



## Mecklenburg County Proposed Legislative Agenda 2011

1. Increase the efficiency of the Board of Equalization and Review by granting Mecklenburg County authority authorized in the General Statutes but not allowed under current local legislation. This includes increasing the size of the board.
2. Seek legislation necessary to provide Mecklenburg County greater flexibility in the funding and administering of law enforcement in the unincorporated area.
3. Revise selected general statutes to allow State, County and Municipal government to hold electronic drawings as a permanent record
4. Grant Mecklenburg County the same authority previously granted to the cities of Raleigh and Winston Salem to enter leases of greater than 10 years when contracting for energy efficiency equipment.
5. Seek legislation necessary to implement the recommendations of the Library Task Force.
6. Allow Mecklenburg County to provide website notification as an alternative to compulsory advertising purchases for the purpose of public notice.
7. Clarify S.L. 2010-158 to insure that secondary PSAPs that have inter-local agreements with Primary PSAPs are eligible for 911 funds and that decisions made by the 911 board are subject to the Administrative Procedures Act.
8. Extend the special provision from the 2009 and 2010 budgets providing that County Departments of Social Service can use up to 5% of Child Care Development Fund Block Grant funds for administration.
9. If a vehicle registration fee is passed, designate that revenue be used in part to fund air quality programs.

### General Policy Positions

1. Support legislation that grants greater flexibility to counties.
2. Oppose legislation that restricts county flexibility.
3. Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates to counties.
4. Oppose legislation that shifts costs from state to county government.

### Elected Official Goals

1. Support an increase in the malt beverage tax to fund Substance Abuse programs. (Roberts)
2. Provide flexibility to the Register of Deeds to reject documents suspected of being fraudulent. (Register of Deeds, David Granberry)



**Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session**

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1. **Department:** Tax Assessor      **Focus Area:** Effective and Efficient Government
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:** Garret Alexander 704 704-336-2976
3. **Requested Action:** Make changes to the authorizing statutes for Mecklenburg County's Board of Equalization and Review.
4. **Statute Reference:** G.S. 105-322 and S.L. 1981-509
5. **Expanded Description:**  
In 1981, the General Assembly passed local legislation granting the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners authority to establish a Board of Equalization and Review. Since that time, the General Assembly has granted through General Statute broader authority to Boards of County Commissions relevant to the creation and operation of a Board of Equalization and Review. This legislation will preserve authority created under the 1981 law while granting to Mecklenburg the additional authority available to other counties under the General Statute. Most notably, the legislation allows for the Board of Equalization and Review to have more than nine members and to divide into panels for the purpose of hearing appeals.
6. **Fiscal Impact:** Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years.  
Negligible.
7. **Policy Impact:** Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action?  
None.
8. **Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?**  
Mecklenburg County specific.
9. **Is this a new request or a carry over from prior years?**  
Yes, substantially similar legislation was introduced in 2010.
10. **Support/Partnerships:** Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request.  
None.
11. **Opposition:** Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it.  
None.
12. **Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.*

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF PROPERTY TAX APPEALS IN  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**Section 1.** Upon the adoption of a resolution so providing, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners is authorized to appoint a special board of equalization and review to carry on the duties imposed under G.S. 105-322. The resolution shall provide for the membership (minimum of five), qualifications, terms of office, filling of vacancies, appointment of the clerk, compensation, time and notice of meetings, adjournment and establishment of rules and procedures of the board, including separation into panels of three or more for deliberations. The resolution may authorize a taxpayer to appeal a decision of the special board with respect to the listing or appraisal of his property or the property of others to the Board of Commissioners. The resolution shall be adopted not later than the first Monday in March of the year for which it is to be effective and shall continue in effect until revised or rescinded. It shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners and a copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Department of Revenue. The members of the special board shall take the oath required in G.S. 105-322(c).

**Section 2.** The resolution may authorize the assessor to appoint deputy clerks as needed.

**Section 3.** The time of meeting of the board shall be as provided in G.S. 105-322(e), except that the resolution may authorize the board to sit beyond the end of the current calendar year until the first meeting of the board in the next calendar year to hear and determine requests made under the provisions of G.S. 105-322(g)(2) for appeals filed in the current calendar year.

**Section 4.** The publication of notice of meetings and adjournment shall be the same as provided in G.S. 105-322(f) except that no publication will be required of meetings after the initial meeting.

**Section 5.** The board shall have the powers and duties provided in G.S. 105-322(g), as amended from time to time.

**Section 6.** The resolution may provide for the Board of Equalization and Review to have the duties set forth in G.S. 105-325(a)(6), as amended from time to time.

**Section 7.** Chapter 509 of the 1981 Session Laws is repealed.

**Section 8.** This act applies only to Mecklenburg County.

**Section 9.** This act becomes effective as of January 1, 2011.



Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session

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1. **Department:** Manager's Office      **Focus Area:** Community Health and Safety
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:** Michelle Lancaster 704 336 2621
3. **Requested Action:** Provide greater flexibility in the funding and administering of law enforcement in the unincorporated area of Mecklenburg County
4. **Statute Reference:** 153A-301 (a)10
5. **Expanded Description:** Current law allows a county to create a service district for law enforcement if the county's population is greater than 500,000 and the county has an interlocal agreement with one city to police the entire unincorporated area. When the initial legislation was passed, it included a schedule for payment that anticipated that by 2005, the unincorporated area would be completely annexed. Now, some municipalities have expressed an interest in having the authority to police their extraterritorial jurisdiction.
6. **Fiscal Impact:** Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years.  
Reduces the potential exposure to county general funds.
7. **Policy Impact:** Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action? Yes
8. **Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?** Mecklenburg County
9. **Is this a new request or a carryover from prior years?** New
10. **Support/Partnerships:** Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request.
11. **Opposition:** Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it.
12. **Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.* No



**Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session**

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1. **Department:** LUESA Code Enforcement      **Focus Area:** Effective and Efficient Government
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:** Jim Bartl; 704-336-3827
3. **Requested Action:**  
Revise selected general statutes to allow State, County and Municipal government to hold electronic drawings as a permanent record
4. **Statute Reference:**  
NCGS 132-7; NCGS 132-8.1; NCGS 160A-490(b)
5. **Expanded Description:**  
Mecklenburg County and the City of Raleigh jointly develop permitting and inspection (P&I) technology through an interlocal agreement. Our current major push is to introduce an electronic plan submittal (EPS) system, which will eliminate the need for paper drawings in the P&I process. We envision this step creating a totally paperless P&I process from initial submittal, through permit issuance, construction inspection, and finally records retention.  
  
Existing NCGS language may be construed to preclude the retention of public record drawings in electronic medium only. With today's availability of electronic system backup or system redundancy, we see no need for hard copy backup of electronic drawing medium. Clarifying selected NC General Statutes accordingly will assure that a local P&I process can be truly paperless, including through public records access.
6. **Fiscal Impact: Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years.**  
No increase in cost to local government, when implemented along with an EPS system. In fact there would be significant savings in staff time and hard copy reproduction by giving the public access directly to public record drawings held in electronic medium, via the internet.
7. **Policy Impact: Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action?**  
Aligns with County policy both on conservation of resources and improving customer service through the use of technology.
8. **Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?**  
While the request is initially made jointly by Mecklenburg County and the City of Raleigh, it is general for all State, County and municipal governments, as it is likely many of them will be involved in use of electronic drawing records some time in the future.
9. **Is this a new request or a carry over from prior years?**  
New request
10. **Support/Partnerships: Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request.**  
The Building-Development Commission has participated heavily in developing the EPS service vision and supports knocking down any barriers in the path of that goal.

**11. Opposition:** Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it.

None anticipated.

**12. Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.*



Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session

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1. **Department:** Real Estate Services    **Focus Area:** Growth Management and Environment
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:** Tom Crow 704-432-0624
3. **Requested Action:**  
Grant Mecklenburg County authority to enter into leases of greater than 10 years for renewable energy facilities without engaging in the upset bid process.
4. **Statute Reference:**  
GS 160A-272 as amended by SL 2009-149
5. **Expanded Description:** In 2009 Raleigh and Winston-Salem had legislation passed to exempt them from the 10 year lease provision for Solar Energy pilot projects. Mecklenburg County would like to have similar privileges for the installation of Alternative Energy Projects.
6. **Fiscal Impact: Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years.**  
While there will be a small amount of lease income during the term of the lease, the goal would be to obtain alternative energy systems that the county can “buy out” after the depreciation and tax credits are taken by the Lessee. At that point the County can benefit from the sale of the energy, and the sale of renewable energy certificates.
7. **Policy Impact: Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action?** It would require new BOCC review and approval.
8. **Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?** Mecklenburg County specifically.
9. **Is this a new request or a carryover from prior years?** Carryover
10. **Support/Partnerships: Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request.** Mecklenburg County
11. **Opposition: Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it.** None known.

**Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.*

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXEMPT MECKLENBURG COUNTY FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS WHEN LETTING CONTRACTS AUTHORIZED BY ITS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND TO AUTHORIZE THAT COUNTY TO ENTER INTO LEASES FOR THE SITING AND OPERATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES FOR TWENTY YEARS WITHOUT TREATING IT AS A SALE AND WITHOUT GIVING NOTICE BY PUBLICATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Mecklenburg County may contract for apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment that will be used as part of any program authorized by its Board of Commissioners aimed at increasing energy efficiency without being subject to the requirements of G.S. 143-129, 143-131, and 143-132. Notwithstanding any provision of law, the county may award a contract under this section in its sole discretion.

**SECTION 2.** Section 3 of S.L. 2009-149, which made a local modification to G.S. 160A-272 concerning siting and operation of a renewable energy facility, reads as rewritten:

"**SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act applies to the City-Cities of Raleigh and ~~the City of Winston-Salem~~ Winston Salem, and Mecklenburg County only."

**SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.



**Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session**

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1. **Department:** Manager's Office      **Focus Area:** Effective and Efficient Government
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:** John McGillicuddy 704 336 2661
3. **Requested Action:** Make changes necessary to implement the recommendations of the Future of the Library Task Force (placeholder)
4. **Statute Reference:** S.L. 1965-710, S.L. 1979-368, Article 14 of G.S. 153A
5. **Expanded Description:**  
As part of its 2010 budget process, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners asked for a review of operations of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library. A "Future of the Library Task Force" was created, and that group will report to the Board in early 2011. As some of the recommendations of the Task Force may require legislative approval, this request is submitted as a placeholder item to accommodate those items.
6. **Fiscal Impact:** Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years.  
To Be Determined.
7. **Policy Impact:** Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action?  
To Be Determined.
8. **Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?**  
Mecklenburg County specific.
9. **Is this a new request or a carry over from prior years?**  
No.
10. **Support/Partnerships:** Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request.  
None.
11. **Opposition:** Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it.  
None.
12. **Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.*



**Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session**

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1. **Department:** Manager's Office      **Focus Area:** Effective and Efficient Government
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:** Brian Francis 704 336-2611
3. **Requested Action:** Allow Mecklenburg County to post public notice on its website in lieu of purchasing advertisements in "newspapers of general circulation"
4. **Statute Reference:** Various Statutes
5. **Expanded Description:**  
The General Statutes often require local government to post notifications of various events in "newspapers of general circulation." In the past, this method provided the best way to communicate with the public. However, with evolving technology, the county can now communicate directly with residents through electronic means such as a website or email distribution list. By doing so, the goal of open government can be achieved at a significantly reduced cost to taxpayers.
6. **Fiscal Impact: Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years.**  
The change would save the County money in advertising.
7. **Policy Impact: Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action?**  
To Be Determined.
8. **Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?**  
Mecklenburg County specific.
9. **Is this a new request or a carry over from prior years?**  
No.
10. **Support/Partnerships: Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request.**  
None.
11. **Opposition: Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it.**  
None.
12. **Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.*



Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session

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1. **Department:** MEDIC      **Focus Area:** Community Health and Safety
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:** Todd Sims, 704 943 6173
3. **Requested Action:**  
Clarify S.L. 2010-158 to insure that secondary PSAPs that have interlocal agreements with Primary PSAPs are eligible for 911 funds and that decisions made by the 911 board are subject to the Administrative Procedures Act
4. **Statute Reference:**  
S.L 2010-158
5. **Expanded Description:** In 2010, various changes were made to the way 911 funds are distributed from the state to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). In Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department operates primary PSAP, while MEDIC operates a secondary PSAP. Historically, these two PSAPs have shared 911 funding through an interlocal agreement. In last year's legislation, the General Assembly instructed the 911 board to consider such interlocal agreements when devising a funding formula. The 911 board, however, elected to not fund secondary PSAPs after "considering" such interlocal agreements. This legislation would clarify that the General Assembly's intent was to fund secondary PSAPs.
6. **Fiscal Impact:** Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years. MEDIC loses approximately \$900,000 per year without this change.
7. **Policy Impact:** Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action? None.
8. **Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?** This generally impacts municipalities in addition to Mecklenburg County.
9. **Is this a new request or a carryover from prior years?** New
10. **Support/Partnerships:** Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request. League of Municipalities
11. **Opposition:** Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it. Because most counties operate primary PSAPs, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners may have concerns about this item.

**Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.*





Mecklenburg County Department Request Form  
Legislative Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session

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1. **Department:** LUESA – Air Quality                      **Focus Area:** Growth Management & Environment
2. **Staff Contact and Phone Number:**  
Don Willard                      Leslie Rhodes  
704-336-5435                      704-336-6864
3. **Requested Action:**  
If the General Assembly approves a fee for registered vehicles, designate revenue from the fee to Fund Local Air Emission Reduction Programs.
4. **Statute Reference:**  
County Mobile Source Fee  
Current Law: GS 20-97. The City's vehicle fee was established by special legislation, which amended GS 20-97. There are a fairly large number of local modifications to that statute for a variety of cities and towns, and a few for counties. "I imagine that we could just request a local modification (local legislation) to GS 20-97 to add an authorization for the County to also have a vehicle fee." (MB)  
  
State Inspection/Maintenance Fees plus 5/32 of one cent of the gasoline tax currently come from registered vehicles to support state air quality programs.
5. **Expanded Description:**  
The purpose of authorizing counties to require a fee would be to provide a source of revenue that will contribute towards achieving and maintaining compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards by supporting programs to reduce air emissions from mobile sources; thereby protecting public health, sustaining economic vitality and avoiding loss or delay in receipt of federal transportation dollars.  
  
Mecklenburg County and the surrounding region (Gaston, Lincoln, Iredell (partial), Rowan, Cabarrus, Union and York County SC (partial)) are designated non-attainment for ozone. The region's compliance value must be less than 0.085 ppm ozone by 2010 (1997 standard). The compliance value for the 2010 ozone season is 0.082 ppm. In Mecklenburg County over 90% of the primary ozone precursor NO<sub>x</sub> comes from mobile sources. On March 12, 2008 EPA lowered the ozone standard to 0.075 ppm. As of 2010 our compliance value is 9.3% over the 2008 standard. EPA has announced intention to lower the standard again, as low as 0.060 ppm.  
  
Registered Vehicles (highway mobile sources) contribute 62% of the total NO<sub>x</sub> emitted in Mecklenburg County (2006).  
  
Mecklenburg County Air Quality's current revenue is comprised of permit fees, federal grant(s) and our portion of 1/64 cent of the state gasoline tax. Current revenue cannot support additional programs needed to reach attainment or reduce greenhouse gases.  
  
BOCC Priority that it relates to: Growth Management and the Environment – improve air, water and land quality.
6. **Fiscal Impact: Describe any increases or reductions in costs to the state or county that would result from this change. Consider additional positions or other operating costs in out years.**  
The revenue collected from the fee could be used by the counties (or through inter-local agreements between the municipalities located within the counties) solely for the purpose of establishing and

operating programs and initiatives to reduce the negative impact of mobile sources of air pollution on air quality in the region.

Registered Vehicles (RV)

Use of Funds- Funds would be used to operate or support programs such as:

GRADE + - fleet turnover incentives

Clean Air Works (CAW) – funding to promote business driven employee behavior and operational practices that reduce air emissions

Awareness/Promotion/Marketing – public education to influence behavior

Energy Conservation Audits

Diesel retrofits & re-powers

Greenhouse gas programs

Estimated Revenue Needed by Mecklenburg County: \$2mm (\$3.125/vehicle)

Statistics: Registered Vehicles - Mecklenburg County: 640,000 (source: Charlotte Chamber)

**7. Policy Impact: Is this request in line with existing BOCC policy decisions or would it require new BOCC review and/or action?**

In line with the Board's Clean Air Policy adopted March 29, 2002, to wit:

“Mecklenburg County wishes to achieve and maintain clean healthful air as determined by national, state and local ambient air quality standards for the well being of its citizens and the economic vitality of this community and shall act proactively at the county level to achieve this goal.”

**8. Is this request Mecklenburg County specific, or would it affect other counties or local governments?**

It is Mecklenburg County specific but if adopted as proposed it would grant other counties the same authority.

**9. Is this a new request or a carry over from prior years?**

This is a new request. Proposed in 2003 and 2008 but was never presented to local delegation.

**10. Support/Partnerships: Please list any organizations that either formally or informally support this request.**

Mecklenburg and other counties in North Carolina air quality non-attainment areas as well as environmental groups would be expected to support this request.

Metrolina: Mecklenburg, Gaston, Lincoln, Iredell, Rowan, Cabarrus, Union

Triangle: Wake, Durham, Granville, Chatham, Franklin, Johnston, Orange, Person

Triad: Guilford, Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Alamance, Caswell, Randolph, Rockingham

**11. Opposition: Are you aware of any organizations that may oppose this request? Please describe any potential arguments against it.**

The proposed fee would be viewed as a tax and opposed by individuals and organizations that oppose additional government regulation and taxes.

**12. Additional Information:** *Please provide any additional information that you think would be useful. Feel free to attach documents if necessary.*