

# FORSYTH COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020, ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO LEVY A ONE-QUARTER PERCENT COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 46 OF CHAPTER 105 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:**

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: September 09, 2019  
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020, ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO LEVY A ONE-QUARTER PERCENT COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 46 OF CHAPTER 105 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES**

**WHEREAS** the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners desires that Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools teacher supplements be at the level of the top five school systems in North Carolina if County funding for this goal is feasible;

**WHEREAS** because of the numerous demands on County resources, including school, library, and courthouse construction projects and other critical services for County citizens, the Forsyth County property tax rate for fiscal year 2020 is 75.35 cents per \$100, which makes it infeasible for the County to fund increased teacher supplements from property taxes;

**WHEREAS** property taxes account for approximately 65 percent of County revenue, while sales taxes account for only 16 percent of County revenue;

**WHEREAS** Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools' staff has estimated that \$12 million in additional annual funding would be required to lift WSFCS teacher supplements to the level of the top five school systems in the state;

**WHEREAS** Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes authorizes Forsyth County to levy a local sales and use tax at a rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) if approved by voters in an advisory referendum;

**WHEREAS** Forsyth County is a regional shopping destination, and such sales and use tax would be paid in part by non-residents of Forsyth County who make purchases in the County;

**WHEREAS** such sales and use tax would fully fund the estimated amount necessary to bring the WSFCS teacher supplement to the level of the top five school systems in the state without the imposition of increased real and personal property taxes;

**WHEREAS** such sales and use tax would lessen the County's dependence on property taxes, and

**WHEREAS** the next countywide election in Forsyth County will be the primary held on March 3, 2020;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Forsyth County Board of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on March 3, 2020, on the question of whether to levy a local sales and use tax in Forsyth County pursuant to Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes, placing on the ballot the following question:

“ FOR      AGAINST

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.", or in such form as required or authorized by law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby directs County staff to budget proceeds resulting from the Article 46 local sales and use tax, if it is approved and levied, to fund the educational needs of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools system, provided that such direction is subject to change at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if any statute is enacted by the General Assembly allowing Forsyth County to restrict the use of the Article 46 local sales and use tax to educational purposes and to state such restriction on the referendum ballot, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby reserves the right and intends to amend its direction to the Forsyth County Board of Elections in order to place such a restriction on the use of the proceeds and to include the educational use restriction on the referendum ballot.

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.