NCACC 2017-18 Priority Legislative Goals:

PE-1: Seek legislation to establish a new state-county partnership to address statewide public school capital challenges—including but not limited to maintenance, renovation, construction and debt—through a dedicated, stable funding stream that is consistent from county to county and sufficient to meet the school facility needs of all 100 counties.

- Comprehensive approach by NCACC and county commissioners. Funding for school construction and renovation remains top issue for NCACC members.
- History of lottery money and changes to allocation.
- Increasing sales tax flexibility for local option sales taxes and using for education.
- Proposed bond referendum for $1.9 billion in school construction money.
- 2017-19 budgets include additional lottery money targeted to small- and medium-sized counties for new construction.

PE-2: Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows a local school board to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.

- Long-term goal that culminated in a study by legislative program evaluation group to be released.

TF-1: Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties, and oppose efforts to divert to the state fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties to the state. Oppose efforts to erode existing county revenue streams and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction.

- Multiple sales tax flexibility bills eligible for short legislative session in 2018.
- Property tax changes discussed but not passed: increase the property tax exemption allowed for certain groups; exclude certain property from tax base.
GG-1: Support increased state funding for transportation construction and maintenance needs, and support legislation to ensure that the Strategic Transportation Investment funding formula recognizes that one size does not fit all and that projects in both rural and urban areas are prioritized and funded.

- Budget includes some additional funding for infrastructure projects.

JPS-1: Support legislation and funding to raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction from 16 to 18 with the exception of felony crimes.

- NC becomes final state to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction, removing 16- and 17-year olds accused of misdemeanors and low-level felonies from adult court.

Other Statewide Topics:

- Stepping Up Initiative
  - Summer intern completed overview of counties’ progress and held interviews with staff in 42 of 44 participating counties.

- Child Welfare and Changes to Social Services Delivery Model
  - Proposed bill in recent legislative session would have mandated regionalization of 100 county DSS offices into 30 regional offices. Final law does not mandate regionalization, but begins formal discussion around changes to model.

- Early Childhood Development and Education
  - Presidential Initiative of President Brenda Howerton (Durham County) – “100 Counties: Helping Our Children THRIVE”—focuses on how counties can impact children and young adults through all stages of development.
  - Growing interest in county commissions dedicating funds outside of state’s Pre-K seats.
  - NCACC to hold fall regional meetings across state focused on child welfare and early childhood issues, and a President’s convening in the spring.

- Opiate Crisis
  - Past President’s Initiative: County Leadership Forums on Opioid Abuse; 6 counties held forums this summer and 17 counties have scheduled forums for this fall.
  - These “meetings in a box” bring representatives from the county, city, sheriff’s office, district court, and area health providers together to hold discussions and plan for action.

- Economic Development Initiatives
  - Collecting and documenting best practices in counties’ economic development innovation.