

RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE REFERENDUM
ON A BOND ISSUE FOR SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS

WHEREAS, based on information from the school districts and counties, the Department of Public Instruction reported in 2016 that North Carolina's public schools need about \$8.1 billion to pay for new school facilities, maintenance and renovations; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 report, also known as the Statewide Facility Needs Survey, found that 118 schools are needed across North Carolina. Fifty are needed immediately, and sixty-eight are needed in three to five years; and

WHEREAS, besides new construction, 1,560 schools need renovations to comply with safety and building code requirements and to address deferred maintenance, 459 schools need additions for new classrooms; and

WHEREAS, a priority goal for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is to support legislation to provide state assistance to meet school construction needs caused by increased enrollment and mandated reduction in class size, through a statewide referendum on a bond issue; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Facility Needs Survey also showed that construction costs are increasing from a base of \$136 per square foot in 2005 to \$194 per square foot in 2015 and interest rates and construction costs are still rising; and

WHEREAS, deteriorating facilities, which distract from learning, impacts achievement and we need to ensure public school facilities are conducive to study; and

WHEREAS, counties in both urban and rural areas are faced with high costs for renovations and repairs to update and make the older buildings safe; and

WHEREAS, counties have limited options to raise revenue to pay for school construction; and

WHEREAS, because counties lack sufficient sources of funding for school facilities, the State has responded in the past by approving statewide school construction bonds to address needs nearly once per decade; and

WHEREAS, a statewide bond is urgently needed to help address the staggering shortfall in funding for construction, repairs, and renovations at public school facilities throughout North Carolina because outstanding needs are estimated to exceed \$8.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, Ashe County has school capital needs estimated by the system at _____; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Ashe County could receive \$_____ toward the shortfall of school capital needs; and

WHEREAS, the NC School Bond – HB866/SB542 – would invest \$1.9 billion to begin addressing these critical needs all across the State.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashe County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to call for a statewide referendum on the November 2018 ballot which is referred to as the Public School Building Bond Act (HB866/SB542) so that school districts across North Carolina are better able to meet urgent facility needs.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Ashe County and to all 100 counties in North Carolina.

ADOPTED this 7th day of May 2018.

William Sands, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board