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NCLM Members Gather in Winston-Salem for Legislative Summit



Over 150 NCLM members from across the state gathered in Winston-Salem this past week, on September 30, for the League's Legislative Summit. This half-day event brought together local leaders for in-depth discussions as they develop their biennial Legislative Policy Goals for cities and towns for the upcoming 2027-2028 legislative session.

Attendees also heard from NC Secretary of Revenue McKinley Wooten on the importance of local leadership and from leading political consultants Jim Blaine and Kimberly Reynolds in a panel moderated by Spectrum News 1's Tim Boyum on the political landscape facing the electorate in the coming weeks and the next legislature.

Moving forward, the League's [65-member Legislative Policy Committee](#) will synthesize feedback from the Summit and the member survey as it develops final recommendations to submit to the NCLM Board of Directors in late 2026.

PHOTO ALBUM

Property Tax Updates

Resources You Need

PROPERTY TAXES & MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

PROPERTY TAXES: THE MISCONCEPTIONS

Even with lawmakers out of session and out of Raleigh, political circles and local governments are abuzz around property taxes.

Constitutional Amendment

In the November election, voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution to direct the General Assembly to adopt a limit on how much property taxes may increase year over year. After that, a November-December “lame duck” session is scheduled where lawmakers could take action on property taxes.

Senate Select Committee Appointed

In late September, Senate Leader Phil Berger appointed a [Select Committee on Property Tax Reform](#). The committee will look at transparency measures (such as the pending [SB 992 Truth in Taxation](#)) and limits on local governments’ discretion to raise revenue. The Committee is chaired by Senators [Lisa Barnes](#), [Tom McInnis](#), and [Buck Newton](#), with 17 other Senators representing both Democrats and Republicans from across the state.

Polling Results

As election day nears, public polling results regarding the constitutional amendment are starting to emerge. The [Catawba College/YouGov survey](#) published September 2 shows 80% support for the property tax constitutional amendment and, further, when presented with information about balancing needs for local services, nearly 70% of respondents expressed support. The [Elon University Poll](#) released September 17 presented similar results: 72% in favor; 14% opposed; and 14% unsure.

City Conversations

While the path forward remains uncertain, League staff is preparing to support you as you talk with your legislators. More will be coming to your inbox, but we wanted to share two one-page guides to help you get started; both links are in the buttons above. We are also reviewing similar policies from other states, looking at models that demonstrate how a levy limit would impact cities large and small.

NCLM Continues Education on Impact of SNAP Error Rate Penalty

Resources You Need

Find an estimate of how much sales tax your city would have lost if this penalty had been in place during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

YOUR CITY'S DATA

Before legislators left Raleigh in early August, their action on the state budget placed local governments responsible for compensating the federal government for errors in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a program over which no city or town has oversight.

As a reminder, in early 2025, the United States Congress, through [HR 1, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act,"](#) made changes to the SNAP program, requiring states to pay a larger share of its costs starting in October 2027. The larger share is based on an error-rate calculation intended to incentivize local agencies to process SNAP applications and benefit-recipient reporting more promptly and accurately. Through the 2026 state budget ([SB 257/SL 2026-41 2026 Appropriations Act](#)), legislators decided to pass these penalty costs to cities and counties by withholding sales taxes. By law, North Carolina counties administer SNAP program applications and benefits.

This week, at the end of the federal fiscal year, the current federal Farm Bill expired without an extension, meaning the SNAP program, administered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), will undergo significant benefit and eligibility changes as of October 1. While it remains unclear when or if Congress might approve a new Farm Bill, a bipartisan group of legislators in both chambers continues to support rescinding or delaying payments from states related to error rates, a move that would affect the state's proposal.

In late August, NCLM President Jody McLeod sent a [letter](#) to North Carolina legislators urging reconsideration of the budget provision that will reduce cities' sales tax revenue due to changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The letter also asked that cities be held harmless from these costs, acknowledging that cities do not control or administer the SNAP program in North Carolina and therefore cannot affect the program's error rate.

This letter is in addition to an NCLM analysis linked above of the language in the state budget and the SNAP error rate data, which found the **total estimated cost to both counties and cities is \$150 million**. Of that amount, cities would be directly responsible for **roughly one-third, or \$51 million** if this law had been in place in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

NC Mayors Association Convenes in Beaufort for Fall Meeting



It was great to see more than 80 mayors from across North Carolina come together in Beaufort for the 2026 NC Mayors Association Fall Membership Meeting. Attendees had the chance to connect, share ideas, and discuss issues impacting communities across the state.

Highlights included a Legislative Leaders Panel featuring [Senator Bob Brinson](#) and [Representative Celeste Cairns](#), plus updates from [Secretary Nate Denny of the NC Department of Information Technology](#), the [NC East Alliance](#), a Data Center Session from Statesville City Manager Ron Smith, and a state legislative update from NCLM Government Affairs staff.

The meeting provided valuable insights on state priorities, economic development, and opportunities for collaboration among local leaders.

PHOTO ALBUM

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