council

Sallie Smith, Mayor  
Betty Brandon, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Milton Armston, Commissioner  
Doug Braddy, Commissioner  
Blake Hinton, Commissioner  
Carolyn Parker, Commissioner  
**Town Administrator:** Thomas Ellis

### **STORM WATER**

Request improvements to the DOT Storm Water System in and around Hobgood.

### **SPEED CONTROL/PAVING**

Request placement of rumble strips/speed control measures on Commerce Street and NC Hwy 122. Request assistance with street paving in Hobgood and around Hobgood Charter School.



## Town of Littleton

112 E South Main Street, P.O. Box 87, Littleton, NC 27850  
(252) 586-2709 / TownofLittleton-NC.us

### **REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Request support and funding to initiate programs for small towns.  
Allow counties to forgive back taxes on abandoned properties held by heirs.  
Assist in funding removal of abandoned house trailers.

### Littleton Town Council

Heidi Hogan, Mayor  
Ophelia Gould-Faison, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Clyde Johnston, Commissioner  
Lynn Moseley, Commissioner  
Joseph Peters, Commissioner  
Jim Skilton, Commissioner  
**Assistant Town Clerk:** Ellen Eller



### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Support legislation to fund water and wastewater improvements and flood mitigation.

Fund the upgrade of storm drains to include cleaning and replacing outdated drain pipes and to provide additional connection of the drain pipe system where needed.

Fund DOT painting of white road lines for visibility.

Request that NCDOT place the Highway 158 Bypass on the southside of town instead of the northside as currently proposed.

### **EXTRA-TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ)**

Revise rules governing the ETJ defining responsibilities and tax benefits where two or more counties are involved.

## Town of Scotland Neck

1310 Main Street, P.O. Box 537, Scotland Neck, NC 27874  
(252) 826-3152 / TownofScotlandNeck.com

### Scotland Neck Town Council

Leroy Powell, Mayor  
Charlie Shields, Mayor Pro-Tem  
James Gunnells, Commissioner  
Marcus Morris, Commissioner  
Kim Stallings, Commissioner  
Raymond Watson, Commissioner  
**Town Administrator:** Kelly Brady

### **ASSISTANCE WITH PROPERTY ISSUES FOR SMALL TOWNS**

Create policies to assist small towns with property issues, including providing tax relief to purchase foreclosed properties, offering funding for clean-up of dilapidated properties and implementing a right to seize abandoned property.



### **ASSISTANCE WITH PAVING PROJECT**

Pave Junior High School Road.

# MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

## Town of Weldon

109 Washington Street, P.O. Box 551, Weldon, NC 27890  
(252) 536-4836 / [HistoricWeldonNC.com](http://HistoricWeldonNC.com)

### Weldon Town Council

Hugh Credle, Mayor  
Doris Garner, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Jennifer Cox, Commissioner  
Justin Moore, Commissioner  
Carla Ponton-Farrow, Commissioner  
Nancy Sandoval, Commissioner  
**Town Administrator:** Montre Freeman

### **SECOND ROANOKE RIVER CROSSING & WELDON PASSENGER STATION**

Support inclusion of a second Roanoke River crossing in the Strategic Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and a Weldon stop on the Amtrak rail line.

### **ASSISTANCE WITH PROPERTY-RELATED ISSUES**

Strengthen municipal authority to enforce local ordinances for the disposition of household and business junk. Incentivize purchase of foreclosed properties through tax relief. Develop funding sources to clean up dilapidated properties and enact legislation allowing municipalities to seize

abandoned properties.

### **BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION**

Provide funding through NCDOT and the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization (RPO) for the development of bike lanes and sidewalks from Highway 158 (where East and West split) to Interstate 95.

### **ROANOKE RIVER STABILIZATION**

Develop funding mechanisms to stabilize the shoreline of the Roanoke River to prevent additional erosion.

### **EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION AUTHORITY**

Protect municipal authority to regulate planning and zoning in extraterritorial jurisdictions.

### **CONNECT FAIRGROUND LANE AND COUNTRY CLUB ROAD**

Support the alignment of Roanoke Rapids and Weldon through connecting an intersection of Fairground Lane and Country Club Road at US Highway 158.



## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

### Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

39021 NC Highway 561, P.O. Box 99, Hollister, NC 27844  
(252) 586-4017 / [Haliwa-Saponi.gov](http://Haliwa-Saponi.gov)

### **COMMUNITY GYMNASIUM/DISASTER RELIEF SHELTER**

Seek funds to design and build a gymnasium/disaster relief shelter for use by the community.

### **TOURISM**

Seek funds and support for upgrades to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe's powwow facilities and other cultural areas to increase cultural tourism.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LAND**

Support legislation to build affordable housing and purchase land for use of the tribe and community for housing and services.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Support legislation to aid the Haliwa-Saponi community for connection and monthly fee for the proposed wastewater system.

### **FEDERAL AFFIRMATION**

Seek funds and support to extend the full measure of the federal government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe.



### Tribal Council

Dr. Brucie Ogletree Richardson, Chief  
Dr. Marvin Richardson, Vice-Chief  
Gideon Lee, Chair  
Earl Evans, Vice-Chair  
Tyler Richardson, Secretary  
Rev. Michael Richardson, Treasurer  
Sylvia Evans-Richardson  
Karen Lynch-Harley  
Amelia Oxendine  
Angela Richardson  
Charles Richardson, Jr.  
**Tribal Administrator:** Meshila Lynch

## Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District

1000 Jackson Street, P.O. Box 308, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870  
(252) 537-9137 / RRSD.org

### **WATER/WASTEWATER FUNDING**

Support legislation to encourage availability of funds for water and wastewater project needs at low interest rates and continued improvements in the NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure funding programs.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-INFRASTRUCTURE (CDBG-I) FUNDING ELIGIBILITY**

Sponsor and support legislation that will include sanitary districts as eligible independent applicants for North Carolina CDBG-I funding.

### **ENTERTAINMENT, CASINO AND GAMING OPERATIONS**

Sponsor and support legislation that will provide for the further development of the Carolina Crossroads Entertainment District including securing a state gaming license within the Carolina Crossroads Entertainment District in Roanoke Rapids.

### **RAILROADS AND UTILITY CROSSING FEES**

Limit railroad easement/encroachment/crossing fees to a set amount and establish a streamlined procedure for project approval, as has been done in other states. Limit the ability of railroads to monetize their rights of way against public utilities seeking to provide public services.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Support funding that provides students with first-hand contact within the water and wastewater industry.

### **PFAS REMEDIATION FUNDING**

Support legislation that provides direct funding to local utilities with PFAS contaminated source waters for comprehensive remediation. Support legislation that provides utilities indemnification protections surrounding PFAS treatment and removal to the extent that utilities are protected from claims that name them as producers of the contaminants being removed.

### **ROANOKE RIVER PROTECTION**

Support legislation that imposes conditions that will fully protect the quality of the Roanoke River Basin, as well as all current and anticipated instream uses of the river:

- Prohibit the mass transfer of water out of the river basin.
- Prohibit ecological degradation due to increasing background radioactivity levels.
- Manage common pathways that introduce PFAS into the environment; identify and reduce PFAS levels at the source.

### **SALES TAX EXEMPTION**

Support legislation that eliminates the requirement of tax-exempt entities, including sanitary districts, from paying sales tax on goods and services, then submitting reimbursement requests to NC Department of Revenue.

### Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District Board of Directors

James Kerr, Chairman  
Jon Baker, Secretary  
Anthony Moseley, Member  
CEO: Thomas Wrenn



For more information about the contents of this document or the HCIA,  
contact Christina Wells, Deputy County Manager,  
252-583-1131 ext. 2254 / wellsc@halifaxnc.com