



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 new 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 of 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, it is estimated that Jackson County could receive \$2,974,342 toward the shortfall of school capital needs; and

WHEREAS, The NC School Bond – HB 866/SB542 would invest \$1.9 billion to begin addressing these critical needs all across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Jackson 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.

ADOPTED the 16th day of April, 2018.

Attest: Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman